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No. 1

Autumn 1991.

50p

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An invitation  
to everyone interested in archaeology and local history

The Buchan Lecture for 1991-92

MEGALITHS ON ARRAN :  
MATHS , MYTHS , AND MYSTERIES

A lecture by  
Dr AUBREY BURL

CIVIC THEATRE, AYR: WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER at 7 .30 p.m.

Dr Burl is a celebrated archaeologist, author of Stone Circles of the British Isles, Prehistoric Avebury, The Stonehenge People, and a gazetteer of the megalithic sites in Brittany. He has been excavating two of the stone circles at Machrie Moor on Arran, and should reveal some of his recent and yet unpublished research on stone rows and standing stones on Arran and elsewhere.

The Buchan Lectures are funded by the the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and on this occasion organised by the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. An invitation is extended to those belonging to other societies and indeed any other individuals interested to attend this lecture. Admission is free.

In recent years the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies has produced a Newsletter which has expanded to include articles on local history and items which would be of interest to a wider audience than the secretaries of member societies who received it twice a year.

Coincidentally, the committee of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society has recently been reviewing its publications policy. For over forty years its scholarly productions have won a wide reputation and are quoted by international authorities. It is felt however that many members, especially those new to the area, would welcome, as an addition, occasional items which were less academic in content and more popular in presentation.

It has therefore seemed to be a good idea to combine both purposes in this little magazine which will go out to all members of the AANHS as well as to those who have been receiving the AFHS newsletter. We have called it "Ayrshire Notes", copying the title of that weekly column which the late Dr Annie Dunlop used to contribute to the Kilmarnock Standard.

If this experiment proves successful we should be able to provide readers with articles of general interest relating to Ayrshire's past, news of work in progress, new publications, and circulate details of events and discoveries in various parts of the county.

We plan our second issue for the spring of 1992. We are anxious to include in it contributions from individuals and societies throughout Ayrshire - send us articles, notes, and comments, however brief. And if you are secretary of a local society we can possibly arrange for copies at cost price for sale or distribution to your members.

Contact the editor, Dr John Strawhorn,  
51 Connel Crescent, Mauchline; tel. (0290) 50308.

On 24th March 1767 John McClure, merchant in Ayr, was incarcerated in the Tolbooth in the Sandgate. The following day there was also imprisoned there Matthew Hay, tenant farmer in Plewland near Dundonald. McClure was charged with being one of a party who on the evening of 6th March attacked William Harris, merchant in Ayr, "betwixt Irvine and Ayr near the high gate opposite to Fullarton House". Hay was said to have met Harris and two others near Barassie, then rode fast towards Fullarton. There Harris was ambushed by four assailants and had his horse shot from under him.

Harris's companions were Alexander Gordon, Surveyor of Customs at Ayr, and John McMurtrie, tide-waiter there. The incident at Fullarton was one of a series of clashes between smugglers and excisemen along this part of the coast in the years after 1765 when the British government took over control of the Isle of Man, until then the main base for the smuggling trade. Several merchants then found it convenient to transfer their activities from Douglas to Ayr, and Alexander Oliphant and Co. set up in 1766 as a firm of wine merchants. This business, continuing today as Whighams of Ayr, originated as a front for smuggling enterprises.

One of the partners in this firm was Robert Burns's landlord, David McClure of Shawwood. With his brother as one of the accused, he engaged James Boswell, the young advocate from Auchinleck. Then something mysteriously suspicious occurred. McMurtrie, a key-witness, disappeared, and for some undisclosed reason the evidence of the others was deemed inadequate. Hay and McClure were released by the Lord Advocate. Boswell collected a fee of four guineas and a veiled hint from the Lord Advocate that he had been guilty of sharp practice interfering with the witnesses.

I have not discovered what became of John McClure. It is well known that David McClure, facing bankruptcy



after the collapse of the Ayr Bank, involved Burns's dying father in a lawsuit, then left Ayr and set up a new business in Liverpool. Matthew Hay escaped on this occasion, but in 1780 was hanged -- not for smuggling, but for murder: trying to poison with arsenic his pregnant mistress he accidentally killed off her parents. William Harris, who was attacked by Hay at Fullarton, himself was hanged in 1770. He was indicted on the capital charge of forging bank notes, escaped from the tolbooth in Edinburgh, was recaptured in England, made a second attempt at escape, then feigned insanity, which did not save him from the hangman.

JOHN STRAWHORN

There is more on smuggling in Eric Graham's new AANHS booklet on the Ayrshire Shipping Trade; and we should hear much that is new in Professor Louis Cullen's lecture in Ayr next March.

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#### THE TARBOLTON MOTTE

The National Museums of Scotland have recently proposed an archaeological investigation be carried out at the Motte and Bailey Castle at Tarbolton. The purpose of the excavation is to build up a complete picture of early Scottish castles, to distinguish those on totally new sites and those which were erected on earlier fortifications. The Tarbolton motte appears to be a good example of the former, an earth and timber castle built by an immigrant family on a virgin site, and abandoned by the 14th century. Regretfully the planned initial season of work in the summer of 1991 has had to be postponed.

The Tarbolton Motte is clearly visible on the left-hand side as you leave Tarbolton by the B744 leading towards Crosshands. Robert Burns noticed it when he "come round about the hill" in his poem on 'Death and Dr Hornbook'.

#### THE PAST AT PLAY

On 27 April 1991 there was a very successful conference in Kilmarnock, sponsored by the Scottish Local History Forum, attracting visitors from other parts of Scotland as well as local AFHS members and friends.

The theme of the conference was 'The Past at Play' and we learned from Neil Tranter, speaking on 'Sport and the Local Historian' that the study of leisure activities is currently the "in thing" among social historians.

Inevitably only a few of the distinguished speakers were able to include historical details of sport in Ayrshire; so readers may be interested to have some added miscellaneous items.

John Simpson, dealing with 'Organised Sport' covered the development of football as it emerged as a popular team game from the 1870s. The Alloway records mention a miscreant in 1514 who "plait at the fut ball". There is a macabre mention of the game in the later 17th century, for the gravestone of the Covenanter James White in Fenwick kirkyard had it that the persecutors "Cut off his head & kickit it o'er the Green; Thus was the head which was to wear a Crown, A football made by a profane Dragoun." In the 18th century, Rev. John Mitchell in his "Memories of Ayrshire" refers in passing to "playing at ball". When sport became organised, in 1877 an Ayrshire Football Association was formed. It was in 1879, in a game against Mauchline that Lugar Boswell abandoned the traditional line-up of six forwards and two half-backs in favour of that one with five forwards which soon became universally adopted. John Wallace of Cumnock, first secretary of the Ayrshire Football Association, took the game to Australia. Later, George Girvan, afterwards provost of Newmilns, and other lace weavers from the Irvine Valley, when setting up a factory in Barcelona, introduced the game to Spain.

Alan Borthwick spoke about 'Lawn Tennis before 1914'. Much earlier than that some form of tennis must



have been played locally, for Dr Margaret Sanderson has noted that in 1519 John Fair, chaplain at Ayr, was in dispute with a layman whose eye had been injured by a ball during a game of tennis.

'Dookin and Gowf at the West Coast Resorts' was the topic for Eric Simpson, who outlined the development of the Ayrshire holiday resorts in the 19th century. Golf we know was played at Ayr as early as 1587 when the magistrates had to deal with the theft of "ane gad of iron" (iron club) and "goff ballis". In the 18th century there is record of golf at Ayr, Auchinleck, and Loudoun; and golf balls were sold, at sixpence each, by Messrs Samson, seedsman, Kilmarnock. "Dooking" was practised in the 18th century for health rather than pleasure -- as prescribed by Dr John Mackenzie of Mauchline for Robert Burns and also young Alexander Boswell. The same was true of pleasure cruising. In 1788 James Boswell of Auchinleck provided a sick servant Robert Paton with "a sail from Ayr if that is thought good for him" (The American editors of this portion of Boswell's journal seemed to think that a sail meant "a ride in a vehicle of any kind"!).

David Smith as author of the admirable Curling: an Illustrated History was able of course to exemplify his discourse with numerous Ayrshire examples. He is always searching for more information, so may we quote from an unpublished letter of James Boswell to his overseer Andrew Gibb, dated 2 February 1795: "I am glad our parish has gained such honour on the ice".

There are other sports of which we have local record. Archery was practised at Kilwinning, possibly as early as 1488. Horse racing at Ayr goes back at least to 1576. Bowling was introduced to Kilmarnock about 1740. Squash was ante-dated by the ancient game of Handball which used to be played outside the Barr Castle in Galston.

After Jim Winters' informative account of 'Quoiting' some of the audience were able to see the game being practised, by repairing to Glenburn, the only remaining quoiting ground in Ayrshire.

## THE AYRSHIRE ROSE

(Our county which created Ayrshire cattle and Ayrshire tatties was also where in the 18th century originated the Ayrshire Rose. The following article appeared in the Ayr Advertiser of 23rd December 1819, taken "From the last number of the Philosophical Journal".)

"For a number of years past, a very rampant climbing rose-bush has been cultivated in Scotland, under the name of the Airshire Rose. Such is the rapidity of the growth of its long slender shoots, that one plant has been known to cover a gable-wall twenty feet high, and a side-wall of double that length, in the course of two seasons. It has, therefore, been much in request for covering out-houses, and disguising offensive walls or palings. It is an exotic species, but is nearly allied to our native *Rosa arvensis* or White Dog-rose, and has probably, indeed, in many cases been confounded with that species.

"I am enabled to state that it is a North American native; and, by the assistance of Mr. Walter Underwood, the very intelligent gardener at Eglinton Castle, to give an account of its introduction into Scotland.

"At the time when the Botanic Garden at Leith Walk, Edinburgh, was originally established, (about 1767), the late Dr. John Hope, Professor of Botany, and some well-wishers to the garden and to botanical science, united in sending out a person to North America, with a view of his collecting the seeds of new, curious, or useful plants. Of the trans-atlantic rarities sent home by this collector, no register seems to have been made; and both he and his patrons have thus in a great measure lost the credit that was due to them for their zeal. The late John, Earl of Loudon, was a subscriber towards this botanical speculation; and in return, he received, in 1768 or 1769, a share of a parcel of seeds sent either from Lower Canada or Nova Scotia. Among these were some briar heps; which being sown in the garden at Loudon Castle, produced a number of rose-bushes. These, in a year or two attracted much notice by the great length to which they pushed



their shoots. The present Mr. George Douglas of Rodinghead (factor upon the Duke of Portland's estates in Airshire) resided at Loudon Castle at that period; and he perfectly recollects the sowing of the American hedges, and the wide rambling rose-plants which sprung from them. Several of the neighbouring proprietors in Airshire got plants of the new rose for their gardens. Among others, the late Mr. Dalrymple of Orangefield received a plant from Mr. Douglas; and he having trained it against the garden-wall, "it ran amazingly," (as Mr. Underwood expresses it), the rapidity of its growth, and length of its shoots, surprising everybody. The nurserymen of Kilmarnock and Air having procured cuttings and layers from the plant, bestowed on it the name of the Orangefield Rose; in places at a distance, however, it soon came to be known by the more general title of the Airshire Rose. The original Orangefield specimen was in existence little more than twenty years ago; but the garden having, about that time, come into the possession of a tenant, who preferred currant bushes to rampant roses, it was grubbed up and destroyed. Several of the original plants, however, still remain at Loudon Castle, some trained against the walls of the factor's house, and others in old hedges on the farms of Alton, near Loudon. Mr. Douglas has likewise some of the original plants growing in hedges, and against walls, on his own property of Rodinghead."

It is worth adding that John, 4th Earl of Loudoun, was himself in America, appointed in 1756 Governor of Virginia and Commander-in-Chief of British forces in North America in the war against the French in Canada. And according to the New Statistical Account "The first 'Ayrshire rose' was brought into this country by Lord John from America. The original plant is yet growing fresh and vigorous at Loudoun Castle" (1842).

## CUMNOCK AND THE CANADIAN CONNECTION

Robert McCowan was born in Cumnock parish about 1746. His family were tenant farmers and he became involved in the Earl of Dumfries's Garlaff coal works before moving to Lesmahagow. His son James McCowan (1773-1834) emigrated to Canada in 1834 with his wife and eight children. He was one of the founders of the township of Scarborough in Ontario (now a city of 500,000 inhabitants), but soon afterwards he and two of his family died in a cholera epidemic.

The history of the family has been traced by a descendant, David Bruce McCowan, B.Sc., a young civil engineer who has pursued his Scottish connection through membership of the AANHS and the Scottish History Society.

He is a chairman of the James McCowan Memorial Social History Society, which is dedicated to preserving the social history of the Scottish Canadians and by research in this country "to obtain some measure of the attitudes, principles and moral standards that Scots may have brought to Canada".

The James McCowan Memorial Social History Society has under preparation a book on The McCowan Log House and an Adaptable Society. In an attempt to ascertain what values McCowan and fellow Scots took to Canada, an invitation was made to senior pupils of Cumnock Academy to contribute for publication a chapter of about 5,000 words on Land, Labour, and People in the Cumnock area.

Robert Dalziel, Principal Teacher of History, has enthusiastically enlisted a group of his students in the preparation of this interesting project in local history.

How admirable it is that an initiative like this has been taken from such a distance. How pleasing to us and the Canadians that Cumnock Academy has taken up the challenge. And it seems possible that Ayr Academy and other schools may follow with their own local contributions.

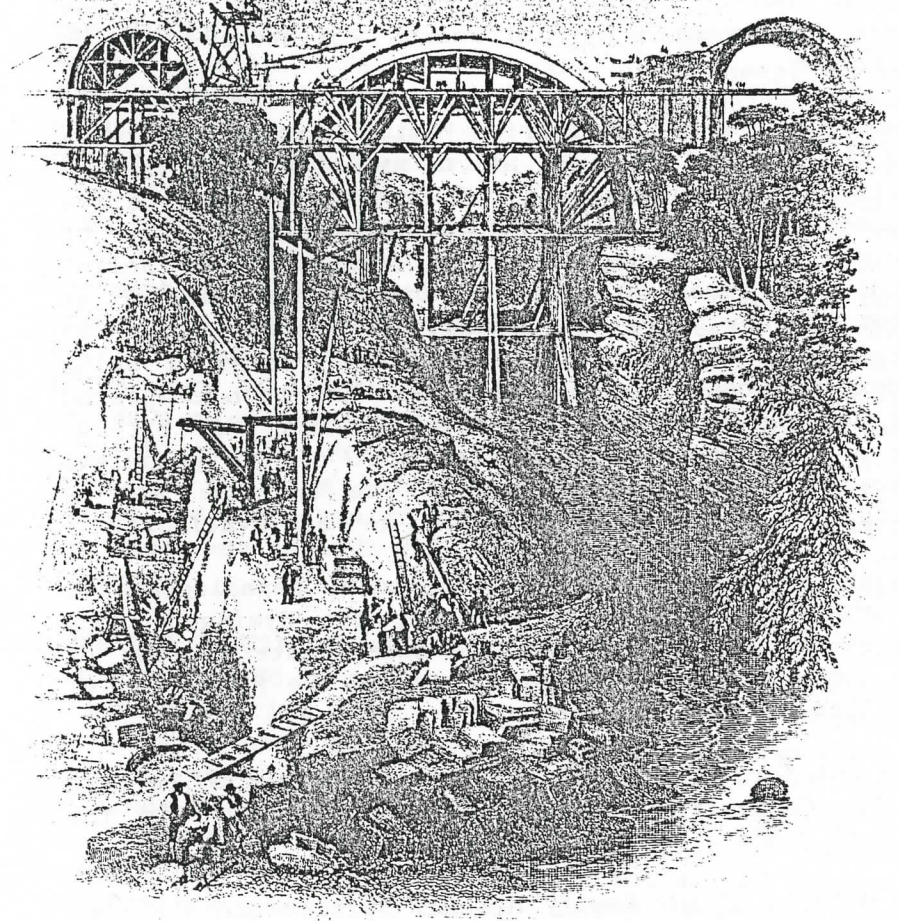


## IS THIS A RECORD?

Ayrshire gets one mention in the Guinness Book of Records. This is the Ballochmyle Viaduct crossing the River Ayr on the Kilmarnock-Dumfries railway line between Mauchline and Auchinleck. This is the highest railway bridge in Britain (51.5 metres) and has the longest masonry arch in Britain (55.6 metres). The foundation stone was laid on 5 September 1846, the keystone on 8 April 1847, the last stone on 12 March 1848, and the line opened on 9 August 1848. The bridge was designed by John Miller of the firm which undertook the construction, Grainger and Miller, civil engineers, Edinburgh. Over 400 men were engaged in the work, without a fatality, apart from one Irish navvy murdered in Mauchline. One workman had a miraculous escape when he fell 180 feet from the scaffolding.

The viaduct is worth a visit. Take the A76 from Mauchline towards Cumnock; pass Kingencleugh and take the next exit on the right. This used to be the main road and leads to the old Howford Bridge over the river. Just down this road on the Mauchline side there is a gate with a stile. From here paths lead down to the river and under the viaduct. Heavy footwear is advised, and also extreme care for there are some precipitous places.

This has been described as one of Scotland's most spectacular river scenes. For the botanist the woodland contains oak, sycamore, hazel, ash, birch, beech, scots pine, western hemlock, Norway spruce, and wych elm. Wild flowers include wood sorrel, lesser celandine, bluebells, red campion, golden saxifrage, redshank, brambles, roses, several species of ferns, mosses and liverwort. For the archaeologist, on the sandstone cliff to the right just as you leave the road there is a whole series of prehistoric cup-and-ring markings.



CENTRING FOR THE BALLOCHMYLE VIADUCT

Engraving by J H Le Keux after A MacLure  
*Centring for the Ballochmyle Viaduct* (c1847)  
Glasgow Museum of Transport



## FAMILY HISTORY

Those who have been searching for their family roots will be aware that in recent months the local libraries have acquired new tools for researchers -- the International Genealogical Index (IGI) compiled by the Mormon Church and available on microfiche, in some cases supplemented by Old Parish Registers (OPR) on microfilm.

Members of Troon and District Family History Society -- and the district includes all of Ayrshire! -- have been pretty active over the past few months and have a few projects on-going. The Dundonald Mortality Register of burials has been completed; the Symington Poor Relief Fund is in process of being entered on computer at Troon Library where Marr Education Resource Centre is located; the 1881 Census is also in process of being indexed on computer; another index has been completed (by Bob and Jean Kennedy) of Ayr Academy FPs 1911-24. The Society also has collected most of the pamphlets issued by the Public Record Office and has made a useful index, copies of which can be made available.

Clearly the material being gathered by genealogists is of wider interest. For example, the Symington Poor Relief document shows how one unfortunate section of the community contrived to survive in the first half of the 19th century.

Look out for three Family History workshops to be held in Ayr Carnegie Library in October, and open to the general public.

For details of the Family History Society and its work contact R.Gordon Killicoat, Joslin, Kyle Crescent, Loans, Troon KA10 7EZ; Tel. Troon 312433.

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Contributions for the next issue of 'Ayrshire Notes' should be sent to the Editor (address on page 2) before the end of February 1992.

## ROUND AND ABOUT

Trevor Mathews has prepared an account of three AANHS excursions, worth printing here in 'Ayrshire Notes' as providing interesting details which should stimulate others to make such visits.

**DEAN CASTLE** has all the attractions expected of a medieval castle. We explored the great keep, built about 1350 and defended by 10 ft thick walls. The party, 35 strong, examined the armour in the Great Hall and its magnificent tapestries, listened to a solo from one of the guides singing in the minstrels' gallery and marvelled at the outstanding acoustics. Up then to the Solar to view the exhibition of musical instruments. Some members also descended to the castle dungeon, but attempts to leave them there were resisted. On the other side of the courtyard lies the Palace, evidence of the power of the Boyd family. It was constructed in the 1460s as a comfortable if impressive home by Thomas Boyd, who married Princess Mary, sister of James III. The guide told the intriguing story of the rise and fall of the Boyds and of the generosity of Lord Howard de Walden, who in 1975 gifted the castle to the town of Kilmarnock. (30 May, evening)

**SUMMERLEE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM** at Coatbridge was visited by a party of 36 in bright if showery weather. Remains of the industrial complex have been exposed, showing the foundations of blast furnaces, regenerators, boilers, and blowing engine. A section of the Monklands Canal has been restored, giving an almost rural effect. An impressive machinery hall contains a large selection of hand and machine tools, and several complete craftsmen's workshops. George Sleight enjoyed well-earned success in coaxing thirsty members to the exhibits from the coffee shop; but a carnival atmosphere developed as members riding on the tram which circles the site exchanged greetings with their earth-bound friends. After lunch the group continued to **NEW LANARK**. Those who had not been there for some time were delighted by its development: the mill and schoolroom buildings, until recently near-derelict, have been restored magnificently. The mill lades are cleared and flowing, and a steam engine is being



rebuilt. Striking presentations, working exhibits, and enthusiastic guides provide a memorable experience.

(15 June)

There is more to **ALLOWAY** than Burns Cottage. On an glorious evening, Alastair Hendry and Rev. Walter McGinty provided a group of 40 with a rich variety of historical and archaeological details.... The site of Alloway railway station, opened in 1906 and used till 1960; and the long tunnel which carried the lines out of view towards the impressive four-span bridge across the River Doon. The road along which from 1902 trams travelled for almost thirty years to the Burns Monument terminus. Alloway Kirk, dating from at least the 14th century, altered later for use as house, school, and mortuary chapel. The kirkyard with interesting gravestones, like those of the remarkable William Burnes and the blacksmith John Tennant. The lower Doon, worth exploring for its several bridges and mills as well as its Burns connections. The modern Alloway Church, built in 1858, with some fine stained glass windows... These suggest how knowledgeable guides can provide new insights to a familiar place.

(4 July, evening)

#### SOME OTHER PLACES WORTH A VISIT

**DALGARVEN MILL** on the A737 between Kilwinning and Dalry. This is a water-driven flour mill restored by Robert and Moira Ferguson, with a museum of Ayrshire country life and costume. It is open 10 - 5 daily, 12.30 - 5.30 on Sundays, and has a coffee room.

**THE SCOTTISH MARITIME MUSEUM** at Irvine Harbourside is open 10 - 5 daily till the end of October. As well as boats to be inspected, there is the re-creation of a shipyard worker's home.

**SCOTTISH INDUSTRIAL RAILWAY CENTRE** at Minnivey, off the A713 from Ayr to Dalmellington. Sunday 29 September, the last open day of the season, from 11 - 4, promises brake van rides and home baking in the railway buffet.

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

##### An Archaeological Field Survey at Chalmerston, Dalmellington, edited by S. Hotherhall

£2 from Dept. of Adult and Continuing Education, 59 Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow, G12 8LW.

During the winter of 1987-88 this intensive survey was made by the Association of Certified Field Archaeologists. A soil survey by Roland Golightly was preliminary to 900 man-hours by volunteers who recorded - before opencast mining was commenced - settlement patterns from the Bronze Age until the 20th century. British Coal has promised to preserve a pre-18th century fermtoun site as a feature after the landscape is restored.

This year the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society has continued its programme of publications. In the spring, The Antiquities of Ayrshire celebrated the bicentenary of Francis Grose's second volume on the antiquities of Scotland, by providing this facsimile copy of the section devoted to sixteen Ayrshire sites. At £3.60 this attractive booklet is worth having for the nineteen fine engravings reproduced. Specially interesting is the inclusion of 'Tam O' Shanter' which Burns wrote for this book, and John Strawnhorn in an introduction explains how Burns aided Grose in his researches. The Society's autumn production is an account of Ayrshire Shipping Trade 1689-1791 in which Eric Graham has unearthed a mass of new material concerning the ships which plied from the harbours of Ayr, Irvine, and Saltcoats. Over forty years ago the Society brought out a reprint of the six sheets of Armstrongs Map of Ayrshire in 1775; these proved so popular as to require several new impressions, and they are now available again at a cost of £12 the set. The whole of Ayrshire is covered in five of the sheets while the last is a large-scale plan of Ayr -- providing an invaluable picture of each locality in the 18th century. All AANHS publications are obtainable from Ronald W. Brash, 10 Robsland Avenue, Ayr: Tel. 266745.



Scottish Refractory Industry 1830-1980 by K.W.Sanderson  
£15, from the author, 22 Belgrave Crescent, Edinburgh  
EH4 3AL. Includes detailed study of the fireclay  
industry in north Ayrshire;

The Good Cause by Peter G. Thomson

£12.50 from Cunninghame District Council, Cunninghame  
House, Irvine. A survey of Irvine churches, with  
information about Covenanters, Buchanites, and  
evangelicals.

The Scots Magazine

- July 1991 contained an article by John Bonsor on 'The  
Observatory in Brisbane Glen', prepared with the  
assistance of members of Largs Historical Society.  
- August 1991 has an article 'Was Old King Cole an  
Ayrshire Man?' Jim Gracie explores the legends and  
examines the associated hunting horn which is now  
preserved in Caprington Castle.

Scottish Local History, No. 24, June 1991

Twice-yearly magazine of the Scottish Local History  
Forum; annual subscription of £7 to Elaine Finnie,  
Huntly House Museum, 142 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DD.  
Of special west-of-Scotland interest are: Professor Roy  
Campbell's 'The Silent Revolution in the Countryside'  
deals with changes in land ownership in the present  
century, as revealed by register of sasines; Betty  
Willsher's 'The Green Man in Scottish Graveyards'.

(We should be pleased to receive details of any new  
local publications for listing in future issues).

Review of Monuments

We hope to include in our next issue an article by  
Jennifer Marshall on her work of inspecting Ayrshire's  
listed monuments. A small team from the AANHS has  
started to check some of the unlisted monuments, a job  
that is likely to take several years.

A booklet on CUMNOCK POTTERY is being prepared by  
Gerard Quail for publication by the AANHS. Mr Quail  
has written several monographs on pottery, and this  
should provide collectors and others with details of  
this now defunct local trade.

In 1895 there was published Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire  
by JOHN SMITH. To celebrate the centenary in 1995 of  
that remarkable book by a remarkable man - geologist,  
botanist, and archaeologist - a commemorative volume is  
being prepared by Dr John Hume, with contributions by  
Drs Kirkwood, Morrison, Reid, and Rolfe -- all familiar  
names and experts in their own fields.

There is a scarcity of handy guides to local natural  
history. A booklet for the AANHS on WILD FLOWERS OF  
THE AYRSHIRE COAST is being written by Dr Ralph  
Kirkwood and illustrated by Margaret Foulds (who has in  
the meantime designed for us the attractive title which  
heads this copy of 'Ayrshire Notes').

1992, bi-centenary of the invention of gas-lighting by  
WILLIAM MURDOCH of Bellow Mill, is being celebrated by  
British Gas. For the occasion, a new biography of  
Murdoch is being written by John Griffiths.

Kyle and Carrick District Council, which commissioned  
John Strawhorn to produce the History of Ayr, has now  
invited him to follow on with a HISTORY OF PRESTWICK.  
Dr Strawhorn has just completed for Yale University  
editing the Correspondence of James Boswell with his  
Estate Overseers, for publication in 1993 or 1994.

Alastair Hendry is preparing a booklet on ALLOWAY, for  
probable publication by AANHS in 1993. Eagerly awaited  
by those who this year have enjoyed his lecture on the  
subject and his conducted walk round Alloway.

Dane Love, author of Scottish Kirkyards, is working on  
a PICTORIAL HISTORY OF CUMNOCK, his native town.

## LOCAL HISTORY IN AYRSHIRE

Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, founded in 1947, has since been joined by a score of other organizations devoted to our local heritage. Readers interested in particular localities or subjects should find the following list useful. Information regarding most of these societies obtainable from Mrs Sheena Andrew, Reference Dept. Carnegie Library, Ayr: Tel. Ayr 282109.

AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
Dr Trevor Matthew, 10 Longlands Park, Ayr.

AYRSHIRE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES  
Mary McKenna, 16 Ettrick Place, Heathfield, Ayr.

AYRSHIRE RAILWAY PRESERVATION GROUP  
Mr Gordon Thomson, 8 Burnside Place, Troon.

BEITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Ghislaine Barnes, Bog Hall, Gateside, Beith.

CATRINE, SORN & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP  
Miss Mary Poole, 1 Braeside, Catrine.

DALMAOLKERAN HISTORICAL & CONSERVATION SOCIETY  
Margaret Clanachan, 20 Hadyard Terr., Dailly, Girvan.

DALMELLINGTON & DISTRICT CONSERVATION TRUST  
R.K. Butler, Cathcartson, Dalmellington.

DALMELLINGTON & DISTRICT COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY  
Mrs Margaret Pollock, 3 Hopes Avenue, Dalmellington.

DUNDONALD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Mrs Olive Lomax, 62 Kilnford Drive, Dundonald.

FULLARTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Robert Mackie, 10 Gottries Road, Irvine.

GARNOCK VALLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY  
Mrs P. Sloss, Wallace Farm, Kilbirnie.

ISLE OF ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM  
Mr A. Sillars, Rosaburn, Brodick.

ISLE OF ARRAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
Mr A. Clark, Tighemmenech, Blackwaterfoot.

KILMARNOCK & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP  
Mrs M. Lochrie, 79 Irvine Road, Kilmarnock.

KILMARNOCK GLENFIELD RAMBLERS  
Mrs G. Rowan, 88 Bridgehouse hill Road, Kilmarnock.

KYLE & CARRICK CIVIC SOCIETY  
Mrs Sheila Penny, 10 Southpark Road, Ayr.

LARGS HISTORY SOCIETY  
Dr. P. Gurton, 13 Seton Terrace, Skelmorlie.

NEW CUMNOCK HISTORY SOCIETY:  
Mrs H. O'Sullivan, 1 Mansefield Cottage, New Cumnock.

PRESTWICK HISTORY GROUP:  
Mr. A. Cochrane, 12 Westbourne Gardens, Prestwick.

SCOTTISH CIVIC TRUST:  
Mrs S. Douglas, 24 George Square, Glasgow.

SCOTTISH COVENANTER MEMORIALS SOCIETY:  
George Scott, 3 Richmond Terrace, Cumnock.

STEWARTON & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY:  
Ian H. Macdonald, 17 Grange Terrace, Kilmarnock.

TROON & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY:  
R. Gordon Killicoat, 1 Kyle Crescent, Loans, Troon.

WEST KILBRIDE AMENITY SOCIETY:  
Miss P. Anslow, 6 Ardrossan Road, Seamill.

It is hoped to include features on some of these local societies in future issues of 'Ayrshire Notes'.



## F O R T H C O M I N G   M E E T I N G S

### Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies

Friday 27 September

"Swap Shop" in Loudoun Hall, Ayr, at 7.30 p.m.  
The popular annual occasion for representatives of member societies to exchange news and ideas.

Saturday 3 November

"Treasures of the Ayrshire Collections"

Morton Hall, Main Street, Newmilns, at 2 p.m.

In previous years visits have been made to Irvine and Cumnock where archivists, librarians, and historians have revealed to interested audiences some of the wealth of documents and artefacts associated with these districts. Part 3 of the series, covering Kilmarnock and Loudoun District, will include contributions by Jim Hunter, Charles Woodward, and John Strawhorn.

### Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Meetings in Ayr Academy Memorial Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday Oct. 10: Forestry in the Environment

Alister Jones, Forestry Commission

Wednesday Oct. 30 in the Civic Theatre

The Buchan Lecture (see page 1)

Thursday Nov. 14: The Vikings in the Northern Isles

Prof. Christopher Morris, Glasgow Univ.

Thursday Dec. 12: Discovering Scotland:

Early Travellers and Antiquaries

Innes MacLeod, Glasgow University

Thursday Jan. 9: Who cares for our heritage?

Robert Ferguson, Dalgarven Mill

Thursday Feb. 13: The Making of Medieval Ayrshire

Prof. G.W.S. Barrow, Edinburgh University

Thursday Mar. 12: Smuggling and the Ayrshire Economic

Boom of the 1760s and 1770s

Prof. Louis Cullen, Trinity College, Dublin

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JUST PUBLISHED: GEORGE WASHINGTON WILSON IN AYRSHIRE by  
Sheriff David Smith, Aberdeen University Library,  
£4.25. Famous 19th century photographer's work.