

INTRODUCTION

In a charter of King Alexander II dated 20th April 1234, granted and sealed in Ayr, the name of Alloway is first recorded in the historical record of the first time. Our knowledge of Alloway before 1234 is exceedingly scanty - but chance archaeological discoveries and a few documentary references provide a picture of the town and its surroundings. The town of Alloway is situated on the south bank of the River Ayr, in the parish of Alloway, in the barony of Alloway, in the county of Ayr.

THE BARONY OF ALLOWAY

1324 - 1754

ALASTAIR HENDRY

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FOREWORD

This booklet is offered as a brief, general introduction to the fascinating story of the Barony of Alloway. It is based mainly on the relevant records of Alloway Barony Court, Ayr Burgh Council, Ayr Presbytery and Ayr Auld Kirk Session. To encourage readers to explore these primary sources further and to avoid much repetition in the text, references are indicated by the precise date of an event, etc. Unless otherwise stated, the source is the Alloway Barony Court Books. In quotations from primary sources, the original spelling, capitalisation and lack of punctuation have been maintained, but in the interests of ease of reading less familiar words, their modern equivalents have been added in brackets.

The Barony of Alloway, 1324—1754

INTRODUCTION

In a charter of King Alexander II dated 20th April 1236, granted and sealed in Ayr, the name of Alloway appears in the historical record for the first time. Our knowledge of Alloway before 1236 is exceedingly scanty - but chance archaeological discoveries and a few documentary references provide brief, and therefore tantalising, glimpses of the peoples who settled in or passed through this area. Most of the archaeological evidence comes from the districts just outside Alloway, in particular Doonfoot.

Early History

Not long after 4,000 B.C. the first small groups of people began to arrive by sea at points along the Ayrshire coast. The places where they camped have been identified from the debris they left behind, in particular the small flints they used in making their weapons and domestic tools. In the field immediately north-east of Longhill Farm, several hundred flints, including both tools and waste materials were found in 1974. It would be most surprising if those Mesolithic hunters did not, as well as catching fish in the Doon and the sea, also extend their hunt for birds and wild animals among the sand dunes, coastal marshes, the rough woodland and moors on the north of the Doon.

From about 3,500 B.C. or earlier, some of the newcomers began to settle and start to clear ground for growing crops and rearing stock. Stone axes lost or discarded during this Neolithic period have been found throughout Ayrshire - two such, again at Doonfoot, in 1972 and 1976.

From 2,500 B.C., the archaeological record shows further changes in certain aspects of the way of life of the people. They continued to engage in land clearance and primitive agriculture, augmenting their food supplies from hunting and fishing. But they now had access to new techniques in metal working. The Bronze Age had begun. Changes are also noted in their burial practices. The Doonfoot area still remained a focus of activity. In 1936 a small Bronze Age cemetery, with the remains of at least six burials, was discovered in the course of house construction along the north-east side of Dunure Road.

Across the Doon, in the lands of Alloway, in the 19th century "a number of urns and other remains of mortality" were found in a cairn. Smith (1895) reported that "an urn was got under a cairn on what is now the lands of Cambusdoon." Until 30 years ago there certainly were the remains of a cairn, some 12 m. in diameter — pointed out as the one Burns referred to in "Tam O'Shanter".

"And thro the whins, and by the cairn,
Whaur hunters fand the murdered bairn."

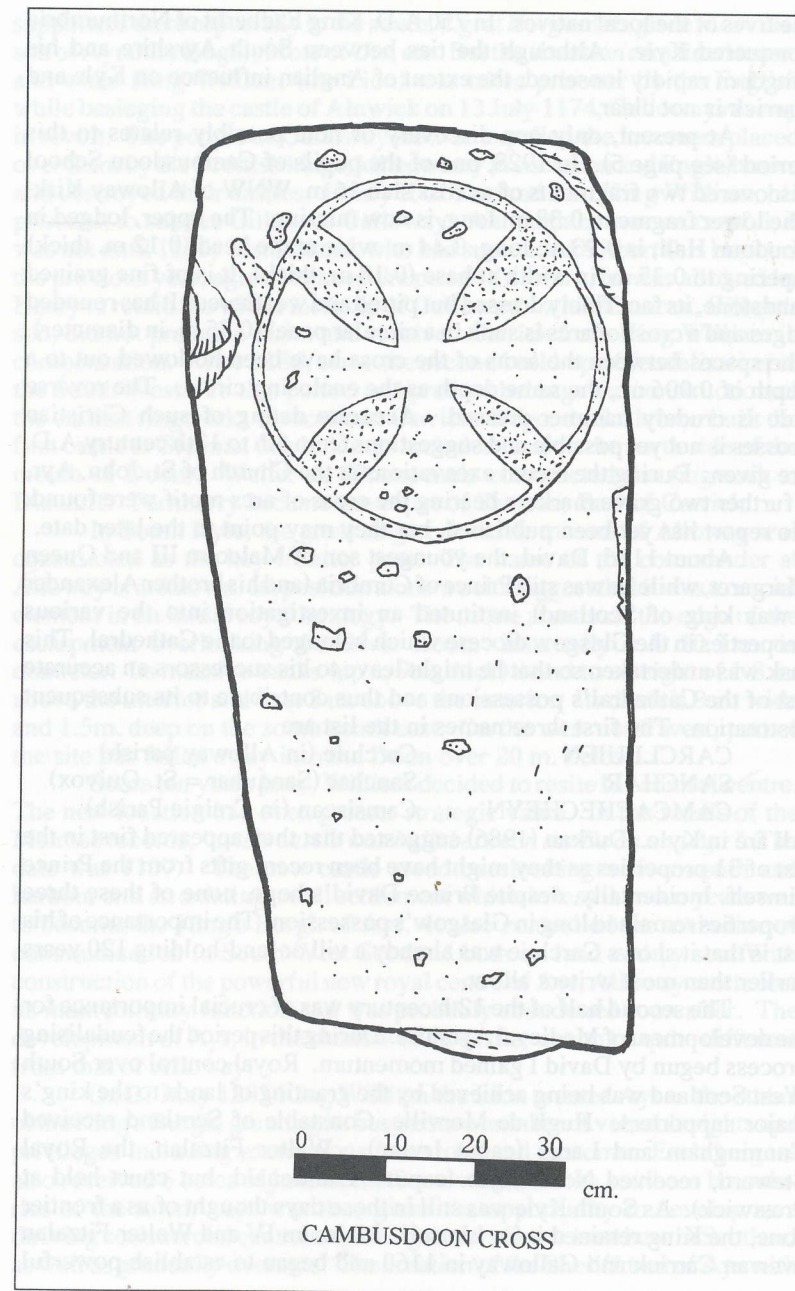
In March, 1963, this round cairn was carefully removed to make way for house construction. The cairn was found to be artificial, with a core of water worn stones and small boulders. But no traces of burial, no burial pit, no sherds, no slabs of a cist were discovered. In September of the same year, the writer visited the site again because a mechanical excavator had struck a small Bronze Age cist which had been beyond the edge of the cairn. A large capstone (1.08 m. x 0.67 m.) had been exposed, together with fragments of stones from the side of the cist. It had, however, contained no pottery vessel, only small fragments of burnt bone. This was clearly a cremation burial of Bronze Age date. The site is now marked by the cairn in Cairn Crescent.

In the final centuries B.C. and the early centuries A.D., Ayrshire formed part of the territory of a tribe called the Damnonii. The lands of Alloway however possess no fortifiable high ground and no traces of Iron Age sites have been found. The suggestion of a crannog in Carluie loch has not been supported by proof. In the late 19th century, the farmer did report seeing pile heads on the little island, but John Smith's probings (1895) only found soft mud and stones. The circular earthwork 150 m. north of Lindston Farm stands on the summit of a broad ridge and is just outside the Alloway boundary. It is 36 m. in diameter, entered by a causeway on the east, over a ditch 7.5 m. broad and 0.7 m. deep. No examination has been made of the site and its general appearance could indicate a date from the Iron Age to the Early Medieval period.

Fortified sites, not far off, some of perhaps Iron Age date, have been identified from aerial photographs. Traces of ditches cutting off an area of approx. 300 x 150 m. on the summit of Bower Hill indicate the existence of a fort. Two ditches, about 20 m. apart, cut off the steep-sided promontory at the west end of the Heads of Ayr. The dimensions of this fort are 80 m. x 60 m. More impressive are the earthworks which lie under the site of Greenan Castle. An area of the headland some 100 m. x 75 m. is cut off by a system of four ditches. There appears to have been an entrance causeway on the east-south-eastern side.

The Roman conquests of South West Scotland in the first and second centuries A.D. were thorough, as the known forts at Largs and Loudoun Hill, and the large marching camps at Girvan testify. How did the invading armies and patrols affect the lives of any Damnonian natives here, in an area intersected by the north-south communication lines through coastal Ayrshire? Did they come to establish trading relations with their conquerors, like their compatriots in the crannogs and home-steads elsewhere in Ayrshire? As yet, we do not know.

Similarly, we do not know how the development of the post-Roman kingdoms and their consequent power struggles impinged upon



the lives of the local natives. In 750 A.D. King Eadberht of Northumbria conquered Kyle. Although the ties between South Ayrshire and his kingdom rapidly loosened, the extent of Anglian influence on Kyle and Carrick is not clear.

At present, only one discovery of note possibly relates to this period (see page 5). In 1928, one of the pupils of Cambusdoon School discovered two fragments of a cross slab 16 m. WNW of Alloway Kirk. The lower fragment, 0.38 m. long, is now missing. The upper, lodged in Loudoun Hall, is 0.93 m. long, 0.44 m. wide at the head (0.12 m. thick) tapering to 0.35 m. in width at base (0.18 m. thick). It is of fine grained sandstone, its face finely dressed but pitted and weathered. It has rounded edges and a cross of arcs is sunk in a circular panel (0.35 m. in diameter). The spaces between the arms of the cross have been hollowed out to a depth of 0.006 m., the same depth as the enclosing circle. The reverse side is crudely hammer-dressed. Accurate dating of such Christian crosses is not yet possible and suggestions from 8th to 12th century A.D. are given. During the recent excavations at the Church of St. John, Ayr, a further two grave markers bearing the cross of arcs motif were found. No report has yet been published, but they may point to the later date.

About 1116, David, the youngest son of Malcolm III and Queen Margaret, while he was still Prince of Cumbria (and his brother Alexander I was king of Scotland) instituted an investigation into the various properties in the Glasgow diocese which belonged to the Cathedral. This task was undertaken so that he might leave to his successors an accurate list of the Cathedral's possessions and thus contribute to its subsequent restoration. The first three names in the list are

CARCLEUIEN	Carcluie (in Alloway parish)
SANCHAR	Sanchar (Sanquhar = St. Quivox)
CAMCACHECHEYN	Camsiscan (in Craigie Parish)

All are in Kyle. Durkan (1986) suggested that they appeared first in the list of 31 properties as they might have been recent gifts from the Prince himself. Incidentally, despite Prince David's hope, none of these three properties remained long in Glasgow's possession. The importance of his list is that it shows Carcluie was already a vill or land-holding 120 years earlier than most writers allow.

The second half of the 12th century was of crucial importance for the development of Medieval Ayrshire. During this period the feudalising process begun by David I gained momentum. Royal control over South West Scotland was being achieved by the granting of lands to the king's major supporters. Hugh de Morville, Constable of Scotland received Cunningham and Largs (caput Irvine). Walter Fitzalan, the Royal Steward, received North Kyle (caput - Dundonald, but court held at Prestwick). As South Kyle was still in those days thought of as a frontier zone, the King retained it for himself. Malcolm IV and Walter Fitzalan overran Carrick and Galloway in 1160 and began to establish powerful

supporters there especially in the south, e.g. at Borgue (Hugh de Morville, son of Ayrshire Hugh), Mote of Urr, etc. But the situation remained tense, and when King William (the Lion) was taken prisoner by the English while besieging the castle of Alnwick on 13 July 1174, Galloway rose up in revolt. The people of Galloway slew or expelled the incomers placed over them by the Scottish kings, killed many Frenchmen and Englishmen, and destroyed their castles. Henry II of England sent King William, his prisoner, to subdue Gilbert of Galloway. Although he was successful, it was not until 1186, that Roland, who had succeeded Gilbert (his brother) the previous year, agreed to keep the peace. In return, he was allowed by Henry to retain the whole lordship of Galloway - while Duncan, Gilbert's son, did not press his claim and received Carrick from King William in compensation. After 1186, came the second build up of feudalisation in the South West. To this period and process belongs the construction of the earliest ringworks or mottes in Carrick. Roger de Scalebroc built the first castle at Greenan (his holdings included land on the north side of the mouth of Doon). Walter de Champenais constructed the ringwork at Dunduff. Turnberry became the caput of Duncan, Earl of Carrick.

In South Kyle, the great ringwork castle mound of Alloway was constructed as the key frontier post. The name of the commander at Alloway is unknown. Its position alone would suggest that it was a crucial element in an initial royal strategy. The motte stands on the edge of the escarpment overlooking the River Doon. Internally it is 10.3 m. in diameter. Its massive banks (up to 9m. thick) stand to a height of 1.8 m. above the interior and over 5 m. above the exterior. Its ditch is 8 m. wide and 1.5m. deep on the south south east. On the west north west, part of the site has fallen away into the Doon over 20 m. below.

Some ten years later, William decided to resite his control centre. The new location had even greater strategic value. In the words of the Melrose records, *"a new castle was built between the Doon and Ayr"*. The date was 1197. The new castle stood overlooking a rivermouth and harbour and an existing small settlement which in less than ten years was to become the King's Burgh of Ayr. It also controlled the main line of communication in South West Scotland both on land and by sea. With construction of the powerful new royal centre of Ayr, Alloway motte lost its main military function and was probably abandoned soon after. The development of Ayr, in the shadow of its castle, was to be quite different from that of Alloway.

On 21 May 1205 King William the Lion erected Ayr to the status of the King's Burgh, granting its burgesses a number of valuable rights and privileges including exemptions from tolls and customs. Each burgess also received 6 acres of land in the Burrowfield on the southern boundaries of the town. Ayr was thus given the opportunity to develop as a thriving commercial centre, attracting traders from elsewhere in Scotland as well as gradually overseas. The creation of the Sheriffdom of Ayr with

its power base in Ayr castle also reinforced the military and judicial significance of Ayr.

Progress was slow, however, and on 20 April 1236, William I's son, Alexander II, who also wished to promote the growth and stability of his power base in South West Scotland, for he too had to deal with a serious rebellion in Galloway and campaigned there in 1235, gave a very considerable boost to the fortunes of Ayr by granting them the lands of Alloway, Corton and Carcluie. Thus the land-holdings of Alloway emerge in history, not because they were being established but because they were being given away.

Ayr became wealthy in terms of its land possessions. It had about 2,300 acres in the Burrowfield. Now another 2,300 acres were granted in feu to the burgesses, in return for £10 sterling per year and appropriate service as the King might request. At the same time the burgesses were ordered neither to burn, give away nor sell, nor destroy the growing timber on these lands. They were allowed only to cut what might be essential for constructing their own buildings in Ayr and making their own boats. Later that year on 7 December, the gift was enhanced by a grant of the royal fishings on both the River Ayr and Doon — to provide for the upkeep of the bridge over the Ayr and to improve the harbour.

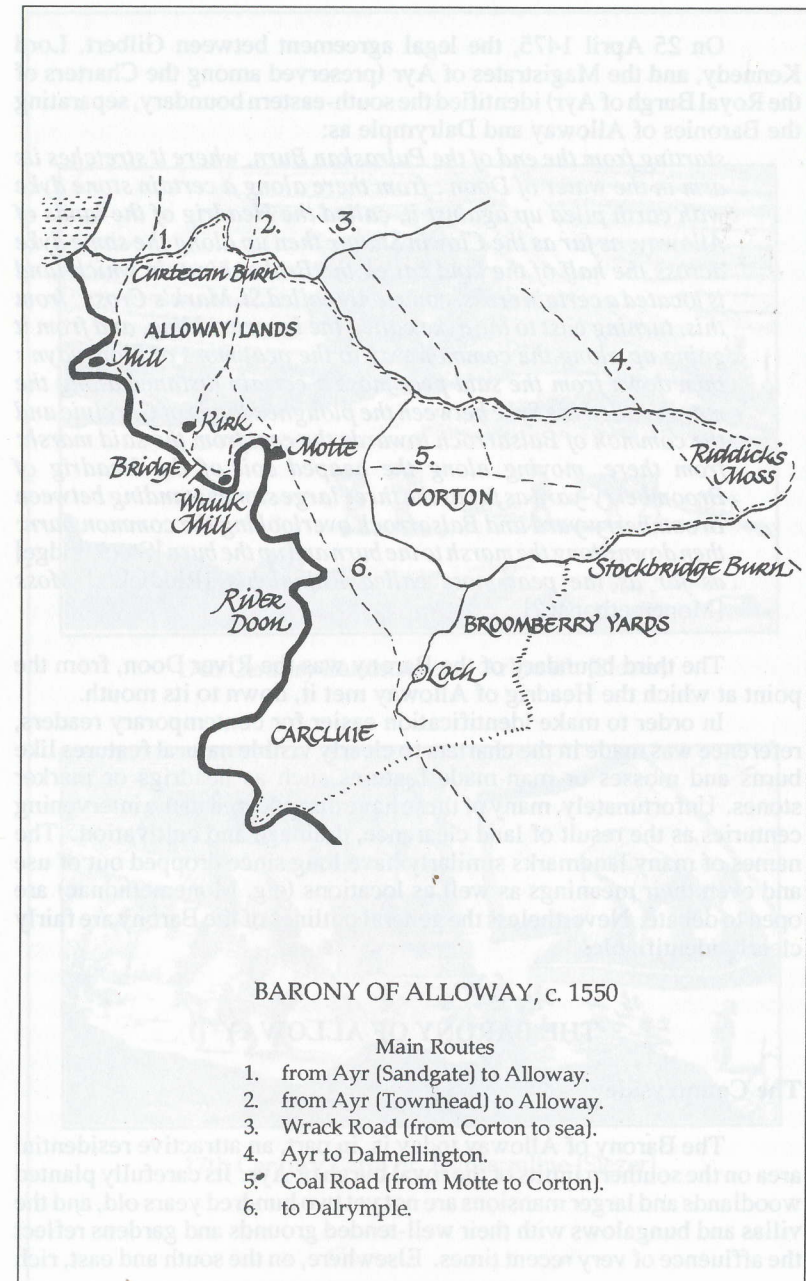
On 20 January 1324, King Robert the Bruce confirmed Alexander II's grant and made the lands of Alloway into a free barony. The £10 silver per year still had to be paid. Attendance at the Sheriff's court in Ayr was required of the burgesses, as also were floor rushes (litter) for the King's hall and chamber and firewood for his hall, chamber and kitchen. These replaced all the other services and duties except those which the King or his heirs themselves might demand. Important, too, for a growing commercial centre was the right of the burgesses to form their own merchant guilds.

The Boundaries of the Barony

On a map, the Barony lands (see page 9) are shaped like a triangle and cover an area of approximately 2,300 acres. The boundaries are detailed in various documents.

The northern boundary was described in William the Lion's Charter of 1205 as follows:-

starting from the mouth of the Doon [Inverdon] : upstream as far as the mouth of the Curtecan Burn [Inverpolcurtecan - also called the Slaphouse or Belleisle Burn] : from the mouth of the Curtecan upstream to Corton : continuing along the Curtecan [here the Glengall Burn] to the head waters of the Curtecan : then going up from the head of the Curtecan along Boghesken [Cockhill?] as far as Monedamdereg [Mosshill?] : and so from Monedamdereg along a ditch right into Monemethonac [Riddick's Moss].



On 25 April 1475, the legal agreement between Gilbert, Lord Kennedy, and the Magistrates of Ayr (preserved among the Charters of the Royal Burgh of Ayr) identified the south-eastern boundary, separating the Baronies of Alloway and Dalrymple as:

starting from the end of the Pulraskan Burn, where it stretches its arm in the water of Doon : from there along a certain stone dyke with earth piled up against it, called the Headrig of the lands of Alloway, as far as the Clowin Stane : then up along the same dyke across the half of the land called the Brakanhirst, in which land is located a certain cross, commonly called St. Mark's Cross : from this, turning east to the dyke called the Lowchriding, and from it going up along the common way to the peat moss of Monyvayn : then down from the said peat moss a certain distance along the marsh called the Syke between the ploughed lands of Carcluie and the common of Balsarroch towards the east from the said marsh: from there, moving along the heaped soil of the Headrig of Broomberry-yard as far as the three large stones standing between Broomberry-yard and Balsarroch overlooking the common burn: then down along the marsh to the burn and up the burn [Stockbridge] as far as the peat moss called Ridhalch's [Riddick's] Moss [Monemethonac?]

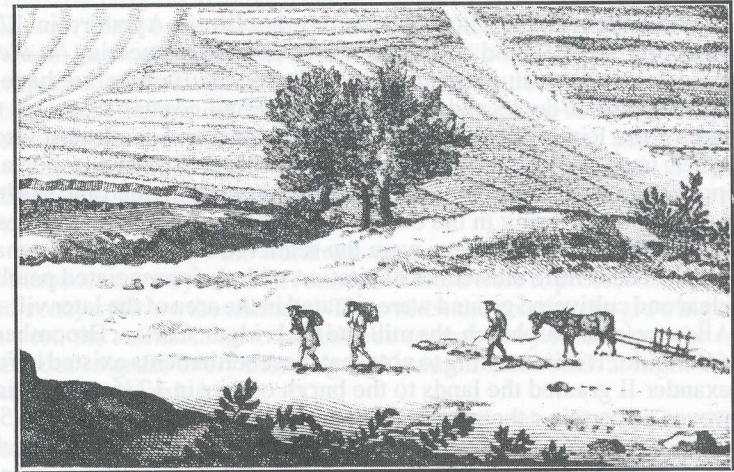
The third boundary of the Barony was the River Doon, from the point at which the Headrig of Alloway met it, down to its mouth.

In order to make identification easier for contemporary readers, reference was made in the charters to clearly visible natural features like burns and mosses or man-made features such as headrigs or marker stones. Unfortunately, many of these have disappeared in the intervening centuries as the result of land clearance, drainage and cultivation. The names of many landmarks similarly have long since dropped out of use and even their meanings as well as locations (e.g. Monemethonac) are open to debate. Nevertheless the general outlines of the Barony are fairly clearly identifiable.

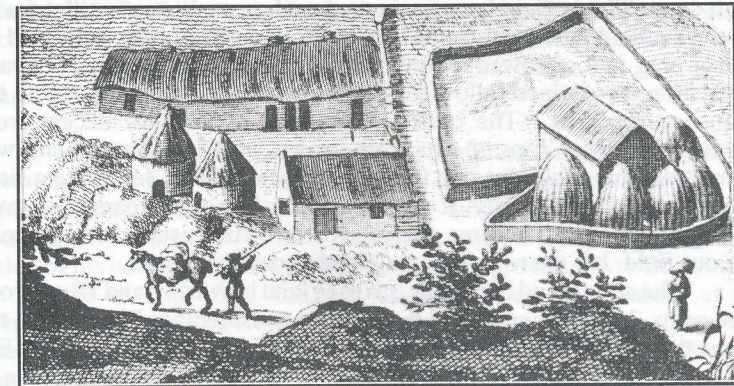
THE BARONY OF ALLOWAY

The Countryside

The Barony of Alloway today is, in part, an attractive residential area on the southern limits of the royal burgh of Ayr. Its carefully planted woodlands and larger mansions are not yet two hundred years old, and the villas and bungalows with their well-tended grounds and gardens reflect the affluence of very recent times. Elsewhere, on the south and east, rich



17th Century Landscape nr. Arbroath (Slezer)



17th Century Farm nr. Dunfermline (Slezer)

farmlands rise to the horizon, the countryside a chequerboard of cultivated fields, neatly separated from each other by wellgroomed hedges and, in places, drystane dykes. For the most part, the fields are well-drained, with the result that many of the old marshes have disappeared and earlier small burns are re-routed and confined to culverts and drainage ditches.

Yet, Rev. John Mitchell, recalling his life in Ayrshire in 1780 (Strawhorn, 1959), could still speak of Ayrshire as possessing "a bleak and somewhat repulsive appearance". As for the Barony, we have to imagine the sand-dunes and marshes of the small coastal area near the mouth of the River Doon opening out to the east and south-east into a rougher, unenclosed interior with thick woodland in places (especially along the Doon and near Carcluie), as well as the uncultivated and treeless wastes and bogs, rising in the east to bare moorland and peat mosses.

In this bleak landscape were the scattered holdings of the tenant farmers. These little clusters of habitation with their associated patches of clear and cultivated ground were situated in the area of the later village of Alloway (near the church, the mill and the bridge), Corton, Broomberry and Carcluie. It is interesting to note that these settlements existed before Alexander II granted the lands to the burgh of Ayr in 1236. One thing, however, is certain: the system of cultivation changed little in the 500 years that followed that event. In the absence of contemporary descriptions, however, we have to rely on the detailed accounts of Fullarton (1793) and Aiton (1811) to build up a picture of what the countryside, and life within it, had become by mid 18th century.

The farmland was divided into the out-field and the in-field or croft-land. The in-field lay nearest the farmhouse. It was fertilised with all the available manure. Some three or four crops of oats, followed by one of bigg (a four-rowed barley) were grown on it in successive years. Thereafter it remained fallow for a year, before being ploughed and the sequence repeated. The out-field received no manure except from grazing animals. Crops of oats were grown on it until the ground was exhausted and could not pay for the seed and labour, let alone a little surplus meal for the family. It was then left for five or six years to recover, during which time it became overrun with weeds, thistles, etc. Beyond the out-field, lay the rough grazing land accessible to all.

The arable land lay in rigs, strips of land between 6 and 12 m. broad (see page 11). The crown of the rig was considerably higher than the space that lay between the rigs. Surface water drained off it easily. But the hollows between the rigs were often waterlogged and overgrown or became baulks on which stones from the rigs were dumped and which were frequently covered with nettles, whin, broom and brambles. However, even these weeds had their uses, e.g. to eke out scarce winter fodder or in thatching.

Ploughing was not begun in Ayrshire until the beginning of

February or even later, depending on the weather. Four horses at least were needed to pull the heavy wooden plough and at least three men to handle it. This labour-intensive process was made necessary because "the plough was of the Scotch kind; and, as the land was generally stiff and full of stones, and never properly cultivated, it was thought necessary to construct it of the strongest and most clumsy materials" (Fullarton). In Alloway, some tenants also used oxen for ploughing. (In January 1518, William Law unsuccessfully took his servant Robin Blair to court seeking compensation because he had driven an ox to death under the yoke.) Afterwards, the ground was harrowed in preparation for the seed. Oats were seldom sown before April, with the barley often being planted towards the end of May. Each tenant had several rigs, and, to ensure fairness in allocation, all the rigs were redistributed regularly. No tenant was allowed adjacent rigs.

Unlike today, the holdings were unenclosed. Only beside the farmhouses were dykes to be found, and these were to protect the kailyard and cornyard from the animals. Thus when the crops were growing or at harvest, the animals had to be tethered or moved by herd boys who took them out to graze every morning and brought them back at night by the same route or loning.

In September, the crops were harvested and prepared for milling into flour. For this purpose, the grain was carried on packhorse to the Barony's mill not far from the mouth of the River Doon.

The lives of the people of the Barony of Alloway revolved round the land. They relied on the land to provide them with all their need, to enable them to survive. Their animals provided food, clothing etc. Materials for building came from the out-field land. Their diet especially from the late 15th century was based on oats, which was their main crop.

Land Tenure

In Alexander II's charter of 1236, reference is made to the five pennylands of Alloway. All Burgh and Barony records show that the land-holdings were measured according to value, i.e. shilling lands, merklands (1 merk = 13/4), etc. The tenant paid annually the assessment value of his holding and in this way the Barony provided Ayr Burgh with an income of £53. The holdings (malings) were set (leased) at the Whitsunday Court, the tenants standing surety for each other. Payment was expected at Martinmas (11 November) and Whitsunday. Several were often in arrears and had to be warned by the Barony officer. Failure to pay meant loss of the holding. On 17 November 1741, "the Magistrates and Council Considering That John Hutchision Tennent and possessor of the Two merkland in Alloway Formerly Rentalled by John Fairrie has removed himself with his family from the said possession and carried off his Stock Cropt [Crop] and plenishing [goods and equipment] clandes-

tinely and under clouds of night without acquainting them thereof They resolve and agree That the said two merkland be Sett in Tack by way of Publick roup for the space of Thirteen years from Martinmas last and the Grassum or entry money to be Roused with in the Tolbooth upon Tuesday the Eleventh of December next betwixt the hours of Two and three afternoon And ordain Intimation to be made by beat of Drum each Friday and at the Kirk door on a Sabbath day in the ordinary way."

In the late 16th century the system was changed. A tenant on entry to a lease now paid a grassum (entry fee) and an annual feu duty which was no longer a fixed money payment of 1 merk per merkland but a 'victual ferme' of 1 boll of beir (barley) per merkland. This meant that the rents, tied to the price of barley, could be maintained at realistic levels in times of inflation. Thus while in 1539-40, the total Barony mail or rent had been £53 (approx. 80 merks), in 1614-15 it had become over 28 bolls of beir (barley) at 10 merks (£6 13s. 4d) per boll i.e. £190 12s 6d (plus £34 6s 8d from lands not yet feued); and in 1723-24, it had risen to just over 80 bolls beir at £7 13s 4d per boll i.e. £613 15s 2d, a very considerable portion of Ayr Burgh's income.

Farmhouses

By the 18th century, the farmhouse was a long rectangular building which often included within it a dwelling, byre, stable and barn, all connected in a straight row. The main element was the dwelling and byre. This part was divided into two by a passageway linking the front door and the back door. Entry for people and beasts alike was through the front door. The back door led to the kailyard as well as the cornyard behind the barn. Doors were low, seldom more than 1.5 m. high. The windows, often fitted with shutters and later, occasionally, glass, were small, about 50 cm. high and 30 cm. wide, thus reducing the effects of wind and rain, but also ensuring a gloomy interior.

The roof was carried on couples or crucks which sprang from near the ground at some 2.5 m. to 3 m. intervals. Brushwood was spread over the roof-tree and sidebeams or ribs which connected and held in place the couples. This in turn was covered with turves or clay mixed with cut straw to keep out the rain. The outside walls, and often the internal partitions, were of turf or mud plastered on to a wattle framework. The simplicity of structure meant that the construction of a new building could be swiftly carried out and, in the case of renovation, the walls and roof of a farm could be dismantled and replaced in a relatively short time.

The main part of the building which served the family for lodging, sleeping, cooking, etc. was called the in-seat. This was about 3.6 m. or 4.2 m. square, with the fire either in the centre or in the gable, initially without a chimney. Roof space was normally open, but in some larger

houses a flooring of branches and turf was often laid between the crossbeams. This provided space for extra storage or sleeping accommodation. In larger farmhouses, another apartment of nearly the same dimensions, and which was entered through the in-seat, was called the spense. Here the farmer and his wife and some of the children slept in their box beds, here visitors could be entertained but here also some more valuable items of furniture and household equipment could be stored, e.g. the meal chest, spinning wheel, and even the tub for stale urine (for fixing dyes).

The other part of the building was occupied by the cattle. They too entered by the fore door, turning into the byre through another door opposite the in-seat. Just outside the front door lay the dungheap and the midden dub, a pond of putrid liquid, into which the juices from the midden drained and which received dead dogs, cats, etc. as well as the contents of the sinks and gutters which collected the urine of the cattle, the refuse of the dairy and every kind of offal.

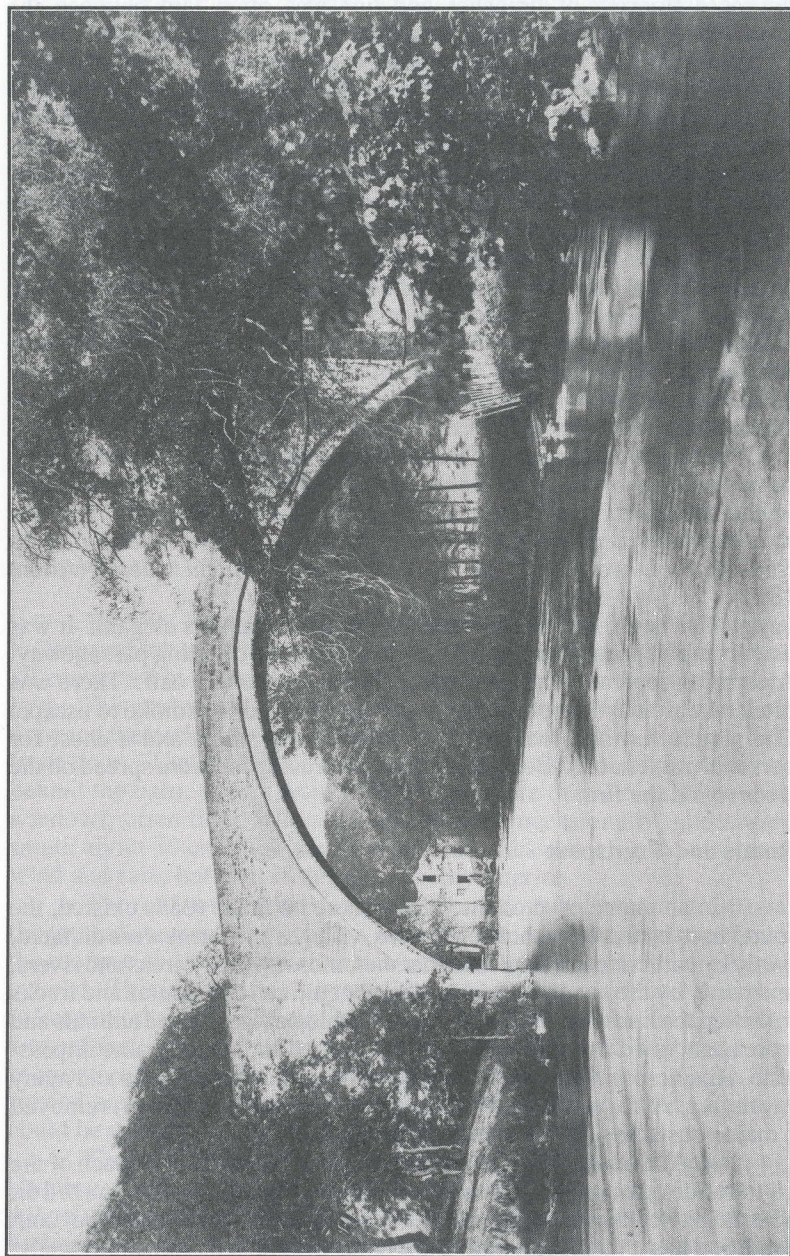
"the stench of these and that of the perennial urine in the wash-boyn within doors (by some denominated stale matter) were sufficient to impair the health, and destroy the comfort of the whole inhabitants. If a stranger attempted to reach the house after night fall, without a guide, he could scarcely avoid sinking to the knees in mire or putrid water." (Aiton, 1811)

The house of a poorer farmer or a cottar was less elegant. It was usually of the house and byre pattern but without a dividing passageway. A partition separated the family from the single cow or calf. There was often no chimney: a hole at the roof ridge allowed the smoke to escape. The simple furniture consisted of a bench and stools and a chest for personal possessions. Beds of heather and brushwood were spread on the floor round the fire.

Roads and Transport

In an unenclosed countryside, where no made roads existed, the routes used by travellers between towns, villages and farms were dictated, partly by natural features such as marshes, mosses, rocky areas and rivers, and partly by the need to avoid land under cultivation. Routes and tracks followed the lines which afforded least problems for men and animals and were abandoned as their condition deteriorated and they became impassable. River crossings by ford or bridge were of key importance and many towns, e.g. Ayr, grew up at such points. Bridges, in particular, removed a major obstacle to the movement of animals and men.

At Alloway, the ford across the River Doon above the reach of the highest tides was succeeded in the 15th century by a bridge (see page 16). This bridge, like the earlier ford, gave access to Carrick and beyond. Tradition has it that it was built from funds provided by James Kennedy,



AULD BRIG O' DOON

Bishop of St. Andrews, who died on 24 May 1465. Unlike the Auld Brig of Ayr which was being rebuilt in stone in 1491 and which is carried over the River Ayr on four arches (span 16.5 m.), the Brig of Doon has a single span of 21.6 m. between abutments. The span and rise of the arch, in relation to the levels of the river banks, produced steep gradients over the bridge.

Two routes from Ayr led to this bridge (see page 9). The first passed south from the Sandgate, through the uncultivated coastal land of the Burrowfield and then over the Curtecan (Slaphouse) Burn. Pont's map of c. 1610 showed an existing bridge at this point. On reaching the River Doon, this route followed the river upstream past Alloway mill and the kirk to the bridge. The second, from the High Street and Townhead, also headed south to cross the Curtecan at Slaphouse. Pont indicated a crossing point here. From it, the route led more directly to the bridge over the Doon, giving quickest access to Carrick and beyond. It was probably the route which the laird of Bargany took in December 1601, when, against his friends' advice and in dreadful weather conditions, he left the comparative safety of Ayr for home. He paused on the south side of the bridge over the Doon before moving on to Brockloch and his fateful encounter with the Earl of Cassillis and his men. It was back over the bridge and along the same route that he was brought to die from his wounds in Ayr.

Within the barony, the route from Slaphouse to the Brig of Doon led also from the bridge, past Alloway motte and thence south to Dalrymple. From Alloway motte, the Burgh Records also record the presence of a "coal road" over towards the Stockridge Burn. A track also led from near Corton north over the Curtecan, then west through the Burrowfield to reach the shore between Cunning Park and Blackburn. Along this wrack road were brought the loads of seaweed to fertilise the rigs of the Upper Barony. The road from Ayr to Dalmellington crossed the eastern corner of the Corton lands (later Cockhill and Mosshill).

Transport was mainly by horse. Ayr Burgh Accounts contain many references to payments for the horses of Alloway for conveying stone, lime, etc. to various building projects in Ayr. In 1580-81, the Treasurer, Henry Osburne, paid out £26 13s. 4d. to the minister (Mr. John Porterfield) in part payment of a mare promised him to transport his gear to Ayr. Similarly, grain to the mill, manure from the byre, sea wrack from the shore, etc. would have been carried in sacks or baskets slung on both sides of packhorses. -Heavy loads were also transported by means of sledges or slipes. Sometimes a kind of travois was used, the ends of the two long shafts being dragged along the ground (see page 11). Carts with solid tumbler wheels could be used but the condition of the tracks made them unsatisfactory. In 1753, Lord Cathcart offered carts to his tenants in Carrick but the state of the roads was so bad that hardly any accepted his offer.

The Barony Mills

Within a barony, all land was tied or 'thirled' to the mill. Barony tenants, therefore, had to take all the grain they produced to the mill to be ground. For this they had to pay certain dues. The 'baron', in Alloway's case the Burgh of Ayr, received 'multures', while the miller's portion was his 'knaifship'. The miller had the sole responsibility for the grinding of the grain and (23 April 1506) "*the uphalding of the myll with the help of the sukkine as auld use and wont wes*". Sucken (here 'sukkin') was the term used of a barony's lands or tenants thirled to a particular mill.

The revenues of the corn mill contributed considerably to Ayr Burgh. From Ayr Burgh Accounts of 1534-35, for example, we see that John Myllar's mail or rent of the mill yielded £40. By 1619-20, a later John Miller's rent was £53 6s 8d and the multures £146 13s 4d, a total of £200 received by David Fergusson, the Burgh Treasurer.

Not only were the tenants liable to pay the multures, they were also bound to a variety of duties in connection with the maintenance of the mill: e.g. repairs and alterations to the buildings, clearing and upkeep of the lade, conveying the millstones to the mill, mending the mill dam, etc. On 13 October 1500, the tenants were obliged to help in repairing the mill within eight days. Anyone who failed to contribute his labour had to pay five shillings to the miller. On 26 May 1662, measures were initiated for rebuilding the gable wall of the mill. Inevitably, the pressures of multures and duties strained the relationships between millers and tenants and frequently their disputes ended up in the barony court.

Upriver from Alloway Mill and the Bridge of Doon lay the Waulk Mill of Alloway. Its local name, the Dutch Mill, is said to derive from its construction by a company of miners from Holland who worked a lead mine on Brown Carrick Hill. Evidence to support that connection is lacking. On the other hand, from the late 16th century the Government, in attempts to improve the Scottish woollen industry, did pass legislation (e.g. in 1582) to encourage groups of Flemings to come to Scotland to provide instruction for apprentices. Again, this possible connection requires further examination. The Alloway waulk mill was in operation before 1535 when Thomas Browne, Burgh Treasurer, is recorded in Ayr Burgh Accounts as receiving £2, its annual rent. To it, the tenants who kept sheep would take the wool for treatment. Details of any thirlage relationship between tenants and miller are not known. During the decade after 1576, the rent was almost always in arrears. In 18th century, the Burgh Records indicated developments. On 9 September 1721 "*the wake miln of Alloway and the houses belonging thereto and peice of arable land upon the Southwest side of the way leading from the said milne to the Bridge of Doon Extending to two ruids [roods] or thereby*" were set to William Galt, dyster in Alloway, together "*with the kailyeard following*

the houses presently possess by Bessie Porter in Alloway and as much room as will serve for having a dyehouse built near to the miln houses and twenty paces square of ground in the miln Isle on which he is to sett up tenters for his cloath." The timber necessary for the building (*rib and roof*) was to be made available. The lease was for twenty four years during which time Galt was required to maintain the mill "*in a sufficient going condition.*"

THE BARONY COURT OF ALLOWAY

Robert I's creation of the lands of Alloway, Corton and Carcluie into "*one, free barony*" had one unusual feature. Instead of having as its baron one individual to administer it on behalf of the Crown, like a kind of local government officer, Alloway had the Royal Burgh of Ayr.

The focus for this administration of the barony affairs was the Barony Court. Its proceedings were under the control of the alderman or provost and two baillies, selected by the Magistrates of Ayr. Assisting these officials were the jury or inquest (*inquisicio*) made up of the barony tenants, who on each occasion were all summoned to attend by the Barony officer or sergeant. Initially, all members of the jury were tenants and over the years and from meeting to meeting the numbers varied considerably, e.g. thirteen on 15 April, 1494 and twenty-one on 14 October, 1516. From early 17th century, the jury numbered fifteen of whom five were drawn from the Barony.

The normal meeting place of the Court, by the time the records began in 1492, was the tolbooth in Ayr. Tradition suggests that meetings were also held at other venues, e.g. Alloway Motte. Attendance by the tenants was compulsory. Failure to attend or "*fault off comperance*" resulted in a fine. The guilty individuals were "*in amerciament off the court*", e.g. on 24 February, 1514 "*Johne mwr amerciast [fined] for falt off comperance*".

Appropriate behaviour in Court was expected. David Bellisbank, on 12 February 1537, was fined "*for speking in Jugement without leif [permission] askit and gevin.*" On 27 April 1501, Thomas Fary indicated he did not like the Court's justice and was promptly fined for "*for impertinet speche*". The outburst was probably occasioned by the fact that he had just received other two fines for his part in land disputes with his neighbours. His wife, Isobel Montgomery, was also fined at the same meeting for tying up a number of ewes found among her corn, with the result that one had died. The rural nature of Barony life is well demonstrated by the Court records. These cover the years 1492-1753 (with a few gaps) and illustrate the variety of business transacted. Although the same individuals were involved in each, the Courts fell into two distinct types - the Head Court and the Whitsunday Court.

In the 15th century, a Head Court (*curia capitalis*) seems to have been held as the need arose, e.g. in 1497 meetings took place on 26 April, 19 May, 11 July, 24 October, 12 December. But from the late 16th century, the records usually contain the details of one annual Head Court, held in October after Michaelmas.

The Head Court at Michaelmas set the prices of the various commodities, ale and beir, cakes of oat bread, corn and hay for horses, and oats and barley straw, fixing the penalties for those who broke the regulations. The same Court appointed the various officials whose tasks ensured the supervision of the various elements of Barony life: the liners (for fixing boundaries) and cunners (testers) of ale and beer, the constables, the censors for swearing, the eveners and the Barony officer or sergeant. The eveners, usually five in number including the Barony officer, measured out land holdings and checked boundaries, etc. in disputes, which ranged from individual tenants surreptitiously extending their property at someone else's expense (e.g. Thomas Fary, 2 May 1503) to arguments (e.g. between the 'twa wedowis', Marion Wilson and Marion McCallon, 30 April 1499) over the exact extent of land leased ('delt daills'). The Barony officer, appointed or re-appointed annually, figures prominently in the Court records as he carried out the diverse tasks assigned to him by the Court. In 1603, he received £10 from the Burgh Treasurer to pay the men from Alloway for bringing sand and stones for the building of the new Hospital in Ayr. He warned the tenants of all imminent Court meetings. He collected the special taxes ('stents') the tenants had to pay, e.g. in 1601, when the money was a contribution to the king for outfitting ambassadors to go to France and Ireland (he was allowed 5 merks for doing this). On occasion, an officer was 'deforced', prevented from carrying out his duties — a serious offence. On 24 January 1530, Thomas Gilmour and Meg Rankin, his mother, 'deforced' Thomas Fary, the officer, from confiscating their possessions. Inevitably, the officers met with criticism and accusations from their fellow-tenants. On 23 January 1508, for instance, "*Wille Arthur sergeand wes accusit be the alderman and baillies for the non execucion of his office in the Inbryngyng of the townys detts*".

The Whitsunday Court, each year, was the occasion for the holdings (*malings*) to be reset to their tenants or, for whatever reason, to new ones. Also leased at this time were the Fishings on the River Doon. In 1492, they were leased at four merks per annum to John Paterson. A hundred years later, in 1592 they were feued to John Kennedy, the laird of Baltersan, for an entry fee of £200 and an annual rent of 20 merks. In addition, the laws governing behaviour in the Barony were ratified or modified, as required. The earliest copy of the Alloway Barony laws appears in the record of the Whitsunday Court proceedings held in the Ayr Tolbooth before Adam Wallace, alderman, and Alexander Lockhart and Richard Reid, baillies, on 10 May, 1529. They may be summarised as

follows:

1. no tenant should 'ride rout', or serve in other lordships or have other masters than the burgh (the baron).
2. tenants should have recourse to law only in their own barony and burgh courts
3. no tenant should defy the church's censures for more than forty days in the hope of escaping justice
4. no tenants should bring in outsiders to force out their neighbours or threaten them
5. no widow should marry or bring in another tenant within the barony without official permission
6. no tenant, male or female, be caught committing adultery
7. all must readily answer and obey their officials for the defence, good and welfare of the whole burgh, as often as necessary
8. no tenant should interfere with the fishings on the Doon without permission - and anyone who does must be reported.

The following year, the same statutes were repeated and ratified, with two additions:

9. no tenant should destroy the timber within a land holding but should protect (*hain*) it
10. no tenant should hold or set any part of his holding in acre portions (*dales*).

Breach of any of the above meant loss of the culprit's land.

The judicial cases, in which these laws were applied, were characteristic of life and work in a small rural community. Complaints and charges concerned such matters as:

- (a) Debts:
Failure to pay, pay in full or pay back ('*wrangus withhalding*') constituted the commonest complaints dealt with. Ayr Burgh Accounts record several occasions when the tenants of Alloway were warned that, if rents were not paid, their land holdings would be forfeit. These warnings met with limited success. The Barony Court books abound with references to debts, goods and money owed to the town and to individuals. On 6 August 1501, John Fary was summoned by Arthur Hunter for "*the wrangus wythhaldin fra him of 13s. of silver of the price of ane ox*". At the Head Court, held on 18 November 1516, John Neill in Corton summoned Thomas Fary "*for the wrangus withhalding fra him of ane quhit*

[white] hat that he lent him to the feild of floudoun [Flodden] And the said Thomas grantit he borowit fra him the said quhit hatt and allegit that it wes tynt [lost] in the said feild".

Failure to pay, however, could have serious results. On 18 October, 1678 (Burgh Records), David Campbell, Barony officer, "*fensit and arrestit*" the possessions of James Bon, tenant in a 4 merkland farm in Carcluie, viz. two white horses, one brown-coloured horse, six cows, two stots (bullocks), two corn stacks and one beir (barley) stack within the stackyard, forty 'threive' of corn within the barn, thirty sheep, together with all his furniture and household goods within his dwelling house.

(b) Crimes against Property, Possessions:

Inevitably in a rural community problems arose from uncontrolled wandering of animals, e.g. pigs and geese. In 1499, the Court decreed that all swine were to be tethered by means of a ring in their nose or else their "*wort* [snout] *cuttyt*". If any were found loose or without their tethers, they would be '*chettit*' (confiscated). In the same year, John Fary accused Thomas Millar of illegally occupying and manuring an acre of land in Gairholm and then removing the corn crop — but the case failed. On 30 April 1499, John Blair sued Rob Riche for, among other things, the breaking of his yard dyke, the delving of his kail beds and sowing hemp upon the same ground. On 9 November 1506, Alan Fary confessed to the stealing and concealing of a dun ox from Duncan McConnell, but denied breaking into Thomas Fary's barn and stealing a scythe. He also stood accused of stealing a grey horse from Willie Dawe. The Inquest found him guilty of "*thift Inbringyne in the baronye and outtakyng thiftuslie and als for comone thift*". But the consequences of theft could be far more serious. On 18 February 1603, Robert Mure, a smith, born in Alloway, was accused of theft and confessed. The sentence of death by hanging was carried out by the locksman, at the cost to the town of £1.

(c) Assault:

Violence in disputes was a fairly frequent occurrence, the variety of weapons used impressive. Andro Jamesone (5 May 1500) accused the younger Jok Fary "*for cuming apon him wyth a knyff the quhilk he was halding and he denyit he drew oulder swerd or knyff*". The Inquest could find no evidence of wounds and fined them both for the "*flytting*" (quarrelling). On 19 May 1497, Willie Law the younger (a hired servant of John Fary) was accused of leaving his plough and service. His reason for the action was that he could not return "*dredand his bodelie harme*". John Fary had struck him, "*brekand a tre upon his hede*". Law was acquitted. On

22 August 1530, "*Alexander lokart forspekar for Johnne law accusit in Jugisment Isbell mc grane his moder for the wrangus cummyne apon him within his awin hous and striking of him with ane raik and be the hair of the heid held him and straik him with hir neffs* [fists] *and brocht hir tother sone and wtheris to the nummyr of four personis apon him and straik him. The said Isbell denyit ony strikin of him and allegeit at he come apon hir within hir awin borne* [barn] *and straik hir and drew ane drawin suerd to hir*". Lokart asked for some time to produce proof of their accusation.

(d) Transfer of Property:

Considerable care was taken by the Court to ensure that dependent relatives of deceased tenants were looked after and that transfer of property (usually within a family) caused no problems. On 18 June 1511, Willie Blair, eldest son of the late John Blair in Meikle Corton, received his father's holding on condition that he accept the usual responsibilities, i.e. "*to mak thankfull doservice for his maling as utheris nyctbouris, payment yerlie and termelie of the said maill or in thyme of weir to performeis ane competent man to mak the King and the tone* [town] *service*". Failure to meet the conditions would lose him the maling. At the same time, provision had to be made for his mother, Myrim McClurg. She was to have and occupy the steading "*endurand hir wedowheid*". Similarly on 29 November 1529, there was "*sett all and haill the 16/- lands that umquhile* [the deceased] *William arthur yonger had in maling land in mekill cortoun within the baronye of alloway to Andro Arthur his sonne with the consent and assent of cristeyne of lawe his moder for all the dayis of his lyvetyne the said cristeyne his moder brwkand* [enjoying] *the tane half of the said maling bath in housis and lands for all the dayis of hir live endurend hir wedowheid and the said Andro the tother half. And efter his said moderis deceis the said Andro brwkand the haill maling for all the dayis of his lyve*"

(e) Resources:

In Alexander II's charter of 1236, the burgesses of Ayr were enjoined not to "*burn, nor give away, sell, nor in any wise destroy, green wood on the said lands* [of Alloway], *but shall only take what is necessary for their own buildings of Ayr, and for making their own boats of Ayr.*" Ayr Burgh Accounts contain many references to the use of Alloway wood, e.g. In 1535, "*To the children of the barony of Alloway, for bringing 200 trees, 3 shillings*". Presumably this wood was for repair of the tolbooth. In 1543, timber was brought from Alloway and Gadgirth Wood, at the cost of £7 8s. 2d., and in 1584, the Alloway men received 10/- "*for carrying timber*". Accordingly, tenants were ordered by the Barony Court on numerous

occasions to ensure the appropriate "haining" (conserving) for building purposes of all the turf and wood on their lands. On 30 October 1522, among serious problems listed with leprosy and "pickery" (theft) is "the cutting of grene wood". Eighteenth century rentals all contained clauses to this effect and some included an injunction to plant. On 26 December 1727, John Neil's rental of the 2 merkland of Midtown of Alloway obliged him or his overseers to plant "ffourty oak ash or plain trees in or about the yeards of the lands hereby Rentalled within one year after the dait hereof

Quarries in Alloway were also exploited, e.g. in 1543, 12/2d. was paid for the Alloway horses "to cart stones for the filling", part of the ongoing work at the harbour. In 1592, £4 was "paid in placks for the Alloway horses that brought turf, sand and lime to the Brig and Quay". Again, the following two years, lime and turf were being transported to the harbour. Indeed, the horses of the Barony were very much in demand for a wide variety of additional purposes (e.g. 1610, "to clean the calsays"). On 13 July 1749, it was reported by the Dean of Guild to Ayr Burgh Council that a new source of stone and lime had been discovered in Alloway. This quarry was beside the River Doon, next to Alloway Crofts. By 17 January 1750, the Master of Works had examined the quarry next to Alloway Kirk and found it workable.

On 18 May 1528, Adam Wallace of Craigie (by this time resident in Newton Castle), and Stephen Preston, notary public and later town clerk of Ayr, were given in tack for seven years the right to search for and work coal within the barony of Alloway. Possibly because it was a speculative venture, Wallace and Preston had the tack "mail fre", i.e. were not required to pay rent until the tack expired. If at that time they wished and could match any other individuals' offers, they could have the tack renewed. If successful in finding coal, they were required to ensure that every freeman was to be served in turn ("hors eftir hors" - first come, first served) so that the poor "be als weil servit as the rych". The venture must have met with some success as the lease was renewed for Adam Wallace, alderman, for seven years on the same terms on 22 May 1531, before the original lease had run out. How long the work continued is uncertain. In 1702, an attempt to maintain a colliery within Alloway at Broomberry-yards was abandoned. Again in 1728, a final attempt to extract coal more extensively by a company formed by local merchants and others was abandoned after less than two years. The outcrop at Broomberry continued to be worked by the rentallers of Corton. For this right, they had to supply the magistrates of Ayr with eighty cart loads of coal annually - a perquisite which ceased after 1754, though not before the magistrates received

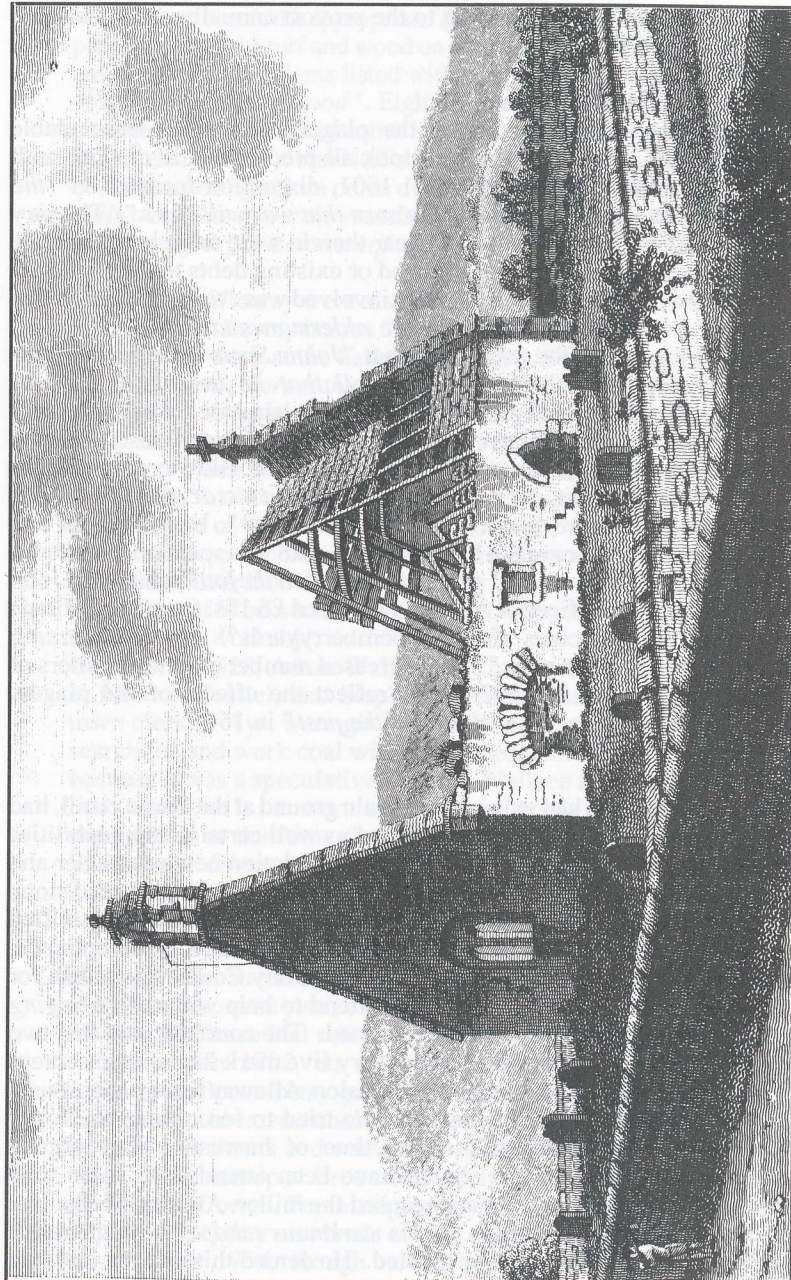
compensation (£4 Sterling to the provost annually and £3 to each of the baillies).

(f) Public Health:

Disease, and in particular the plague, was of understandable concern. The Barony Court took all precautions in dealing with such problems. On 27 April 1501, discussion focused on "the infeckit hous in alway and the corn that was wille fars". The jury ordained that the house and gear therein were to be burnt and the corn crop used to cover incurred or existing debts to the town. At the same time, anybody closely involved was "to cum nocht within the town without licence of the alderman and ballies". On 30 October 1522, the jury found that "Johne Speir is suspect of lepir [leprosy] and therfor thai consall that he be lukit be expert personis". In 16th and 17th centuries, plague or "the pest" was a fairly frequent disaster to befall Scottish communities. The Ayr Burgh Accounts record (1546) the use of the Alloway revenues for William Neisbit, "kepar of the town and furnissar of the seik folkis upoun the mure [moor] in tyme of the pest". In 1606, Ayr and Alloway were ravaged by the plague. £28 was spent on a kettle for cleaning the clothes of plague victims "on the foull muir" and John Brown, the Officer of Alloway, received £6 15s. from burgh funds for bringing coals (from Broomberryyards?) "to the cleaning cauldron on the muir". The increased number of new rentallers of Barony lands in 1607-8 may reflect the effects of the plague. Alloway was again visited by "the pest" in 1647.

(g) Alloway Mill:

As all tenants had to have their grain ground at the Barony mill, had to pay for this to be done and had as well certain responsibilities with regard to the running of the mill, friction between miller and tenants was not uncommon. When, for instance, a new mill stone was required, the tenants' assistance had to be forthcoming. Often pressure had to be exerted by the miller to ensure their compliance. In 1499, Thomas Millar wanted the Barony Court to establish for him what anyone who failed to attend to help with the "bringing hame the mill stane" should be fined. The court decreed that two men should be provided from every five merk land and absentees should be fined 2d. On another occasion, Alloway tenants vigorously complained about a tacksman who tried to force them to "bring hame" new millstones at the time of harvest. They argued successfully that this should have been attended to some time before. In 1509 John Fary accused the miller, Andrew Myllar, for spilling 12 bolls of corn "in his warkmans schope" with the result that 2 bolls of meal were spoiled. He denied this and the jury had



ALLOWAY KIRK c. 1791

difficulty in estimating just how much the cost of the damage should be.

On 10 June 1516, trouble again at the mill. Andro Johnson, the miller, was accused of the "*wrangus occupacion lawboring and manwring of the tane half of the myll of Alloway and for the wrangus intromitting and wptaking of the haill multer and knaifschip of the sammyn sene 15 dais efter witsoundai last bipast*". The difficulty arose from half of the holding having already been set to the complainant, William Miller and he was entitled to half the multures and knaifship. The quarrel between the two millers was a bitter one, and extended to arguments over possession of a mill house, which prompted further investigation into "*the wrangus distruction of ane pert of the townis mylle housis and away haiffing of ane part of the tymmyr (timber) of the sammyn*". Andro Johnson was found guilty. On 4 November 1565, John Miller of Alloway mill lost his holding for failing to carry out one of the basic requirements of a Barony tenant. He failed to report for military service at Stirling.

THE CHURCH OF ALLOWAY IN KYLE

For most visitors, the story of Kirk Alloway begins and ends with Robert Burns and his family and the immortal "*Tam O'Shanter*." Yet before its earliest representation (see page 26) in Captain Francis Grose's *Antiquities of Scotland* some four hundred years of its history had already elapsed. It is extremely difficult however to piece together the elements of that history.

Structure:

Part of the problem in constructing a coherent sequence stems from the confused picture the building itself presents. The structure as it now stands shows clear evidence of many alterations over the centuries and partial reconstructions. In plan, it is a simple rectangle, 13.95 m. long and 7.7 m. wide. The walls are 0.9 m. thick. In the east gable is a small double lancet window of 14th century type, whose upper section has been restored. This gable is topped by an open belfry, housing a small bell approximately 25 cm. in diameter. The inscription reads "FOR THE KIRK OF ALOUAY 1657". Most of it, in Roman lettering, is in relief but the word Alouay has been incised somewhat crudely on a raised name strip. A leaf border runs above and below the inscription. Despite the tradition that there were originally two bells and that the people of

Alloway stole a march on the parishioners of Dalrymple in getting hold of the better sounding bell (which had been destined for Dalrymple), the founder, probably James Monteith of Edinburgh, would have available a stock of such bells, from which a Kirk Session would select one. The name would then be incised and the bell hung.

The south wall shows evidence of much rebuilding. A large section, overshadowed by ancient sycamore trees and possibly pushed over by the power of their roots, has been extensively rebuilt. A holy water stoup has been incorporated in the masonry. At the east end of the same wall is a doorway. Above it the lintel bears the date 1516. Many writers have accepted the inscription as indicating the foundation of the church. But the doorway and the mortuary enclosure to which it leads are centuries later than the inscription date, while the original church is over a century earlier. Also in the south wall is a small rectangular window, whose lintel has been made from a medieval graveslab. Other small windows of the same shape have been built high into the west gable and into the middle of the north wall. The east end of the north wall shows traces of a low broader opening (2 m. wide) of unknown purpose, while towards its west end is a pointed arch doorway of medieval (possibly 14th century) date.

The interior is divided in two by a high wall, possibly of early 19th century date. It was this wall and its purpose which so enraged Nathaniel Hawthorne on his visit to the Burns country in December 1854. "*The interior,*" he wrote, "*is divided in the midst by a wall of stone masonry, and each compartment has been divided into a family burial place. The name on one of the monuments is Crawford: the other bore no inscription. It is impossible not to feel that those good people, whoever they may be, had no business to thrust their prosaic bones into a spot that belongs to all the world And here those wretched squatters have lain down in their long sleep, after barring each of the two doorways to the kirk with an iron gate! May their rest be troubled till they rise and let us in!*"

The structural evidence thus would indicate that the building is a small parish church, typical of the 13th and 14th centuries. There are several examples extant in Ayrshire, e.g. Loudoun, Prestwick St. Nicholas, Monkton St. Cuthbert, Old Dailly. All were small, rectangular, with thick walls, starkly simple with few small windows, no glass and an earthen or paved floor. (Only the parish church of Ayr was the exception, being cruciform and richly endowed).

In the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, the original structure was extensively rebuilt and modified to suit changing needs, both religious and secular.

Dedication:

The tradition is that the original church was dedicated to St. Mungo. Evidence for this is scanty. Not far from its south-west corner

lies St. Mungo's well (traditionally so called). But perhaps of greater relevance is the connection of Carcluie with Glasgow Cathedral in 1116. Glasgow Cathedral was dedicated to St. Mungo, as were many churches associated with it. It should be noted, however, that on 27 July 1749 the Burgh Council Minute referring to the exploration of a new stone and lime quarry located it between "*St. Cuthbert's Well and the Watter of Doon*" [a clerical error?]. On 28 January 1532, also, the Barony Court record referred to "*Sanct cutherts lycht*".

Ministering to the Parish:

Unfortunately we have no definite records of any pre-Reformation priests who cared for the spiritual welfare of the people of Alloway parish. The Alloway Court Book records only the names of the priests and chaplains hired ("*feit*") to serve in various capacities in the parish church of Ayr, e.g. on 9 July 1509, Sir Jaspar Rolland, Sir John Fair, Sir Thomas McQuhynze, Sir William Reid, Sir Hew Rolland, and Sir Johne Bullok. Did any of these chaplains have a role to play also in Alloway? It is probably very likely. But how the service was organised or paid by the authorities, we do not know. It was, however, part of the function of the Burgh Council as '*barons*' of Alloway to see to the collection and disbursement of the parish church revenues. Not all that they did was supportive of the parish priests, e.g. on 30 October 1522, the Barony Court recorded the decision that "*It is referrit to the Inqueist to find ane akir of land nerrest to the myll The Inqueist thenks expedient to tak fra the preist his akir.*"

The Barony Court books afford only glimpses of individuals connected with the parish. On 9 November 1529, "*the alderman and baillies ordanis Johne mwr to bring Agnes Thompsone the relict of umquhill Johne neill to the parroche kirk of alway apon sunday nixt to cum at the he mes [High Mass] tyme of day in presence of the haill parrocheane and thar to gif hir fre prevelege to pass to quhat frends scho plesis best.*" Earlier, on 18 May 1528, at the Whitsunday Court, the tenants and inhabitants of the "*town*" of Alloway were enjoined to fulfil their pasturage arrangements with the unnamed curate. At a similar court on 27 April 1540, the nolt, horse and hide customs were set to Robert Boyman and George Blair for four merks. The latter is described as "*parroche clerk of Alloway*".

After 1501 when King James IV re-established the Chapel Royal at Stirling, he granted revenues from Alloway parish to it to help maintain a prebendary there. Details are lacking. Before 1546 Sir Andrew Arnot, who was Archdeacon of Galloway (1543-1575) and also acquired the parsonage and vicarage of Penninghame, held the prebend of Alloway in the Chapel Royal. In 1546, he resigned and was succeeded by Sir Henry Arnot who was prebendary until his death in 1571. In 1567 James Ramsay began more than a decade as reader in Alloway. After the Reformation,

Mr. James Dalrymple became Minister of Ayr in 1568 with a stipend of £100. Dalrymple appeared first in the Burgh records as a chorister in Ayr church (1549 and 1554). In 1555, he was described as "*schir*" James Dalrymple, an indication that he was a priest. But in 1560 he was approved by the General Assembly to be a reader with power to preach and administer the sacraments.

Three years after his appointment to the ministry of Ayr, he was presented (1571) by the Crown to the additional charge of Alloway. After a bitter dispute with the Burgh Council his stipend was increased to £149 6s. 8d. On his death in 1580, William Campbell, his reader in Alloway from 1576, went off to Edinburgh as commissioner for the burgh of Ayr and gave the clerk to the Privy Council a bribe of £20 (charged to Ayr Burgh Accounts) to obtain the parsonage and vicarage of Alloway for Mr. John Porterfield. Mr. Porterfield came to Ayr at the end of an interesting career, but at Ayr he seems to have been regarded as well-intentioned but not particularly effective. It was perhaps unfortunate that his twenty years' service coincided with a period of national and local ecclesiastical unrest (in 1588, the visiting Archbishop of Glasgow was mobbed in the streets of Ayr) and of considerable civil violence, caused by the feuding among the various powerful families.

William Campbell, who from 1576 had been reader at Alloway, was succeeded in 1589 by Thomas Falconer. Falconer came to Alloway with a wealth of experience, having served as reader consecutively from 1568 at Colmonell, Kilbride, Girvan, Dailly and St. Quivox. As "*aid and helper*" to Mr. Porterfield, the young charismatic John Welsh was appointed in 1600 and in 1604 on Porterfield's death, John Welsh became, for a brief time, minister of Ayr.

During this Post-Reformation period the Barony Court records provide glimpses of parish life. On 25 May 1602, we find the Session and Kirk of Alloway concerned about Sabbath breakers. "*All brekkars of the Sabbath,*" they enacted, "*be not cuming to the Kirk and byding therfra without ane lauffull excuse untymous drinking or working upoun the Lords day To pay the penaltis foirsaidis (for the first fault one merk, for the second two merks and for the third four pounds) and sic as ar not responsibill in payment To stand and make ther publict repentance sammone dayis as the sessioun sall think gude according to the degre of ther offence*".

Later that same year (September 1602) an officer was set to search out such persons as "*resort not to the sermons on the Sabbath days*" and arrest them till they pay the appropriate penalty. This also applied to those who hid behind closed doors and did not open to the officer - but they paid double.

In 1612, Mr. William Birnie came from Lanark to be Minister of Ayr and two years later was presented by the king to the parsonage and vicarage of Alloway. He had a considerable reputation for physical agility and strength and won the respect of his parishioners for his piety and liberality to the poor.

After his death in 1619, the Minister of the Second Charge in Ayr, George Dunbar, succeeded him but fell foul of the authorities for not conforming to the articles of the Perth Assembly. Despite being deprived of his post, he continued to preach in Ayr until sent off to Ireland by royal warrant in 1624. Although described then as "*ane decrepite, poore, aged man,*" he served as minister at Larnie for twelve years before being allowed to return to Scotland to the charge at Mid-Calder.

His successor William Annand was presented to the parsonages and vicarages of both Ayr and Alloway by James VI on 2 August 1625. A talented preacher, his views were in sharp contrast to the strong Presbyterian sentiments of Ayr. His attempt to preach in support of Laud's Liturgy at the Synod in Glasgow on 30 August 1637 caused a riot and he was attacked on several occasions. The following year he was deposed by the General Assembly and retired to England to continue his ministry.

In the documentation relating to Annand's presentation to Ayr, we get a glimpse of how the situation had deteriorated in Alloway since the Reformation. It is recorded of James VI, that he was "*informit of the proximitie of the Kirk of Alloway to the Kirk of Air, and that the minister of the said Kirk hes since the Reformation of religion servit the cure of the Ministry, and celebrated the sacraments to the parishioners of Alloway in respect that they ly contingue and adjacent. Quhilk his Hieness ordained so to be done in time coming, speciallie seeing thair is na Kirk now standing within the said parochin, but being ane Chapel of auld is now become altogidder ruinous and decayit.*" That the Kirk of Alloway was in poor condition is understandable, given that the bulk of its revenues had been dispersed outwith the parish throughout most of its existence. But the instruction that the Minister of Ayr continue to see to the principal parish duties is contradicted by subsequent evidence. In 1628, Andrew Miller appeared at Alloway as minister, not connected with either of the ministerial charges of Ayr. He served the parish of Alloway independently for four years and was transferred to Girvan in 1632.

The records of the Presbytery of Ayr begin from April 1642. Alloway parish was a totally separate entity. The Alloway minister, Mr. David McQuorne, was present at the first recorded meeting. Indeed, one

of the first visitations of a Presbytery committee was to Alloway. The record of that event reads as follows:

*"The visitation of the kirk of Alloway
15 July, 1642*

Ministers Mr. Johne Fergushill, Moderator
 Mr. Robert hamilton (Ballantrae)
 Mr. William Adair (Ayr)
 Mr. William Scott (Coylton)
 Mr. David Mcquorne, Minister, thair

Ruling elders William Hunter, James Hunter

minister approven

After preaching by Mr. William Adair and incalling on the name of God, Mr. David Mcquorne removed. The session thair wer enquired concerning the datyme lyfe and conversation of their minister. They approved him in all things, except that he resides not at the kirk, because of the want of a manse and gleb competent.

Elders approved and admonished

The Elders removed. The minister was enquiryed concerning their fidelitie in their office. He approved them according to their knowledge and powir to be faythfull and assisters of him in the Lords worke. Onlie desyred that they might be admonished for better keeping of the session, quhilk wes done.

familie exercise keiped

The minister declared that familie exercise had bein exhorted to both in publict and privat and that it was keiped.

Session book

The session book presented, visited and approven.

The provision and the stipend of the kirk was fund to be fyve hundreth merkes and twentie merkes for furnishing the Elements.

no manse, two akers of gleb

No manse at all but two akers of land for the gleb.

no kirklands

It was found that thair wes no kirk land in the parochen and this wes ordained to be represented to the presbyterie.

accommodation

The kirk was fund to be accomodat for the use of the people

10 merkes to be payed

The Minister exhorted to bring in to the presbyterie ten merkes, quherof fyve merks is to be bestowed on a student in Glasgow. The uther fyve for a comissione to the generall assemble.

a prebendrie fund

It was declared that thair wes a prebendrie in the person of Hew Ross, who wptakes yearlie four score merkes out of the teithes of Alloway quhilk the session desyred to be appropriat and added to the minister's stipend. This was referred to the presbyterie.

Brigend his petition

The Laird of Brigend Younger presented a supplication in his fathers and his awin name for annexing of them, and thair tennents in the fyve merkland of Brigend to the kirk of Alloway for grave comfort thairin conteined. Quhilk petition was referred to the presbyterie.

Meannes of maintenance and transportation notioned

The minister Mr. David McQuorne regrated the meanness of his stipend and maintenance and declared that if it was not helped he wold be forced to sik transportation. The quhilk motion the brothers accepted of, desyring the same to be enacted and represented to the presbyterie."

The parish was visited again in 1644 and, despite the promise of the Kirk Session to build a manse at their own expense, Mr. McQuorn continued to be subject to the same censures of lack of manse and glebe and the unhelpful exhortation to "*reside more frequentlie at his kirk.*"

That the Presbytery visitors found the church fabric satisfactory suggests that much work had been done on the building since James VI's comments of 1625. Given the financial status of the parish, it is more than likely that the work had proceeded intermittently and continued until at least the erection of the belfry and installation of the bell in 1657.

Mr. McQuorn probably had other things on his mind too. His father, Mr. John McQuorn, the minister at Straiton, was having problems. The Presbytery was concerned to discover that he ignored their regulations by appointing elders on his own authority, "*without advyse of session and people*". Not only that, difficulties had arisen through "*the laichness [lowness] and infirmitie of his voyce*". Both he and his other son, Samuel, sought to have David McQuorn appointed as his assistant, a proposal which met with strong opposition among some of the Straiton parishioners. It was not, however, "*the tyme of his age and great infirmitie of body*" which proved John McQuorn's undoing. On 26 September, 1645, he was deposed by Presbytery as he "*usually frequents the aill-house, drinking indifferently with all sorts of persons from morning to night, except a little in the midst of the day, when he goes home to sleep*".

As if difficulties over manse, glebe, stipend and father were not enough, Mr. David McQuorne fell foul of the Presbytery on another account. 8 December 1647: "*Mr. David McCorne his excuse for his absence from the Presbytery the last meeting, and from his floke in tyme of the visitation by the plague being no wayes found satisfactorie, was*

heavily censured and exhorted to be more carefull to visit his floke hereafter, he further was ordained to dwell in Air betwix and Candlemesse nixt, otherwise to be suspended."

On 7 February 1649, it could at last be reported that the committee appointed "To designe ane gleeb of four aikers of good and sufficient arable land to the said kirk of Alloway" had completed its task. In addition to the two acres already possessed by Mr. McQuorne and his predecessors, they identified three other parcels of land: (a) one acre and a rood at that time possessed by William Simpson, (b) two pieces of land possessed by John Miller in Gaitsyd, and (c) four long rigs of which two belonged to John Fairie and two to John Pattersone and Janet Miller, his mother. The arrangements for the removal of the sitting tenants and settling the financial aspects of the minster's glebe were still being finalised in December 1655.

In 1662, Mr. David McQuorne was presented to Straiton parish. Thereafter Alloway church lacked a minister who clearly had the parish as his sole responsibility. In 1678 William Adair and his colleague, George White, the ministers of Ayr, were presented to the prebend of Alloway as well as that of Ayr, but this was more a small financial bonus rather than an acquisition of clear ministerial responsibilities. Adair's well-known opposition to Episcopacy resulted in the confinement of his duties to Ayr and to his eventual deposition in 1682. Throughout his ministry, he had the full support of his parishioners while his successor, Mr. William Waltersone, an Episcopalian, met with constant opposition. Mr. Waltersone even had to resort to law against his debtors, e.g. in 1686 James Blair in Meikle Corton owed him £24 Scots, his teind dues for the previous year. With the re-establishment of Presbyterianism, he was deposed in January, 1690 and more than a year later (6 August 1691), he had to petition the Privy Council in Edinburgh, indicating that "*having continowed in the exercise of the ministry at the kirk of Alloway, in the shire of Air, for several years, in a peaceable manner, till the year 1689, in which tyme, some few persons having no interest in the place, did, by violence and force, interrupt him.*" With his family he had remained in Ayr, hoping to return to the ministry. Furthermore, seeing the petitioner was, during his service at Alloway, destitute of "*a manse conveniently to dwell in,*" he had rented a house in Ayr. The upkeep of a large family and his serious financial situation meant that he was "*in great straits and difficulties*". His request for "*the stipend and benefice*" of the kirk of Alloway for the years 1689 and 1690 was heard sympathetically and the Council ordained that the stipend for 1689 be paid, the appropriate amount to be obtained from the various heritors, feuars, tenants, etc. On 20 October 1691, John Muir, a former provost of Ayr, met with Mr. Waltersone in Edinburgh and settled the debt. Unfortunately no successor to the Alloway Charge was forthcoming. In a time of shortage of acceptable ministers, it was perhaps inevitable that the amalgamation of

Ayr and Alloway parishes became a distinct possibility. Ayr Burgh Council recognised this and set the wheels in motion. Ayr Presbytery responded more slowly to the crisis.

Sadly the Presbytery records from 1651 to 1687 are missing and, when they start up again, Alloway parish is in the process of annexation to the parish of Ayr. Thus, on 23 December 1690 "*Alloway gave in a petition containing reasons against their annexation to Air, which was read, and the answer thereto delayed till next meeting*".

Discussion however had clearly been going on in other quarters. In the Burgh Council Records for 6 January 1691, we learn that the Provost, John Muir, had been to Edinburgh on town business and that among the writs, etc. he brought back was "*Ane Decreet of Annexatione of the Church and parochine of Alloway to Aire.*" In response to this, the rentallers of Alloway immediately raised an action to have the decree rescinded. The Magistrates, however, empowered the provost to return to Edinburgh to oppose this action to ensure that the decree of annexation might "*stand in full force being of great advantage both to the Burgh and barony*". Back in Alloway, the parishioners tried to keep the charge going but the Presbytery dragged its feet.

The Magistrates and Council, who in all the negotiations had been the prime movers, on 4 July 1693 appointed William Tough, the Burgh Treasurer, to uplift, collect and receive from the rentallers and tenants of Alloway the teinds and minister's stipend for the crops and years of God 1691 and 1692, to which they had right by the decreet of suppression of the church of Alloway and annexing it to the Kirk and Parish of Ayr. Later in 1694, discussions between the two Ministers of Ayr, Messrs. John Hunter and Patrick Linton, and the Magistrates resulted in the agreement that the stipend of Alloway (600 merks) would be divided equally between the two ministers.

From this time, too, the rental and tenancy documents relating to lands in the Barony contained in addition to the usual "*paying the minister's glebe money and stipend,*" the obligation "*to repair to the Church of Ayr, as his paroch Church, and to frequent and attend the ordinances thereat, the Kirk of Alloway being suppressed and annexed to the church of Ayr.*"

After this, the church became increasingly used as a place of burial. On 7 April, 1694 James Crawford of Newark (later of Doonside) was given permission to bury his child within Alloway Kirk and to have the privilege of the ringing of the Kirk bell. Later in October 1694, James Blair of Blairstone was allowed similar interment for his father. This practice, once established, was to last for more than a century.

During the first half of the 18th century, the building remained in use, if intermittently. William Boyle, who was born in 1735 and had worked as a horsehirer in Ayr, and David Ewen, a merchant in Ayr born before 1750, gave evidence in 1820 that they could remember Alloway

Kirk before the roof fell in. So too could John Hunter, a former carrier in Ayr and he reported having heard that *"the ministers of Ayr, after the parishes were united, now and then preached in the Kirk of Alloway."* The ministers also came to catechise and baptise till about 1756. There is a tradition that David Watt, miller at Doonfoot Mill, who died in 1823 aged 67 years was *"the last person baptised in Alloway Kirk."* John Maccolml, born 4 March 1741 near Sundrum, came to live in a small house near the bridge of Doon, on the Maybole side at Martinmas, 1747. He became a herd on various farms in the neighbourhood and eventually farm servant at Blairston Mains, before settling again at Doonside. As a boy he attended the *"school held in the kirk of Alloway."* Other pupils of the school are known. Mr. David Tennant, who later became Latin teacher in Ayr Academy and a friend of the Burns family, was born in 1734 in the farm of Bridgend Mains (Doonside). His father died in 1748 and he moved with his mother to the farm of Laigh Corton, where he remained till July 1755, when he took up residence on his first teaching post in Ayr. Tennant, for about a year, *"attended the school of Alloway, which was held in the church of Alloway, when he was about six years of age; and was oftener than once examined by the Reverend Dr. Dalrymple, minister of Ayr, in that church, along with the other scholars."* In 1765, however, Robert Burns, aged 6, attended school, but at that time it was held in Alloway Mill. From this, it would appear that from about 1760 the building ceased to be used and was allowed to deteriorate.

THE END OF THE BARONY

For almost five hundred years from its creation in 1324, the Barony of Alloway remained essentially a small rural community with limited resources. Though undoubtedly local and national conflicts, whether for secular or religious causes or both, had effects on the people of the Barony, their own records are only concerned with the day to day ordering of their working lives. Even the records of the Presbytery of Ayr provide little information and the Ayr Burgh Council Minutes offer only periodic glimpses of Alloway's involvement in the broader scene. Thus we know that in December 1745, of the men and weapons massed to deal with the Rebellion, Alloway supplied 41 men and 2 firelocks.

But by the 1750's, events external to the Barony were already in motion to bring its end. The Burgh of Ayr was in dire financial distress. The tolbooth was falling down, the bridge was in a dangerous condition, the harbour needed repairs, a Poor's House had been proposed to be built, the 1745 Rebellion had cost dearly, public works had been neglected for some time - and the Burgh was heavily in debt (in 1752, some £8,200 Scots).

The Burgh, however, was rich in land and it was therefore decided to sell the lands of the Barony of Alloway by public roup. In 1752, the process was set in motion.

On 20 June 1753, *"the Committee appointed on the 29 November last to consider anent the Rentals of the Barronies of Alloway yet standing reported That they had mett with most or all of the Rentallers and conversed them anent the Terms on which they would give up their Rentals to the Town so as the Barronies might be fewd out at Martinmas 1754 the Ish [expiry date] of the standing Tacks and were of opinion That all or most of the Rentallers would Renounce their Rentals at the said Term on repetition of the several Sums they paid the town for granting thereof, or of Interest for these Sums at the rate of 10% per annum during Life Which being considered by the Magistrates and Council they recommend to authorise and empower the former Committee viz to purchase in the outstanding rentals on the said Barronies either by repetition of the different Grassums paid or double Interest therefore."*

On 2 March 1754, the Committee was asked *"to advertise That the Barony of Alloway is to be fewed out in Parcels by publick Rouns And also to inspect the several Divisions thereof and take the Advice of Persons skilled in these Matters and to prepare Articles of Roup and to report."*

On 21 March 1754, the Magistrates and Council *"taking to their Consideration That the Barony of Alloway belonging in property to the Town is advertised to be fewed out by way of Roup in consequence of the several Minutes of Council thereanent and the Entry of the Purchasers to be at Martinmas next And that the time is approaching when the Rentalers Tenents and Possessors of the said Barony should be warned to remove from their several possessions of the said Barony against that time : Do therefore appoint their Clerk to prepare a Precept of Warning against the several Rentalers Tenents and Possessors of the said Barony against the next Council day to be then subscribed by the Magistrates and Council."*

Various accommodations were made with the rentallers. On 18 July 1753, it was reported that the Burgh Treasurer *"paid John Neill, wright in Ayr, only Son on life, of the deceased Robert Neill in Midtoun of Alloway alias Black Robert, 100 merks Scots, for a renunciation and Assignation of his rental of a 2 merk land of Midtoun of Alloway for 1753 and all time coming."* On 6 February 1754, James Neill rentaller of a 5 merk land in Nethertoun of Alloway had exchanged it for Gairholm. The Council agreed to *"allow him the Possession during his Life of that Peice of Ground belonging to the Town called Gairholm consisting of about sixteen acres Rent free he always on his own Expences building for himself a House thereon and leaving the same in a tenentable condition at his death."* A month later (21 March 1754) he was in trouble for cutting down several growing trees in the Barony for building his house at Gairholm.

The Glebe of Alloway Church was discussed (May 1754) by the

provost and Mr. William Dalrymple, the Ayr minister and, after consultation with the Presbytery, it was agreed that the Glebe be purchased by the town for a yearly sum of £40 Scots to be paid to the second minister of Ayr.

On 22 May 1754, instructions were given to the Committee to "*inspect Barony of Alloway, according as the same is now divided into 28 Lots or Parcels and to prepare articles for feuing out the same according to the Advertisements in the Edinburgh Courant, Glasgow Journal and at all the Parish Chambers within this Shire and to Report: so as the Roup may proceed on Wednesday 5 June next.*"

On 31 May 1754 when the Articles of Roup were being finalised within the Council, Councillor William Campbell offered £2,200 sterling for the entire Barony on behalf of a friend, and he later increased his offer to £2,500. Fortunately these offers were rejected. The roup took place on 5 June, 1754 and realised the initial sum of £7,190 sterling (£86,280 Scots) with an annual return in feu duty of £116 12s. 9d.. The outcome was well received by the Burgh Council at their subsequent meeting on 12 June. Their immediate problems had been solved. The debts could be paid off and work on delayed projects could begin.

5 June 1754 also marked the end of the Barony. A new era for the people and lands of Alloway had begun.

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