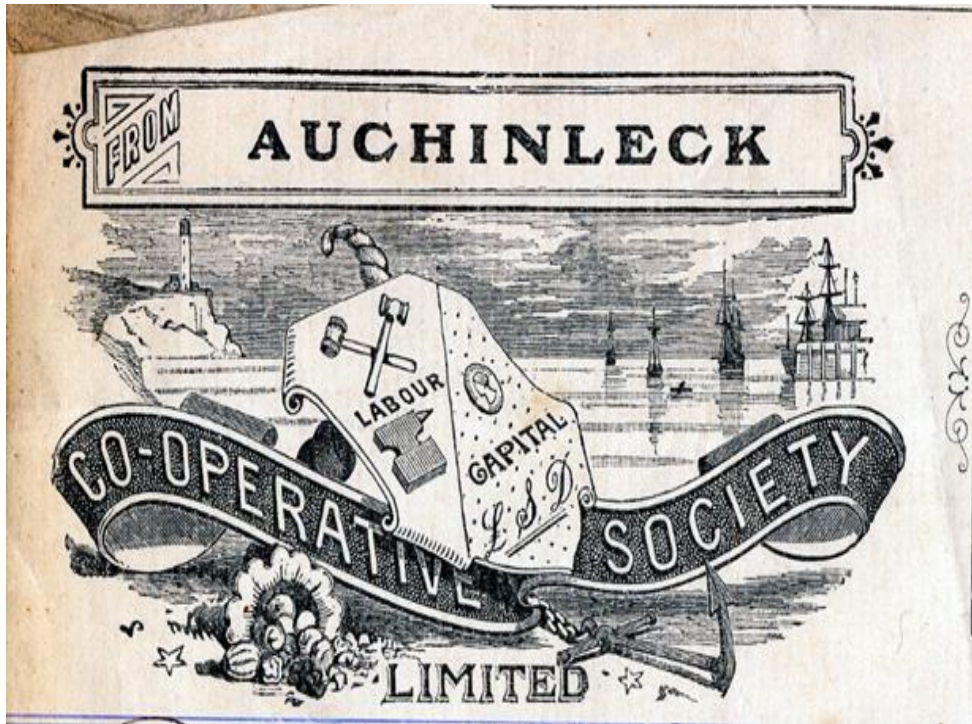


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See article on Loudoun Hall documents by Rob Close

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## **Trans-Atlantic Slavery and the Industrialization of the Upper Irvine Valley**

by John D. Cameron

In recent decades there has been a growing body of scholarly research into the relationship between trans-Atlantic slavery and the industrial development of Scotland. It is a subject of long debate, dating back to Adam Smith and his view that slavery was a detriment to the British economy.<sup>1</sup> After half of century of agitation and the final end of chattel slavery throughout the British Empire in 1838, the controversy would fade into a national myth of Scotland's staunch opposition to African enslavement and the prominent role Scots played in its abolition.<sup>2</sup>

The debate sparked anew in the post-colonial atmosphere of the 1960s, when Eric Williams' 1944 work, *Capitalism and Slavery*, became a touchstone for academic critiques of British imperialism in the West Indies. Williams had posited that colonial slavery had been a necessary ingredient for the Industrial Revolution, providing the labour and markets that made it possible, but then diminished in its economic significance which led to its abolition in the 1830s. In turn, this

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<sup>1</sup> A. Webster, "The Contribution of the Scottish Enlightenment to the Abandonment of the Institution of Slavery", *The European Legacy*, 3 (4) (2003), p. 481.

<sup>2</sup> T.M. Devine, "Lost to History", in T.M. Devine, (ed.), *Recovering Scotland's Slavery Past: The Caribbean Connection* (Edinburgh, 2015), paragraphs 1-4.

stimulated a number of responses arguing that the slave trade and slavery itself played only an ancillary role in the capital accumulation and market growth of Great Britain's industrializing years.<sup>3</sup>

In many ways, this has been a largely ideological debate over the moral basis for British industrial capitalism. While all acknowledge the “obvious immorality” of chattel slavery, those treating it as an anomaly – a “unique manifestation of historical evil” – and minimizing its economic importance implicitly seek to absolve its stain on the past.<sup>4</sup> On the other hand, if it was necessary, as Williams and others have contended, then it is an indictment not only of that history but also of the capitalist system itself and its subsequent development.

Under the pioneering scholarship of T.M. Devine and multiple subsequent researchers, the historical “amnesia” and comforting mythology regarding slavery and Scotland has been exposed to renewed and searching academic inquiry. Devine himself has turned the traditional myth on its head, asking: “Did slavery make Scotland great?”<sup>5</sup> Any answer, he and others

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<sup>3</sup> K. Donnigton, “Eric Williams’ Foundational Work on Slavery, Industry, and Wealth”, *Black Perspectives* (21 September 2020), accessed 6 December 2021 at [www.aaihs.org/black-perspectives](http://www.aaihs.org/black-perspectives); also S. Drescher, “Eric Williams: British Capitalism and British Slavery”, *History and Theory*, 26, (2) (May 1987), pp. 180-196.

<sup>4</sup> D. Eltis and S.L. Engerman, “The Importance of Slavery and the Slave Trade to Industrializing Britain”, *The Journal of Economic History*, 60 (1) (March 2000), p. 129; also M. Morris, “Yonder Awa: Slavery and Distancing Strategies in Scottish Literature”, in T.M. Devine, (ed.), *Recovering Scotland’s Slavery Past*, paragraph 9.

<sup>5</sup> T.M. Devine, *To The Ends of the Earth: Scotland’s Global Diaspora 1750-2010* (London, 2011), pp. 32-55; also a

would insist, is dependent on a thorough and rigorous investigation into to extent and consequences of Scottish engagement in the trans-Atlantic slave economy.<sup>6</sup>

In that vein, this essay seeks to examine the complexity of slavery's impact by focusing on the two Ayrshire parishes of Loudoun and Galston. These adjacent parishes bordering both sides of the River Irvine's upper valley were historically rural but underwent substantial social, economic and technological changes starting in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, corresponding to the Industrial Revolution in western Scotland as a whole. As elsewhere, trans-Atlantic slavery provided both raw materials for their industrial production and a market for their manufactured goods, as well as the capital that financed that transformation.<sup>7</sup> At the same time, it would also fuel the local rise of support for slavery's abolition, both in and outside the Empire.

### *Beginnings*

Local tradition claims the 1707 Treaty of Union was agreed upon under an ancient yew tree on the Loudoun estate of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl, Hugh Campbell. Campbell was one of the Scottish

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revised version published in Devine, *Recovering Scotland's Slavery Past*.

<sup>6</sup> Devine, *To the Ends*, pp. 34-35.

<sup>7</sup> Devine, *To the Ends*, p. 49.

commissioners that negotiated the accord (including his powerful kinsman, the Duke of Argyll) and had played a prominent role in national affairs since the Glorious Revolution. As is widely acknowledged, the union set the stage for Scotland's economic take-off later in the century, including its access to England's colonial markets across the Atlantic.<sup>8</sup>

Six years later, another treaty would also have a profound effect on the Scottish economy, including that of the upper Irvine Valley. Among the articles of the Peace of Utrecht ending the War of Spanish Succession was a provision granting Britain a 30-year monopoly on slave trading with Spanish America. This would launch the United Kingdom's rise to dominance over the trans-Atlantic slave industry through the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>9</sup>

Although very few slaving expeditions originated in Scotland, many Scots would profit from it.<sup>10</sup> One who did not was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl, whose desperation for additional income led him to borrow, then heavily invest in the South Seas Company (holder of the Spanish slave trade monopoly) at just the wrong time: at the peak of the South Seas bubble. When it soon burst,

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<sup>8</sup> T.M. Devine, *The Scottish Nation/A History 1700-2000* (New York, 2001), pp. 49-63.

<sup>9</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica*, "Treaties of Utrecht", accessed 6 December 2021 at [www.britannica.com/topic/treaties-of-Utrecht](http://www.britannica.com/topic/treaties-of-Utrecht)

<sup>10</sup> Devine, *To the Ends*, pp. 35-37.

he was left deeply indebted.<sup>11</sup>

His son, the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl John Campbell, would pursue a military rather than political career, one marked by his administrative fastidiousness rather than combat capabilities. Having raised a regiment in support of the Hanoverian cause, he would distinguish himself by persecuting the defeated Jacobites after Culloden. A decade later, he was appointed Governor of Virginia, the preeminent producer of slave-grown tobacco. Although it would subsequently name a county after him, Loudoun apparently never set foot in the colony but rather ineptly commanded British forces out of New York against the French and their Native American allies for two of the Seven Years War. He would serve no more successfully in Portugal before retiring to his vast estate along the Irvine.<sup>12</sup>

### *Linen*

Throughout his various postings the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl, or more accurately his factors and long-lived dowager mother, pursued aggressive improvements on his estate including new farming practices, land enclosures, mining and road building. Among the most ambitious improvements was laying out the entirely new

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<sup>11</sup> W.L. Burn, "The Ayrshire Lands of the Campbells of Loudoun during the Eighteenth Century", *Agricultural History*, 10 (2) (1936), pp. 85-86.

<sup>12</sup> D. Mason, "Lauding Lord Loudoun", *The Blue Ridge Leader*, (undated) accessed 6 December 2021 at [mason.gmu.edu/~drwillia/loudoun.html](http://mason.gmu.edu/~drwillia/loudoun.html)



village of Darvel in 1754. Little more than two long lines of weaver cottages, the attempt was to capture through rents a portion of the prosperity that linen manufacturing was bringing the neighbouring town of Newmilns.<sup>13</sup>

Although located in Loudoun parish under the suzerainty of the Campbell lairds, Newmilns was a burgh of regality with a self-governing elected council. Its 1491 charter had granted it the “full power and free liberty” to buy and sell “woollen and linen cloth broad and narrow” and it had a long tradition of handloom weaving.<sup>14</sup> By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the rapidly expanding linen trade brought growing wealth to the historic town.

The demand for Scottish linen had risen dramatically during the years since the Union, especially after government bounties were instituted in 1743. Ayrshire linen sales grew from 30,000 yards in 1728 to nearly 140,000 yards 30 years later.<sup>15</sup> Improvements in water-powered milling allowed for the rapid expansion in linen production; Galston had such a lint mill by the 1740s.<sup>16</sup> Flax was grown locally as well as imported from Ireland and elsewhere in Europe. However the principle market for the finished product was the American colonies – the

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<sup>13</sup> Burn, “The Ayrshire Lands”, pp. 87-90; also G. Lawrie, “Parish of Loudoun, County of Ayrshire”, *OSA*, III (1792), pp. 103-109

<sup>14</sup> J. Strawhorn, *Newmilns/The Story of an Ayrshire Burgh* (Ayr, 1948), p. 90.

<sup>15</sup> A. Slaven, *The Development of the West of Scotland 1750-1960* (London, 1975), p. 83.

<sup>16</sup> J. Mair, *Cessnock/An Ayrshire Estate in the Age of Improvement* (Darvel, 1996), p. 12.

destination for 90% of all Scottish exported cloth.<sup>17</sup> Most of that went to the slave-based plantations of the southern mainland and the West Indies.<sup>18</sup>

The interconnectedness of slavery and local industry was embodied in linen merchant John Brown. Son of a well-connected Newmilns surgeon, he was apprenticed in the Galston lint mill before becoming a successful flax and yarn buyer. He then teamed up with the Glasgow entrepreneur Robert Carrick to sell linen to the Americas, with agents in St. Kitts and Charleston, South Carolina. His “business made amazing progress and he made a quick personal fortune”; he was an original member of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and became a baillie of the city council.<sup>19</sup> With Carrick, he would then expand into banking, taking over the Ship Bank that helped finance the lucrative tobacco and West Indies trade.<sup>20</sup>

Brown used his wealth to buy the old Campbell estate of Waterhaughs in Galston, as well as neighbouring property on the Cessnock estate, building himself a new mansion house at Lanfine in 1772 and eventually owning 10,000 acres. He too was an active improver and among his projects was the platting

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<sup>17</sup> Devine, *To the Ends*, p. 51.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Mair, *Cessnock*, pp. 12-13.

<sup>20</sup> Archives.Hub, “The Ship Bank”, accessed 6 December 2021 at [archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/cce07d78-984c-3625-bae7-52a10c00a1f8](http://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/cce07d78-984c-3625-bae7-52a10c00a1f8)

of Brown Street in Greenholm, the small village across the Irvine from Newmilns. Here again the intention was to provide housing for rent-paying local weavers.<sup>21</sup>

## *Sugar*

Much of the recent scholarship on Scotland and slavery has focused on the sugar trade with Caribbean islands (and what is now Guyana) and their horrific slave plantations. After the American War of Independence brought a halt to tobacco imports, Scots merchants shifted to the West Indies. Sugar would become the single largest British import until 1820, and Scots were disproportionately represented, not only as growers and merchants but also as plantation overseers, mechanics, accountants and legal agents.<sup>22</sup>

The immense profit generated by the trade transformed those merchants into “sugar princes” who invested their wealth in variety of ways, including the purchase of landed estates and capitalizing other commercial enterprises such as banks, canals and the emerging cotton industry.<sup>23</sup> “Sea Island” cotton was

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<sup>21</sup> Mair, *Cessnock*, p. 13.

<sup>22</sup> A. Cooke, “An Elite Revisited: Glasgow West India Merchants, 1783-1877”, *Journal of Scottish Historical Studies*, 32 (2) (2012), p. 128; also Devine, *To the Ends*, p. 45.

<sup>23</sup> Devine, *To the Ends*, p. 46.

another growing import from the Caribbean.<sup>24</sup>

Their influence also stretched to the Irvine Valley. John Wallace was the son of a successful Glasgow merchant when he purchased the first of his several plantations in Jamaica by 1754.<sup>25</sup> He returned to Glasgow where he became a partner in Somerville, Gordon, & Co., a merchant firm heavily involved with Virginia tobacco. He “amassed a large fortune trading in the West Indies” and in 1776 purchased the Cessnock estate in Galston from the Earl of Marchmont, whose father had married its Campbell heiress.<sup>26</sup> In the decade that Wallace owned Cessnock, he would begin the exploitation of the parish’s extensive coal and lime deposits, which would play an important part in Galston’s industrial future.<sup>27</sup> He sold the estate in 1787, but would name one of his Jamaican properties “Cessnock” and another “Glasgow”.<sup>28</sup>

Wallace died in 1805 but his will, filed five years earlier, documents how his sugar profits helped capitalize other industrial activities. In addition to his cash and bond holdings,

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<sup>24</sup> Devine, *To the Ends*, p. 49.

<sup>25</sup> Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery, “John Wallace of Cessnock and Kelly”, accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146639039](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146639039)

<sup>26</sup> A. H. Millar, “Wallace, Robert (1773–1855)”, H. C. G. Matthew (ed.), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004) at Legacies of British Slavery, “Robert Wallace”, accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/19150](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/19150); also Mair, *Cessnock*, p. 14.

<sup>27</sup> Mair, *Cessnock*, p. 14.

<sup>28</sup> Legacies of British Slavery, “Robert Wallace”.

he had substantial investments in Stirling, Gordon & Co., a West Indies firm that became a key shareholder in cotton spinning mills, as well as shares in the Forth and Clyde canal company. He also had over £1600 in sugar and rum on hand. He left his Jamaican plantations to his sons, and his Scottish estates to his eldest.<sup>29</sup> The latter, Robert Wallace of Kelly, became a prominent Whig politician and would be elected the first Member of Parliament from Greenock after the 1832 Reform Act, as part of the Whig majority that finally abolished slavery throughout the British Empire.<sup>30</sup>

Though the most prominent, John Wallace was not the only Irvine connection to Jamaica sugar. Robert Nisbett, descended of a minor but old landholding family of Greenholm, owned a small plantation in Westmoreland parish on the island. His younger brother James, who worked as a carpenter by trade, would join him there. Both died unmarried but had natural children. Robert had sold the family lands in Galston to his brother David before he passed away and his 1788 will left acreage and multiple enslaved people to his mixed-race mistress and her children.<sup>31</sup> Among the claimants awarded compensation from the government in 1837 would be James Nisbett of Newmilns, who received just under £20 for one of

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> C. Rogers, *The Book of Wallace*, I (Edinburgh, 1889), pp. 109-110.

<sup>31</sup> National Archives, "Will of Robert Nisbett", PROB 11/1171/23, accessed 7 December 2021 at [discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D428072](https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D428072)

the three enslaved persons still on the Westmoreland estate.<sup>32</sup>

### *Cotton*

The most profound impact of the slave economy on the upper Irvine Valley was the dramatic growth of the cotton industry. With the introduction of (water) powered spinning mills in the 1770s, cotton began to rapidly displace linen in western Scotland. Cotton imports jumped tenfold from 1779 to 1793 alone.<sup>33</sup> Sea Island cotton wool from the Caribbean would be increasingly surpassed by short-staple cotton from the southern United States after the American invention of the cotton gin in 1794. U.S. exports to Britain themselves would increase ten times between 1815 and 1843, when they constituted 85% of all imported cotton.<sup>34</sup> As in the West Indies, it was a crop sown, weeded, picked and cleaned by enslaved workers, almost all of African descent.

Although cotton imports were now mechanically spun into yarn in factory settings, looms were still operated by hand. Middlemen, known as “manufacturers”, purchased yarn and jobbed it out to weavers, not only in Glasgow but also in rural

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<sup>32</sup> Legacies of British Slavery, “James Nisbett”, accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/43681](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/43681)

<sup>33</sup> Slaven, *West of Scotland*, p. 93.

<sup>34</sup> B.R. Mitchell, *British Historical Statistics* (Cambridge, 1988), p. 180.

areas across western Scotland. With their strong weaving tradition, the towns along the Irvine all became hives of cotton handloom websters. In 1792, the Old Statistical Accounts counted some 344 weavers in Loudoun and another 55 in Galston.<sup>35</sup> Fifty years later, the New Accounts reported “almost the whole population residing in Darvel and Newmilns, amounting to upwards of 3000, depend directly or indirectly, for their subsistence upon handloom weaving” while in Galston, “about 2300 live in villages, and are chiefly employed in different branches of cotton manufacture.”<sup>36</sup>

Even with cotton booming, the lure of West Indian riches remained. James Allan Allan was a Galston weaver when he inherited the Mount Airy plantation in Jamaica from his uncle John Allan.<sup>37</sup> He sailed for the island with his oldest son George in 1829, but theirs would not be a tale of “very rapid and splendid fortunes”.<sup>38</sup> To the contrary, he and George had both passed away by 1834 when his will was proved in London.<sup>39</sup> When his widow sought compensation for his 52 enslaved

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<sup>35</sup> Lawrie, “Loudoun”, *OSA*, p. 104; also G. Smith, “Parish of Galston (County of Ayrshire)”, *OSA*, II (1792), p. 79.

<sup>36</sup> N. MacLeod, “Parish of Loudoun”, “Parish of Loudoun (County of Ayrshire)”, *NSA*, V (1845), p. 850; also R. Stirling, R. “Parish of Galston (County of Ayrshire)”, *NSA*, V, p. 153.

<sup>37</sup> Jamaican Family Search Genealogy Research Library, “1812 Almanac/St. Andrew’s/Western District,” accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/Members/a/a1812and.htm](http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/Members/a/a1812and.htm)

<sup>38</sup> Lord Seaforth, as quoted by D. Alston, “Very Rapid and Splendid Fortunes”?, *Highland Scots in Berbice (Guyana) in the Early Nineteenth Century*, *The Gaelic Society of Inverness* (November 2002), p. 231.

<sup>39</sup> National Archives, “Will of James Allan Allan, Galston”, accessed 7 December 2021 at [discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D262950](https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D262950)

workers the next year, her claim was denied and his creditors were awarded the payment.<sup>40</sup> With declining sugar prices James, like many other planters, had substantially mortgaged his property and, like many other Scots, he would find the tropical climate fatal. A decade later his son Alexander, himself an immigrant to Upper Canada, would sell off the estate.<sup>41</sup>

### *Abolition and Reform*

It was the textile sector, and especially cotton, that launched the industrialization of western Scotland. Yet as dependent as it was on enslaved labour, slavery was always controversial in Scotland. Dating to the original Covenanters, it had been declared “against nature...a miserable consequence of sin”.<sup>42</sup> With the rise of the trans-Atlantic trade a century later, religious opposition grew louder and among the church’s various seceding sects (the Covenanters’ spiritual descendants) opposition was especially fierce. There were strong secessionist congregations in Galston, Newmilns and Darvel – by 1841, the number of dissenters in Loudoun outnumbered those in the Established Church.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Legacies of British Slavery, “Agnes Allan Allan, nee Kirkwood”, accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/1333025363](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/1333025363)

<sup>41</sup> Legacies of British Slavery, “James Allan Allan”, accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/966567762](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/966567762)

<sup>42</sup> J.S. Moore, “Covenanters and Antislavery in the Atlantic World”, *Slavery and Abolition*, 34 (4) (2013), p. 541.

<sup>43</sup> MacLeod, “Loudoun”, *NSA*, pp. 851-852.



Many (but not all) luminaries of the Enlightenment, including Hume, Hutchinson, Smith, Millar and Beattie, were also strongly opposed to slavery.<sup>44</sup> Smith and others would argue their moral objections in terms of economic efficiency, helping set the tone for the Court of Session's 1778 ruling effectively outlawing slavery in Scotland.<sup>45</sup> Though the first parliamentary bill to abolish the slave trade failed, the cause continued to grow, becoming a popular movement. Ayrshire-born David Dale, whose "model" mills at New Lanark were totally dependent on the import of slave-grown cotton, would become the first chairman of the Glasgow Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in 1791.<sup>46</sup> Their aims eventually prevailed and the trans-Atlantic trade was outlawed by an 1807 act.

However, the resistance was stiff and the prosperous pro-slavery merchant lobby was able to stymie future action. It was not until after the 1832 Reform Act expanded the franchise that the new Whig government would abolish slavery throughout the Empire. The Irvine Valley had been a hotbed of Reform agitation, dating back to the years of the French Revolution. The rebellious streak ran deep among its independent weavers

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<sup>44</sup> A. Webster, "The Contribution of the Scottish Enlightenment to the Abandonment of the Institution of Slavery", *The European Legacy*, 3 (4) (2003), p. 481; also Devine, *To the Ends*, p. 55.

<sup>45</sup> Webster, "Contribution", p. 487.

<sup>46</sup> M. Morris, "The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Improvement: David Dale, Robert Owen and New Lanark Cotton", in *Cultures of Improvement in Scottish Romanticism, 1707–1840*, A. Benchimol and G.L. McKeever, (eds.) (London, 2018), p. 118.

and during the Radical War of 1820, Newmilns was reported to be “seething with revolutionary madness”.<sup>47</sup> The great Reform leader William Cobbett visited Newmilns in 1832, later declaring “I would go a thousand miles to see the looks of these Scotchies...especially at New Milns”.<sup>48</sup> Anti-slavery petitions were sent to Parliament from the Irvine Valley “inhabitants and Dissenters” as late as March 1831.<sup>49</sup> The first Ayrshire MP to be elected after Reform was Richard Alexander Oswald, great-nephew of the prominent slave-trader and Jamaican planter Richard Oswald, and like his fellow Whig Robert Wallace, a beneficiary of the slave compensation settlements.<sup>50</sup>

### *After Abolition*

The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 did not end Scottish support for slavery nor did the Reform Act end agitation for an expanded franchise. Financial, technological and labour issues slowed the growth of the textile industry, but reliance on American cotton continued increasing, intensifying the demand for, and the cruelty of, southern slavery until the outbreak of the

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<sup>47</sup> Strawhorn, *Newmilns*, p. 93.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>49</sup> T. Jenkins, “Ayrshire”, *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1820-1832*, D.R. Fisher, (ed.) (2009) accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/constituencies/ayrshire](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/constituencies/ayrshire)

<sup>50</sup> Legacies of British Slavery, “Richard Alexander Oswald”, accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/46072](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/46072)

Civil War.<sup>51</sup> The limited extension of voter eligibility disappointed the radicalized weavers, already hard hit by falling wages (average weekly earnings had fallen to half their 1825 level).<sup>52</sup> These frustrations would lead to the widespread support for the People's Charter in 1838 and a strong local Chartist movement.<sup>53</sup>

Though there were tensions between the predominantly middle-class supporters of abolition and the more radical working-class Chartists, especially when the latter likened their wage “slavery” to the vicious chattel slavery of America, the two movements would gradually make common cause.<sup>54</sup> The increasingly impoverished handloom weavers came to understand that “The existence of slavery in the United States has strengthened the cause of despotism around the world”, including their struggle with “the unnatural supremacy” of the “monied classes of society”.<sup>55</sup> When the cause of Chartism began to flag, local supporters would go on to establish the Newmilns Anti-Slavery Society.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Morris, “The Problem of Slavery”, p. 115.

<sup>52</sup> Slaven, *West of Scotland*, p. 103.

<sup>53</sup> A. Wilson, *The Chartist Movement in Scotland* (Manchester, 1970), pp. 5-18; also John Collins – Chartist, “Scottish Progress Report – April 1838”, accessed 7 December 2021 at [www.chartistcollins.com/scotland-1838.html](http://www.chartistcollins.com/scotland-1838.html)

<sup>54</sup> D.W. Blight, *Frederick Douglass/Profit of Freedom* (New York, 2018), pp. 173-174.

<sup>55</sup> “Anti-Slavery League”, *Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser* (Leeds, 22 August 1846), p. 3; also “To the Chartist of Scotland”, *The Chartist Circular*, (Glasgow, 18 September 1841), p. 5.

<sup>56</sup> R.M. Paterson, *Newmilns Weavers and the American Civil War* (Ayr, 1949), p. 99.

One of the catalysts for this progression was the charismatic American abolitionist Fredrick Douglass. On his first tour of Britain, Douglass would meet with leading Chartists in London and address huge crowds in Scottish cities, including Kilmarnock. He also made time to visit the neighbouring weaving village of Fenwick, where he addressed “an uncommonly large meeting” at the United Secessionist Church on April 5, 1846.<sup>57</sup> The orator spoke harshly about the recently founded Free Church of Scotland and its fundraising efforts among the plantation owners of the American South.<sup>58</sup> Otherwise Douglass was a great fan of Scotland and had a lifelong passion for Robert Burns, identifying with the Ayrshire bard not only in his opposition to oppression, but as a “self-made man” that rose from humble origins by the use of his talents.<sup>59</sup>

Even with the coming of factory weaving, the handloom tradition would persist along the Irvine: in 1872 there were still some 1600 handloom operators in Loudoun parish alone, even though, as one contemporary observed, “it is a wretchedly remunerative employment, the industrious workman being able to earn little over bare subsistence”.<sup>60</sup> So too would its radical

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<sup>57</sup> J. Taylor, *The Annals of Fenwick*, (Kilmarnock, 1970), pp. 70-71.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> Blight, *Frederick Douglass*, pp. 166-167; also M. Morris, “Robert Burns: Recovering Scotland’s Memory of the Black Atlantic”, *Journal of Eighteenth Century Studies*, 37 (2014), p. 358.

<sup>60</sup> J. Mair, *A Community Rent Asunder/The Newmilns Laceweavers’ Strike of 1897* (Darvel, 1999), p. 4; also A.R. Adamson, *Rambles Around Kilmarnock* (Kilmarnock, 1875), p. 197.

tradition and support for abolition across the water. During the American Civil War, the Newmilns Anti-Slavery Society sent repeated resolutions of support for the Northern cause, “in spite of the fact that local weavers were being hard hit by the blockade of southern cotton ports”.<sup>61</sup> One such resolution was forwarded to Washington by the American ambassador in 1864; in response the weavers received both official letters of appreciation and the gift of the Stars and Stripes.<sup>62</sup> For years afterwards, Newmilns’ “Lincoln flag” would be hauled out and flown “at all Ceremonial occasions of the Burgh.”<sup>63</sup>

### *Conclusion*

The huge growth of the cotton industry in western Scotland midwived the next phase of Industrial Revolution, centred on coal mining, iron production and heavy engineering. Galston’s coal industry, dating back to John Wallace’s efforts, expanded greatly and there were ironworks established in the village, in Hurlston just to the west and to the southeast at Muirkirk. Cotton master money helped fund this transition and former weavers would migrate to these new jobs.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Paterson, *Newmilns Weavers*, p. 98.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 98-104.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 99.

<sup>64</sup> A. Cooke, “The Scottish Cotton Masters, 1780-1914”, *Textile History*, 40 (1) (May 2009), p. 38.

Local handloom weaving declined in the decades following the American Civil War and its abolition of slavery. Yet textile manufacturing would continue after Alexander Morton brought power loom lace-making to Darvel in 1875, followed by multiple imitators in Newmilns and Galston.<sup>65</sup> The biggest consumers for “Darvel” lace were in India, as Britain’s growing empire created vast new markets for western Scotland’s export industries. (Even so, the U.S.A would remain its largest trading partner until World War I.<sup>66</sup>)

As this “imperialism of free trade” expanded, Scotland’s export-based industries no longer relied on the slave economy for raw materials like cotton or markets for its products like linen. Yet it is apparent that for the upper Irvine Valley, slavery had been critical to its early industrial development. However that development also fuelled strong local opposition to the chattel slavery it relied upon, contributing to its end. As these interrelated dynamics evidence, the complexity of history is no simple morality tale.

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<sup>65</sup> Mair, *A Community Rent Asunder*, p. 13.

<sup>66</sup> G. Jackson and C. Munn, “Trade, Commerce and Finance” in Fraser, W.H. and Mavor, I. (eds.), *Glasgow, Volume II, 1830-1912* (Manchester, 1996), pp. 66-67.

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Editor’s note: *Further articles on slavery and Ayrshire can be found in Ayrshire Notes Autumn 2020/2 namely -*

*Anti-Slavery Support in Ayrshire*

*America Salutes Ayrshire Tributes to Anti-Slavery Supporters in Ayrshire - both articles are by Barbara Graham*

## Lanemark Colliery and the Development of Rigfoot Mines in New Cumnock

By Rob Close

The documents transcribed below were found during a deep-clean of Loudoun Hall, Ayr, during 2021-23. Their provenance is unknown, but it is assumed that they were given to Sheena M Andrew (1941-2021), a long-time trustee and *quondam* custodian of the Hall who had a great interest in the New Cumnock area and its history. They seem to form a discrete, though small collection, and appear unrelated to a larger collection found during the same cleaning process. This larger collection is presently being catalogued. Both will be deposited with Ayrshire Archives.

Most of the documents appear to relate to the minerals on the Riggfoot<sup>67</sup> estate, New Cumnock, which were worked by the Lanemark Coal Co. Ltd, and these are transcribed first. The Lanemark Coal Company was incorporated in 1885 and went into liquidation in 1911<sup>68</sup>. The other documents, largely administrative in character, suggest that they were held within the Clydesdale Bank, Cumnock.

The principal characters in the chief correspondence are Robert Wilson Dron<sup>69</sup> (1869-1932), a civil and mining engineer in Glasgow; Margaret Wilson Falconer or Haddow (1835-1905), the widow of William Haddow (c.1798-1877) and the mother of William Farquhar Haddow (1857-1889), who died unmarried, and, as their successor, the proprietor of the small

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<sup>67</sup> In the correspondence the name is usually spelled Rigfoot, but both contemporary and present-day usage favours Riggfoot

<sup>68</sup> National Records of Scotland dissolved companies files BT2/1430

<sup>69</sup> He later became president of the Scottish Institute of Mining Engineers and wrote several books on mining. His obituary can be found at [robert\\_w\\_dron\\_ma\\_minstce\\_minstme.pdf\(cambridge.org\)](http://robert_w_dron_ma_minstce_minstme.pdf(cambridge.org)) Accessed August 2023

Riggfoot estate; and William Stiven Ogilvie (1836-1903), the agent in Cumnock for the Clydesdale Bank. Ogilvie is acting on behalf of Mrs Haddow who, judging from the nature of these documents, is unhappy with the returns she is getting from the minerals on her estate. These are let to the Lanemark Coal Co. Ltd, as are the minerals on the neighbouring estates. Dron has been asked, it appears, to report to Mrs Haddow, via Ogilvie, on the operations of the colliery company. His first report dates from 1894, and notes that the company commenced operations on the Riggfoot minerals the previous year (i.e. 1893). This report, which is echoed by his subsequent reports, shows that minerals are being extracted from a small part of the estate, and that the workings are hampered by faults in the strata and substantial water ingress. Judging from the terse nature of Document No.16 – “Mrs Haddow has had it explained to her more than once” – she was not persuaded by these reports.<sup>70</sup>

The Lanemark company was formed in 1865 to exploit the coal in the New Cumnock area<sup>71</sup>. The coalmaster for most of the period covered by this correspondence was Thomas Mathieson Brown (1859-1915), while Peter Dowie (1860-1945) was the company secretary. The driving force in the company had been T M Brown’s father, Robert Brown (born c.1814), who died in 1886, and was succeeded at the helm by his son, another Robert (b.c.1842). He died the following year, and management then passed to his brother Thomas M Brown. Although the loss of the company’s papers is to be regretted, we can see from other sources that the company was an important business for a few

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<sup>70</sup> In 1891, Mary Gordon Shand, proprietor of the minerals on the Afton estate raised an action against the company in the Court of Session, alleging that the riddle they were using resulted in a higher percentage of dross, and hence a lower royalty payment. *Scotsman*, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 1891, xn. The action was settled out of court, without costs being awarded to either party.

<sup>71</sup> There is a useful timeline for the company at [Scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/lanemark-brickworks-new-cumnock-east-ayrshire/](http://Scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/lanemark-brickworks-new-cumnock-east-ayrshire/), accessed 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The company records were catalogued in 1956 as part of a survey of records in the offices of David Shaw & Co., solicitors in Ayr (NRA(S) survey 183), but were destroyed in the early 1970s. Information from Alison Rosie, NRS, per email of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

years. In July 1889, the order placed by the Glasgow Gas Trust for 30,000 tons was regarded as one of the largest orders ever placed for coal;<sup>72</sup> the Trust returned in August 1890 with an order for 60,000 tons.<sup>73</sup>

Dron, although generally willing to paint an optimistic financial picture for Mrs Haddow, seems to have doubts about the management of the company. In Document No.13 he notes that “Mr Gilchrist has got a situation at Cumberland and I earnestly hope that the company may select a man this time who will put a better aspect on things, while there are a number of issues, such as the lack of men familiar with the use of safety lamps (Document No.6), which ought to have been better managed. The pit (formally known as Afton no.3) on the Riggfoot estate was finally opened in 1900, but the company continued to be beset by water problems, and in 1909 entered into voluntary winding-up<sup>74</sup>; the assets were acquired by William Hyslop, and merged with his Bank Coal Company, to form New Cumnock Collieries Ltd. Riggfoot Pit was closed the same year and, by 1915, the new company had also acquired ownership of the Riggfoot estate.

The documents are manuscript and in ink, unless otherwise specified. The transcriptions are largely as written. I have used ‘and’ rather than ‘&’, and ‘etc’ rather than ‘&c’. My thanks are due to John C Crone for his comments and advice.

Rob Close

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<sup>72</sup> *Glasgow Evening Post*, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 1889, 1d, per British Newspaper Archive. This was at a time when most gas producers tended to share their orders around rather than stay loyal to one supplier. It may be that the need to produce so much coal, especially from highly faulted seams, lay behind the ultimate collapse of the business.

<sup>73</sup> *Glasgow Evening Post*, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 1890, 1e, per British Newspaper Archive.

<sup>74</sup> *Edinburgh Gazette*, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 1909, 109b.

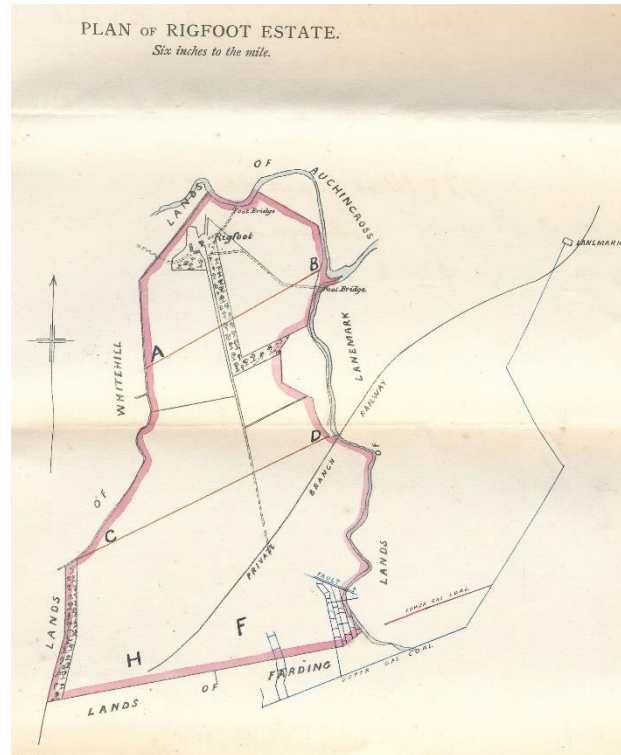
1. Report on the Mineral Workings in the Lands of Riggfoot. 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1894. Robert W Dron, C. and M.E., Glasgow.

Report on the Minerals and Mineral Workings in Riggfoot Estate. February 1894

This estate is situated in the parish of New Cumnock, County of Ayr, and extends to about 164 acres. It is connected to the Glasgow and South Western Railway by a private branch line 2½ miles long which passes through the lands of Lanemark, North Boig and Creoch.

The minerals are let on lease to the Lanemark Coal Coy. Lim. who are also tenants of the adjoining estates of Farding, Lanemark and Auchincross. This company have been carrying on operations for over twenty years. About a year ago their underground workings first entered the Riggfoot Estate, thus proving the position of the coal seams in the property.

The minerals in the lands of Riggfoot are divided into three portions by two faults or dislocations of the strata running from the north-east to the south-west. I have shown the position of those faults (as far as known) by the lines marked AB and CD on the annexed plan.



The existence of coal to the north of the fault AB is uncertain and in any case it is not likely that there will be workings in this part of the field for a very long time. The extent of this portion of the estate is about 30 acres.

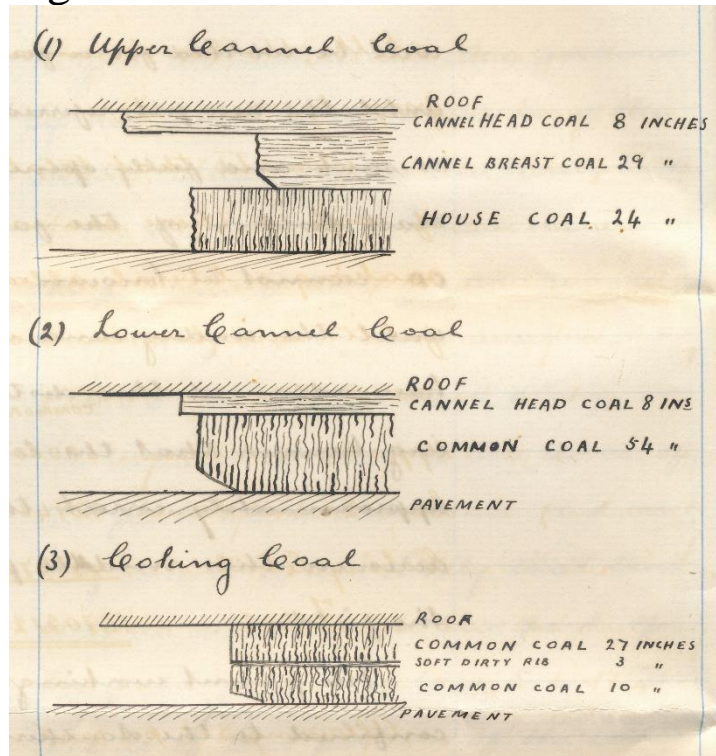
Between the lines AB and CD it is expected that coal will be found but the workings already opened up on the adjoining lands of Lanemark seem to indicate that the quality is inferior and there are likely to be a number of small dislocations and troubles which will interfere very much with the working of the coal. It is not expected that any of this coal will be worked for a few years yet until the new pit, referred to below, is sunk and fully opened up. The exact position of the fault marked CD cannot be known definitely until the underground workings have advanced this distance. Assuming however that the line CD is approximately correct there are 41 acres in this middle portion of the field.

The present workings are entirely confined to the southern portion of the estate and the operations of the Lanemark Coal Coy. Lim. have now shown that, in addition to several seams of inferior quality, there are three first-class workable seams

with a total thickness of 13 feet 6 inches of coal, of which 3 feet 9 inches is cannel coal of an excellent quality.

These three seams are as follows

- (1) Upper Cannel Coal<sup>75</sup>
- (2) Lower Cannel Coal<sup>76</sup>
- (3) Coking Coal<sup>77</sup>



At the point marked F on the plan those seams are found at the following depths from the surface:

- |                              |
|------------------------------|
| Upper Cannel Coal, 400 yards |
| Lower Cannel Coal, 424 "     |
| Coking Coal, 440 "           |

They are all lying at a considerable inclination the dip being one foot in three feet six inches towards the west. The effect of this inclination is that the Upper Cannel Coal is 560 yards deep at the western boundary of the property.

<sup>75</sup> Now usually known as the Upper Cannel or Upper Gas Coal.

<sup>76</sup> Now usually known as the Five Foot or Lower Gas Coal.

<sup>77</sup> Now usually known as the Eight Foot Coal. John Crone notes that none of the coal in the area would have been suitable for coking, and also than Robert Dron wrote a book on coking coal, so that the expression may have been his alone.

I estimate that the<sup>78</sup> total quantity of coal in these seams, after making a liberal allowance for faults and loss in working, as follows

	Common Coal Cannel	
Upper Cannel Seam	300000 tons	463798 tons
Lower Cannel Seam	679436 “	100672 “
Coking Coal	<u>490776 “</u>	--
Total	<u>1470212 tons</u>	<u>564469 “</u>

Allowing 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent of dross<sup>79</sup> the value of this coal at the present rate of lordship is as follows:

376307 tons cannel @ 10d	= £15679-10-0
980142 “ common @ 4d	= £16335-14-0
678223 “ dross @ 1d	= <u>£2825-18-0</u>
	£34841-2-0

This gives an average income of £1000 per annum during the whole period of the present lease.

The underground workings in the lands of Rigfoot are confined in the meantime to the Upper Cannel Seam

The method of extracting this coal is that known as Stoop and Room. Galleries are driven in the coal about 9 ft wide and 60 feet apart thus leaving a ‘pillar’ of coal between each gallery about 20 yards square. In driving these galleries (technically known as ‘Rooms’ or ‘Places’), the 8 ins of head coal shown in the foregoing section is left on to support the roof. After the pillars have all been formed they are extracted and at the same time the head coal left on in the ‘rooms’ is also recovered. In the formation of the pillars 25 per cent of the coal is taken out and the remaining 75 per cent is taken out in the second working. At present the workings in the Upper Cannel seam in the Rigfoot property are confined to driving the ‘rooms’ and as

<sup>78</sup> ‘the’ inserted above the line, with carat mark

<sup>79</sup> Small coal which has passed through a riddle or screen. Glossary of Scotch Mining Terms, scottishmining.co.uk, accessed 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.



yet no pillars have been extracted. This method of working the coal is quite satisfactory both for landlord and tenant. At the date of my visit (19<sup>th</sup> Feby 1894) there were only 6 men working in the Rigfoot property, and their output for the last fortnight amounted to 96 tons. Several new rooms are being started and in the course of a few months there should be 18 to 20 men at work. The reason that the output is lower just now is that the workings have come against a 'fault' which alters the position of the seams.

Operations are being carried on with a view to getting past this fault and when those operations are completed there will be a greatly increased output from the property.

A 'room' is at present being driven in the Lower Cannel seam in the direction of Rigfoot estate, and in the course of a few months it will have crossed the boundary and thereafter there will be coals drawn from this room in addition to those which are drawn from the Upper Cannel seam. This place is shown on the plan by a red line.

All the coal is drawn underground to the 'Lanemark No.2 Pit'. At the mouth of this pit there is first class machinery for screening the coal and separating it into the various sizes. The cannel coal passes over a revolving screen with  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch meshes and the common coal passes over a screen with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch meshes. Both of those screens are even more favourable to the proprietors than is required by the Lease.

The private branch railway shown on the plan was put in last summer with the intention of sinking a pit in the position marked H. A good deal of machinery was erected here and the pit actually sunk a distance of about 20 yards. At this distance a bed of gravel was met with which gave off a great quantity of water. As it would have been a very expensive operation to sink through this gravel bed trial bores were put down from the surface to see how far it extended. At the point marked F it was

found that there was no gravel. I understand that it is intended to sink a shaft at this position but operations have not yet been commenced. I do not expect that the sinking of this shaft can be completed in less than three years. After this is done the output from Rigfoot estate should amount to 70,000 to 90,000 tons per annum.

I have examined the statements of output submitted by the Lanemark Coal Coy. Lim. and have compared them with the books and plans and find everything quite correct. The output from June 1<sup>st</sup> to Decem 31<sup>st</sup> has been 2313 tons of cannel, 677 tons of common and coal and dross, and 192 tons of cannel coal dross (called 'chips'). The amount of lordship payable on this quantity of coal amounts to £122-15-6 which is of course less than the fixed rent for the same period.

Robert W Dron, 79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, 22-2-94.

2. Letter from Robert W Dron, civil and mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, 29<sup>th</sup> June 1895

79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, June 29<sup>th</sup> 1895. Wm S Ogilvie, Esq.

Dear Sir

Rigfoot Estate. I now send you my report on above mineral property. You will find that the inclusion of the May returns and the supplementary returns has made the report much more satisfactory.

Yours respectfully, R W Dron

3. Rigfoot Estate. Report on Mineral Workings of Lanemark Coal Coy. Lim. June 1895. Robert W Dron, M.E., Glasgow<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Two sheets of four pages each.

I have made a careful examination of all the workings in the lands of Rigfoot as carried on by the Lanemark Coal Coy. Lim. I have checked the royalty<sup>81</sup> statements and have made myself familiar with the terms of the lease and now report thereon as follows:

The workings of the Lanemark Company in this property commenced early in 1893. Between January 1893 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1893 the following amount of coal was worked:

Cannel Coal, 885 tons

Common Coal, 492 tons

As the present lease commences as at Whitsunday 1893 no further account need be taken of any coal worked prior to that date. By renouncing their old lease dated 1886 the Lanemark Coy. gave up all claim to any shortages which may have been standing in their favour and in dealing with any accounts as to fixed rent or royalties no account whatever should be taken of any coal worked or rents paid prior to Whitsunday 1893.

I have made an abstract<sup>82</sup> of the statements rendered by the Lanemark Coy. from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1893 to 1<sup>st</sup> June 1895<sup>83</sup> and total quantities are as follows:

	t, c
Cannel Coal	6013-13
Chips	382-2
Triping <sup>84</sup>	4133-12

For the purposes of checking those returns I have made as careful an estimate as possible of the total quantity of coal

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<sup>81</sup> Royalty, also known as lordship, is a payment made by the mineral tenant to the proprietor. It can be calculated as a rate per ton, as a rate per acre, as a rate per acre varying in accordance with the width of the seams, or as a percentage of the selling price. Glossary of Scotch Mining Terms, scottishmining.co.uk, accessed 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

<sup>82</sup> Next document.

<sup>83</sup> 1894 has been overwritten.

<sup>84</sup> Usually refers to coal as it comes from the miner, i.e. unsorted. Glossary of Scotch Mining Terms, scottishmining.co.uk, accessed 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

worked during the same period as shown by my underground surveys and the quantities are as follows:

Cannel Coal	5489 tons
Chips	382 tons
Triping	5542 tons of 22½ cwt.

From the quantity of triping there falls to be deducted, as provided in the lease, (1) workmen's coals (2) coals used by furnaces etc at the pit and it is also reasonable that some allowance should be made for stones and rubbish among the coals. The workmen's coals 500 tons is a fair allowance and for loss in working about 270 tons. Deducting those two items from the 5542 tons mentioned above leaves 4772 tons. The difference between this quantity and the quantity of 4133-12 as given in the returns may fairly be set against coals used in the furnaces and at the pits. Taking all circumstances into account I think the royalty returns as shown in the abstract herewith may be accepted as substantially correct.

As mentioned in previous correspondence a considerable mistake has been made in the royalty books of the Company during March, April & May. I pointed this out to the Company and they have now rectified the error by a separate statement which I have added to the end of the abstract. This error amounts in royalty to £34.11.1. As the bulk of this error took place in April & May we may add £15 to the returns for each of those months, making for April £42.14.4 and for May £39.11.2. In the future returns the whole of the men's work will of course be included and there is every reason to hope that the average for April and May will be fully maintained.

With regard to the underground workings: in a previous report I described the different seams found in the property. Workings are<sup>85</sup> now being carried on in both the Upper and Lower Gas Coal seams and unless any unforeseen difficulties

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<sup>85</sup> The second sheet begins here.

are met with the present output should be maintained until the new shaft is sunk.

The shaft which is being sunk on this property has not made very rapid progress. The delay has been caused by the amount of water met with; the quantity being greater than the machinery was able to deal with. I understand that new machinery is being provided and it is quite reasonable to hope that the shaft will be sunk the full distance and a commencement made to draw coals within<sup>86</sup> twelve months.

The underground workings, drainage and ventilation etc are all being carried forward in full compliance with the terms of the lease. With regard to the monthly returns I would like to draw attention to the clause on lines 20 and 21 page 4 of the lease viz, 'If no objection be made to the monthly returns made by the Second Party within 30 days after delivery thereof the returns of the Second Party shall be held as correct.' This clause seems to preclude the proprietors from going back on the old returns even though they were proved to be inaccurate, and in deciding any question as to shorts or fixed units etc those returns must now be taken as they stand, including of course the supplementary statement rendered this month.

Robert W Dron

79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, 29<sup>th</sup> June 1895.

4. Rigfoot Estate. Abstract of Royalty Returns from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1893 to 1<sup>st</sup> June 1895. R W Dron, M.E., Glasgow

Rigfoot Mineral Workings. Abstract of Royalty returns made by the Lanemark Coal Coy. from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1893 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 1895

	Cannel Coal	Triping	Chips
1893	June 143	45 t 7 c	22 t 5 c

<sup>86</sup> 'withing' written; the 'g' scored through

	July	412	152	61.7	
	August	566	143	43.11	
	Sept	230	64	16.18	
	Oct	362	90.14	13.7	
	Nov	304	101.7	19.11	
	Decem	296	80.18	16.18	
Total,	1893	<u>2313</u>	<u>677.8</u>	<u>193.17</u>	
1894	Jan	182	52.9	11.12	
	Feb	114	53.7	10.14	
	Mar	111	28.9	7.3	
	April	180	72	8.18	
	May	218	88.18	5.7	
Total		<u>805</u>	<u>295.3</u>	<u>43.14</u>	
Total from 1 <sup>st</sup> t			t, c	t, c	
June 1893 to 1 <sup>st</sup>		3118		972.11	237.11
June 1894					
1894	June	239	48.18	4.9	
	Oct	92	31.3	5.7	
	Nov	193	57.16	10.14	
	Decr	240	72	12.9	
1895	Jan	238	92.9	8	
	Feb	266	296.18	18.14	
	Mar	356	689.16	27.12	
	April	376	759.3	28.9	
	May	349.13	610.14	29.7	
Total '94-'95		2349.13	2658.17	144.11	
	Cannel		Triping	Chips	
1893-94	3118		972.11	237.11	
1894-95	2349.13		2658.17	144.11	

Extra from sep-72	367.2	-
arate statement		
rendered in	<u>474</u>	<u>135.2</u>
June 1895		-
Total for two years		
	<u>6013.13</u>	<u>4133.12</u>
		<u>382.2</u>

5. Letter from Robert W Dron, mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, Cumnock, 30<sup>th</sup> March 1896

79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, March 30<sup>th</sup> 1896. Wm S Ogilvie, Esq., Old Cumnock

Dear Sir

In reply to yours of 27<sup>th</sup> inst.

Nothing has yet been done in the way of cutting the fault.

They have now commenced to extract the stoops and that should keep up the output of cannel coal.

The sinking is certainly proving every difficulty but I am not aware of anything specially wrong at this time. It is impossible for the pit to be down in less than two year from this date unless there is some great alteration.

Yours faithfully, R W Dron

6. Letter from Robert W Dron, civil and mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, Cumnock, 25<sup>th</sup> September 1896

79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1896. Wm S Ogilvie, Esq, Cumnock

Dear Sir

Rigfoot. There is really little or nothing to report regarding the workings in Rigfoot Estate.

In the Upper seams where the stoops were being extracted an explosion of gas occurred about a month ago, with the result that all work in that section must now be carried on with safety lamps. As the men at Lanemark are not accustomed to those lamps there has been a difficulty in getting anyone to work with them and the result was that no work was done for some weeks and now there are only seven men employed.

In the Lower seam there is nothing at all doing but operations have been commenced with the view of opening up a new section.

The new shaft is getting on better and it is hoped that a year should see it pretty well down to the coal.

Please let me know if you still wish a formal report.

Yours truly, R W Dron

7. Letter from C & D Shaw, Ayr to Mrs Haddow, Springbank, Cumnock, 9<sup>th</sup> December 1896

County Buildings, Ayr, 9<sup>th</sup> Decr 1896. Mrs Haddow, Springbank, Cumnock

Dear Mrs Haddow

We send herewith a Statement of Rents due to you at Martinmas showing a balance due to you of £178.9.3 for which sum we enclose cheque in your favor [*sic*].

Kindly acknowledge receipt

Yours faithfully, C & D Shaw

8. Letter from Robert W Dron, civil and mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, Cumnock, 19<sup>th</sup> May 1897



79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, May 19<sup>th</sup> 1897. Wm S Ogilvie, Esq., The Clydesdale Bank, Cumnock

Dear Sir

I have yours of 18<sup>th</sup> inst re Rigfoot Estate. I find that it will be necessary for me to visit the colliery in order to satisfy myself regarding certain points and propose doing this on ~~Satur~~ Friday 21<sup>st</sup> inst. I shall let you have my report as soon as possible thereafter.

Yours faithfully, R W Dron

9. Letter from Robert W Dron, civil and mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, Cumnock, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1897

79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, May 24<sup>th</sup> 1897. William S Ogilvie, Esq.

Dear Sir

Rigfoot. I did not get down to Lanemark on Friday as I expected for I got a wire from the Coy. saying that work was suspended for the holidays.

I am arranging to go down tomorrow and will let you have my report with the smallest possible delay. Meanwhile I may that there seems to be about 3000 tons of coal due to Mrs Haddow which has been paid to adjoining estates; due to alterations of plans which I mentioned when you were in Glasgow.

Yours faithfully, R W Dron

10. Letter from Robert W Dron, civil and mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, 26<sup>th</sup> May 1897.

79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, May 26<sup>th</sup> 1897. William S Ogilvie, Esq, Clydesdale Bank, Cumnock.

Dear Sir

Rigfoot. I now enclose my report on above and trust you will find that it contains all the desired information.

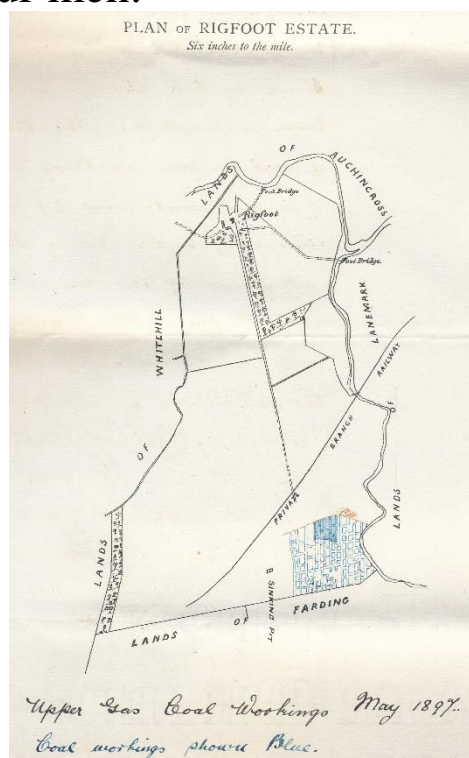
Yours faithfully, R W Dron

11. Report on the Mineral Workings in the Lands of Rigfoot. May 1897. Robert W Dron, M.E., Glasgow

Report on the Mineral Workings in Rigfoot Estate, May 1897

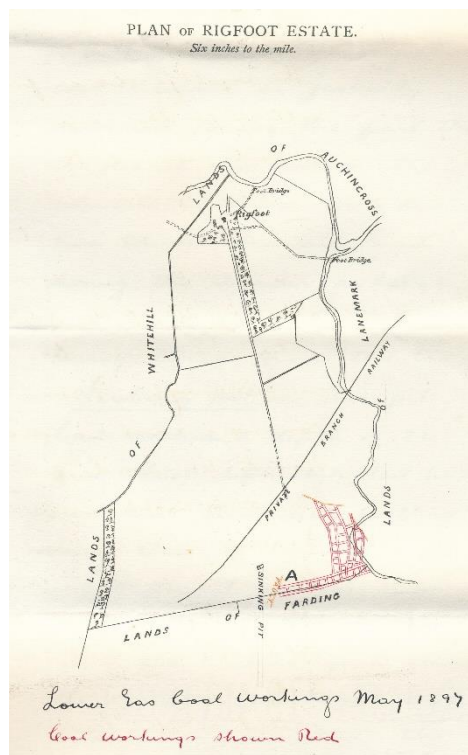
Since the date of my last report on this property – June 1895 – I have made frequent surveys and inspections of the underground workings. I have also examined and checked the royalty statements from June 1895 to Feby 1897 and now beg to report on the whole subject as follows;-

Workings are being carried on by the Lanemark Coal Coy. Lim. in two seams of coal viz the Upper Gas Coal and the Lower Gas Coal. In the former seam ten men are employed and in the latter four men.



Upper Gas Coal. On the annexed plan I have shown the extent of the workings in this seam. The ten men referred to

are engaged in the operation of 'stooping', i.e. extracting the square blocks of coal which were formed in the first working. On the plan I have shown by cross shading the stoops which have been extracted. The total thickness of coal in this working is 39 inches of cannel coal and 19 inches of common coal. Owing to the inclination of the seam and the bad roof I find that from 20% to 25% of the coal is lost in the extraction of the pillars. The taking out of these stoops has caused a further inflow of water into this section of the workings. At present the tenants are just able to cope with the water that is coming and if there is any increase they may be compelled to abandon the section until such time as the new Rigfoot pit drains away the water.



**Lower Gas Seam.** In this seam the operation of coal getting has been suspended in Rigfoot estate on account of a fault which was met with last week and which has interrupted the continuity of the seam. I have shown the position of this fault at A on the plan annexed hereto. Four men are at present engaged driving a tunnel through the fault but they have not yet discovered the coal beyond it. Until such time as the coal is

recovered it is impossible to estimate what effect the fault may have on the future working of the seam. In the meantime it means a reduction of the output to the extent of about 25 tons per week.

I estimate from the plans that the quantity of coal excavated during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1895 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 1897 amounts to

6774 tons of cannel coal  
505 –do- of chips  
7200 –do- of common coal.

The royalty returns from the colliery for the corresponding period amount to

9424 tons of cannel coal  
505 –do- of chips  
5502 –do- of common coal

My estimate of the cannel coal is thus 2650 tons less than you are receiving. From the common coal a deduction has to be made for boiler fires, etc, and workman's coal. I made special enquiries about this and find from the tenant's books that the amount sold (including workmen's coal) is fully 20% less than the colliery output and this explains the difference between my estimate and the monthly returns. The proportion of loss given (20%) is abnormally high but the lease does not seem to impose any limit in this respect.

The difference in the cannel coal estimate is probably accounted for by the fact that the period over which the estimate is taken includes two winter seasons and during the winter a large quantity of cannel coal is being lifted from the bing<sup>87</sup>.

Sinking Pit. This pit had reached a depth of 80 fms last September but has not been sunk any further since then. The total distance which the pit must be sunk is fully 210 fathoms.

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<sup>87</sup> A heap, often of waste or dirt. Glossary of Scotch Mining Terms, [scottishmining.co.uk](http://scottishmining.co.uk), accessed 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

It is now about three years since the sinking operations were commenced so that the progress made is not very encouraging. The principle [*sic*] difficulty has been the great body of water that has to be dealt with.

A very large steam pump has now been purchased capable of dealing with 1000 gallons of water per min. It will however take about six months to get this pump fitted up ready for work and sinking is not likely to be resumed until then.

I sincerely trust that my opinion on the subject may not prove correct, but I must say that I have very grave doubts regarding the difficulties still to be encountered before the pit is finished ready for putting out coals and I do not now think that it would be wise to entertain any expectations regarding its speedy completion.

Adjustment of Marches. A new survey has been completed of the Rigfoot estate and that survey has shown that the march lines as delineated on the working plans are somewhat inaccurate. The plans referred to were made about 15 years ago and no doubt they have shrunk considerably in that time thus causing the difference. I am now adjusting these differences with the Coy. and the engineers of the adjoining estates. My calculations show that payment is due to you on 1382 tons of cannel coal and 2325 tons of triping but you will probably receive further information on this from the tenants.

I remain yours respectfully, Robt W Dron.  
To Mrs Margaret Haddow, Cumnock.

12. Letter from Robert W Dron, civil and mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, Cumnock, 29<sup>th</sup> December 1897

Dear Mr Ogilvie

I was at Lanemark last week and find that the workings in Rigfoot are entirely suspended and filled up with water and nothing further will now be done until the new pit is down.

The sinking pit is a little more hopeful as they seem to have got past the rock from which so much water was coming. They have struck a thin seam (about 2' 6")<sup>88</sup> of common coal at a depth of 90 fms.

The pit is now half way down but the second half could be sunk in 9 months if it were gone about energetically but I am afraid you must count on 18 months under existing conditions.

With best wishes for the New Year

Yours faithfully, R W Dron

Pencil note below signature, in different hand

Mr Hyslop called and Mrs H asked him about the pit. Mr Hyslop asked if they were not paying themselves with what they were taking out of the pit. Mrs H said she did not know. Mr Hyslop does not seem to be satisfied with the business.

13. Letter from Robert W Dron, civil and mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, Cumnock, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1898

79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1898. Wm S Ogilvie, Esq, Cumnock

Dear Sir

I have yours of 2<sup>nd</sup> inst.

The fact that Mrs Haddow is getting no returns is just in accordance with what I said at her last interview – that no more coal could be worked from Rigfoot until either the new pit was down or some kind of pump was fitted up to drain the water to the present pit.

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<sup>88</sup> '(about 2' 6")' inserted above the line, with carat mark. This seam is usually known as the Little Cannel Coal.

The new pit does not make brilliant progress but great hopes are expressed that the difficulties are mostly over now. That may be so but I am afraid that the most difficult may be the 'sillar'.

I may say however that a new pump has actually been bought to unwater the Rigfoot workings and if all goes well, some coal may again be worked there soon. The Company must get coal some place to keep up the output and I daresay that is what has made them get this pump.

I think Mr Gilchrist has got a situation at Cumberland and I earnestly hope that the company may select a man this time who will put a better aspect on things. It is said here that the Muirkirk Railway is likely to go on soon but on that I have no definite information.

Yours faithfully, R W Dron

14. Letter from Robert W Dron, civil and mining engineer, Glasgow, to William S Ogilvie, Cumnock, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1898

79 West Regent Street, Glasgow, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1898. Wm S Ogilvie, Esq., Clydesdale Bank, Cumnock.

Dear Sir

I visited Lanemark Colliery at the end of last month and while there made inquiries regarding Rigfoot Minerals. The shaft which is being sunk on Rigfoot Estate is making more satisfactory progress than it has done since the commencement. It is now down 145 fms, and the sinking is proceeding at the rate of 8 fms per month. The depth to the final workable seam is 180 fms, but the shaft must be sunk to the lower seams at a depth of some 200 fms before the coal can be properly opened up. It would be very risky to prophesy [*sic*] as to the exact date when the Rigfoot minerals will be opened up on a commercial scale, but I may say that if things continue as they are now

doing, there should be a commencement made to work a limited portion of coal from the new pit in about 6 to 8 months and that about the beginning of 1900 the pit should be fully completed and the output of coal properly commenced.

In the meantime an area of Rigfoot coal is being opened up with the view of working it from the present Lanemark pit, and from this working an output of a few hundred tons per month may be maintained while the new pit is sinking. A commencement was made with this working about two months ago but owing to the carelessness of an undermanager (who has been dismissed) the output was being credited to Lanemark estate. The amount of coals worked was about 186 tons partly common coal, partly gas coal.

The company have now rectified this mistake and placed the coals to Mrs Haddow's credit, and I asked them to write her explaining how the mistake occurred.

It is unfortunate that this should have happened but I assure ('you' inserted) that it was not done by the Company with the remotest idea or intention of defrauding Mrs Haddow.

I remain yours truly, R W Dron

15. Letter from Lanemark Coal Co Ltd to W S Ogilvie, Esq., Cumnock, 18<sup>th</sup> November 1898

Lanemark Colliery, New Cumnock, 18<sup>th</sup> Novr 1898. W S Ogilvie, Esq., Cumnock.

Dear Sir

Riggfoot Minerals. In reply to your letters of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult and 10<sup>th</sup> inst we may mention that Mrs Haddow has been regularly supplied with all returns of coal worked from Riggfoot and there has been placed to her credit the quantity that had been given to another proprietor through the shrinkage of the plans.



We are not taken [*sic*] coal regularly from her property, nor will this be done until the new pit is drawing coal. The sinking is proceeding very satisfactorily.

Yours truly, pro Lanemark Coal Co. Limited, Thos M Brown.

16. Letter from Lanemark Coal Co Ltd to W S Ogilvie, Cumnock, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1898

Lanemark Colliery, New Cumnock, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1898. Wm S Ogilvie, Esq., Clydesdale Bank, Cumnock

Dear Sir

Riggfoot Minerals. We have your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst and we think it would be better for you to call here where all the different items mentioned<sup>89</sup> in your letter can be fully gone into. Mrs Haddow has had it explained to her more than once. Kindly say when it will be convenient for you to call, we would prefer next month.

Yours truly, pro Lanemark Coal Co. Limited, Thomas M Brown.

17. Report on the Mineral Workings in the Lands of Rigfoot. July 1899. R W Dron, C. & M.E., Glasgow

Report on the Mineral Workings in the Lands of Rigfoot. July 1899

I made an inspection of the mineral workings by the Lanemark Coal Coy. in the Lands of Rigfoot on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June and now report as follows

Upper Gas Coal Seam. At the date of my visit about 10 men were employed in this seam extracting the pillars or stoops

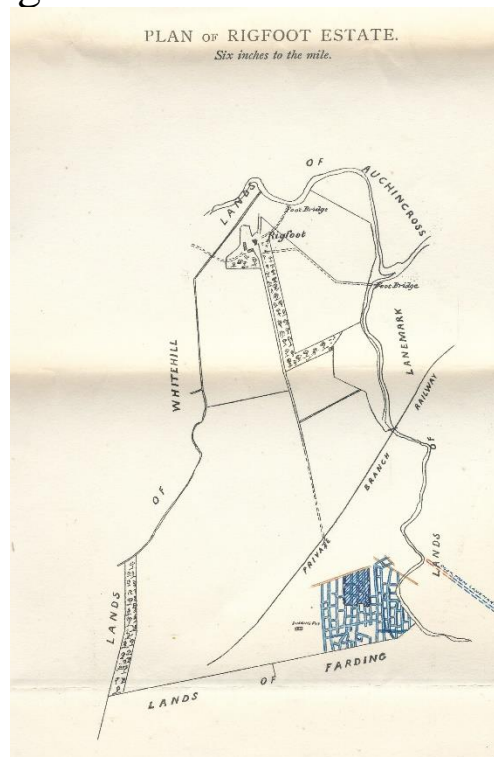
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<sup>89</sup> 'mentioned' inserted above the line, with a carat mark

which were formed in the first working. The pillars now being extracted were formed in 1893 and on account of the period which has elapsed since their formation the working is being carried on under considerable difficulty and the proportion of coal lost in working is rather high. The thickness of the seam is 36 inches of cannel coal and 20 inches of common coal. In the area now being stooped out I estimate there is still 8500 tons to work.

An attempt is now being made to work another portion of Upper Gas Coal in Rigfoot by means of a 'dook'<sup>90</sup> from Lanemark Pit. This dook is now within a short distance of Rigfoot march and during the next few months some new working places will be opened up in this section.

In the annexed plan I have shown the position of this dook as at the date of my visit. I anticipate that an output of 20 to 30 tons per day will be drawn from the Lands of Rigfoot by means of this new working.



<sup>90</sup> A roadway driven at the same angle as the dip in the strata, and usually the main road leading into the mine. Adapted from Glossary of Scotch Mining Terms, scottishmining.co.uk, accessed 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

Lower Gas Coal Seam. The workings in this seam are lying full of water and will not be reopened until the new pit has drained of [*sic*] the accumulations of water. No work has been done in the Lower Gas Coal during the last two years.

New Sinking Pit. This shaft has now reached a depth of 200 fms and has passed through three seems of coal, viz I, The Upper Gas Coal consisting of 5' 0" of cannel coal and 1' 6" of common coal, at a depth of 177 fms from the surface, II, The Lower Gas Coal consisting of 6" of gas coal and 4' 6" of common coal at a depth of about 187 fathoms from the surface and III, The Eight Foot Coal, consisting of 2' 3" of common coal of a fairly good quality and 4' 6" of common coal of an inferior quality.

Powerful pumping machinery is now being erected at the bottom of the shaft to deal with the whole water of the colliery and to drain the workings in the Upper and Lower Gas Coal seams at present lying full of water. In addition to the erection of the pumping machinery a good deal of work has to be done in the way of driving haulage roads, air courses, etc before the coal can be worked to any great extent. Machinery has also to be erected at the surface for screening the coal.

These operations will occupy about one year but during this time a small output will be raised from the Lands of Rigfoot by means of the new pit. This output will gradually increase as the coal is opened up and in about six months there should be fifty tons per day coming out. From that time onward I consider it is quite reasonable to look forwards to a steady increase in the output and by 18 months from now the output will probably be over 250 tons per day from the Lands of Rigfoot.

This output will mostly come from the three forementioned seams but there is another seam which may also be opened up and increase the output. This seam is known as the Coking Coal. The thickness on the Lands of Rigfoot has

not yet been proved but on the adjoining Lands of Lanemark it is three feet thick and fairly good quality.

I checked the output books of the colliery at the time of my visit and found everything correct. I estimate from the plans that the quantity of coal recovered during the period since my last report – dated May 1897 – amounts to 2725 tons of cannel coal and 1514 tons of common coal. From this quantity a deduction has to be made in respect of coal used at the colliery which will probably amount to 300 tons.

I have to report generally that the workings are being carried on in as satisfactory manner as possible under the existing circumstances but the delay in sinking the new pit has prevented the stooping of the coal being carried out in so systematic and regular a manner as one would have liked.

I am respectfully yours, R W Dron  
To Mrs Margaret Haddow of Rigfoot

18. Report on Mineral Workings in the Lands of Rigfoot. Undated, but after March 1900. Robert W Dron, M.E., Glasgow. Typescript.

#### REPORT ON MINERAL WORKINGS IN THE LANDS OF RIGFOOT<sup>91</sup>.

I reported on the mineral working in this property on July 1899, and since that date I have paid several visits to the colliery and inspected the underground workings, the date of my last visit being 31<sup>st</sup> March 1900.

LANEMARK PIT. A portion of the Upper Gas Coal Seam is being worked from the Lanemark No.2 Pit. The stooping referred to in my last report is still in operation about 8 to 10<sup>92</sup> men being employed. The new dook referred to in the

<sup>91</sup> In this document the typist has consistently typed Regfoot; these have mostly been subsequently corrected in ink.

<sup>92</sup> '8 to 10' inserted in ink into the space intentionally provided

last report has been carried across the march into Regfoot [*sic*] estate, and there are now 4 working places in operation from which the output should average fully 20 tons per day. There is a prospect of a few more working places being opened up here and the output from this particular section should soon be 30 tons per day.

RIGFOOT PIT. In this pit development work is being vigourously [*sic*] prosecuted[.] an expensive stone mine is being driven for the purpose of opening up the Upper Gas Coal Seam at the lowest level, and the lower Gas Coal is being opened up by headings and levels so as to get a large number of working places prepared as soon as possible. The Lower Gas Coal workings are looking very well the thickness being 10" of cannel coal and 5' 9" of common coal. This is the thickest that I have yet found this seam at any part of the colliery. Two levels have<sup>93</sup> been driven in the 8 ft. coal and this seam also is looking very well. A seam of coal which was met with in the shaft at a depth of 104<sup>94</sup> fms is being developed to a small extent. This coal is 2' 7" thick but the quality is only second class. I do not anticipate that much work will be done in this seam in the meantime but it forms a valuable reserve for the future.

An exceptionally large pumping engine is now being exerted in Rigfoot Pit to deal with all the water which is likely to be met with in the future working of the Colliery while this engine is being exerted it is necessary to suspend the underground operations but at the same time the screening plant and other erections at the surface are being vigourously [*sic*] pushed on with. When all these works are completed this will be one of the best equipped collieries in the country but of course, it takes time to get erections of this kind all fitted up.

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<sup>93</sup> 'have' typed above the line, with 'ahev' scored through

<sup>94</sup> '104' inserted in ink into the space intentionally provided

While it is difficult to predict with any certainty as to the exact time required for the completion of the machinery I can see no reason to alter the estimate I previously made that by the end of this year the output from Rigfoot Estate should amount to 250 tons per day. The quantity of coal already worked from the lands of Rigfoot Pit I estimate as follows:-

	Cannel	Common
Upper Gas Coal		
Lower Gas Coal	936 tons	7129
Eight ft. Coal	296 tons	
2' 7" Coal at 104 <sup>95</sup> fms	165	

Addendum in ink:

From these quantities deductions must be made for coal used for colliery purposes on which no royalty is payable. R W Dunn

19. Letter from Lanemark Coal Co Ltd to J & G H Geddes, Edinburgh, 30<sup>th</sup> October 1902

Lanemark Colliery, New Cumnock, 30<sup>th</sup> Octr 1902. Messrs J & G H Geddes, 21 Young Street, Edinburgh.

Dear Sirs

Lanemark Estate. Referring to recent correspondence on this subject three points are raised: (1) haulage, (2) wayleave, (3) agency.

(1) Haulage. We find that the Agreement between Lanemark Estate and this Company since the beginning has always been sixpence per ton as it is now, which charge covers the cost of new locomotives, railway sidings, rent of ground,

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<sup>95</sup> '80' typed: corrected in ink to '104'

upkeep and repair of these, and payment of wages of locomotive drivers, shunters, platelayers, labourers, etc, also stores such as coal, oil, waste, etc.

(2) Wayleave. As you are probably aware these were abolished some time ago through the purchase of portion of our railway by G & S W Ry Coy.<sup>96</sup>, but considering that the buyers were to be saddled with the wayleaves in future, they of course discounted this by a corresponding reduction in purchase price and also put a charge on us for the use of that portion of the railway. Under these circumstances we did not, nor do we yet, think any change between the landlords and us would be necessary.

(3). Agency. These are fully detailed in monthly lordship<sup>97</sup> statements.

Trusting you will find this satisfactory and all in order.

We are yours truly, (signed) for Lanemark Coal Co Ltd,  
Peter Dowie.

20. Mathematical calculations, undated, but the figures match those found in the Mineral Report for 1897 (Document no.11, above).

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1382 @ 9d \text{ per ton} \\
 \underline{\quad 9} \\
 12/\underline{12438} \\
 20/\underline{1036.6} \\
 51.16.6 \\
 2325 @ 4d \text{ per ton} \\
 \underline{\quad 4} \\
 12/\underline{9300}
 \end{array}$$

<sup>96</sup> The GSWR obtained powers to purchase some or all of the private railways belonging to the Lanemark company, and to William Hyslop of Bank through the Muirkirk, Mauchline and Dalmellington Railways Act, first put before Parliament in 1894. See *Edinburgh Gazette*, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 1894, 1349-1353.

<sup>97</sup> Another term for the payment made by the tenant of the minerals to the proprietor. See footnote 2, p.5.

20/775  
 38.15  
 51.16.6  
38.15.0  
 should 90.11.6  
 exceed  
 due to Mrs Haddow

21. Plan of Rigfoot, undated.

## CLYDESDALE BANK, CUMNOCK

The remaining documents relate to the administration of the Clydesdale Bank in Cumnock, where William Ogilvie was the agent. They are mostly mandates authorising changes to the signatories to accounts (predominantly public sector) held with the bank.

22. Auchinleck School Board Mandate, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1882.

/1. Covering sheet, Auchinleck School Board Mandate, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1882

/2. Extract Minute of Auchinleck School Board of date 1<sup>st</sup> June 1882

Auchinleck, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1882

The School Board met this day when inter alia the meeting authorise the account kept in the Clydesdale Bank Cumnock to be operated upon by cheques signed by the Chairman Robert Angus Esq and the Clerk and Treasurer David Smith, and further empower the said parties to overdraw the account to the extent of one hundred and fifty pounds Sterling.



A correct extract. David Smith, Clerk, Auchinleck 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1882.

23. Inventory of Furniture and Fittings of Clydesdale Bank, Cumnock, 27<sup>th</sup> May 1889

/1. Copy. Inventory of Furniture and Fittings at Cumnock Branch, 27 May 1889

Copy. List of Furniture and Fittings belonging to the Clydesdale Bank Limited at Cumnock. May 1889.

Bank Office. Telling Table. Double Desk. 2 Desk Stools. Cloak [*sic*: clock?]. Exchange Table. Grate, fender and irons. Letter Press and Stand. Letter scales and weights. 2 small scales. 4 ink stands. Date Case. 2 Cash Boxes. Coal scuttle. Linoleum and door matt. 3 gas brackets. Cane bottomed [----]. Window blinds.

Agents' Room. Double Writing Desk and Chair. 3 Hair-cloth chairs. Grate, fender and ash pan. Carpet and rug. Ink stand. Date Case. 2 gas brackets. Window blinds. Linoleum. Table bell. Coal scuttle. Joiner iron safe.

Parlour. Grate and ash pan. Fender. 3 light gasolier. Gas bracket. Window blinds.

Dining Room. Grate and ash pan. Fender. 2 fire iron rests. 4 light gasoliers. 2 gas brackets. Curtain poles and window blinds.

Drawing Room. Grate, fender and ash pan. 2 fire iron rests. 6 wall gas brackets. Curtain poles and window blinds.

Bedrooms etc (7). 7 grates and 4 ash pans. 7 gas brackets. Window blinds.

Housemaids' Pantry. Napery press. Gas bracket. Window blind.

Lobbies. 2 lamps. 2 gas brackets. Lobbie table. Umbrella stand. Linoleum in lower lobbie.

Staircase. Stair carpet rods.

Kitchen. Kitchen range. 2 gas brackets. Dresser. Table (fixed). Water filter and stand. Old desk table. Window blind.

Washing house. Boiler. [-----]<sup>98</sup> tub. Coal box. Gas bracket. 2 water barrels.

Laundry. Stove. Drying poles. Gas bracket. Window blind.

Pantry. Dresser. Gas bracket. Window blind.

Cumnock Branch, 27<sup>th</sup> May 1889. Wm S Ogilvie, agent.

/2 In envelope addressed to J Fleming Esq., Clydesdale Bank, Cumnock. Postmark appears to be 1912.

24. Auchinleck Heritors. Appointment of Mr James Thomson, 7<sup>th</sup> June 1906

On headed paper, Jas Thomson, Clerk and Treasurer, School Board Office, Auchinleck

School Board Office, Auchinleck, 7<sup>th</sup> June 1906

Heritors Auchinleck. Appointment of Clerk  
Excerpt of Minutes.

Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1906. It was moved by Mr Howatson and seconded by Mr Angus that James Thomson, Inspector of Poor, be appointed Clerk – this was agreed to. Signed. Ch Howatson.

June 7<sup>th</sup> 1906. Authority was given Clerk to sign cheques for payment along with the Rev, Jas Hill. This authority to extend till next meeting. C Howatson<sup>99</sup>, Chairman of Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> June.

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<sup>98</sup> Unclear.

<sup>99</sup> Mostly in the hand (presumably) of James Thomson, but with Howatson's signature.

James Thomson, Clerk.

25. Copy Excerpt from Minute of Meeting of Cumnock and Holmhead Burgh, 10<sup>th</sup> February 1908

Burgh of Cumnock and Holmhead. Excerpt from Minute of Meeting of Town Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1908.

Excerpt from Minute of Meeting of the Town Council of the Burgh of Cumnock and Holmhead held at Cumnock on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1908 at 8 p.m.

The Council agreed to appoint Mr John Henderson, Bank Accountant, Cumnock, to be Treasurer of the Burgh during the pleasure of the Council at the Salary of £20 per annum.

Extracted by John Hume, Town Clerk.

26. Copy letter to Mr Brakenridge, Royal Bank, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1908

Copy of letter sent to Mr Brakenridge, Royal Bank, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1908

Treeshill, Auchinleck, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 1908

Gentlemen

I hereby guarantee you payment of all sums which may at any time be advanced by you to Mr John McKinnon Slater Cumnock upon his current account kept at your office at Cumnock not exceeding one hundred pounds Sterling and interest thereon from the date of a demand being made upon me.

Yours truly, (signed) William Smith.

To the Clydesdale Bank Co., Cumnock

27. Copy Extract from Minute of Meeting of Auchinleck Picture House, 16<sup>th</sup> July 1913. Typescript.

Copy Extract from Minute of Meeting of Directors of Auchinleck Picture House Limited held at Auchinleck on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1913.

Present: Messrs Thomas Drysdale, John Dalziel and James Currie. Mr Drysdale in the chair.<sup>100</sup>

The Directors instructed the Secretary to open a Current Account with the Clydesdale Bank Limited at Auchinleck in name of the Company, and in terms of Article 23 of the Articles of Association of the Company, the Directors empowered the Secretary along with any one of the Directors of the Company to draw Cheques on the Company's Bank Account, from time to time and any time.

A true copy, certified by R D Hunter, Secretary.<sup>101</sup>

28. Mandate of Auchinleck Co-operative Society re William Tanner. 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1917

Auchinleck Co-operative Society, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1917<sup>102</sup>.  
Appointing Wm Tanner to sign cheques.

Memorandum<sup>103</sup> from Auchinleck Co-operative Society Ltd to The Agent, Clydesdale Bank, Auchinleck, 3 August 1917

<sup>100</sup> From 'Present ...' to '... chair' inserted in ink

<sup>101</sup> '... from time to time and any time' and the certification added in ink.

<sup>102</sup> '1918' written, then the '8' over-written with a '7'

<sup>103</sup> With decorative letterhead.



Dear Sir, Owing to Mr John Wightman, President, having retired from our Board of Management from now and until further notice all our cheques will be signed by William Tanner, V.P.

Pro Socy, George Sloss, Treasurer.

Rob Close  
August 2023

## Local Societies 2023/24

**Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society**

Meetings are held on Thursdays at 7:30 in Ayr Town Hall or on Zoom

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	1314: The Year of Bannockburn	Dr Callum Watson. Historic Environment Scotland
9 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Scottish Seal Matrices	Ella Paul, National Museum of Scotland
23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	To be confirmed	
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Burying Bronzes: Exploring the Treatment of Bronze Age Metalwork in Scotland	Matthew Knight, National Museum of Scotland
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Robert Bontine Cunningham Graham	Lachlan Munro. Author
8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	The Spanish Civil War	Prof Willy Maley, University of Glasgow
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024	The Mesolithic in Ayrshire	Dene Wright, University of Glasgow
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Bridgescapes <i>Followed by short AGM</i>	Bruce Keith

## Cumnock History Group

Monthly Meetings are now on the 3rd **Monday** of the month at 7:15 pm in the Dumfries Arms Hotel, Cumnock KA18 1BY

All welcome. Non-members are asked for a donation.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
18th September 2023	‘The Delano and Cooke Ancestors The Mayflower and Scottish Connections’	George English genealogist
16th October 2023	Ayrshire’s Crannogs – Locations, Excavations and Artifacts	Roger Griffiths
20th November 2023	Cumnock then and now photography project	CHG
15th January 2024	Life in Mining Villages in the Late 19th and early 20th Centuries	Barbara Graham
19th February 2024	To be confirmed	
18th March 2024	All the Fun of the Fair	Edwin Lawrence

15th April 2024 Subterranean Odyssey Bruce Keith  
– Scotland’s rich  
underground heritage

20th May 2024 AGM

17th June 2024 To be confirmed

### **East Ayrshire Family History Society**

See website at <https://eastayrshirefhs.co.uk/> for  
more information

### **Kyle & Carrick Civic Society**

#### Public Meetings 2023-2024

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
Monday 2 October	Sheriff and Lord Lieutenant	Iona McDonald OBE
Monday 6 November	Fife and Fairlie	John Riddell
Monday 4 December	Conservation in North Carrick	Rebecca Cadie - ARPL Architects
Monday 8 January 2024	The Burrell Collection: Renaissance of a World-class Museum	John Rattenbury - Guides’ Organiser
Monday 5 February 2024	The Global Impact of Sir William Arrol	Dr Miles Oglethorpe, Historic Environment Scotland



Monday 4 March 2024	The Burns Monument, Alloway: Understanding the Building and What We Did to It	Kinlay Laidlaw, Director, Laidlaw Associates
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Meetings are held at The Local, Ayrshire Housing, Main Street, Newton-on-Ayr. Doors open 7.15 p.m. Visitors Welcome

### **Kilmarnock and District History Group**

Our 2023-24 Lecture programme is as follows, but may be subject to change - please keep an eye on our website [www.kilmarnockhistory.co.uk](http://www.kilmarnockhistory.co.uk) and social media;

Meetings start at 7.30pm and will take place at Ayrshire College, Hill Street, Kilmarnock unless otherwise stated.

Please note that we will meet on a **Thursday** this session.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
5 October 2023	The Mysteries of HMS Dasher - in memory of the 379	Graham Short
19 October 2023	Interment on The Isle of Man in World War II	Barbara Graham
	<b><i>NB This will take place in the Park Hotel</i></b>	
02 November 2023	New Information About Sir William Wallace Since 2010	Prof. Dauvit Broun

16 November 2023	CWGC; Architecture and Conservation	Sehar Sardar
30 November 2023	Legendary Ayrshire	Dane Love
14 December 2023	Cultural Kilmarnock - The Global Stage	Anneke Freel
11 January 2024	Lost Mining Villages of Ayrshire	Yvonne McFadden
25 January 2024	More Hidden Kilmarnock	James Adams
8 February 2024	Aspect of the National Trust for Scotland	Ann Steele
22 February 2024	The Chartist Movement – Reformers or Revolutionaries	Ian Matheson
07 March 2024	Ayrshire After Dark	Prof Elaine McFarland
21 March 2024	AGM and George Forrest – Kilmarnock to Yunnan in Search of Plants	Leonie Paterson

### **Prestwick History Group**

Prestwick History Group starts on 05 October, 2023 and meets on the first Thursday of the following months starting in October, November, December, 2023 and February, March, April and May 2024.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
5 October 2023	David W Rowan Slideshow	Slides presented by Alisdair W. R. Cochrane

2 November 2023      The Ayrshire                  PowerPoint by  
                                  Police War                      Alasdair J.  
                                  Memorial                        Malcolm

Meetings held at 65 Club Hall, Main Street, Prestwick at 7.30 p.m.

Open to anyone interested – no membership – come and tell your tale.

Meetings last approximately one hour with a break for tea or coffee and biscuit followed by discussion on topic of the night or any other matter raised.

We will endeavour to answer your questions. If unable to answer we will try to find out and advise at a later date.

A donation at the end of the meeting is appreciated to cover costs of providing tea or coffee and biscuit along with running expenses of Prestwick History Group.

### **Troon@AyrshireFamily HistorySociety**

Unless otherwise indicated our meetings are held in Troon Portland Church Hall, South Beach, Troon on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker/Event</b>	<b>Details/Topic</b>
21st September 2023	Ken Nisbet	Newspapers for Family History
19th October 2023	Sandra McCallum	Truth as Fiction
16th November 2023	June Wiggins	Going to the Pictures

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker/Event Details/Topic</b>	
14th December 2023	Christmas Quiz NB Second Thursday of December and Social	
18th January 2024	Christine Woodcock	A Life Story Book
15th February 2024	Neil Fraser	Troon from the Archives of Historic Environment. Scotland
21st March 2024	Richard Wiggins	By the Seaside in Bygone Days
18th April 2024	Alison Spring	"There Shall Be a Record Kept": Finding Scottish Ancestors Before 1855
16th May 2024	Visit to Dean Castle, Kilmarnock	
20th June 2024	Annual General Meeting and Social	

### AANHS Publications

Publications of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (AANHS) are available from Mr Denis Rattenbury, 4 Ewenfield park, Ayr KA7 2QG

☎01292 280593 email: [info@aanhs.org](mailto:info@aanhs.org)

Further information about the AANHS and its publications will be found on the society's website: [www.aanhs.org/publications/uk](http://www.aanhs.org/publications/uk)

Armstrong's Map of Ayrshire 1775 (reprint 6 sheets) £12.00

Antiquities of Ayrshire by Grose (edited by Strawhorn revised 2010) £4.00

11 Robert Adam in Ayrshire (Sanderson) revised 2010 £4.00

13 Toll and Tacksmen (McClure) £1.50

20 Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors 2nd edition £2.50

30 The Early Transatlantic Trade of Ayr 1640-1730 (Barclay & Graham) 104 pages £4.50

33 Dr John Taylor, Chartist: Ayrshire Revolutionary (Fraser)  
112 pages £4.00

35 The Masters of Ballantrae (Hunter) 30 pages £4.00

37 Historic Troon and Its Surroundings 40 pages £3.00

38 Excavations in Ayr 1984-1987 (Perry) 140 pages £9.99

39 The Church Buildings of Ayrshire (Hume) 94 pages £7.50

41 Mining and Quarrying in Stevenston (McLatchie) 210 pages £9.50

42 The Battle of Largs (Cowan) 95 pages £8.00

43-45 Ayrshire Collections – 128 pages £7.50

Ayr Jails by Jane Jamieson

Kilwinning Revisited by Margaret H B Sanderson

A Bonnie Lass by Petra Baillie

47 Watermills of Arran by Alastair Weir 71 pages £6.00

48 Oculous: The Musings of a Liberal Victorian in Ayr by  
Carolyn O'Hara 140 pages £8.00

49 Ayrshire Castles from Kings to Covenanters 121 pages  
£10.00

Ardrossan Castle Revisited by David H Caldwell

Turnberry Castle and Countryside by Piers Dixon and William Wyeth

Seagate Castle with Some Family Resemblances by Aonghas Mackechnie

Ayr as a Garrison Town by Louise Turner

Castle Restoration in Ayrshire by Michael C Davies

50 John McCosh of Kirkmichael: Surgeon, Photographer and Philanthropist

51 The Diary of Thomas McClelland Ayr in the 1790s (Young and Close)

52 The Hog Score in the Great Rink in the Great Rink of Time (McCowan)

53 Witness to War – Arran and the Firth of Clyde in the Second World War  
(Turbett)

54 Kilwinning's Early Railways (Chris Hawkesworth)