

THE ROYAL BURGH OF AYR



Seven Hundred and Fifty Years of History

Edited by

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CHAPTER 17

NEWSPAPERS

JOHN FERGUSON MACNAIR

AYR, like most small towns, had to await the issue of the long-drawn struggle for freedom to publish, which was taking place in more populous centres, before it could see the successful establishment of a newspaper of its own.

The earliest efforts to institute regular publications in Britain were attended with so many risks and were hedged about with so many restraints amounting even to repression, that it is not surprising that few of the pioneer ventures survived beyond a short period.

Various official devices were employed to curb newspapers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Rulers and governments viewed the Press with as much disfavour as some of their successors do to-day and displayed it still more actively.

Even after the expiry of the Licensing Act in 1693 it required considerable hardihood to publish, since a publisher might find himself suffering the rigours of imprisonment for the too frank expression of opinions which were not regarded with favour in high quarters, and might even pay the penalty with his life, as when Thomas Ruddiman, jun., the Edinburgh publisher, died in gaol in 1745.

Curtailment of the freedom of publication had also been effected by the imposition of the newspaper stamp, which from the original $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per sheet in 1712 was successively raised to 1d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (1798), 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (1804) and finally 4d. in 1815, and it was not until 1855 that this restrictive burden was removed.

Before the seventeenth century there had been various types of printed news and comment, but it was only in the early part of that century that there appeared a periodical in London with a regular title. Some of these publications doubtless found their way north, but not until May 1678 do we learn of the magistrates of Ayr arranging to receive the weekly *Gazette* for

one year. This would be the semi-official *London Gazette*, which had been started as the *Oxford Gazette* in 1665, when the Court had been driven there on account of the plague in London. The *Edinburgh Gazette* did not appear until 1699.

Newsletters of one kind and another appear to have reached the town subsequently, but it is not until the beginning of the nineteenth century that the first newspaper was published in Ayr. John Wilson, who in 1786 had published *Poems chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* by Robert Burns from his press in Kilmarnock, removed his cases and press to Ayr four years later, retaining his shop in Kilmarnock and looking after it himself while his brother Peter took charge of the printing shop in Ayr. It was under the latter's supervision that on 5th August 1803, there appeared the initial number of the *Ayr Advertiser*, printed and published by John and Peter Wilson at 23 High Street.

It was the first newspaper to be published in Ayrshire, and only the *Aberdeen Journal*, the *Glasgow Herald* and the *Kelso Mail* have precedence of it in all Scotland. The early numbers are unfortunately missing, but No. 17, bearing the date of Thursday, 24th November 1803, was a crown sheet of four pages, bearing a red 1½d. stamp.

The times were propitious for the new venture, for while the National Debt had more than doubled as a result of the war with France, there was everywhere an awakened spirit of enterprise, of invention and of resource that heralded an era of expanding prosperity, if not yet of peace. The short-lived Peace of Amiens—'a peace which everybody is glad of and nobody is proud of'—had given way to a new war against the imperial ambitions of Napoleon. The public were avid for news of the war and of Parliament, and the *Advertiser* gave it.

With prudent management the venture succeeded, and for almost thirty years it had the field largely to itself. William McCarter, in his *Directory* of 1832, says the *Advertiser* 'passed through various hands into the present proprietors, McCormick and Carnie', but this is incorrect. From the Court of Session Papers 1822 (McCormick and Carnie v McCubbin) it is learned that in 1816 Peter Wilson's share had been acquired by McCormick and Carnie, but John Wilson had retained his holding, and when he died in 1821 his co-proprietors, McCormick and Carnie, claimed full ownership to the exclusion of

Wilson's relatives, but it was laid down by the Court in favour of the latter that 'the goodwill of a newspaper is a right transmissible to heirs'.

The monopoly of the *Advertiser* had been challenged in 1818 by the *Ayr and Wigtownshire Courier*, founded by Maxwell Dick and the Rev. Alexander Cuthill, minister of the second charge of Ayr, but it does not seem to have been successful. Mr. Cuthill had to make a composition with his creditors, and although a company was formed to continue the *Courier* it was compelled to cease publication about 1825.

The *Advertiser* was again in undisputed command of the field, and one of its early editors was the Rev. Hamilton Paul, whose versified appeal was the means of saving the Auld Brig o' Doon from demolition.

In 1832 T. M. Gemmell, who was a brother-in-law of McCormick and had been trained for the Bar, entered the business as editor, the firm becoming McCormick and Gemmell. The latter became sole proprietor in 1850, and when his son joined him in it the firm name was changed to that of T. M. Gemmell & Son, the imprint which the paper still carries.

When the elder Gemmell died in 1889 his son, A. B. Gemmell, and later his grandson, Col. T. C. Dunlop, carried on the family connexion, the present manager director being Mr. W. H. Dunlop, son of Col. Dunlop.

The first real challenge to the supremacy of the *Advertiser*, which published on Thursdays, came with the appearance of the *Observer*, which was started in 1832, as a weekly, appearing on Tuesdays, to give expression to Conservative opinion in opposition to the Whig views of the older paper. The newcomer was hailed in McCarter's *Directory*:

It has been a matter of astonishment that a county such as Ayrshire, rising in wealth and commercial consequence, has not been able successfully to maintain two newspapers. This *desideratum* is now likely to be supplied and if properly encouraged, the county, if saddled with double advertisements, will have the satisfaction of at least hearing two sides of a story.

A footnote to this announcement makes mention of the existence of a *Kilmarnock Chronicle*, which had been 'like a steamer stopping at a port for repair' but was now proceeding 'on her voyage with renewed energy'. Reference was also made

to a 'new' monthly periodical entitled *The Western Journal*, but of these no further information has been obtained.

The *Advertiser* gradually moved from its Whig position and came to support the new Liberal elements, of which the Member for Ayr Burghs, Lord James Stewart, was representative. Circulating chiefly among the middle and working classes, the *Advertiser* lent support to Free Trade and Liberal principles until the split in the 'eighties over Home Rule for Ireland, when it identified itself with the Liberal Unionists and gradually passed to full support of Conservatism.

Until 1909 there was keen rivalry between the *Advertiser* and *Observer* with from time to time others joining in. The publishers of the latter were, at first, John Foster Fraser & Co., but it passed into the hands of John Dick, under whose management it achieved considerable success. He was succeeded by W. M. Dick, publishing first from 38 Sandgate and later from 6 Sandgate.

A newcomer in 1843 was the *Western Watchman*, a Free Church newspaper, edited by William Anderson, author of *The Scottish Nation*. Towards this venture both the existing papers appear to have shown a marked hostility, which took on a personal aspect, at least one duel having been imminent. The *Watchman* was said to have been killed in a very short time by its rivals' ridicule of the Free Church's acceptance of 'blood money' from sympathisers in the Southern States of America.

The *Ayr Agriculturist* was a bi-monthly started in the same year by David Guthrie. The name was changed to the *North British Agriculturist* in 1849, and, soon after, Guthrie removed to Edinburgh where the periodical continued to record farming events for almost a century when it was incorporated in the *Farming News*.

The late 'fifties onwards was a period of marked activity in newspaper publication in Ayr. In March 1857 a new Liberal newspaper, the *Ayrshire Express*, appeared. Published (on Saturdays) by Alexander Grant at 53 Newmarket Street, it was edited by one who became a conspicuous figure in the town and county, Robert Howie Smith. He had been on the staff of the *Advertiser* as a young reporter, but had been a liability rather than an asset through a propensity to lampoon inoffensive citizens. Editorial responsibility did little to curb

his style, and the give-and-take between him and the editor of the *Observer*, William Buchanan, certainly added to the gaiety of the town. The fortunes of the *Express*, however, never appear to have been very stable. The imprint changed to Smith and Grant, and later to the Ayrshire Express Co. Ltd. In 1868 the publishers were Grant and McIlwraith, and in 1870 William McIlwraith appeared as sole proprietor.

In the meantime the *Ayrshire Weekly News*, published by Samuel Irvine & Sons on Saturdays, had made its appearance, but was apparently short-lived. W. M. Dick, in addition to publishing the *Observer* on Tuesdays, came into the field with the *Western Argus* on Saturdays in the 'sixties; and by 1870 there were published in the town: the *Ayr Observer* (Tuesday), published then by J. M. Ferguson, 49 Newmarket Street; the *Ayrshire Courier* (Tuesday), W. McIlwraith, 55-53 Newmarket Street; *Ayr Advertiser* (Thursday), T. M. Gemmell, 108 High Street; the *Western Argus* (Saturday), J. M. Ferguson; the *Ayrshire Express* (Saturday), W. McIlwraith; and the *Ayrshire Argus* (probably a separate edition of the *Western Argus* and also published by J. M. Ferguson).

The competition could not continue, however, and on 1st April 1871 the *Express* and *Courier* amalgamated, the publisher of the joint paper being W. Lymburn. The first issue announced a change not only of management but 'to some extent in the purpose and aim of the journal'. It went on to say that 'the *Express* will now cease to be a party organ. . . . We believe we shall be providing for a felt want if we are successful in furnishing our readers with a newspaper in the strictest sense of the word.' With the change the price was reduced from 2d. to 1d.

In June of the following year there was a further amalgamation when the *Argus* and *Express* appeared as one with the imprint of W. Lymburn. It was claimed that 'the circulation of the *Argus* already much larger than that of any other paper in the south-western counties of Scotland combined with that of the *Express*—the well established county paper—presents an unequalled medium to advertisers desirous of publicity among all classes of the community. In fact, no announcement can be fully brought before the inhabitants of Ayrshire unless published in its columns.'

The *Argus* and *Express* appears to have passed into the control

of J. M. Ferguson a few years later, publishing on Saturday, although the *Observer* had become a bi-weekly, issued on Tuesday and Saturday. The *Advertiser* continued to be published on Thursdays, and in the last weeks of 1880 there came another journalistic venture, *The Ayrshire Post*, as the avowed organ of the Liberal Party in Ayr and having its publishing day on Friday.

Its inception was not promising. The press which the publishers had ordered failed to meet requirements, but with that fine spirit of co-operation which has always marked the printing trade in Ayr the proprietors of both the *Advertiser* and *Observer* immediately made offers of assistance, and the first number of the new paper was printed in the *Advertiser* Works.

Published by William Robertson and W. Lymburn, and later by Robertson & Co. and then by Robertson and McBain the *Post* struggled on with more hope than assurance. It became too much for the then proprietors, and a number of prominent Liberals in the town got together to form the Ayrshire Post Ltd. in 1890, and throughout the present century it has been increasingly successful. In 1943 Messrs. George Outram & Co. Ltd., by purchase of shares from individual holders secured a substantial interest in the company.

As the *Post* advanced the *Observer's* fortunes declined. From being a bi-weekly it reverted to once-weekly publication on Tuesday, and in March 1909 it was purchased by T. M. Gemmell & Son, the proprietors of the *Advertiser*, who continued to publish it until October 1930, when it ceased to appear, leaving the *Advertiser* and the *Post* to meet the journalistic requirements of the town and district, the former newspaper with a circulation of 14,517 and the latter with 21,990 (Audit Bureau of Circulation, 1951).

CHAPTER 18

SOME EMINENT MEN

JOHN MCCARTNEY, M.A.

INTRODUCTORY

THIS chapter must inevitably be limited to those who have already made history; those who are still making it (and there are many Ayr men who to-day are distinguishing themselves in various fields of activity) will, it is hoped, have due tribute paid to them at a future date. Inevitably, too, in the confined space of a single chapter there must be omissions, but the endeavour will be made to present a group of men, representative in character, who by their achievement have proved themselves worthy of record. Many of these men, by what they have done, have woven the pattern of their individual lives, in clear lines, into the larger pattern of our national history, and some have attained a fame that is international. That their greatness was achieved in places sometimes remote from Ayr dims in no way the lustre they have added to the town's escutcheon, and by remembering them we do honour not only to them but to ourselves. Our local pride is satisfied and our communal life fulfilled.

The name of all names associated with the town of Ayr is, of course, that of the poet Robert Burns, but Burns stands alone and cannot be one of a group. Not unawareness nor indifference excludes him from this chapter but his own greatness. Burns is too big to be contained within a few short paragraphs; he demands a whole literature. Already that literature exists, and such an intrusion into it as might be made here would be an impertinence. The highest and most worthy tribute to genius is sometimes silence.

ANDREW MICHAEL RAMSAY

In the year 1686, there was born to an Ayr baker and his wife, in a house near the Fish Cross, a boy who in manhood was to

walk with princes and discourse with the most famous European scholars of his day. That boy was Andrew Michael Ramsay who in later years became known as 'The Chevalier'. The baker was a man of substance and ambitious for his son, and, after attending a local school, the lad was enrolled as a student at Edinburgh University. His ability was so marked that the Earl of Wemyss appointed him tutor to his two boys and this gave him an entry into a world well suited to prepare him for more exalted service. But a restlessness, due partly to an urge for greater activity and partly to disturbed religious convictions, led him to leave Scotland in 1706 and go to Holland.

That Ramsay fought as an auxiliary with the Dutch in the War of the Spanish Succession may be doubted, but we do know that he became a resident student at Leyden University and there came under the influence of the great protagonist of mystic theology, Poiret. Through Poiret he was introduced to Fénelon, Archbishop of Cambrai and a very prominent figure in the religious and philosophical controversies of the time, and so influenced was he by that great churchman that he embraced the Roman Catholic faith, a step which was to bring estrangement from his family and exile him from his home. He remained with Fenelon until the latter's death and then became tutor to the Duke of Chateau-Thierry and the Prince of Turenne. It was then that he was made a Knight of the Order of Saint Lazarus.

The publication, in 1723, of his *Life of Fénelon* brought Ramsay to the notice of James Stewart, the Pretender, and he engaged him to supervise the studies of young Prince Charles Edward. For this purpose Ramsay went to Rome in 1724, but the atmosphere of intrigue in the Stewart home, aggravated by the strained relations between the Pretender and his wife, was not at all congenial to him and he returned to Paris in 1726. Two years later he crossed to England. Before leaving Paris, he had been invited by George II to act as tutor to his son, the Duke of Cumberland, but had declined, his loyalty to the Jacobite cause which he had espoused when a student in Edinburgh still persisting. In recognition of his work as an author he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 1730 he received from Oxford University the Honorary Degree of D.C.L. He spent several years at the residence of the Duke

of Argyle and there he wrote *A Plan of Education for a young Prince* and his *Life of Henry, Viscount of Turenne, Marshal-General of France*. He returned to France in 1736 and went to live with the Duke of Bouillon to act as tutor to his son. He died at the Duke's residence in 1743. He was buried at St. Germain-en-Laye, and later his heart was removed to the nunnery of St. Sacrament in Paris.

Ramsay never revisited Ayr though he made several attempts to establish contact with his parents and to give them financial aid. His father's bitter hostility to the Roman Church, aggravated by the religious climate of the time, made any reconciliation impossible and evoked the most violent responses to his overtures. In identifying himself with the Church of Rome he had committed the unpardonable sin.

Ramsay's most popular work is probably *The Travels of Cyrus*; his greatest, from a philosophical and theological point of view, the essay, 'On the Principles of Natural and Revealed Religion'. Other of his writings are *A Discourse on the Epic Poem*, *A Philosophical Essay on Civil Government*, and a small volume of poems, of no great merit, published in Edinburgh in 1738. His interest in Freemasonry and anything he may have written on that subject have still to be scrutinised.

ANDREW COCHRANE

Active in public affairs and also keenly interested in the things of the mind was Andrew Cochrane, Provost of Glasgow, and intimate friend of Adam Smith, the famous political economist and author of *The Wealth of Nations*. Of Cochrane one of his contemporaries said, 'he was eminently wise', and another called him 'one of the sages of the kingdom'. Alexander ('Jupiter') Carlyle wrote of him, 'too much could not be said of his accurate and extensive knowledge, of his agreeable and colloquial eloquence'.

Andrew Cochrane was the son of an Ayr merchant, David Cochrane, and was born in Ayr in 1693. After his school education he entered his father's business, but, seeking greater scope for his abilities, he went to Glasgow where he continued his business career and soon became prominent in the commercial life of that city. His outstanding qualities of mind and character won him the respect and admiration of his fellow

citizens, and, after serving as a magistrate for three years, he was elected provost of the city. Three times he held that distinguished office, and during one of these he guided the city through one of the most critical periods of its history. That was in 1745 when there was danger of Glasgow being invaded by the Jacobite army. Cochrane's firmness and skill in handling the situation and his insistence in demanding from the Government's representatives compensation for the losses the city had incurred during the panic won him the gratitude of the people and the city council, and one of the city streets was named Cochrane Street in his honour. An account of what happened during the crisis can be read in the *Cochrane Correspondence*, which was published almost a hundred years later.

Industrious in helping to promote the financial prosperity of Glasgow, and faithful and wise in helping to direct its government, Cochrane played an important part also in its intellectual life. He founded a club, which became known as 'Cochrane's Club', for the discussion of problems in political and social economy, and Adam Smith acknowledged his debt to him for the material he collected for him for his epoch-making book. He amassed a very considerable library which showed him to be a man of wide knowledge and discriminating taste, and for forty years he was preceptor of Hutcheson's Hospital. He died in 1777 and was buried in Glasgow. As a tribute to him the magistrates and council of the city erected a commemorative monument in the High Church, and long after his death people spoke of him as Glasgow's greatest provost.

Cochrane's connexion with Ayr was maintained for some years after he went to Glasgow by his possession of Bridgehouse, a property near the Curtecan Burn closely associated with the Cochrane family.

SIR JAMES HUNTER BLAIR

Another Ayr man to attain high civic honour was Sir James Hunter Blair. He was the son of John Hunter, Brownhill, Ayr, and was born in 1741. At the age of fifteen he was sent by his father to Edinburgh to become an apprentice with the well-known bankers, the Coutts brothers, and so ably did he acquit himself with that firm that, when he was still a young man, he was taken into partnership on the death of the senior member

and became associated in the business with Sir William Forbes. In 1770 he added Blair to his name when his wife succeeded to the estate of her father, John Blair of Dunskey, Portpatrick.

Sir James took an active interest in Edinburgh municipal affairs, and in 1784 his prominence in the public life of the capital reached its height when he was elected Lord Provost. As in his own business so in civic matters he was very progressive, and during his term of office he played an important part in the improvement of the city's amenities. It was largely by his efforts that the money was raised for the erection of the South Bridge, and he was a strong supporter of the movement to rebuild the University. His eagerness for the city's welfare drew him into national politics and for several years he represented Edinburgh in Parliament. He was created a baronet in 1786.

At Dunskey, Sir James showed the same enthusiasm for planning and modernising, and he was mainly responsible for the rebuilding of much of Portpatrick and for developing trade between it and Ireland. On his estate he practised the most modern methods of farming and became as distinguished a figure in the agricultural life of the south of Scotland as he was in the business life of the capital.

Sir James Hunter Blair never forgot the town of his birth, and when Robert Burns visited Edinburgh in 1787, he invited him to dine with him and his friends at his house in Queen Street. The poet thought highly of him, and when he heard of his death later the same year, he sought to express his appreciation in an elegy. 'The performance is but mediocre,' he wrote, 'but my grief was sincere.' That grief was shared by many of his countrymen.

JOHN LOUDON McADAM

When a man's name passes eponymously into the everyday language of the people, the man himself has been significant, and when the name of John McAdam was so perpetuated, his importance to society was emphasised and the work he had done to benefit mankind justified. By McAdam's system of road-making, road transport was revolutionised, and the use of the word 'macadamise' became world-wide. In 1938, the American, Truslow Adams, speaking of McAdam's contribution to road development, said: 'The success of his work made

the greatest advance in rural communication until the coming of the Ford car.'

John Loudon McAdam was born in Ayr in 1756. There is a tradition that the original family name was McGregor, but the truth of this has never been properly confirmed, though the belief did persist through several generations. It is definitely known, however, that the McAdams established themselves at Waterhead, Kirkcudbrightshire, towards the end of the sixteenth century and became a family of considerable social importance in the south-west. John was the son of James McAdam, one of the founders of the first bank in Ayr. This James took up residence at Blairquhan and John attended a Mr. Doig's school at Maybole. When a pupil there, the lad constructed a section of a model road between Maybole and Kirkoswald, a prophecy of things to come.

James McAdam died in 1770, and young John was sent to America to be under the care of an uncle, a prosperous merchant in New York. He lived there throughout the troublous times of the American War of Independence, became successful in business, and married the daughter of a wealthy and prominent New York citizen, William Nicoll.

McAdam amassed a fortune during the war, but, when he returned to Scotland in 1783, only part of it remained. With that he purchased the estate of Sauchrie near Ayr, and there he began his experiments in road-making. His appointment as Deputy-Lieutenant of the county and as a road trustee made him familiar with the roads of the district and their deplorable condition, and he determined to find means of improvement. He travelled about the country, examining road surfaces and working out methods to better them, and, when he left Sauchrie and went to Bristol and then to Falmouth to act as agent for victualling the navy, he continued his experiments and finally discovered the process which came to be known as macadamisation. His appointment as surveyor to the Bristol Turnpike Trust, in 1815, gave him the opportunity to test his theories, and the success of the test led him to publish, in 1819, *A Practical Essay on the Scientific Repair and Preservation of Roads*. This made his process widely known and, though there was still much opposition from the old Turnpike Trust, McAdam's methods became adopted throughout the whole of Britain and

later throughout Europe and America. The wall of prejudice had been hard to break down but it did finally crumble.

But the many years of experiment conducted largely at his own expense had made McAdam a poor man, and he petitioned Parliament more than once for recognition of his work and for some monetary compensation. After much debate and calling of evidence, it was proposed to grant him in all a sum of ten thousand pounds, but the sum he did eventually receive amounted to two thousand. In 1827 he was appointed General Surveyor of Roads. He was also offered a knighthood which he declined. He died at Moffat in 1836 and was buried there as he had desired. To mark the centenary of his death, a memorial was erected in Wellington Square Gardens, Ayr, by the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers.

McAdam was come of excellent stock and his life was proof of it. His undeviating persistence in pursuing his aims as though he were compelled by a sense of vocation, his honest and generous response to the many requests for his advice, and his humanity, expressed not only in his private but also in all his public relationships, won for him the admiration of his contemporaries and the high appreciation of the social historians who afterwards wrote of him. He had not sought fame but fame came to him.

THOMAS CLARK, M.D.

Worthy to be ranked with McAdam as a public benefactor is Dr. Thomas Clark who also was a native of Ayr. His father was a sea-captain with a reputation for his skilful handling of a ship, his mother a woman of considerable creative ability and credited as the original worker in what came to be known as 'Ayrshire Needlework'. From her the boy may have derived that inventive turn of mind which led him to pursue a life of inquiry and experiment which produced, as one of his admirers said, 'the most consummate example of applied science in the whole circle of the arts'.

When he was a pupil at Ayr Academy, young Clark gave no early indication of any conspicuous ability, but later his aptitude in mathematics was impressive enough to earn for him the nickname 'the philosopher'. Perhaps there was unconscious prophecy in the sarcasm.

In 1816, when he was fifteen years of age, he went to Glasgow to work in the office of Macintosh, the waterproofer, but he found a place more congenial to his tastes in the St. Rollox Chemical Works. Here he established contact with the subject that was to become his chief interest. The quick development of that interest and the expansion of his knowledge led to his appointment as lecturer in the Glasgow Mechanics' Institute in 1826, and that same year he discovered the pyrophosphate of soda, a discovery which was highly praised by Sir John Herschel. The following year, he began the study of medicine at Glasgow University and in 1831 he graduated M.D. Proof of his outstanding ability was given two years later when he was selected by competitive examination for the Professorship of Chemistry in Marischal College, Aberdeen, a position which he held until 1860, though for many years ill-health prevented him taking an active part in teaching. He died in 1867.

Clark was a man of wide knowledge, wandering far from his own special field, and he was a prolific writer and a doughty controversialist, but his fame rests on the results of his water tests and his process for softening hard water. In the analysis of water he was a pioneer, and like all pioneers he met with opposition. An examination of his claims was made by three of the most distinguished chemists of the day, Graham, Miller, and Hoffman, and their report was favourable; but years were to pass before the process which became known as Clark's Process was widely adopted, though it contributed to better cooking, to easier washing, and to general economy. That London turned its back on it greatly disappointed Clark, who was emphatic about its usefulness to such a large community, but the time came, though it was many years after his death, when the city authorities were induced by expert advice to reverse the earlier decision. His work was vindicated and recognition of its value to mankind was firmly established.

JOHN TAYLOR, M.D.

Towering above all the other monuments in the old Wallace-town cemetery of Ayr stands the statue of John Taylor of Blackhouse, physician, Chartist, and great Radical reformer. Inscribed on the pedestal of the statue are the following words: 'Professionally, he was alike the Poor Man's generous friend

and physician; politically, he was the eloquent and unflinching advocate of the People's Cause, freely sacrificing health, means, social status, and even personal liberty to the advancement of measures then considered extreme, but now acknowledged to be essential to the well-being of the State.' In his *History of the Chartist Movement*, R. M. Gammage wrote of him as 'one who had a noble heart that ever beat warmly for humanity and always bounded in favour of the oppressed against the oppressor'. Like Heine, he might have written of himself: 'Lay on my coffin a sword; for I was a brave soldier in the liberation war of humanity.'

John Taylor was born at Newark Castle near Ayr in 1805—'born', as he himself said, 'to immense affluence, and educated in the most splendid manner, with every opportunity thrown at my feet that could ever be offered to man'. That one born into such circumstances should so exhaustively spend not only his wealth but all his energies of mind and body for the cause of the common people declared him to be a man of distinctive mould, passionate in his sympathies, pure in his motives, and of strongly independent character. In his early days, he spent some years in France, and the contacts he made there with young republicans undoubtedly quickened his mind and fired his imagination, and probably had a direct influence on his later actions, giving them that extreme colour which mystified and alienated many of his friends.

For several years Taylor was a naval surgeon, but the lure of politics was too strong for him, and in 1832 he stood as Radical candidate for Ayr Burghs but was unsuccessful. A second attempt in 1834 had the same result. But these disappointments did not diminish his enthusiasm for the cause he had espoused. In 1833 he founded and edited the *Ayrshire Reformer and Kilmarnock Gazette*, and from 1836 to 1838 he owned and edited the *New Liberator*, a working-class newspaper published in Glasgow, which strongly supported the Radical movement and trade unionism. On the political platform he advocated the demands laid down in the People's Charter, and in 1838, after considerable opposition, some of it from his own county, he took his place as a member of the Chartists' General Convention. Rival policies of moral force and physical force had caused some disruption in the party, and Taylor had been

accused of favouring the latter, but he made it clear that he would support that only as a last resort. Unfortunately, an incident at a Convention meeting in Birmingham led to his arrest on a charge of inciting to riot, and he was imprisoned in Warwick gaol. He was acquitted, but his arrest had deepened his conviction that the Government was determined to exercise a policy of suppression, and his disappointment at the Convention's failure to give the people a clear lead made him less cautious in speech—a speech at Carlisle led to a warrant being issued for his arrest on a charge of sedition—and extremely critical of the Convention's personnel. The Convention excommunicated him, and he became more deeply involved with the physical force minority and was suspected of conspiring in-surrection. That he intended anything violent was never clearly proved. However, his career as a leading Chartist was over, and in 1840 he went into retirement. Physically he was a spent force, and, two years later, he died at the home of his brother-in-law in the north of Ireland. His life had been a tempestuous one, but before his death he had a time of peace. He was the author of some religious verses and one of these was inscribed on his monument.

Had Taylor chosen another way of life, his intellectual stature, his great integrity, his gift of impressive speech, his singleness of purpose, and his fine physical presence would have assured him of success, but he had dedicated himself to a cause, and in that cause he displayed a selflessness that belongs only to the very great.

JAMES FERGUSON, C.I.E., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.

An interesting example of the man who, with never officially more than the status of an amateur, presents the professional with a wide field of knowledge in which he can very profitably glean, is James Fergusson who was born in Ayr in 1808. His father was a doctor, a man of some distinction who served on the flagship at the battle of Copenhagen in 1801 and was also present at the capture of Oporto and at Talavera during the Peninsular War. The boy was educated at Edinburgh High School and at a private school at Hounslow. As it was his father's intention to send him to join his older brother who was a partner in a trading firm in India, his education at the latter

school was not strictly academic, but if he had not the discipline of a classical education, he was gifted with an inquiring mind and an observant eye, and the ordinary nature of his schooling may have saved him from pedantry.

The firm to which young Fergusson was attached failed soon after his arrival in India, and he started business for himself as an indigo planter. But commerce had no great attraction for him, and when he had made sufficient money to pursue his chief interest, archaeology, he set out on his travels over India to study and take notes on its great architectural remains. Between the years 1835/42, he made detailed and accurate measurements of many Indian buildings of historical and religious interest and so laid the foundations for the work that was to make him famous.

In 1840 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society and read to its members a paper on 'The Rock-cut Temples of India'. Later, he read to members of the Royal Institute of British Architects a paper on 'Ancient Buddhist Architecture in India', and that Society published also his *A History of the Pointed Arch* and *The Architecture of Nineveh*. In 1849 there appeared *An Historical Inquiry into the True Principles of Beauty in Art especially with reference to Architecture*, the book Fergusson considered his best, but which, from the seller's point of view, was a complete failure. It was in this book that he put forward his interesting theory about lighting in the old Greek temples, a theory he pursued further in a paper, 'The Parthenon', read to the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1861. In 1867 his greatest work was published. This was *A History of Architecture in all Countries from the Earliest Times to the Present Day* and was a combination of two earlier publications, *The Illustrated Handbook of Architecture* and *A History of the Modern Styles of Architecture*.

Official recognition came to Fergusson when, in 1869, he was appointed Secretary of Works and Buildings and, soon afterwards, made Inspector of Public Buildings and Monuments. In 1857 he had been appointed a member of a Royal Commission to inquire into the defences of the United Kingdom, an appointment undoubtedly resulting from his *Proposed New System of Fortification*, published in 1849, in which he advocated the use of earthworks instead of masonry, a proposal at first

received with scorn but later generally adopted. Another of his publications which caused considerable controversy was *An Essay on the Ancient Topography of Jerusalem* in which he disputed the accepted location of the Holy Sepulchre.

As a proof of Fergusson's versatility his paper in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society* of August 1863 deserves mention. The paper was entitled 'Recent Changes in the Delta of the Ganges and the Natural Laws Regulating the Courses of Rivers', and it exhibits the same acute observation, care for detail, and skilful deduction which we find in his more specific work. His association with the Handel Festival of 1857 should also be noted, when he was responsible for those practical details which created a tradition for all future festivals. In 1871 he was awarded the Royal Gold Medal of the Institute of British Architects and was a Vice-President of the Institute. He was also a Vice-President of the Royal Asiatic Society, and was the recipient of many other public honours. He died in 1886.

Fergusson's great knowledge of his subject and his philosophical approach to it gave him an authority that brought him recognition from the leading professional architects, and his opinion was often eagerly invited. He was the amateur, but the freshness of his view undimmed by early preconceptions, and his power of vivid presentation impressed the trained mind of the practitioner. His work will stand the test of time.

JOHN YOUNG, CANADIAN STATESMAN

Canada has always had a strong attraction for Scotsmen and many of our countrymen who have gone to settle there have played an important part in its political and industrial development. One Ayr man who rendered distinguished public service in this western Dominion was John Young, eminent Canadian economist and President of the Canadian Board of Trade, a strong loyalist with a keen awareness of the growing power of Canada's great neighbour and of possible interference with Canadian trade, and a determined fighter for the cause of unity in the provinces and the suppression of all traces of revolt.

Young was born in 1811 and went to Canada when he was a lad of fifteen. He got a job as clerk in the office of a Quebec trading firm and proved himself so efficient that he was made

a partner of the firm when he was twenty-four. At that time there was considerable unrest in the province, due to conflicting racial elements, and the young Scotsman made himself prominent in helping to raise a fighting force to prevent insurrection. Peace was preserved and Young by his action became a public figure. To find a wider field of activity he removed to Montreal and for thirty years was closely identified with public affairs there, working hard for the development of the city as a great commercial centre. For this end he sought to improve and extend transport, and though his ideas on rail and water transport were at first opposed, they were finally adopted with most advantageous results. The deepening of the approaches by steamer to Montreal and the building of several canals and railways were largely due to him.

In 1851, Young represented Montreal in the Legislative Assembly of Canada and was made Commissioner of Public Works, in which office he was responsible for the Canadian contribution to the great London Exhibition of that year and for the increase of trade between Montreal and Liverpool. He also arranged an inter-colonial railway conference. But his sensitiveness to American encroachment led to disagreement with the Premier and he resigned from office the following year. Ill-health compelled him to resign from the Assembly five years later. In 1872 he entered the Canadian House of Commons as member for Montreal West and became President of the Board of Trade, an office he held until his death in 1878.

Early in his public career Young had become a Free Trader and he was one of the founders of the Canadian Free Trade Association. He was a leading contributor to *The Canadian Economist* and wrote many pamphlets on Canadian trade and commerce. His great aims were to make Montreal a great western port, and to leave behind him a Canada that would be strong enough to compete without fear with the United States of America. The work he did to realise these aims has its place in Canadian history.

WILLIAM SCHAW LINDSAY, M.P.

William Schaw Lindsay, a lad who carved out his own career and made a success of it, was born in Ayr in the year 1816. At the age of six he was left an orphan and was brought up by his

uncle, the Rev. Dr. Schaw, minister of the Secession Church, Ayr. Life at the manse became too confining for the boy and, when he was fifteen, he escaped from his uncle's protection by running away to sea. He soon discovered that freedom is not so easily won and that the life he had chosen had very severe limitations and many hardships, but he was stubborn and persevering and endured without flinching. His courage, persistence, and strong ambition brought him success, and he was still a young man when he was made captain of a boat named *The Olive Branch*. From that time fortune favoured him, and, a few years later, having saved some money, he left the sea and settled down in the north-east of England. He became agent for the Castle Eden Coal Company, Durham, and became prominent in helping to promote the development of that area.

In 1845 he went to London and there he built up the important home and foreign shipping firm of William Schaw Lindsay and Company. To stimulate interest in the problems of shipping and overseas trade, he decided to stand for Parliament, and in 1853 he contested Monmouth but was unsuccessful. That same year he contested Dartmouth but was again unsuccessful. But he was not one to accept defeat easily and with characteristic persistence he fought again, and in 1854 became member for the Tynemouth constituency. From 1859 to 1874 he represented Sunderland, and during these years he was conspicuous in the House of Commons for his advocacy of reforms affecting merchantmen and marine insurance. In debate he confined himself to what he really knew, and his knowledge of shipping and everything pertaining to it became recognised. He was a believer in Free Trade and was a keen supporter of Cobden and Bright in their campaign. An effective speaker, he was also a convincing writer and was the author of two works, *Our Navigation and Mercantile Laws Considered* and a *History of Merchant Shipping*.

Lindsay died in 1877. He was an outstanding example of the lad who makes good. From rebellion against the discipline imposed on him by others he passed to the higher and nobler discipline of self. In his early life he had endured much, but his humanity survived and he exercised it in seeking to make things better for those who went to sea after his day. The adventure of his youth and early manhood had made him wise.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM GREIG

There is something romantic, and perhaps something of the picaresque, about the story of William Greig who, after a life of adventure in the South Pacific, settled down on Fanning Island—one of a group of islands discovered there by an American explorer, Captain Edmund—purchased it from an English firm which had employed him, and made so successful an occupation of it that he became known as 'The King of Fanning Island'. If not a king by hereditary right or in any historical sense, Greig seems at least to have exhibited during his residence there several kingly qualities.

He was born in Ayr in 1821, and, after a short school education, went to sea as his fathers had done before him. He was strong to endure, very industrious, and quick and sure in his grasp of opportunity, and at the age of twenty-three he became master of a trading vessel sailing between Britain and the ports of South America. His acquaintance with the South Pacific and the islands dotted over it became intimate, and the variety of experience and increasing knowledge of human nature that he gained there brought to him that wisdom which helped him later to handle so skilfully the human problem as it presented itself to him on the island over which he ruled.

Greig's settlement on Fanning began when he was asked by the owners to help them in developing its trade in guano. He was not long in estimating the possibilities of such a business, and when financial difficulties compelled the firm to sell the island he bought it and settled down to promote what they had begun. For the long period of thirty-five years he lived there, and, all that time, his relations with the natives who worked for him were of the happiest, so sympathetic an understanding of their needs and difficulties did he show and so willing was he to reciprocate the respect and goodwill he won from them. His success led him to purchase another island sixty miles away, Washington Island, and under his control it too became an important source of guano. He paid several business trips to America, and he died in San Francisco in 1892. Four years before his death Fanning Island was annexed by Britain.

Greig never forgot his life as a seaman, and during his stay on Fanning he was the means of saving the crews of several ships which were wrecked in the surrounding waters. He was

not one whom success could spoil and he evoked the admiration and affection of those who knew him. His life on Fanning may have been in one sense a lonely one, as a king's life often is, but it was a full one, and he accepted its hazards in the spirit of the true adventurer.

SIR THOMAS McILWRAITH

Sir Thomas McIlwraith was one of three brothers who gave conspicuous service to Australia in its development from the haphazards of its pioneering days to its attainment of stable municipal government and closer political cohesion. The oldest brother, John, who was the first of the family to go there, became the Honourable John McIlwraith, Mayor of Melbourne, and a prominent figure in the colony of Victoria which he represented as a commissioner at the American Exhibition in 1876. The youngest brother, Andrew, became a partner in a great shipping firm, McIlwraith, McEachran and Company, which established regularised trading communications between Australia and Britain and did much to popularise the frozen meat trade. Thomas was the most eminent of the three and gained a publicity that extended far beyond the field of his activities, penetrating the court of at least one great European Power and causing considerable excitement there.

The three brothers were the sons of John McIlwraith, an Ayr bailie and highly respected tradesman, and Thomas was born in 1835. He was educated at Ayr Academy and later enrolled as a student at Glasgow University, but his studies there came to a sudden end, when, influenced by news of his older brother's success in the colony of Victoria, he left Scotland, at the age of fifteen, to join him. On his arrival, he found employment on the engineering staff of the government railway department, but he was not satisfied and he went to work with a private firm of railway contractors in Melbourne. When he had saved some money, he invested it in pastoral property in Queensland and shortly afterwards went to live there.

McIlwraith had inherited his father's interest in public affairs and soon he became involved in the politics of the colony. In 1868 he was elected to the Queensland Legislative Assembly. His abilities as a legislator were soon recognised, and in 1874 he was made Secretary for Public Works and Mines. But he

was a pungent critic and his tenure of office was not a long one. In 1877 he led the Opposition in the Assembly and, when his party won the election in 1879, he became Prime Minister. Bad weather had affected the colony's finances and he took over with a deficit, but by skilful administration he helped to turn the deficit into a surplus and his reputation was enhanced.

The incident in his career which had repercussions not only in Australia but also in Europe was his annexation of New Guinea in 1883. The annexation was repudiated by Lord Derby, Colonial Secretary for the Home Government, though McIlwraith maintained that he had acted as he did to prevent the annexation of the island by Germany. Australia was indignant at the repudiation and a movement arose for the setting up of a centralised authority to deal with questions arising between her and the Home Country, and a request was made for the introduction of steps towards federation. An Inter-Colonial Conference was held, but soon afterwards McIlwraith's Government was defeated and his political influence was temporarily in abeyance. He returned to the Premiership in 1888 but had to resign for health reasons. In 1891 he represented Queensland in the first Federal Legislative Council, and in 1893 he became Premier for the third time. He retired in 1895, and died in London five years later. He was buried in Ayr.

Sir Thomas McIlwraith was a man of big stature, physically and mentally. He was fertile in ideas, decisive in action, and resolute in achieving his ends. His way of gaining these ends may not always have been the orthodox way, but Australia will always be grateful to him for the great part he played in helping her towards political maturity. For his services Queen Victoria conferred on him a knighthood, and in recognition of his distinction Glasgow University honoured him with the degree of Doctor of Laws. Along with his brother John he received the freedom of Ayr when he was visiting the town in 1884.

DAVID CATHCART, LORD ALLOWAY

David Cathcart, the first, chronologically, of four Ayr men who, each in his particular way and with his own peculiar gifts, contributed much to the continuation and enrichment of a sound Scottish judiciary tradition, was the son of Elias Cath-

cart, an Ayr wine-merchant. He was born in 1764 and was educated at Ayr Burgh School and at Edinburgh University. In 1785 he was called to the Bar, and the vigour of his mind and his knowledge of law soon won for him a wide reputation and attracted considerable business. His modesty, his urbanity, and his integrity enhanced his intellectual gifts, and as the years passed, his reputation grew and members of his profession regarded him with admiration and respect. Thus it was not surprising to some when in 1813 he was raised to the Bench by a ministry of whose political complexion he did not approve—a high compliment to his ability. He then assumed the title of Lord Alloway, the estate of Greenfield which his father had purchased being in Alloway parish. In 1826 he was further honoured when he was made a Lord of Justiciary.

His intimate knowledge of procedure, his power of clear exposition, his wealth of analogy, and a characteristic caution in his judgments made Lord Alloway an impressive figure, and his rectitude was unquestioned. To counsel he was one of the great law-lords. His well-balanced mind hated extremes of any kind, and, though his political convictions were strong—he was a Liberal in politics—he had no time for bitter party prejudices. As he had attained his own high position by merit so he appreciated merit in others and could regard his opponents without passion. He believed in the practice of Christian charity, and his relations with rich and poor alike were those of a man who found his guiding principle in the faith he professed.

Lord Alloway died in 1828 at Blairston, the estate which had come to him through his marriage to Margaret Muir, a daughter of the owner. He was buried in the old kirk-yard at Alloway near to his old home at Greenfield.

JOHN COWAN, LORD COWAN

When Lord Cowan retired from the Bench in 1874, one man observed: 'There goes one of the giants in the law world of Scotland.' The tribute was well merited. A long administration of justice had made him a revered figure whose judgments, based on an authoritative sense of right, great knowledge, and calm and scrupulous deliberation, held commanding influence.

John Cowan was born in Ayr in 1798. He was a member of

a highly respected family and was brought up in an atmosphere of strong religious and politically liberal convictions which were to mark his character to the end of his life. He was educated at Ayr Academy where his name is perpetuated by his gift in 1852 of the Cowan Gold Medal to be awarded each year to the dux of the school, and at Edinburgh University where he studied law. He was called to the Bar in 1822 and built up a large practice in commercial and feudal cases.

In 1848 he was appointed Sheriff of Kincardineshire and held that office for three years. His interest in politics had not passed unnoticed and in 1851 he became Solicitor-General under Lord-Advocate Moncrieff, but his elevation to the Bench that year made his tenure of the political office a short one. He sat on the Bench for twenty-three years, and as Lord of Session and of Justiciary exercised his great powers of mind and heart in interpreting and administering the law. He died in 1878, four years after his retiral, and was buried in the Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh.

In politics he was a Liberal, more Whig than Radical, and in religion he became a dissenter. As he believed in political liberty, so he resented interference with his spiritual freedom, and he expressed this resentment in action when, in 1843, he joined the Church Disruption Movement and became a member of the new Free Church. In Free St. George's Church, Edinburgh, he was a leading layman under the distinguished ministries of Dr. John Candlish and Dr. Alexander Whyte. To him the life of the spirit and the efficacy of the law had each its place; to neglect either could only bring confusion and disaster.

ANDREW JAMESON, LORD ARDWELL

If not a giant in the sense that Lord Cowan was, Lord Ardwell was nevertheless a man of remarkable gifts which found expression not only in the legal world but very notably in the world of industrial conflict. He may not have had that constructive type of mind that enabled some benchers to play an important part in the building up of the fabric of case law in Scotland, but he possessed an intellectual agility that made the grasp of a situation easy to him, and his shrewd assessment of character, his just appreciation of motive, and his sound

common sense made him a very competent judge and a most successful arbiter. There was nothing flamboyant about him, and his plainness of speech coupled with a keen sense of humour inspired the ordinary man's confidence in him and in the fairness of his decisions. That he was so accepted was all he asked; flattery was repugnant to him.

Andrew Jameson had the law in his blood: on both sides of the family he was connected with the profession. He was born in Ayr in 1845 and received his early education at Edinburgh Academy. He graduated in Arts at St. Andrews University in 1865, and then studied law at Edinburgh University. In 1870 he was called to the Scottish Bar, and after twelve years of hard work, during which he built up a considerable practice, he was appointed Junior Counsel to the Department of Woods and Forests. In 1886 he became Sheriff of Roxburgh, Berwick, and Selkirk, and, four years later, Sheriff of Ross, Cromarty, and Sutherland, where his qualities as a mediator were tested during the crofter controversy. He was Sheriff of Perthshire from 1891 to 1905 when, on the resignation of Lord Moncrieff, he was raised to the Bench and took the title of Lord Ardwell from the estate in Kirkcudbrightshire which his wife had inherited. Here his interest in country life and in agriculture found practical expression and he identified himself closely with the farming community around him. He died in Edinburgh in 1911.

Lord Ardwell's ability as an arbiter was frequently acknowledged by the Government asking him to conduct important inquiries, and when the chairmanship of the Conciliation Board between the coalowners and the Scottish Miners' Federation became vacant, he was asked to take it. An award which he made on terms of wages and conditions of labour in the shale industry was honoured for several years by both masters and men, a proof of the respect for his judgment held by both parties.

In politics Lord Ardwell was a Liberal Unionist. He was a keen churchman and, as a member of the Free Church, strongly supported Principal Rainy in the movement for union between the Free and the United Presbyterian Churches. As he was firmly opposed to Church Disestablishment, his support of the proposed union caused surprise, but here as in all things he considered the matter at issue solely on its merits and

allowed no contingency to influence his decision. His speech on the floor of the Assembly of the Free Church made his position clear. Perhaps his piercing eye saw behind this step that greater union with the Church of Scotland which was consummated a quarter of a century later.

WILLIAM HUNTER, LORD HUNTER

When Lord Ardwell died, the vacancy on the Scottish Bench created by his death was filled by another Ayr man, William Hunter, and news of this interesting succession was received by the people of Ayr with considerable pride. Within a century he was the fourth Ayr man to be elevated to the Bench, and the great prestige he won made him a very worthy member of a distinguished group. His record of public service was a long and brilliant one, and, when he retired in 1936, high tribute was paid to him by his colleagues. 'He was', wrote one, 'a tower of strength in the Second Division and a devoted public servant.'

William Hunter was born in 1865. He was the son of David Hunter, shipowner, who lived for many years at Sea Tower, Racecourse Road, Ayr, and was educated at Ayr Academy. He graduated M.A. and LL.B. at Edinburgh University and was called to the Bar in 1889. His knowledge of law, his fluency of speech, and his impressive manner in court made him popular and admired, and when he took silk in 1905, he soon came to be recognised as one of the leading members of the Senior Bar. His promotion to the Bench in 1911 was no surprise, and as the years passed, recognition of his great ability became more pronounced. A clear thinker, he expected lucidity in others and was impatient of evasion and circumlocution; and his wide and exact knowledge expressed in simple and precise language illumined the obscure and emphasised the pertinent. For many years he presided over the Valuation Appeal Court, and his power of clear interpretation evoked admiration and respect and was accepted as authoritative.

When a bitter conflict between the Liberals and the Tories broke out in 1909 over Lloyd George's budget and the attitude of the House of Lords to it, Lord Hunter actively expressed his sympathy with the Liberals by standing as Liberal candidate for Govan at the general election in January 1910. He was

elected, and when Arthur Dewar was promoted to the Bench that year he succeeded him as Solicitor-General for Scotland. He had thus to face the electors again and was again successful. A second general election at the end of that year gave him his third political victory. His term of office as Solicitor-General was a short one, for in 1911 he was raised to the Bench; his able handling of the Coal Mines Bill that year brought him unstinted praise. As a member of parliament he was vitally aware of the great political issues of the time, but his immediate interest was in those matters that affected local government. A recognition, by the Government, of his great acumen was his appointment as chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into the disturbance that broke out in the Punjab in 1919 and Colonel Dyer's action at Amritsar, an action which had caused intense feeling not only in India but also in Britain and the Colonies.

Lord Hunter's service on the Bench extended over a period of twenty-five years. He has since his retirement lived in Edinburgh and is still a revered and conspicuous figure in that city.

SIR THOMAS OLIVER

The quickening of interest in the connexion between industry and disease and the consequent research into problems arising from that connexion owe much to Thomas Oliver, the son of an Ayr grocer who, as a bailie of the town, gave faithful public service, and taught his son the value of the good life founded on a simple religious faith and the exercise of sympathy and tolerance in all human relationships. That the boy learned well was evidenced by a long life of devotion to his suffering fellow-men, and his zealous endeavour not only to mitigate suffering but to prevent it. As a physician he honoured the therapist, but his primary interest was not in the cure but in the cause, and he was unceasing in his efforts of detection. In the history of preventive medicine his place will always be a high one.

He was born at St. Quivox in 1853, and received his early education at Ayr Academy in which he retained an interest all his life, being a keen member of the Ayr Academy Club and presiding on one occasion at its annual dinner. He gradu-

ated in medicine at Glasgow University in 1875 and spent four years as a practitioner in Preston, Lancashire. From Preston he went to Newcastle and he lived there till the end of his life. He was physician at Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary, Joint-Professor of Medicine at Newcastle University College, and, for a time, Professor of Physiology at Durham. His experience in this great industrial area led him to direct his attention particularly to industrial diseases, and in 1892 the Home Office invited him to act as medical expert on the Dangerous Trades Committee and appointed him a member of the White Lead Commission which sat during the years 1892/3. His authority on industrial diseases was now widely recognised, and in 1898 the Government sent him as its representative to the International Conference on Hygiene at Madrid.

A special inquiry into the lucifer match industry and working conditions in the Potteries received invaluable help from Sir Thomas, and he was instrumental in bringing about greatly needed reforms there. In 1905, he was Harben lecturer in Public Health at the Royal Institute, and the same year he was made an honorary corresponding member of the Société Médicale des Hôpitaux de Paris. In 1908, the king conferred a knighthood on him, and in the years that followed honours came to him from all over the world. Durham University granted him a D.C.L. in 1921, and in 1928 he was elected Vice-Chancellor of that university. In 1924, he was made a Knight of St. John of Jerusalem. Boston, Massachusetts, conferred on him the freedom of the city, and from France he received the Chevalier Legion of Honour. His old University expressed its pride in him by making him a Doctor of Laws, and, in 1934, Danzig University made him an Honorary D.Sc. In 1931 he was Honorary President of the International Congress on Accidents and Industrial Diseases at Geneva.

Sir Thomas died in 1942. His life had been a very long and a very full one and he had been laden with honours, but more valuable to him than all the honours he received was the gratitude of the workers for whom he had done so much. Many of the fruits of his labours on their behalf can be found in his published works, *Lead Poisoning*, *Diseases of Occupation*, *Industrial Diseases*, and *Dangerous Trades*. He published also a translation of Bouchard's *Auto-Intoxication*.

SIR JAMES LEWIS CAW, H.R.S.A., H.R.S.W., F.S.A., LL.D.

A long and fruitful life in the service of art was that of James Lewis Caw, son of a well-known Ayr merchant. He was born in 1864, educated at Ayr Academy, and then apprenticed to the firm of J. and A. Taylor, engineers, Ayr. During his apprenticeship he attended classes at the West of Scotland Technical College, and, when later he became a draughtsman with A. and P. Steven, hydraulic engineers, Glasgow, he studied in the evenings at the Glasgow School of Art. There, and afterwards at the Edinburgh School of Art, he developed an interest in the art of his own country which deepened and broadened with the years and was to make him a recognised authority and lead him to produce his *Scottish Portraits* and his comprehensive work, *Scottish Painting Past and Present*.

In 1895, he was appointed Curator of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, and the success of his work there led to his becoming the first Director of the National Galleries of Scotland. In this office, for over twenty years, he devoted himself to the building up of a collection of painting and sculpture that has attracted attention and won appreciation throughout the world. His great knowledge of painters and painting, enriched by the many contacts he made through his marriage to the daughter of the well-known Scottish artist, William MacTaggart, his enthusiasm for his job, and his highly cultivated sense of quality were excellent equipment for one whose business was to select and advise what should be acquired, and how, when acquired, the pictures should be hung and the sculpture placed. And when he retired from the directorship in 1930, he left behind him an invaluable legacy and a tradition his successors could proudly continue. For his great services as Director he received a knighthood the following year.

From 1916 to 1933, Sir James was art critic to *The Scotsman*. He contributed also to several art journals, and besides the two important works mentioned, *Scottish Portraits* and *Scottish Painting Past and Present*, he wrote a life of his father-in-law, a study of his friend Sir James Guthrie, a book on the painter Allan Ramsay, and an appreciation of his contemporary Sir D. Y. Cameron. He was also joint author with R. A. M. Stevenson and Sir Walter Armstrong of a book on Sir Henry Raeburn.

ARTISTS

The contribution of Ayr men to pictorial art has not been one of very great distinction. John Caldwell, who lived from 1738 to 1829, gained in his day some reputation as a miniaturist; and John Wilson, who was born in 1774 and became better known as 'Auld Jock', has been granted a place in Sir James Caw's notable and standard work, *Scottish Painting Past and Present*, as has also William Crawford, son of Archibald Crawford the minor poet and author of the song 'Bonnie Mary Hay'. Of the latter two Wilson was the more striking figure, and the large number of pictures he exhibited in London during the first half of the nineteenth century caused very considerable comment.

When John Wilson was a youth, he was sent by his father to be an apprentice to Norie, a well-known house-decorator in Edinburgh. During his residence there, he became a pupil of Alexander Nasmyth, the prominent portrait and landscape painter. In 1798 he went to London where he got employment as a theatre scene-painter, and publicity came to him when he won a prize awarded by the British Institution for the best painting of the Battle of Trafalgar. From that time he painted marine pictures, in quick succession, many of which were exhibited by the Society of British Artists, of which he was one of the founders. He exhibited also at the Academy, London, and at the Royal Scottish Academy which honoured him by making him an honorary member. He spent many years of his life at Folkestone and found there, and also along the French and Dutch coasts, the subjects of many of his works. Close contact with the sea gave to his pictures a vitality which compensated for defects in drawing and carelessness in detail; he was more a colourist than a draughtsman. He died in 1855.

Another Ayr man who was honoured by the Royal Scottish Academy was John Stevens who, after studying art in London, went to Italy and spent much of his life there. Most of his work was done in Italy and is little known here. He was born in 1793 and died in 1868.

William Crawford was born in 1811. Early in life he showed an aptitude for drawing, and his father decided to send him to Edinburgh to study under Sir William Allan. He won a travelling bursary and went to Rome where he studied for two

years. On his return to Edinburgh, he became an art teacher but resigned when the school became associated with the Science and Art Department, and devoted himself to painting. Like Wilson he was an indefatigable worker and, every year, sent many pictures to the Scottish Academy exhibitions. His best work was in portraiture. One of his pictures, 'The Highland Keeper's Daughter', was widely popularised by engravings. He died in 1869.

An artist of much more recent date was James Wright who was born in Ayr in 1876 and died at Garelochhead in 1947. He was educated at Ayr Academy and he studied under Greiffenhagen at the Glasgow School of Art. He also worked with Stephen Adam, a well-known Glasgow stained-glass artist, and was himself a designer in stained-glass. Before he left Ayr he came under the influence of James MacMaster, R.S.W., and as a water-colourist he exhibited in Glasgow and London, and on the Continent. He was elected a member of the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Water Colours and was three times Vice-President of the Society. He was also keenly interested in the preservation of old buildings.

CHURCH MEN

As influences in the ecclesiastical life of Scotland, three Ayr men are worthy of mention: William Annand, Dean of Edinburgh and strong protagonist of Episcopacy; Henry Cowan, Professor of Church History and biographer of John Knox; and John McMurtrie, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and editor of the Church's magazine *Life and Work*.

William Annand was born in Ayr in 1633. He was the son of an Ayr minister who, at a time when the Scottish Church was fighting for freedom from the dictates of the king's ministers and when loyalty to the Government came to be regarded as enmity to the faith, declared himself on the king's side and willing to accept the form of worship the king demanded. This declaration stirred up such strong opposition to him that he was compelled to leave Scotland and settle in the south. There, his son came into the closest contact with Episcopacy and, after graduating Bachelor of Arts at Oxford in 1656, took orders in the Episcopal Church and became one of its outstanding

preachers. He was appointed chaplain to the renegade covenanter, John Middleton, and when Middleton returned to Scotland in 1662, as the King's Commissioner, Annand accompanied him. In 1663, he became minister of the Tolbooth Church, and, in 1676, the king appointed him Dean of Edinburgh. His loyalty and his attitude to the Presbyterians made him unpopular, and his indiscretion in attending the execution of the Earl of Argyle in 1685 turned that unpopularity into open hostility. But Annand was fearless and adhered firmly to the principles he had adopted. His scholarship was recognised when he was made Professor of Divinity at the University of St. Andrews that same year. He died in 1689, a significant year for Presbyterianism.

Henry Cowan was the son of an Ayr solicitor and bank agent and was born at Brownhill, Ayr, in 1844. He was educated at Ayr Academy, and at Edinburgh University where he graduated M.A. and B.D. He won a Greek travelling scholarship in 1865 and was Pitt Scholar in Divinity the following year. He studied at Bonn, Halle, and Tübingen, all of which at that time were much resorted to by Scottish students of philosophy and theology and gave a hall-mark to scholarship in the Scottish Church. Recognition of Cowan's worth was made when, in 1871, he was appointed examiner for the B.D. degree in his own university. From 1869 to 1889 he was, successively, minister of the West Parish Church, Aberdeen: Rubislaw Church, Aberdeen: and New Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh; and then he was elected to the Chair of Church History at King's College, Aberdeen. Until his retirement in 1924, his influence as a teacher was deeply felt in the northern university, and appreciation of his influence on the life of the city was expressed when he was elected patron of the Incorporated Trades of 'Bon Accord'. He died in 1932. Besides his *Life of John Knox*, published in 1905, he wrote and published *Landmarks of Church History* and *The Influence of the Scottish Church in Christendom*.

John McMurtrie was born in 1831. Like Cowan he was the son of a solicitor and bank agent and was also educated at Ayr Academy. He graduated M.A. at Edinburgh University, and after his theological training he was licensed as a minister of the Church of Scotland by Ayr Presbytery, in 1856. After acting as an assistant at New Kilpatrick, and at St. George's, Edin-

burgh, he was ordained to the parish of Mains and Strathmartine near Dundee. In 1866, he succeeded the Rev. A. K. H. Boyd at St. Bernard's Church, Edinburgh, and, during the twenty years he was there, he was an important figure in the religious life of the Scottish capital. In 1886 he was appointed convener of the Foreign Missions Committee of the Church and resigned from his active ministry at St. Bernard's. He was elected Moderator of the Church of Scotland in 1894, a tribute to his knowledge of church affairs and to his ability as an administrator. For a period of nineteen years he edited *Life and Work*. He retired in 1908 and died in 1912. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and an enthusiastic member of Edinburgh Botanical Society. In 1890, Aberdeen University had honoured him by conferring on him the degree of D.D.

SIR GEORGE MACDONALD

No apology is made for including in this chapter the name of Sir George Macdonald, great classicist and numismatist, and Secretary of the Scottish Education Department, for, though he was born in Elgin, he came to Ayr in the year of his birth, 1862, when his father, Dr. James Macdonald, was appointed rector of Ayr Academy, and he was until his manhood so closely identified with the town of his adoption that he came to be regarded as an Ayr man. At school he was one of his father's most brilliant pupils, and at Edinburgh University he fulfilled the promise of his early days by graduating with First Class Honours in Classics and winning the Ferguson Scholarship. In 1883, he went to Balliol College, Oxford, and there he gained a first in Classical Moderations and a first in Literae Humaniores. He studied also at Stuttgart and Rome.

In 1887 he joined the staff of Kelvinside Academy, and, after teaching there for five years, was appointed lecturer in Greek at the University of Glasgow. In 1904 he became an assistant secretary in the Scottish Education Department, and, after several promotions there, was appointed Secretary of the Department in 1922. In 1927 a knighthood was conferred on him. He retired in 1928 after almost twenty-five years of efficient and distinguished service. As Secretary, he gave a direct stimulus to learning and to the humanities, and was accessible to all interested in the promotion of sound scholarship.

The continuity of past and present was one of his convictions and he was unceasing in his efforts to uncover the foundations on which our modern civilisation had been built.

Recognition of Sir George's wide knowledge and profound scholarship came from all quarters. Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities conferred on him the degree of LL.D., Oxford an Hon. D. Litt., and Cambridge an Hon. Litt.D. He was made a Fellow of the British Association, an Hon. R.S.A., and an Hon. F.R.S.E. He was President of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, President of the Classical Association of England and Wales and of the Classical Association of Scotland, President of the Scottish Society of Antiquaries, and President of the Anthropological Section of the British Association. He was Chairman of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Scotland, and a member of the Fine Arts Commission for Scotland. He was awarded the medal of the Royal Numismatic Society, the medal of the American Numismatic Society, and the medal of the Vienna Numismatic Society. He was also honoured by the French Academy.

Among Sir George's publications were *Roman Wall in Scotland*, *Roman Britain*, *Agricola in Britain*, *The Silver Coinage of Crete*, *Evolution of Coinage*, *Coin Types: their Origin and Development*, and *Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the Hunterian Collection*. These were the product of much digging and careful research, illumined by extensive and critical reading. His death in 1940 was marked by tributes of regret from Classical and Archaeological Associations throughout the world. His life had been a long one but not long enough to exhaust his enthusiasm in the search for knowledge of the things that had been.

SOME OTHERS

The name of Sir George Macdonald recalls the names of other distinguished men who, though not Ayr born, found in Ayr Academy their Alma Mater, and by their distinction reflected great honour both on the school and on the town. One of these men was John William Mackail who was born at Ascog in 1859. A brilliant student and a great classical scholar, he gained the highest academic honours, and from 1906 to 1911 was professor of Poetry at Oxford. His great distinction in the world of literature and learning was recog-

nised by the king when, in 1935, he conferred on him the very exclusive honour of the Order of Merit. Professor Mackail's writings include *Latin Literature*, *The Odyssey in English Verse*, *Studies of English Poets*, and a *Life of William Morris*. He died in 1945.

Great service to learning and literature was also given by David Patrick, LL.D., who came to Ayr Academy from Ochiltree where his father was minister. He also intended to enter the Church, but, after a period of philosophical and theological study in Germany, consequent to his life as a student at Edinburgh University and at New College, he decided to follow a literary career and joined the staff of W. and R. Chambers, publishers, Edinburgh. So valuable was the work he did there that he was made head of the literary staff, and he edited some of the firm's most important publications, including *Chambers' Encyclopaedia*, *Chambers' Cyclopaedia of English Literature*, and *Chambers' Biographical Dictionary*. He also assisted Dr. William Wallace in a revised edition of Dr. Robert Chambers' *Life and Works of Robert Burns*. He was keenly interested in the activities of the Scottish History Society and translated for it *The Statutes of the Scottish Church, 1225/1559*. He died in 1914.

Another boy who came from Ochiltree to attend Ayr Academy was George Douglas Brown, author of *The House with the Green Shutters*, that macabre picture of Scottish village life which made so strong an impact on Scottish literature that criticism of it swayed from excessive praise to violent condemnation. Brown was born in 1869. Even as a pupil he showed astonishing maturity in his thought and style of writing, and William Maybin, rector of the Academy at the time, foretold a great future for him. At Glasgow University he was Cowan Gold Medallist in Greek and won the Luke Historical Prize in Greek and Roman History. In 1890 he graduated with First Class Honours in Classics, and in 1891 he won the Snell Exhibition and went to Oxford where he obtained a First Class in Classical Moderations. He then went to London to read law but was attracted to journalism and literature. The novel which made him famous was published in 1901. He died the following year. What he might have achieved had he lived longer will always be a speculative question. He was buried beside his mother in Ayr.

In a very different field of activity was the exploit of Sir John Ross who was also a pupil of Ayr Academy. Trained in the navy, he became an Arctic explorer and a great friend of Sir John Franklin. He made several voyages of discovery, but his greatest and most hazardous was when, an old man of seventy-three, he set out in *The Felix*, a boat built for him in Ayr dockyard, to discover what had happened to Franklin in his search for the North-west Passage. For sixteen months he cruised in the cold Polar Seas but his quest was unsuccessful. After his return, he sailed into Ayr harbour, on board the boat that had served him so well in the most trying and dangerous conditions, and at a complimentary dinner given in his honour after he had received the freedom of the town, he paid a high tribute to the builders and said, 'It was my ambition to command my first vessel out of Ayr. . . . I have never forgotten Ayrshire but have in every situation tried to prove myself worthy of my association with it.' Though he was only a foster-child, Ayr and Ayrshire will remember him and be proud of the recognition he paid them.

In this group one other name should be recorded, that of Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He was the son of Dr. David Woodburn who served in the Indian Medical Service and resided for some years in Ayr. Sir John attended Ayr Academy and was dux of the school in 1858. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1863, and his gift for languages, his sympathetic understanding of the Indians' aspirations and needs, his patience in trying situations, and his resoluteness in action, when action was necessary, marked him as one worthy of promotion. In 1882 he was appointed Secretary to the Government of the North-west Provinces and Oudh, and six years later became Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. He was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in 1898, and died at Calcutta in 1902. He had been born in India in 1843, and had spent thirty-nine years of his life in its service. For his great faithfulness and distinction in that service he was made Companion of the Order of the Star of India in 1892, and in 1897 he was created a Knight Commander of the same Order. A memorial tablet, the gift of his wife, was erected in Dalmellington Parish Church with which the family of Woodburn was closely associated.

CHAPTER 19

PROVOSTS

Compiled by JAMES W. FORSYTH, F.L.A.

THE dignity of the Provostship is of considerable antiquity but it is not possible to fix an exact time when the office as we know it to-day was instituted.

Before the fifteenth century the responsible first citizen was known variously as Prepositus, Alderman or Provost. For further information on the scope of these titles see:

George S. Pryde, *Ayr Burgh Accounts* (1534-1624), 1937

William Mackay Mackenzie, *The Scottish Burghs*, 1949

David Murray, *Early Burgh Organisation in Scotland*, 1924 and 1932

Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, vol. 1, Preface

1327	Prepositi Symon Colyn-son and Ade Petyt	1492	Ald. And. Busby
1342	Prepositi Ade de Moravia, John Clerk and William Broun	1493	Ald. And. Busby
1359	Alderman Robert Smal	1494	Ald. James Blair
1401	Ald. Reginald de Fynvyk	1495	Ald. And. Busby
1406	Ald. Reginald de Fynvyk	1496	Ald. And. Busby
1415	Provost Nicholas de Fynvyk	1497	Ald. Allan Boyman and Ald. And. Busby
1430	Ald. Pat A'Hayre	1498	Ald. And. Busby
1435	Prepositus John Cambel de Skeldoune	1499	Ald. Robt. Clark, Jn. Broun and And. Busby
1438	Ald. Pat Hayr	1500	Ald. Robt. Clerk
1450	Ald. John Multrar	1501	
1454	Ald. John Petyt	1502	Ald. Robt. Clerk
1460	Ald. Jn. Multrar	1503	Ald. Matt. Wallas
1469	Ald. Alex. Otterburn	1504	Ald. Matt. Wallas
1471	Ald. John Multrar	1505	Ald. Robt. Clerk
1477	Ald. Jas. Blare	1506	Ald. Matt. Wallas
1480	Prepositus David Blare	1507	Ald. Matt. Wallas de Crago
1481	Prepositus John Multrar	1508	Ald. Matt. Wallas
1488	Ald. And. Busby	1509	Ald. Robt. Clerk of Auldhall
1491	Ald. And. Busby	1510	Ald. Johne Broun
		1511	Ald. Robt. Clerk

PROVOSTS

1512	Ald. Johne Chalmer	1551	William Hamilton
1513	Ald. Johne Chalmer	1552	William Hamilton
1514	Ald. Johne Broun	1553	
1515	Johne Broun	1554	
1516		1555	
1517		1556	
1518	Ald. Adam Wallace of Newton	1557	
1519	Ald. Jn. Dalrymple	1558	
1520	Ald. Adam Wallace of Newton	1559	
1521	Ald. James Tate	1560	Michael Wallace of Cunning Park
1522	Ald. Adam Wallace of Newton	1561	Michael Wallace
1523	Ald. Adam Wallace of Newton	1562	Michael Wallace
1524	Ald. Adam Wallace of Newton	1563	
1525		1564	
1526		1565	
1527	James Tate	1566	
1528	James Tate	1567	
1529		1568	John Lockhart
1530	Adam Wallace of Newton	1569	John Lockhart
1531	Adam Wallace of Newton	1570	
1532	Ald. Thos. Broun	1571	
1533		1572	
1534	Ritchard Bannatyne	1573	Michael Wallace
1535	Ritchard Bannatyne	1574	John Lockhart
1536	Ritchard Bannatyne	1575	Michael Wallace
1537	Ritchard Bannatyne	1576	
1538	George Wallace	1577	John Lockhart
1539	William Hamilton	1578	Hew Campbell yr. of Loudoun
1540	William Hamilton	1579	
1541	William Hamilton	1580	John Jamesoun
1542	William Hamilton	1581	George Jamesoun
1543	Ritchard Bannatyne	1582	Robert Campbell
1544		1583	John Jamesoun
1545		1584	Adam Stewart
1546		1585	Sir William Stewart
1547	William Hamilton	1586	Archibald Fergushill
1548	William Hamilton	1587	Archibald Fergushill
1549	William Hamilton	1588	Archibald Fergushill
1550		1589	John Lokhart
		1590	George Jamesoun
		1591	George Jamesoun
		1592	Adam Stewart

1593	George Jamesoun	1636	John Osburne
1594	George Jamesoun	1637	Robert Gordoun
1595	George Jamesoun	1638	John Osburne
1596	David Fergushill	1639	Robert Gordoun
1597	David Fergushill	1640	John Osburne
1598	David Fergushill	1641	Robert Gordoun
1599	David Fergushill	1642	John Osburne
1600	David Fergushill	1643	Hew Kennedy
1601	Alexander Lokhert of Boghall	1644	John Kennedy
1602	George Jamesoun	1645	John Osburne
1603	David Fergushill	1646	John Kennedy
1604	Adam Stewart	1647	Robert Gordoun
1605	David Fergushill	1648	Hew Kennedy
1606	Adam Stewart	1649	Gilbert Ritchart
1607	David Fergushill	1650	Hew Kennedy
1608	Adam Stewart	1651	Robert Gordoun
1609	John Lokhert of Boghall	1652	
1610	Hew Kennedy	1653	
1611	John Lokhert of Barr	1654	Capt. Vaxley Robson (vice-Provost)
1612	John Osburne	1655	William Cunynghame
1613	Adam Richie	1656	John Osburne
1614	Hew Kennedy	1657	Hew Kennedy
1615	Adam Richie	1658	John Osburne
1616	John Osburne	1659	Hew Kennedy
1617	Hew Kennedy	1660	William Cunynghame
1618	Adam Ritchie	1661	William Cunynghame
1619	Hew Kennedy	1662	William Cunynghame
1620	John Osburne	1663	William Cunynghame
1621	Adam Richie	1664	William Cuninghame
1622	James Blair	1665	William Cuninghame
1623	Adam Richie	1666	William Cuninghame
1624	James Blair	1667	Thomas Knight
1625	Adam Richie	1668	Thomas Knight
1626	John Osburne	1669	William Cunynghame
1627	James Blair	1670	William Cunynghame
1628	William Cunningham	1671	Thomas Knight
1629	Adam Ritchie	1672	Thomas Knight
1630	John Stewart	1673	John Moor
1631	Adam Ritchie	1674	John Moor
1632	John Stewart	1675	John Cunningham
1633	James Blair	1676	Robert Doock
1634	John Osburne	1677	Robert Doock
1635	John Stewart	1678	William Cunynghame

1679	William Cunynghame	1723	James Montgomery
1680	William Cunynghame	1724	Thomas Garvine
1681	Vaxley Robson	1725	Thomas Garvine
1682	Vaxley Robson	1726	James Montgomery
1683	William Brisbane	1727	James Montgomery
1684	Robert Hunter	1728	Thomas Garvine
1685	William Cunynghame	1729	Thomas Garvine
1686	William Cunynghame	1730	James Montgomery
1687	Sir William Wallace	1731	James Montgomery
1688	John Moor	1732	Thomas Garvine
1689	John Moor	1733	Thomas Garvine
1690	John Moor	1734	James Montgomery
1691	John Osburn	1735	James Montgomery
1692	John Moor	1736	James Hunter
1693	Hugh Crauford	1737	James Hunter
1694	John Osburn	1738	Thomas Garvine
1695	Robert Moor	1739	Thomas Garvine
1696	John Moor	1740	James Hunter
1697	Robert Moor	1741	James Hunter
1698	John Moor	1742	James Montgomery
1699	Robert Moor	1743	John Campbell
1700	Samuel Moor	1744	John Campbell
1701	John Moor	1745	Thomas Garvine
1702	Samuel Moor	1746	Thomas Garvine
1703	Hew McHutcheon	1747	Andrew Slowane
1704	John Ballantine	1748	Andrew Slowane
1705	David Fergusson	1749	Thomas Garvine
1706	John Moor	1750	Thomas Garvine
1707	Robert Moor	1751	Andrew Slowane
1708	Samuel Moor	1752	Andrew Slowane
1709	Robert Moor	1753	Thomas Garvine
1710	Robert Moor	1754	Thomas Garvine
1711	Samuel Moor	1755	Andrew Slowane
1712	Robert Moor	1756	Andrew Slowane
1713	Robert Moor	1757	Elias Cathcart
1714	Samuel Moor	1758	Elias Cathcart
1715	Robert Moor	1759	William Fergusson
1716	Robert Moor	1760	William Fergusson
1717	Mongo Campbell	1761	David Bannatyne
1718	Robert Moor	1762	David Bannatyne
1719	Robert Moor	1763	William Fergusson
1720	Joseph Wilson	1764	William Fergusson
1721	Joseph Wilson	1765	William Fergusson
1722	James Montgomery	1766	David Fergusson

1767	David Bannatyne	1811	William Cowan
1768	David Bannatyne	1812	George Charles
1769	David Fergusson	1813	George Charles
1770	David Fergusson	1814	William Cowan
1771	James Fergusson	1815	William Cowan
1772	James Fergusson	1816	Hugh Cowan
1773	David Fergusson	1817	Hugh Cowan
1774	David Fergusson	1818	William Cowan
1775	James Hutcheson	1819	William Cowan
1776	James Hutcheson	1820	David Limond
1777	David Fergusson	1821	David Limond
1778	David Fergusson	1822	William Cowan
1779	David Fergusson	1823	William Cowan
1780	John Nimmo	1824	David Limond
1781	David Fergusson	1825	Quintin Kennedy
1782	David Fergusson	1826	Quintin Kennedy
1783	William Campbell	1827	William Fullarton
1784	William Campbell	1828	William Fullarton
1785	David Fergusson	1829	Quintin Kennedy
1786	David Fergusson	1830	Quintin Kennedy
1787	John Ballantine	1831	William Fullarton
1788	John Ballantine	1832	William Fullarton
1789	David Fergusson	1833	William Fullarton
1790	David Fergusson	1834	William Fullarton and David Limond
1791	John Murdoch	1835	David Limond
1792	John Murdoch	1836	David Limond
1793	John Ballantine	1837	David Limond
1794	John Ballantine	1838	David Limond
1795	Charles Shaw	1839	David Limond
1796	John Ballantine	1840	David Limond
1797	John Ballantine	1841	Hugh Miller
1798	George Charles	1842	Hugh Miller
1799	George Charles	1843	Hugh Miller
1800	William Bowie	1844	Hugh Miller
1801	William Bowie	1845	Hugh Miller
1802	George Charles	1846	Hugh Miller
1803	George Charles	1847	Hugh Miller
1804	William Bowie	1848	Hugh Miller
1805	William Bowie	1849	Hugh Miller
1806	George Dunlop	1850	Hugh Miller
1807	George Dunlop	1851	Hugh Miller
1808	George Charles	1852	Hugh Miller
1809	George Charles	1853	Hugh Miller
1810	William Cowan		

1854	Hugh Miller	1898	Thomas Templeton
1855	Primrose William Kennedy	1899	Thomas Templeton
1856	Primrose William Kennedy	1900	Thomas Templeton
1857	Primrose William Kennedy	1901	Thomas Templeton
1858	Primrose William Kennedy	1902	Thomas Templeton
1859	Primrose William Kennedy	1903	William Allan
1860	Primrose William Kennedy	1904	William Allan
1861	Andrew Paterson	1905	William Allan
1862	Andrew Paterson	1906	William Allan
1863	Andrew Paterson	1907	William Allan
1864	John Macneille	1908	William Allan
1865	John Macneille	1909	James S. Hunter
1866	John Macneille	1910	James S. Hunter
1867	John Macneille	1911	James S. Hunter
1868	John Macneille	1912	John Mitchell
1869	John Macneille	1913	John Mitchell
1870	John Macneille	1914	John Mitchell
1871	John Macneille	1915	John Mitchell
1872	John Macneille	1916	John Mitchell
1873	Robert Goudie	1917	John Mitchell
1874	Robert Goudie	1918	John M. Mathie Morton
1875	Robert Goudie	1919	John M. Mathie Morton
1876	Thomas Steele	1920	John M. Mathie Morton
1877	Thomas Steele	1921	John M. Mathie Morton
1878	Thomas Steele	1922	Donald McDonald
1879	Thomas Steele	1923	Donald McDonald
1880	Thomas Steele	1924	James R. Gould
1881	Thomas Steele	1925	James R. Gould
1882	William Kilpatrick	1926	James R. Gould
1883	William Kilpatrick	1927	John S. Stewart
1884	William Kilpatrick	1928	John S. Stewart
1885	William Kilpatrick	1929	John S. Stewart
1886	William Kilpatrick	1930	Thomas Wilson
1887	William Kilpatrick	1931	Thomas Wilson
1888	James Murray Ferguson	1932	Thomas Wilson
1889	James Murray Ferguson	1933	Thomas Galloway
1890	James Murray Ferguson	1934	Thomas Galloway
1891	Robert Shankland	1935	Thomas Galloway
1892	Robert Shankland	1936	James Wills
1893	Robert Shankland	1937	James Wills
1894	Hugh Douglas Willock	1938	James Wills
1895	Hugh Douglas Willock	1939	James Wills
1896	Hugh Douglas Willock	1940	Robert Bowman
1897	Thomas Templeton	1941	Robert Bowman

1942	Thomas Murray	1948	Thomas Murray
1943	Thomas Murray	1949	James Smith
1944	Thomas Murray	1950	James Smith
1945	Thomas Murray	1951	James Smith
1946	Thomas Murray	1952	Adam Hart
1947	Thomas Murray	1953	Adam Hart

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