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AANHNS President      Mr Eric Miller

AANHNS Secretary      Dr Trevor Mathews  
10 Longlands Park, Ayr, KA7 4RJ  
tel. 01292 441915

AFHS Chairman      Mr Stuart Wilson

AFHS Secretary      Mr Dave Killicoat  
11 Chalmers Road, Ayr, KA7 2RQ  
tel. 01292 260013

## THREE LETTERS OF THE REVEREND JOHN BARCLAY

These three letters were written by John Barclay, who was for some years minister of the Secession Church in Patna. They are addressed to James Anderson, who was a cloth manufacturer in Glasgow. Anderson subsequently became Lord Provost of Glasgow, and was knighted in 1849 during the royal visit to that city. From 1852 to 1859 he sat as M.P. for Stirling Burghs, and died in May 1864. He was also, importantly in the context of these letters, an Elder and office-bearer in the United Secession Church in Greyfriars Street, Glasgow. He had married in 1831 Janet Hood. Among their children was James Hood Anderson, christened in August 1836, and mentioned by Barclay in the first of these letters. Some of the correspondence of Sir James Anderson, including these three letters from Barclay, is preserved in the City of Glasgow Archives.

John Barclay, who was born c.1792, began his ministry in Patna, as the first letter shows, in 1836. He was the first minister, from any church, to be settled in Patna, which had been founded by "Black Willie" Fullarton of Skeldon in 1802. He retired from the ministry in 1851, and died on the 8th March 1867 in Glasgow. An article in the *Ayrshire Post* of 2nd April 1886 on the history of Patna records of John Barclay that he "went about in his own quiet homely way among his people. He was a small, dark man, and wore spectacles with a broad black rim, and of an old-fashioned pattern. He had considerable skill in medicine, and was often consulted for ordinary ailments. He kept boarders, and used to go by the coach every Tuesday to do his shopping in Ayr".

The first letter shows him at the outset of his ministry in Patna, confident and hopeful of the future. There is some tidying-up to do in Edinburgh, where he presumably lodged while studying, and an interview with James Elles, the Secession minister in Saltcoats, who died in July 1852, having been ordained minister of the Associate Burgher Congregation there in March 1804. Barclay, however, is also keen to impress on Anderson the qualities of Mr McHutcheson, of Crosshill, who he believes will make a suitable agent for Anderson's firm.

In the second letter, written some seven weeks or so later, we find that McHutcheson (or McCutcheon) has been taken on, and apparently giving satisfaction to Anderson. He is, however, concerned that the carrier is borrowing from the money sent to him at Crosshill. Money is a pre-occupation in this letter. There are still some loose ends from the lodgings in Edinburgh, including some butter, and a request from Barclay to Anderson for support for a proposed library in connection with the church in Patna. Its chief interest, however, is the insight on the frictions within the wider Christian community in the years prior to the Great Schism of 1843, on the actions of the Reverend Robert Paton, who was minister at Straiton from 1824 to 1844, remaining



with the Church of Scotland in 1843. He was translated to St David's, Glasgow, and died in May 1878. The 1886 article on Patna, quoted above, says "both the church people and the Burghers had their meetings in Andrew Kerr's hall, the one body going in as the other went out. Sectarian feeling must have been running high, because they were not content to us the same pulpit. The people had not then learned, as I hope we have done now, to hold their differences in charity. When the hall was not to be had, the services were sometimes held in the carpenter's shop".

The final letter is written six years later, a year or so before the Schism, and shows a perhaps unsuspected side of the life of a serving minister. In response to what appears to have been an upbeat letter from Anderson, telling of pleasant times at Bridge of Teath, and the benefits wrought on Mr McKerrow by marriage with a wife possessed of 'good management' and 'shrewdness', Barclay bemoans his penurious and lonely existence, and reveals a wavering in his faith - 'were my heart right with God and had I the well-grounded hope of everlasting joy' - which probably acerbated his regret at his lack of money and companionship. We learn that he retains an affection for a loved one, long dead, and may pause to wonder whether many manse marriages were 'matters of convenience', requiring a woman capable of helping with the church's work, and bringing 'a little money' to the contract. The remainder of the letter is terse - comments on trade, the illness of John Robson, and the settlement of some unspecified business regarding the Meeting House in Patna, which was built in 1838-39, and opened in March 1839.

1. (CGA ref: TD 687/3/2)

"To James Anderson, Esq, Messrs J & A Anderson, Candlerigg Street, Glasgow.

My Dear Friend, It seems to be nearly certain that Ayrshire is to be the scene of my labours for a few months, perhaps altogether. Patna has been improving ever since I began my labours among them, and they are desirous of my remaining. I was preaching in Cumnock last Sabbath and am now on my way to Saltcoats to see Mr Elles in order to make the necessary arrangements - should I engage to remain in Patna during the winter, will be in Glasgow the beginning of next week, as I must go through to Edinburgh to set things in order in that quarter. I had engaged my room for the next six months, and must get it off my hands, besides other little things to do, tedious to mention.

It would have been unnecessary my writing to you, at present, as I expect so soon to see you but the reason for this is the following - a man the name of McHutcheson in Crosshill, a village about three miles beyond Maybole wishes me to recommend him to you as an agent. I wished him to wait till I should go to Glasgow when I could speak to you about him; his objection to this is, that you usually take on new agents at this time of the year if you are going to take them on at all, and if he waited till I saw you in Glasgow you might have already engaged a new agent, therefore he could

not be accepted. He was bred a weaver and has been agent for some years for warehouses in Glasgow, in the Ayrshire needlework department. He will be able to bring to you proper recommendations. He appears to be a most sober and industrious person, and also appears to be rising in the world. He is very active in our missionary station at Crosshill. It was preaching there that brought me acquainted with him. I expect to have him with me in the beginning of the next week, say Tuesday, when you will be able to say whether or not you can employ him.

I have spent my time very pleasantly in Patna and have endeavoured to make myself useful. The weather has been remarkably unsteady and there is still much grain not yet ripe. We must just hope for better times, and trust that we will not be completely disappointed in our confidence in the divine promise that 'seed time and harvest shall not fail'.

I trust business is continuing to flourish with you and other friends. I expect to see James the 2nd a stout healthy boy. Best regards to your Mrs A. I have a letter half written to her, but was hurried away to Cumnock without being able to finish it.

I have to preach in Kilmarnock on Sabbath first, and am thus so far on my way to Glasgow. I remain, my dear friend, most truly yours,

John Barclay.

Mauchlin, 18th October 1836".

2. (CGA ref: TD 687/3/3)

"To James Anderson, Esquire.

My Dear Friend, I have just received your note and rejoice to hear that you are all well. I trust the butter is now come safe and that Mrs A declares it excellent. It has been lying in my lodgings in Edinburgh till they knew what to do with it. You will see the price and should there be any balance, Mrs Whyte of Balgedie is to pay it for me. She is owing me a few shillings, and will settle with her sister-in-law.

I am much pleased that the Crosshill work is giving satisfaction. Your agent is a most steady respectable man and has been most kind to me since I came to this part of the country. He desires me to say that, if it was not too much trouble for you, he would prefer the money sent thro' the bank. The carrier is very steady and honest, but sometimes takes the loan of a little of the money when he is in want of the needful, and altho' it is always forthcoming, still McCutcheon feels it disagreeable. By a check on the bank it could be drawn at Maybole.

As to Patna I cannot say much but that we are doing tolerably well. The opposition from the established Clergy has been most fierce. - Mr Paton of Straiton, in whose parish Patna is, has done all in his power to put us down. We have been ejected from the hall in which we have preached for some years, and had to take our station in a smithy, and I am now preaching in a wright's shope. He has got all the



parish ministers in the neighbourhood to join him, and they are keeping up constant sermon amongst them in Patna in a spirit of determined opposition, but I trust they will not put us down. I have begun to shew a little spirit on the occasion, and am going to the neighbouring villages on the Sabbath evenings and preaching the gospel to the people, and last evening in the village of Kirkmichael, met with the greatest encouragement. I trust to be supported by the Presbytery.

I am to begin a library and to have a public collection for it on the first moonlight evening this month. Would you collect a few shillings for it among you, as I feel most anxious to make the collection respectable. It would astonish the parish priests if we had a pound or two - 30/- is reckoned a very large collection in Patna. Now I think we will be able to make up this sum ourselves and a few shillings from Glasgow would do wonders. I also intend to take up classes for young men and women and have taken a house in the village for that purpose. I intend to go on slowly but surely, and shall let the clergy know what they are to expect from the Secession. Light is just beginning to dawn in this part of Scotland. The people have been priest-ridden since the Reformation as well as before that period, and I should rejoice to assist in breaking this yoke from off their necks. Give me a small hitch in the good work in helping forward with this library. I intend to write your brothers to do a little for us.

I owe your brother, Mr John, a few shillings, which I borrowed when last in Glasgow. Would you give him 9/- of the butter money. Many thanks for your attention about the Edinburgh parcel. I know it has been received. Remember me most kindly to Mrs A. I am, my dear friend, yours very truly, John Barclay.

Crosshill,

5th December 1836."

3. (CGA ref: TD 687/3/12)

"To James Anderson, Esquire.

My Dear Sir. Many thanks for your kind letter. I am quite sure you would enjoy your trip to the Bridge of Teath, and am equally sure that you would find things changed for the better in that pleasant and hospitable abode. His lady has good management and much shrewdness and will certainly make an economical and tidy wife. Mr McKerrow has certainly changed for the better, but so it may not be with your poor friend. I do find housekeeping very troublesome, and would take a wife with great good will, but think of my income, eighty pounds a year of ill-paid money. I can do myself with very homely fare, and can feel no alarm when funds are very low; with a wife it would be different indeed, consequently I shrink from the very idea of bringing hardships upon another, altho' to myself they may be comparatively trivial. Besides, any thing like love is now completely with me out of the question. My affection for one many years dead is as fresh as ever. I have seen since then many

deserving women, but none like, no, no, none like her. Marriage then would be only a matter of convenience; still, I would desire a sensible and well principled woman; one who could bring her mind to her circumstances and help me forward in my work. She would require to have a little money and if not old, at least not young.

Now, my dear sir, where would you direct me to such a lady? My own mind runs often to this subject, but where to find such a wife, I have not yet been able to discover. The Aikenbrae ladies are all excellent women, but they have known nothing but abundance all their lives, and I have seen no women their equal in Ayrshire. So you see I am encompassed with difficulties, and the longer I reflect on the subject, the more numerous do these obstacles become. I sometimes flatter myself that my heart is formed for domestic comfort, but, alas!, alas!, I believe my life must terminate in penury and celibacy. This is indeed a small matter, were my heart right with God and had I the well-grounded hope of everlasting joy. Were this the case, these would be light afflictions, which are but for a moment, and mask out a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Here is my heart laid open to you, my dear sir, laid open as it has never been to any but yourself. The doing so has cost me many tears.

Even the sound of revival in trade is pleasant. We could only help you with our prayers and these have not been forgotten. I trust you will be able to say soon that this revival in merchandise has come your length.

I am afraid of Mr John Robson. There is a strong likelihood of his falling into consumption. He appeared before his licence to preach very narrowly to have escaped that disease. The box has not arrived, but will be here in due time. I have sent a few eggs to keep you going till Mrs A's return. Remember me most kindly to her and the children. I have next meeting of our Presbytery the prospect of being able to say that all demands on Patna Meeting House are settled. This has been to me a most painful business. I am, my dear sir, very truly yours, John Barclay.

Patna, 4th August 1842".

Besides the letters themselves, additional information on John Barclay has been gathered from the files of the Ayr Advertiser. The notice of his death appears in the issue for 14th March 1867, but there is no obituary. Information on Sir James Anderson was taken from "The Lord Provosts of Glasgow from 1833 - 1902", Glasgow, 1902, p.129.

Rob Close



## THE AANHS: REFLECTIONS ON ITS PAST AND FUTURE

In this 50th anniversary year of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, 1947 is the date foremost in our minds. But an earlier date, a century ago in 1897, saw the end of its predecessor after a life of twenty years, and our story should begin in 1877 with the formation of The Ayrshire and Wigtonshire Archaeological Association. Its declared purpose was publication, and no doubt its example helped to give publication the central place which it has always had in the AANHS. The following account of it is mainly derived from the first article in volume 1 of the AANHS's *Collections*, written by J W Forsyth, the Burgh Librarian.

Its first President, the Earl of Stair, "had the support of no fewer than fourteen aristocratic vice-presidents". There were then over 300 members, paying a subscription of one guinea. The Association published four very handsome volumes of *Collections*. Then, in 1885, it changed its title to The Ayrshire and Galloway Archaeological Association, in order to include Kirkcudbright, and went on to publish six further volumes of *Collections*. These, and eight other volumes on particular topics, making eighteen in all, can all be seen in the Carnegie Library, Ayr.

In 1897, although there were still 220 members, it appears that no meetings or lectures had been held, other than occasional business meetings. "...much of the work accomplished had been due to the individual efforts of Mr Cochran-Patrick, whose death in 1887 seemed to deprive the Association of its driving force." Nevertheless it left behind the valuable series of books referred to above.

Fifty years went by, until in 1947 it was suggested by a visiting lecturer, Mr R C Reid, president of the Dumfries and Galloway Antiquarian Society, that Ayrshire should have an archaeological and natural history society of its own. The Burgh's Library Committee took up the proposal, and a public meeting endorsed it.

Membership was 182 in the first year, rising to 239 (a little below the present level) in the second; the annual subscription was kept at the 1847 level of one guinea a year. The founding Officers were:

President:	The Marquis of Bute
Vice-presidents	Ex-Provost W D Kerr, Saltcoats Dr Annie I Dunlop, Fenwick Bailie C Shore, Saltcoats
Hon. Secretary	John B Lochhead, Ayr
Hon. Treasurer	A Kennedy, Ayr
Editor of Transactions	Thornton L Taylor, Prestwick

We seem to have given more attention to the place of residence of the officers and committee then than we do now. Having two vice-presidents from Saltcoats might indicate support from the north of the county which we would welcome today. The ordinary members of the committee were drawn from constituencies representing the major divisions of Ayrshire:

Cunninghame	John Beggs, Ardrossan David Baird, Irvine John Strawhorn, Newmilns	Kyle	Hugh Lorimer, Cumnock Thornton Taylor, Prestwick James P Wilson, Annbank
Carrick	Lt-Col H A Holme, Ayr John McCrindle, Dunure John A Buyers, Pinwherry	Burgh of Ayr	James W Forsyth, Ayr Bailie W S Lanham, Ayr Rev. Archibald Mackenzie, Ayr
Burgh of Kilmarnock	John W Mainds, Kilmarnock David Deans, Kilmarnock James Bain, Kilmarnock		

For the second year, 1948, an Honorary President was appointed, General (later President) Dwight D Eisenhower. He held this office for twenty years. Lord Rowallan became a Vice-president, and Commander (later Sir) G H Hughes-Onslow joined the committee. He became President in 1956, and remained for thirteen years. In 1959 Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran became Vice-president, and was President from 1969 until 1973. This name-dropping has a purpose. One is tempted to conclude that the Society was following in the path of its predecessor, with its "fourteen aristocratic vice-presidents". But the new generation of large landowners who supported the Society were active, even distinguished, antiquarians and natural historians. The record of our lectures and publications shows that they were far from being figureheads, whilst the contributions of the Marquises of Bute to the restoration of historic buildings are all well known.

One member of the founding Committee, Dr John Strawhorn, was to play a unique part in the development of the Society. His obituary notice appears in this issue, but some details should be repeated here. He died on 7 August 1997, having given fifty years of service as a Committee member. He was 25 years old when first elected, no doubt esteemed as the promising young historian who had started work on the *Third Statistical Account of Scotland: Ayrshire*. In 1955 an Editorial Committee was mentioned for the first time, and he was a member of it with J W Forsyth and W J Dillon, led by Dr Annie I Dunlop. He was listed as Joint Editor, with Dr Dunlop, in 1958, and continued as Editor until his death. He contributed hugely



as an author, and gave invaluable assistance to many other authors. He was President of the Society from 1973 to 1976.

Other Officers who served for ten years or more were: Honorary Presidents, General Eisenhower (20), Sir Bryce Knox (12); President, Commander Hughes-Onslow (13) after which three-year terms became customary; Treasurers, A Kennedy (25), Ian Herd (17). Many members of the Committee served for a similar length of time.

The initial lecture programme occupied six evenings at monthly intervals. The 1947/48 programme was:

Oct 9	The Marquis of Bute	The History and Natural History of St Kilda
Nov 13	Dr W Douglas Simpson	The Royal Castle of Dundonald
Dec 11	J M Davidson	The Development of Archaeology in Ayrshire
Jan 14	Cmdr G H Hughes-Onslow	Wild Birds in Ayrshire Today
Feb 12	Wm D Kerr	Historical and Social Notes on Saltcoats and Stevenston at the end of the 18th Century
	John Strawhorn	The Story of an Ayrshire Burgh
Mar 11	John McCrindle	The Gannet

It is interesting to note that 2½ lectures out of 6 (42%) were on natural history. For about the first 25 years there were generally two natural history lectures a year, since when one has been usual. 5 of the 7 lectures (4 of the 6 evenings) were provided by a President, a Vice-President and three Committee Members. Still today Members of the Society give one full lecture or two shorter lectures each year.

The Society met in the Carnegie Library until 1978, when library reorganisation necessitated a move to the Memorial Hall of Ayr Academy. From 1992 four additional lectures meetings were held in the Loudoun Hall, Ayr, and by 1996 further library reorganisation had permitted all ten lectures to take place in the Reference Library there: this was a relief for those who had been finding the stairs elsewhere something of a trial. Attendances at evening lectures have always been good; 80 is a typical number today. William Irving and Alec McAllister are recent examples of members who appeared regularly into their nineties. Starting in 1991, annual Public Lectures were arranged in the Civic Theatre, Ayr, in collaboration with the Local Authority, but after the first one, which had an audience of over 340, attendances declined.

From 1947 to 1983 the AANHS followed its predecessors in publishing bound volumes of *Ayrshire Collections*, 12 of them in 36 years, with a total of 3062 pages. A simple softback format was used, and there were few illustrations, but a wealth of well-researched papers on a wide variety of subjects were brought into the public

domain and still repay study. It was recognised that there would be a readier sale for single papers, and the contents of volumes 10, 11 and 12 were offered both bound and as booklets. From 1979 the bound volumes were discontinued, and only booklets were produced, yearly at first and twice yearly from 1983. From 1987 these were renamed *Ayrshire Monographs*. Publications have always been supplied free of charge to members, and sold to the public. The energetic salesmanship of Ronald Brash provides income which makes this ambitious publication programme affordable. In 1991 the AANHS and the AFHS jointly launched a journal, *Ayrshire Notes*, for shorter papers, news of Ayrshire archaeological, historical and family history societies, and book reviews. John Strawhorn was until recently its editor and most prolific contributor. This present issue is No 13. The catalogue of the bare titles and authors of 50 years' publications runs to 12 pages.

From 1959 to 1980 members participated in the archaeological excavations directed by Alastair Hendry, at Camp Castle, Craigie, Gourrock Burn, West Kilbride and Bankhead, Darvel. More recently several members gained Certificates in Field Archaeology and Scottish Studies through the Department of Continuing Education, University of Glasgow. Whilst they and others continue to excavate, the Society itself has not of late been particularly active in this area.

Throughout its life the AANHS has arranged four, sometimes more, summer excursions, and these seem to have become progressively more sophisticated and ambitious.

Must we look back to a Golden Age (perhaps before television) when archaeological and similar societies thrived, or are we holding our own, or even advancing? The quality of lectures and attendance at them have been maintained, and their number increased from six to ten a year. Membership has remained steady at about 260 for a number of years, which is above the 1948 level. Publications of high quality continue to appear, with improved presentation made possible by modern technology. Valued leaders are lost, but their successors continue to build on the foundations which they created. After fifty years, the AANHS seems determined to persist.

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## John Strawhorn, 1922-1997

Dr John Strawhorn was the outstanding historian of Ayrshire of this century. A founder member of Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, he served it in various key roles. From 1973 -1976 he was President, but it is in his capacity as Editor of the Collections that he will be remembered by most. Societies such as ours are often judged by the quality of their publications. For over forty years John supervised the production of an impressive sequence of high quality volumes, which few other societies could hope to match. Many of the articles and reports were provided by the authors at John's instigation. Not a few were his own work.

The quality of his own research was first demonstrated in the preparation and publication of the Third Statistical Account of Scotland's Ayrshire volume (1951). The insights gained from that experience, together with a meticulous approach, underpinned all his later work. In 1959 he edited *Ayrshire at the Time of Burns* for the Society, a volume of continuing significance for Burns scholars. Despite the demands of a busy teaching career, John continued to pour forth articles on Ayrshire history (e.g. for the *Collections*) and on Burns topics (e.g. in the *Burns Chronicle*), as well as writing *A New History of Cumnock* (1966) and *Ayrshire, the Story of a County* (1975). It was inevitable therefore, that, when he retired as Assistant Rector of Ayr Academy in 1982, the District Councils would seek his help. The outcome was the new histories of Irvine (1985), Ayr (1989) and Prestwick (1994). Yale University also appointed him to their Advisory Committee on their Boswell publications. The success of John's own publications and the lectures which he was called upon to give locally and at national conferences lay in the ease and clarity (and often wicked sense of humour) with which he was able to present the variety and complexity of his subjects. His ability to communicate his insights was second to none.

But the historian was only one facet of John's life. The others - the winemaker, the artist, the traveller, the gardener, and the family man - are for another publication. On a personal note, it was John who invited me, a fellow Darvel native, to the Society's lectures and encouraged me to become a life member. He took up shovel and trowel and shared the winds, rain and sunshine on the excavations at Camp Castle, Bankhead and Gourock Burn. He humoured the enthusiast as we trudged for miles in the Irvine Valley in our search for Roman roads. He has always been there as a source of reliable criticism and unstinting help.

On 7 August we all of us in the Society lost a brilliant editor, a generous colleague, but above all a good friend.

Alastair Hendry

## SIR THOMAS KENNEDY OF CULZEAN by Mary Denning

### Summary

Sir Thomas is the founder of the Kennedy family of Culzean Castle, Ayrshire. 400 years ago, in 1597, Sir Thomas's acquisitions of Culzean manor house and Coif Castle were ratified by King James VI.

Before he was murdered in 1602, Sir Thomas Kennedy achieved three things of note: he acquired Culzean Castle, he helped his brother (the 4th Earl of Cassillis) roast an abbot over a fire, and he supported his nephew during a bitter family feud. The last two ventures helped consolidate the power of the Earls of Cassillis.

### Thomas's marriage

Thomas Kennedy married Elizabeth McGill, daughter of the advocate David McGill, in 1579. She had been the wife of Robert Logan, later implicated in the Gowrie Conspiracy of 1600, but in 1579 was living with her father. Thomas abducted her from her father's house, but when, a few weeks later, Kennedy and his men were summoned to court, she declared that she had really gone of her own free will. Elizabeth must already have obtained a divorce from her first husband, since she married Sir Thomas shortly afterwards. Thomas's father-in-law was to prove very useful to him both financially and no doubt in providing legal advice.

### Culzean

Four hundred years ago, Sir Thomas Kennedy owned Culean manor house and Coif Castle. Confusingly, Culean manor was not the Culzean we know today, but was several miles away near Turnberry. Thomas was given the '20 pound land of Culean' by his brother in 1569. He became guardian of his nephew (the 5th Earl of Cassillis) in 1579 and, the following year, was given the superior Coif Castle. Both of Sir Thomas's acquisitions were disputed by their previous occupants or their descendants, and it was not until 1597 that his claims were finally ratified<sup>1</sup>.

Sir Thomas lived at Coif which, according to his contemporary Sir James Balfour, he rebuilt 'at grate cost and expensse'<sup>2</sup>. However, since it did not hold a barony, he retained his title taken from the barony of Culean. His eldest son, Thomas, continued to live at old Culean until he died about 1600<sup>3</sup>. After that the manor house

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Mary Denning is the *nom de plume* of Debbie Camp, a Member of AANHS and Education Officer of the NTS at Culzean Castle.



disappeared from all records, and Sir Thomas's further descendants lived at Coif. By the 1700s, Coif had become known as Cullean (or Culzean) Castle. Within the present 18th century building still stands Sir Thomas's 16th century tower house.

### The Roasting of the Abbot

In 1570, in the middle of the Reformation, the 4th Earl of Cassillis, his 21-year-old brother Thomas Kennedy of Culzean and several other men on horseback, 'persuaded' Allan Stewart, Abbot of Crossraguel, to accompany them to Dunure Castle<sup>4</sup>. The Earl was not pleased with Stewart. He had been trying to obtain a lease on the abbey lands, but Stewart had been double-dealing him. The Earl was not a man to be taken lightly, particularly now in these anxious times. Although he ruled the region of Carrick and beyond (the locals called him 'King of Carrick') his power was under threat.

The Earl of Cassillis and Thomas Kennedy were Catholics. They had been supporters of Mary Queen of Scots - but now the Reformers ruled Scotland.

To explain the Earl's problem fully, we need to go back to 1564. In that year, the Earl held the Abbacy of Crossraguel - Abbot Quintin Kennedy (the Earl's uncle) had signed a charter leasing him the Crossraguel Abbey lands, for an annual sum of 700 merks. This agreement, signed in April, was to run for five years. However, in August 1564, Abbot Quintin died. The abbey was left without an abbot for several months, while the Earl looked after the abbey lands. Then, in July 1565, Allan Stewart arrived.

Stewart was appointed Abbot of Crossraguel Abbey by Queen Mary for "the true and thankful service done to us and our dearest mother [Mary of Guise]... (by) James Stewart of Cardonald."<sup>5</sup> Queen Mary gave Allan Stewart the Abbacy with: "the kirks, parsonages, vicarages... woods, lands, teinds, rents, mills, farms (and) profits...", which were to be enjoyed by him as freely as by the previous abbots, for the rest of his life. Any earlier decrees were made void - except the one made by "the last abbot Mr Quintin Kennedy to Gilbert Earl of Cassillis" for the space of three years.

Stewart was in a difficult position. He had gained his post through his relation, James Stewart. Therefore, the Abbot owed this man a great deal and, no doubt, a great deal was expected of him. James Stewart was also connected by marriage to the Earl of Cassillis' main rivals in power - the Kennedys of Bargany. Neither the Bargany Kennedys nor James Stewart wanted the Earl to retain the abbey lands. Therefore at the end of 1565, Allan Stewart over-ruled the agreement made between Quintin Kennedy and the Earl of Cassillis. He stated that the Abbacy had been leased at too small a rent, and he passed the Abbacy to James Stewart of Cardonald instead.

Upon discovering this, the Earl of Cassillis must have complained to Queen Mary for, in February 1566, the Queen issued a new charter which allowed the Earl and his

heirs the whole Abbacy of Crossraguel rent-free for nineteen years, in reward for "his good true and thankful service". However, in June 1566, Pope Pius V confirmed Queen Mary's original charter to Allan Stewart! Now everyone was confused.

Allan Stewart felt that he had the stronger claim. After all, the abbey lands still belonged to the Catholic Church and therefore the Pope's word was law. Stewart now embarked on a disastrous policy of gaining as much profit as he could for himself - by making a series of land deals which contradicted one another and, in the process, double-dealing those around him, including the Earl of Cassillis. At the same time, he leased increasing amounts of land to James Stewart of Cardonald. Some lesser lairds who supported him, such as Pennyglen and Brunston, also gained land.

Stewart claimed, during this time, that he was gathering money together in order to repair the abbey buildings (damaged in 1561 by the Reformers) but, since no repairs were ever carried out, it must be assumed that he kept the money for himself.

In February 1567, the Earl of Cassillis was with Queen Mary, in Edinburgh, when she visited Darnley on his sickbed. Darnley was found strangled the next day. In May of that year, the Queen married Bothwell. Shortly afterwards, she was forced to abdicate in favour of her young son James. Her imprisonment and escape, in 1568, led to the Battle of Langside. Cassillis, Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean and Allan Stewart all fought for Mary at Langside. However, by the summer of that year, the Queen had fled and was imprisoned in England.

Queen Mary no longer ruled Scotland, and her land charter to the Earl of Cassillis could be discounted. In 1568/9, the Earl's original lease for the Abbacy, signed by Quintin Kennedy, also came to an end. That meant that, by 1569, the Earl had lost all possible claims to the lands of Crossraguel Abbey. He was in serious trouble.

The Abbacy contained a huge area of fertile farmland (and land equalled power through financial profit and manrent). But there was another reason why the Earl wanted the lands. The abbey lands lay in the middle of the Earl's estates. They divided his estates. Should his rivals take over the Abbacy, they then they would drive a wedge between the Earl's estates, and take control of Carrick.

Allan Stewart was also in trouble. In that same year, the Laird of Bargany detained him. The Bargany Kennedys were Reformers, and so the Laird of Bargany and Stewart had fought on opposing sides at Langside. Bargany now claimed that he wanted to send Allan Stewart for trial, for the deaths of three men in the battle. Nothing came of it and he released Stewart in January 1570 - but not before he had obtained some of the abbey lands for himself.

It has been said that, at this point, the Earl of Cassillis tried to persuade Allan Stewart to lease him the Abbacy, but that Stewart refused. Whether he did or not, by the autumn of 1570 the Earl had run out of patience, and he decided to take the law into his own hands. Here is Allan Stewart's account of what happened next:

'...upon the 29 day of August last... I, beand within the wood of Crossraguall,







doand my leasome errandis and busines....when Gilbert Erle of Cassillis, Thomas Maister of Cassillis,<sup>6</sup> with their complices, to the number of 16 persones or thereby, came to me and persuadit me be their flatterie and deceatful wordis to pas with thame to his castle and place of Dunure, being always mindit, gif I had made refusal to pass with them, to have taken me perforce<sup>7</sup>.

Stewart was kept at Dunure Castle until, on the 1st September, the Earl came to him with land charters which Stewart refused to sign. His account continues:

I was 'carriet by Jhone Kennedie his baxter, Jhone McCeir his cuike, Alexander Richard his pantryman, Alexander Eccles and Sir William Tode, to ane hous callit the Black Voute of Dunure whair the tormentours denudit me of all my cleathis, perforce, except onlie my sark and doublet: and thair band baith my handis at the shakle bones with one cord, as he did baith my feet, and band my soiles betwux ane iron chimlay and a fire, [so I] could nawayis steir nor move, but had almost inlaikit [died] through my crewel burning. And seeing nae uther appearance to me, but eather to condescend to his desyre, or else to continew in that torment quhill I died...[I] said I wuld obey his desyre...'<sup>7</sup>.

Stewart signed over the abbey lands but this was not the end of his ordeal. A few days later, the Earl returned and demanded that Stewart should sign again, this time in front of proper witnesses. Since he refused, he was roasted over a fire for a second time until he complied. According to Stewart 'my flesh [was] burnt and consumed to the bones.'<sup>7</sup>

The Earl then tried to hide Stewart at 'the house of Dunure' but word got out. The Earl was outlawed and fled to Galloway, while Stewart was eventually rescued by the Bargany Kennedys. According to one account, while the rescue took place Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean exhorted his men to set fire to the dungeon and burn everyone. He '...wald lay fyre to the dungeon, with no small boasting that all the enemies within the hous suld die...no admonition wuld help, till that the wind of ane hacque-bute blasted his schulder...'<sup>8</sup>.

Even in those days, men were not allowed to roast abbots. The Earl of Cassillis was summoned before the Privy Council and the land deeds signed by Stewart at Dunure were declared invalid. The Earl was also ordered to pay £2,000 surety that he would leave Allan Stewart alone. Meanwhile, Bargany held on to Dunure Castle. In 1572, the Earl, Thomas Kennedy of Culzean, Bargany and Allan Stewart were told to present themselves before the Privy Council in order to settle their differences amicably.

The year before that, James Stewart of Cardonald had already given up his large portion of the abbey lands to the negotiator, Lord Boyd<sup>9</sup>. In 1573, Bargany gave up his lesser portion. Allan Stewart then passed the abbacy to the 4th Earl of Cassilis. Why did he do that? The Earl and Thomas Kennedy had achieved their aim. After the roasting incident, no-one else dared touch the abbey lands, so Allan Stewart, finally, was content to take the Earl's money.

## The family feud

The 4th Earl died when his horse fell, in 1576. His young son became the ward of his maternal uncle, Lord Glamis, but in 1579 Glamis was killed in a street brawl in Stirling. Thomas Kennedy of Culzean then became guardian of the 5th Earl of Cassillis, and was known as the Tutor of Cassillis.

In 1590, now in the good books of King James VI, Thomas Kennedy received a knighthood. Around this time the feud with the Bargany Kennedys resumed. It was to continue for more than a decade.

Behind the 5th Earl of Cassillis stood his uncle, Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean, and the Earl's brother Hew of Brunston. Bernard Fergusson of Kilkerran and the Fergussons of Auchinsoull also supported the Earl. In 1597, the old Laird of Bargany died and was succeeded by his son Gilbert. On Gilbert's side was a formidable list of local lairds including his brother-in-law and adviser John Mure of Auchindrane (known as the Grey Man), John's son Walter Mure of Cloncaird, John Kennedy of Blairquhan, and Gilbert's own brother, Thomas of Drummurchie (the Wolf of Drummurchie). Also mentioned in a contemporary account were Hew Kennedy of Bennan, Fergus Kennedy of Knockdaw and the Cathcarts of Killochan and Nether Pinmore.

In 1600 a truce was attempted when Sir Thomas's daughter Helen was married to one of Auchindrane's sons, James Mure. But the two sides soon quarrelled again over some grants of land. An all-out battle was narrowly avoided. Then, in 1601, the Earl of Cassillis was warned of a plot by Drummurchie to ambush and kill him.

Shortly afterwards, against the advice of his family and supporters, the Laird of Bargany rode to Ayr on business. Thinking to avoid trouble, he took a circuitous route home, along the old high road from Ayr. But as he and his men passed Ladycross, on the hill above Maybole, they met an ambush. Outnumbered, Bargany's party fled across the bogland, where Bargany was overtaken and fatally wounded<sup>10</sup>.

Bargany died a few days later. The 5th Earl of Cassillis was sent before the Privy Council in Edinburgh to answer for the death of Bargany but he managed to convince the Council that he had been attempting to arrest Drummurchie (who had been declared an outlaw for misdeeds at an earlier date). When Lady Bargany heard that the Earl had escaped punishment, she began plotting, with Cloncaird and Drummurchie, to kill the Earl's adviser, Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean. Sir Thomas now knew that his own demise was imminent and met his enemies in the hope of arranging a truce. The proposed deal fell through. In May 1602, as Sir Thomas travelled through the sand dunes between Greenan Castle and Ayr, he was ambushed and shot.

The Privy Council outlawed Cloncaird as well as Drummurchie. The Grey Man and his son Walter Mure were implicated in the murder of Sir Thomas and that of an



innocent witness, William Dalrymple. Before the Earl could seek revenge the Mures were imprisoned and, in 1611, they were both hanged for Dalrymple's murder. John Kennedy of Blairquhan had died naturally in 1605. As Bargany's supporters dispersed or died, the feud fizzled out. There was no-one left to fight. Sir Thomas Kennedy's protegee, the 5th Earl of Cassillis, was now the undisputed ruler of Carrick.

Though Sir Thomas was dead, his sons did well from the family feud. In 1621 the Bargany lands were sold to Sir Thomas' second surviving son, Alexander. His eldest surviving son James had inherited Culzean (Coif) but, in 1622, he obtained Blairquhan, and resigned Culzean to Alexander. In 1624, Alexander sold Bargany to Sir John Hamilton.

It was said that Sir Thomas had wished to become an Earl himself. His wish was not granted. Yet had he been allowed one glance into the future he might have been satisfied. After two hundred years his elder brother's line died out. It is from Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean that the present Marquesses of Ailsa are descended.

## NOTES

1. In 1591 Thomas Kennedy's father-in-law, David McGill, paid the previous lease-owner, the widow Margaret Kennedy, and her son Hugh Kennedy of Girvanmains, a large sum of money in return for their renouncing all claims to the '20 pound land of Culean'. In 1597 a procurator acting for both Sir Thomas Kennedy and Alexander Kennedy of Balvaird (who had inherited a claim to Coif) gave up the '40 shilling land of Coif' to the 5th Earl of Cassillis who then granted Coif to Sir Thomas.

In August 1597 the 5th Earl, who had apparently just returned from travels on the Continent, confirmed that his uncle Sir Thomas Kennedy and his heirs should have 'the barony of Culean' and the '40 shilling land of Coif with manor place, yard and orchard'. These two were to be united into a 'free tenandry to be called the tenandry of Coif' and the principal house was to be 'the manor place of Coif'. Sir Thomas paid the Earl an annual sum of money. The agreement was ratified by King James VI later that year.

2. '...Betuix thesse ar THE Housse of the Cove, buildid with grate cost and expensse, some 40 zeirs agoe, by Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzeane, Tutor of Cassilis...'. From the *Collection of the Several Shires, Originall, with Considerable Additions by Sir Robert Sibbald under his hand: A Description of Carrick*, written by Sir James Balfour, Lyon King of Arms c. 1632. This extract is taken from Pitcairn's *Historical and Genealogical Account of... Kennedy*, published 1830.

3. '...the Laird of Colzeone...resavit word that his eldest sone was deid in France.' From the *Historie of the Kennedyis*, written in the early 1600s. A copy is bound in Pitcairn's *Historical and Genealogical Account of the Kennedys*, mentioned in 2 above. Thomas Kennedy's eldest son, also Thomas, died between 1597 and 1601, when the second son James was named heir.

4. Allan Stewart was a Master of Arts and a priest, but not of the order of Crossraguel Abbey (the Cluniac Order). Anyway, the Catholic Church had been disestablished in 1560. Therefore, Allan Stewart was more properly a Commendator (factor) rather than an Abbot. Stewart himself, in his account of his torture by the Earl of Cassillis, described himself as 'commendatour of Crossraguel' but, in the Abbey charters, he is called Abbot Allan.

The Reformed Government allowed Allan Stewart to remain in the Abbey, along with a few monks. Stewart agreed to send a percentage of the profits from the Abbacy to the Government. Many people believed that the Reformers would dispense with the land eventually, however - selling it off to their supporters.

5. The relationship between Allan Stewart and James Stewart of Cardonald is not clear. The historian Sir James Fergusson suggested that Allan was his illegitimate son. James Stewart was in turn a descendant of an illegitimate son of the 1st Earl of Lennox. He was therefore connected to the 4th Earl of Lennox, who was Darnley's father and became Regent of Scotland in July 1570. (This again would have put great pressure on the 4th Earl of Cassillis.) Lennox was killed in 1571.

6. Thomas, Maister of Cassillis, is Thomas Kennedy of Culzean.

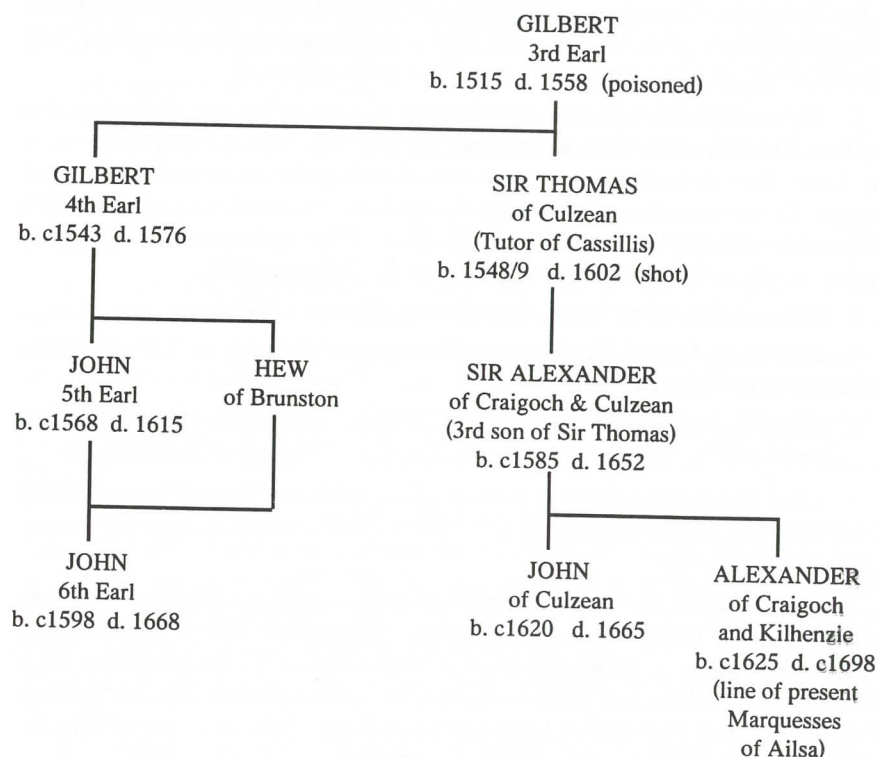
7. Account taken from *The Charters of Crossraguel Abbey* by F. C. Hunter Blair: A&GAA, Vols. 13 & 14, 1886.

8. Account in the Charters of Crossraguel Abbey (as in Note 7). This account was attributed to the Reformer, Richard Bannatyne (secretary of John Knox).

9. Lord Boyd was a Catholic who, in 1571, had bound himself to serve King James VI and his regent (as had Cassillis). Since he was trusted by all parties, he was asked to be negotiator.

10. A man called John Dick killed Bargany, who was not expecting an attack from him because Dick was of a lower social standing. There used to be a cairn said to mark the spot where Bargany was injured, in what is now a field on West Enoch Farm. That area used to be bogland, and there is a burn running through the fields, marking the boundary between West Enoch Farm and Trees Farm. This corresponds with the description in the *Historie of the Kennedyis*: see 3 above.

## FAMILY TREE SHOWING CULZEAN KENNEDYS AND EARLS OF CASSILLIS



## A Father of the Ayrshire Iron Industry

In May 1864, a presentation was held in Kilbirnie to mark the retirement of John Jack, who was retiring from the post of manager of the Glengarnock Ironworks, owned by Messrs Merry & Cunningham. The event is reported in some detail in the Kilmarnock Weekly Post of 14th May 1864, and from this report we learn a little about the early years of the iron industry in the west of Scotland, and John Jack's role in its development.

It is not revealed where Jack was born, but I assume that he was a Scot. His early training was as a mason, and he spent some years as a journeyman mason, both in Scotland and in England. For 14 years he worked for Mr Nisbet of Cairnhill, an estate near Airdrie, where he was in charge of the building and mineral department of the estate. It was presumably during his time at Cairnhill that he moved away from mason-work and into the mineral aspects of his post.

About 1830 he was employed by Mr Houldsworth to superintend the erection of the ironworks at Coltness. John Jack recalled Houldsworth thus: "A very clever man, full of inventions and anxious to find out new things ... We had a good deal of bickering, probably from both having the bump of combativeness very fully developed. After a considerable time I left him good friends and so we continued till the end of his life".

About 1839 Jack joined Merry & Cunningham, and, for them, he erected and managed the ironworks at Cairnbroe, also in Lanarkshire. He worked for Merry & Cunningham for the following 25 years until his retiral, apart from a spell - c.1845/1846 - when he was employed by the Messrs Bairds on the construction of the Eglinton Ironworks at Kilwinning. During his first period with Merry & Cunningham he had developed Glengarnock, begun in 1840: returning to the firm he improved Glengarnock and set up the ironworks at Ardeer, which dates from c.1849.

John Jack, it will be seen, was thus deeply involved in the development of five major ironworks in the west of Scotland - two (Coltness and Cairnbroe) in Lanarkshire and three (Glengarnock, Eglinton and Ardeer) in Ayrshire. In a eulogy of him at the presentation in Kilbirnie he is described as being "pre-eminently a practical man, thoroughly conversant with all the details of the numerous departments of his profession, a man of great common-sense, possessed of a sound judgement, and a shrewd and penetrating knowledge of human nature, which, combined with great powers of observation, has so frequently enabled him to fix upon men of merit, occupying comparatively unimportant situations, and by judicious advancement raise them to positions of considerable trust and responsibility".

Rob Close



## TOBACCO PIPE MANUFACTURE IN 1858

The following article appeared in the Kilmarnock Weekly Post of Saturday, 14th August, 1858. The author was probably the editor and publisher of that journal, James McKie. McKie was a bookseller, publisher and printer: he was also an antiquarian and Burns enthusiast. He was among those prominent in campaigning for and raising the funds for Kilmarnock's Burns Monument, and his collection of Burnsiana formed the nucleus for the museum in the Monument.

Of the Davies, the subject of the article, we know little. Joseph Davies, tobacco pipe manufacturer, is recorded as trading from 72 Titchfield Street, in the 1868 Kilmarnock Directory.

As the manufacture of clay pipes is a trade common to all towns of any size, but is also, perhaps, not as well documented as many other trades of the 19th century, it is hoped that this brief description of the works in Kilmarnock may be of some interest.

### "PIPE MAKING

"The making of pipes is an operation which all here may witness if they visit the workshop of Messrs J and W Davies, High Glencairn Street, who have recently cast their lot among the good people of Kilmarnock - with what success it remains yet to be seen. To those who may not find it convenient to go down we purpose to give a short description of it, as we have been in the habit, for some time past, of taking cognisance of local manufactures.

"Entering the works, the observer is struck with the simplicity and speed of the operation. The clay, which is of the finest quality, being procured from Devonshire in England, is reduced to a soft condition, but of sufficient consistency to render it capable of taking and preserving any shape which may be impressed upon it. In this condition it is made into rolls. The roll is a small quantity for making a single pipe. It is also about the length of a pipe, thick at the head and narrowing towards the point of the intended shank. A few dozens or hundreds, as the case may be, of these having been made, the pipe-maker seats himself at a large low table, and begins to give the clay its final shape. He takes a roll in one of his hands, and with the other drives a small wire, which has been dipped in oil, up the smaller end and then places the roll in an iron matrix, of the particular form of which the pipe is wanted. The matrix is then placed in a hand-vice, and a small lever, on which is fixed an iron nipple, fitting into the head of the matrix, so as to hollow out the clay, is pulled down. the matrix is taken out the vice, and the maker, with a knife, cuts the pipe head the exact size, a small slit in the matrix being left for this purpose. The wire is now drawn out of the shank, and the mould opened, and the forwarding stage of the pipe is completed.

A great many pipes are made thus, when they are conveyed to two females, who take off the slight marks that is left on the pipe by the joining of the mould. One man can easily make, in the manner described, from 1500 to 2000 per day.

"The finishing touch is given in the kiln, and this is the most delicate part of the whole process. The kiln may be of any size, according to the requirements of the manufacturer. The one which the Messrs Davies has contains 64 gross, and is sufficient for present purposes. There are three fires in it, and in the inside are three corresponding funnels in which, at certain distances, are holes to permit the flames to escape and surround the tile boxes which contain the pipes. The strictest care must be kept lest one part of the kiln be hotter than another, or lest the pipes should be too much burnt - the difference of a minute or two being enough to hurt them materially.

"Moulds may be of any shape, the difference in the making being trifling. Amongst those of which the Messrs Davies are possessed we noticed the 'London Straw', 'Burns' Cutty', the 'T.W.' and several others. We hope that this increase in our local trades may be properly supported".

## CATRINE BIG WHEELS

The following extract from the Kilmarnock Weekly Post of 30th April 1864 sheds a little additional light on the history of the Big Wheels of Catrine, and shows how a stoppage in the works, caused by the shortage of cotton created by the American Civil War, was seen, in the language of the late 20th century, as an "opportunity":

"The power of the large and gigantic water wheels has been so increased that they will be able to propel the works during an ordinary supply of the liquid element in the channel, without the use of the steam power. The wheels were constructed in 1826 and ... comparatively few repairs have been required. During the time the works have stood, on account of the cotton famine, the proprietors took advantage of the opportunity offered, and the wheels have now underwent a thorough repair. Under our vigilant and energetic manager, Robert Barclay, Esq., the completion of the repairs was brought to a successful close on Wednesday afternoon, the 20th inst., at which time the twin wheels were again in unison, and made their happy evolutions. All, we believe, has given entire satisfaction. The alterations and repairs were made by Messrs Randolph, Elder & Co., engineers, Glasgow, under the immediate attendance of Mr Peter Ferguson".



## THE NATIONAL BURIALS INDEXING PROJECT

More than two years ago the Federation of Family History Societies decided that it would be useful to provide an index to all deaths recorded before civil registration began. Although civil registration was introduced in England some eighteen years prior to its introduction in Scotland, it was made compulsory in Scotland from the outset but it was not compulsory in England until 1878. A special database was produced for the computerisation of the records and the intention is to produce a microfiche index for each county in England and Wales giving Surnames, Forenames, Ages and Place of Death or Burial as well as codes indicating what additional information is available. Over one million records are already on the database but it will be some years before the finished product is available.

In Scotland the Scottish Association of Family History Societies agreed to co-ordinate a similar project in order to complete a truly national index. Some work had already been done, particularly the indexing of the deaths recorded in the Ayr Old Parish records which was completed by Jean Kennedy, but it was felt that insufficient attention was being given to the detail contained in the records south of the border. In order to achieve a definitive transcription, it was decided that ALL available detail would be recorded in Scotland and the database has now been expanded to cope with the additional information. The microfiche indexes will contain some, but not all, of the additional information, however the computerised database will be made available as a research tool to any interested resource centres.

Obviously this project will be useful to the family historian but the information extracted in Scotland will provide an excellent research tool for social and medical historians as well. The results from the single parish completed by Jean Kennedy have already excited some interest. Approximately 11200 deaths were recorded in Ayr between 1766 and 1855 and each one was painstakingly transcribed and entered onto a database. The final results were then indexed and published but additional indexing can be done using causes of death, occupations, ages and so on. As an example, of the recorded causes of death, over 14% (1623) were from consumption, which is by far the most common cause of death in this whole period. Teething accounts for 135 deaths, drowning 48, burning 41, cholera 108 and smallpox 555. It also becomes clear that although the average lifespan may have been shorter in the 19th century, some people did manage to survive to a remarkable age.

It is hoped that the microfiche index for the whole of Ayrshire will be available by the middle of 1999, with the rest of Scotland being completed within three years.

The Index to the Deaths Recorded in the Old Parish Records of Ayr compiled by Jean Kennedy is published by South Ayrshire Libraries in two volumes and can be purchased through the local history department at the Carnegie Library, Ayr.

Dave Killicoat

## NEW BOOKS ABOUT AYRSHIRE

### AYRSHIRE AND THE REFORMATION: PEOPLE AND CHANGE, 1490-1600

Margaret H B Sanderson

Tuckwell Press 1997 £14.99

ISBN 1 898410 91 7

Margaret Sanderson is well known to AANHS members through her monographs and lectures on later medieval church and society. In this, her latest and most important work since *Scottish Rural Society in the Sixteenth Century* (1982) she provides church and social historians with a local case study of a national phenomenon. There are, however, spin-offs for the local historian and even the genealogist too.

For the period and topic in question Dr Sanderson's knowledge of source materials is unrivalled, and her ability to discuss these in the wider national (and, indeed, international) context displays a reassuringly firm grasp of political, social and theological developments of the time. This makes her an ideal guide to the effects of reforming ideas on local people and the role of Ayrshire men and women in the Reformation.

Her work is a major advance in many respects, not least because it includes an appendix with biographical notes on the first couple of generations of Ayrshire's ministers, backed up by a comprehensive index, which enables the reader to follow the, sometimes turbulent, progress of prominent individuals, such as John Porterfield, the moderate minister of Auld Ayr, whose archery practice after Sunday service must have raised a few eyebrows.

The tendency of reforming sympathies to descend family lines may liven up the family trees of the more fortunate or resourceful of Ayrshire's ancestor worshippers, who have managed to trace their ancestry back to heretical landowners. I remember enquiries from several descendants of the Campbells of Kinzancleugh coming my way during my stint at the helm of the Ayrshire Archive Office. Most would have been delighted to have had Sanderson add more flesh to the bones that even that old testament of Ayrshire genealogy, James Paterson's history of the county's landed families.

The tone of the book is rarely less than sympathetic to ordinary people trying to survive in dangerous times. Thus, for example, the lollard Adam Reid of Barskimming, scoring points off Bishop Blackadder one day, but helping his kinsman to a chaplainry in Ayr the next, implies not a change of opinion, but merely 'an adjustment of conscience'.



Gaps in record keeping by parish clerks, local courts, estate factors and family correspondents sometimes make it difficult to discern a consistent historical development, but Dr Sanderson manages to raise her study above the level of a dull chronicle, and where there are few sources to back up her view of the significance of particular events, ideas or individuals (such as the impact of Lollardy in south-west Scotland) she is refreshingly honest without being too timid to leap off the fence.

On the subject of Ayrshire's religious history there are many who would have preferred the safety of the fence. This is, after all, a part of the country where the failure by a local historical society to include a lecture on the Covenants in its Autumn programme would probably result in \* the appearance, *apud acta*, of the society's secretary before the kirk session. For her fearless fence-leaping, erudition and readability Dr Sanderson is to be commended, and this society wishes her a happy retirement from active service (but not active research) in the Scottish Records Office.

Rob Urquhart

\* Editor's note: overseas reader please note that the reviewer here jests (we hope).

**LOVE AND LIBERTY: ROBERT BURNS  
A BICENTENARY CONFERENCE  
edited by Kenneth Simpson**

**Tuckwell Press, 1997, £16.99**

**ISBN 1 898410 89 5**

This intellectually stimulating book brings together many of the papers presented at the International Bicentenary Conference (Theme - Two Centuries of Useful Learning) which took place on 11-13 January 1996 at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. This conference formed part of the Bicentenary celebrations of the founding of the University as Anderson's Institution and took place in the year of the Bicentenary of Robert Burns's death.

In the introduction Dr Ken Simpson, Director of the Centre for Scottish Cultural Studies, University of Strathclyde, and conference director of these Burns Conferences held annually since 1990, hopes that these essays may be helpful in suggesting possible directions for Burns study and that they may encourage readers to discover, as in Carl MacDougall's words, "How good Robert Burns actually is".

Many of the world's leading Burns scholars contributed papers on a variety of aspects of the poet's life and works. The result is an excellent collection of thought-provoking material that is worthy of study by anyone who has an interest in Robert Burns.

All the main themes of contemporary Burns Scholarship are represented. The variety of topics included makes this an interesting book. These themes were Burns as World Poet; Burns and Scottish Thought; Burns: the Life and the Poetry; Burns and Music; Burns and Scottish Life and Values; Burns and Scottish History; Burns and Scottish Literature; Burns and the Folk Tradition; Burns and Liberty; Images of Burns.

In the words of Dr Ross Roy "All bear witness to the Man who, two centuries after his death, continues to astonish and delight us".

Having attended the conference this reviewer regrets this collection has not included all of the papers presented there. For example the papers of Prof. T M Devine, Dr Kirsteen McCue and Rev. Dr Walter McGinty to name but a few.

This book is to be recommended to any student of Robert Burns. The wide variety of topics and their treatment ensure that there is something for everyone to savour and study. It should be in the library of every Burns scholar.

Dr Tom Morrall

**AYR AULD KIRK: MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS**

**Troon and District FHS, 1997**

**ISBN 1 900171 03 1**

As the compilers note in their introduction, there have been two previous attempts to provide a full transcription of the monumental inscriptions in the kirkyard of Ayr Auld Kirk. Both of these were deficient in a number of ways, and certainly neither was totally inclusive of all the stones in the kirkyard. With this new volume, Troon and District FHS have corrected this, and have made accessible to all researchers the many names recorded on the 808 stones currently standing in this important burying place.

The earlier transcriptions have been resorted to where the vagaries of time, neglect and destruction have rendered unreadable that which was readable in earlier times. Ayr's native stone, probably largely from the quarries at Townhead, is not particularly well suited to monumental carving



It is difficult to review a book such as this. The reviewer's task is merely to make sure that those to whom it will be useful know that it exists. I have already found it useful: James Bone the surgeon is here (see 'To Attendance and Bleeding' in *Ayrshire Notes* 12) on stone 599. He died in July 1809. Many of the important Ayr merchant families are represented, and sense made of their genealogies and interrelationships.

This is a book, a working tool, that will be invaluable to all working on the history of Ayr in the 18th and 19th centuries. As is often the case, local historians have cause to thank genealogists for making their task a little easier, lightening the load that little bit more.

Rob Close

### **OLD CATRINE AND SORN**

**Rhona Wilson**

**Stenlake Publishing, 1997, £6.50**

**ISBN 1 872074 91 X**

What came to be known as photography had its practical beginnings in the early part of the 1800s. Since this time it is reasonable to suggest the number of images produced by such chemical means is well beyond what is useful to calculate. Even if restricted to a particular locality and theme it is unlikely the fund of photographs in existence could ever be described as definitive. As an example, 78 camera-produced pictures were used in a booklet compiled by Catrine, Sorn and District Local History Group in 1987 - "200 Years of Catrine and Sorn Parish - a Cotton Tale". Of these only three are repeated in the 55 used in this latest addition to a series of publications covering Ayrshire villages and towns.

The photographs - all monochrome - are generally of high quality. They cover most of the important phases in the history of Catrine and to a lesser extent Sorn. Many of the buildings and systems featured - the mills, the big wheel, the bleaching works and the railway line in Catrine, and the sawmill and smiddy in Sorn - have disappeared, and have not always been suitably replaced or compensated for. This is brought out in the captions which are interesting but not what they could be, in that the opportunity to correct a number of errors contained within the '87 booklet has been missed. Some fresh errors have also emerged! The impression is gained that if only a bit more time had been taken to research the historical issues then "Old Catrine & Sorn" could have been a publication of considerable merit. As it is the term 'pot boiler' springs to mind.

The historical mistakes in the booklet could form the core of several articles in *Ayrshire Notes* but meantime at least two can be cleared up from personal memory. The branch railway line to Catrine did not close in the 40s as stated. Although not used for passengers - with the exception of a Sunday School trip in 1957 - a goods train trundled in five days a week up until the 60s, at which time Lord Beeching's wholesale line closures gave rise to a severely truncated rail system which future generations in Britain may yet live to regret - Catrine to Paris direct by train now beyond even the wildest of dreams! The original Twist Mill was not accidentally set on fire and then demolished. Demolition was already under way, but because of the mill's very thick walls was well behind schedule. Whether the foreman who set fire to a stack of oil-soaked timbers hoped it would somehow accelerate the demolition process is open to conjecture! Certainly on that day in May 1963 it was easy to pinpoint the whereabouts of Catrine - normally hidden in its valley from long-distant view - due to the huge column of black smoke rising from its midst!

One final mystery. How can a photograph showing villagers in what appears to be turn-of-the-century dress be said to contain a war memorial built in 1921? The truth is out there - but not always in "Old Catrine & Sorn". The photo-imagery is, nevertheless, there to be enjoyed (the booklet is worth buying purely on this account), but readers beware!

Jim Kleboe

### **TWO SATURDAY EVENTS**

On Saturday 11 October the AFHS is holding its Autumn Conference (and AGM) at the Walker Halls, Troon, from 9-15 ~~until lunch-time~~. Its theme, "Popular Culture in 18th Century Scotland", will be explored by five well-known speakers. Details can be had from Dave Killicoat at 11 Chalmers Road, Ayr, KA7 2RQ, or the Carnegie Library.

The 50th anniversary of the AANHS, and the centenary of Paisley College, will be celebrated on Saturday 1 November between 10-00 and 4-00 by a Symposium at the Craigie Campus in Ayr. Entitled "Changing Ayrshire and the south-west: 1897, 1947, 1997" it will look back on a century of developments in employment, welfare, education, communications, living conditions and culture. Details from Ian Bishop, Craigie Campus in Ayr, Beech Grove, Ayr, KA8 0SR.



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