

AYRSHIRE \$ NOTES \$

HISTORY

ANTIQUITIES

ARCHÆOLOGY • NATURAL~HISTORY

No. 21

Autumn 2001

ISSN 1474-3531

£1.00



**Cumnock
Poaching Riot**

Stirling Engine

Mr Enid Blyton

Colmonell Bridge

Ayr Street Names

Contributions for the Spring 2002 issue of *Ayrshire Notes*, including information about the activities of Member Societies, should be sent before the end of January to Rob Close, 1 Craigbrae Cottages, Drongan, Ayr KA6 7EN, tel. 01292 590273.

Local Societies may obtain additional copies of *Ayrshire Notes* for their members at cost price by prior arrangement with David McClure, 7 Park Circus, Ayr KA7 2DJ, tel. 01292 262248.

AYRSHIRE NOTES
is published in Ayr by
AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
in association with
AYRSHIRE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

AYRSHIRE NOTES 21, 2001, ISSN 1474-3531

© 2001. The copyright of the articles belongs to the individual authors.

AANHS President	William Layhe
AANHS Secretary Tel. 01292 441915	Dr Trevor Mathews, 10 Longlands Park, Ayr KA7 4RJ
AFHS Chairman	Stuart Wilson
AFHS Secretary (acting) Tel. 01292 590273	Rob Close, 1 Craigbrae Cottages, Drongan, Ayr KA6 7EN

Cover illustration

Engraving (actual size 12.5 cm. by 27.5 cm.) of "Smiths' Close, Ayr," by the Ayr artist, T. Bonar Hone. See David B. Smith's review of *The Street Names of Ayr* by Rob Close on page 24.

Contents

	page
The Cumnock Poaching Riot of 1833	4
Robert Stirling's Air Engine	12
Stinchar Bridge, Colmonell	15
Hugh Pollock: The First Mr Enid Blyton	20
Book Notes	24
Hugh Douglas, <i>Jacobite Spy Wars: Moles, Rogues and Treachery</i>	24
Rob Close, <i>The Street Names of Ayr</i>	24
Hugh Douglas and Michael J. Stead, <i>The Flight of Bonnie Prince Charlie</i>	25
Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies: Notices	26
Swap-Shop 2001	26
John Strawhorn Quaich	26
Ayrshire Bibliography	26
Wanted (a secretary for the AFHS)	26
Conference 2002	27
Diary of Meetings of Historical Societies September 2001 to May 2002	27
Have you Scanned yet? (www.scan.org.uk)	30
List of AANHS Publications	back cover

“Let the fowls of the air be common property”

The Cumnock Poaching Riot of 1833

In February 1833 notice was given to the debtors and creditors of the late David Reid, mason in Barshare, Cumnock, that his estate was to be settled and his debts cleared.¹ Such notice was a regular part of the settlement of an estate, either after sequestration or bankruptcy or, as in Reid's case, after death. This notice, though, has a certain poignancy because Reid's death was sudden, unexpected and accidental. He was the main victim of an affray which took place in Cumnock following the arrest of a number of poachers, believed to be part of a highly organised gang from Glasgow or elsewhere in Lanarkshire.

Poaching, and the poacher, holds a particular romantic appeal for many: an appeal not dissimilar to that felt for the smuggler, and based on a perhaps erroneous concept of the poacher and the smuggler as latter-day Robin Hoods, striving to put into effect an equitable distribution of resources. A journalist in 1826 noted that it was 'difficult to make an uneducated man appreciate the sanctity of private property in game' when 'the produce of a single night's poaching was often more than the wages for several weeks' work',² while Roy Campbell has noted that 'the drift of legislation from the eighteenth to the early nineteenth centuries to preserve game for the proprietor led to increased resentment at the ensuing damage to crops, especially by rabbits, and to the sympathy already felt for tenants being extended to poachers'.³ 'Broadly speaking, until 1831 only the owners of very large estates and their heirs could legally kill game; no one could buy or sell it. But since many wealthy and otherwise respectable citizens like to have it for their dinner, they were willing to break the law to get it. Poulterers pandered to their demand, and bought from poachers; but these were not merely hungry labourers looking for their dinner; in 1818 a gang captured in Bedfordshire was reported to earn between £50 and £70 a week in wages. Even after the sale of game was made legal, in 1831, and men could take out licences to kill it, unlicensed taking continued; it was difficult to stop it, and poachers still found it easy to sell. But it was rare for men to poach from distress ... the poor could not afford "the beautiful description of nets that were used." Poachers formed part of a highly organized and profitable trade; after all, pheasants and hares were easy to steal, and the loot was easy to dispose of'.⁴

Shaw notes that juries were often reluctant to convict poachers, and quotes an English case where a poacher was acquitted 'because though he had a gun, which had just been fired, and was holding a "warm pheasant", there was no proof that he had actually fired the gun'.⁵ Poachers were front-line foot soldiers in the war between the haves and the have-nots who, besides, provided a useful service in supplying food. For many people in early 19th Century Britain - as at other periods - it was difficult to see wherein lay the crime that the poachers were committing. Consequently, those engaged in suppressing poaching and apprehending poachers often found the public at large unhelpful and, as we shall see, on occasions proactively obstructive. It is against this background that we can now turn to consider the events that unfolded in Cumnock in January 1833.

In late 1832, 'a band of poachers, regularly organised, and acting under commanders of their own number and choosing, said to be from Glasgow and its neighbourhood, and who are supposed collectively to amount to no less a number than twenty-five'⁶ began to operate in the area around Cumnock and Auchinleck. This 'daring' band were 'infesting and sweeping the game'⁷ from estates in this area, such as Dumfries House, Auchinleck House and Ballochmyle. This band acted in the most blatant and outrageous manner and, in individual parties of between two and five in number, 'carried on their avocation of poaching in the most open and daring manner, at once setting the laws of the country at naught, and bidding open defiance to the numerous gamekeepers who had charge of the game on these estates. Indeed it is said they carried their audacity to such an extent that they not only ventured to kill game in the presence of the gamekeepers, but, quite in a Robin Hood style, compelled the keepers, at least on one occasion, to carry the bag with the dead game'.⁸ The members of the band were undoubtedly armed: a Cumnock correspondent of the *Ayr Observer* stated that 'a stranger can form but little idea of the ferocious and reckless nature of these desperadoes. Their threats and imprecations and personal appearance yielded in nothing to what one is apt to conceive of the most thorough-paced bandit'.⁹

It is probable that this was only one of a number of gangs of professional poachers who operated out of Glasgow. In 1836, Thomas Hogg, junior, of Toftsmill, Dalry, in the Garnock Valley, reported that 'a number of years ago, the parish' [i.e. Dalry] 'was infested by a gang of notorious poachers, persons of idle, drunken, disorderly habits and profligate manners'. By 1836, however, they had 'been broken up and dispersed', and there were by 1836 in Dalry only 'one or two individuals at present ... addicted to this demoralizing pursuit'.¹⁰

It was generally believed that the 'greater part of the game which they killed' was sent to Glasgow for sale, but it was also known that what was not sent to Glasgow found a ready sale in two public houses, one in Cumnock and one in Auchinleck. It was stated that on occasion more than twenty hares were sold in a single night in each of these public houses, besides unnumbered pheasants and partridges. Clearly there was a market for their catch - a market which probably went fairly well up the social ladder. The poachers, it was said, spent their nights together in one or other of these pubs, passing the night 'in jollity and riot'.¹¹

These depredations were obviously a matter of considerable concern to the estates, and on the 10th January 1833, the gamekeepers on the Dumfries House estate learnt that a party of four poachers was active in the vicinity of Cumnock. A thorough search was made and a poacher was disturbed at his work on the Marquess of Bute's farm of Roseburn: he was pursued and eventually captured on the lands of Garlaff. With some difficulty, he was brought into Cumnock and, at his request(!), conveyed to, and secured in, the house of Hugh Campbell, grocer and innkeeper. After his capture, the three other poachers came into Cumnock to ascertain his fate;¹² they were seen by the writer, William White, 'passing down the street', and he recognised them as three men for whom a warrant was out.¹³ They appear to have been in Campbell's house when they were arrested: certainly they were held there.¹⁴

Quite why Campbell's house was chosen, and quite why the captured poacher was allowed to choose it, remains unclear. It is natural to suspect that this was because this was the public house in Cumnock in which they engaged in their nights of jollity and riot, and through which their game was sold. Campbell felt obliged to write to the *Ayr Observer*, strongly denying this: he avers that he never gave 'the poachers the slightest encouragement, nor countenanced them in any shape whatever'.¹⁵ Regardless of the truth of this, it is abundantly clear that Cumnock in 1833 lacked any form of public lockfast place of detainment.¹⁶

The poachers were secured in Campbell's house under a warrant granted by a local JP, Alexander Allason of Glaisnock, 'in terms of the new Trespass Act'; of them, the one who had been detained on Garlaff was taken from Campbell's to the Dumfries Arms, where he was tried, 'convicted on the clearest evidence', and, after he had refused either to give his name or to pay the fine imposed, ordered to be conveyed to the jail in Ayr. While in the Dumfries Arms, he tried to escape, and it was found necessary to secure him with ropes until the cart which would take him to Ayr arrived.¹⁷ In the meantime, word had obviously spread through Cumnock that some of the poachers had been captured, and 'in consequence of considerable excitement prevailing, and a disposition to riot being manifested' the powers-that-be decided to postpone the trial of the other three until the following day.¹⁸ At this point, presumably, a party of constables was brought together to secure these three at Campbell's until then: the hope being that the strong feelings exhibited would have subsided.

A cart and driver having been found, they were brought to the Dumfries Arms at about six o'clock in the evening.¹⁹ 'When the cart arrived at the inn door, a crowd had collected, amounting to from two to three hundred; and from the cries and groans which they uttered, it was now evident that they were taking part with the poachers, and had their feelings completely biased by some mistaken political notion, which some crafty interested individuals had taken the pains to mix up and connect with the misdeeds of the poachers. The cart, with the prisoner, had not proceeded two hundred yards when a few of the ring-leaders in the mob commenced an active and determined attack upon the constables who were in charge of the prisoner, and having overpowered them, cut the ropes, and rescued him out of their hands'.²⁰ The cart was driven by David Smith, a carter in Cumnock, while amongst the constables assigned to convey the prisoner to Ayr were John Goldie, a sheriff officer, William Drennan and James McMillan.²¹

After he was rescued the poacher was 'conveyed through the town of Cumnock in triumph' before making his getaway. James Johnstone, assistant schoolmaster, recalled having seen him, after he had been liberated, 'running round the Relief Church and down a close', where he climbed a wall with another man: he also saw James Patrick, a sawyer in Cumnock, preventing people from following the poacher down the close.²² The mob, having tasted success, were now intent on freeing the other three poachers, and began to assemble in front of Hugh Campbell's house.

By this time, the crowd was becoming more riotous - using threatening behaviour and turning violent - so that it was 'judged prudent for the Court to issue orders for the constables and the gamekeepers present to keep the three poachers in custody in

Campbell's'.²³ With the benefit of hindsight, one may wonder what chance of so doing they thought they had, but it is also difficult to see what else they could have done.

At this point, the chain of events becomes somewhat confused. What follows must have taken place around seven o'clock on a January evening, so that, withal, it would also have been dark. A reasonably coherent account was given by James Baird, merchant in Cumnock. He was among the constables detailed to detain the poachers within Campbell's house. According to him there was shouted conversation between the crowd and the poachers: the crowd asking them if it was time yet to free them. Soon afterwards the force of the crowd pushed in the window and shutter of the room they were in; the shutter was put up again, and one of the assistant constables stood with his back against it. It was however again pushed in, with such force that it, and the man holding it, were thrown across the room. At this point, according to Baird, the mob rushed into the room through the door. Before the room was invaded, Peter Bannatine had fired a shot out of the window above the heads of the crowd.²⁴

Again according to Baird, when the mob came into the room, they grabbed at the gun of Robert Collins, gamekeeper at Ballochmyle, and in the ensuing mêlée it had gone off, killing David Reid, mason at Barshare, who had been one of the constables guarding the three poachers. Baird, and other witnesses, stated that Collins had called out to the crowd to be careful, for the gun was loaded and cocked.²⁵ After Reid was shot, there was general confusion, and the three poachers escaped.²⁶ Another witness, George Patrick, one of the gamekeepers, averred that one of the poachers, whom he named as Lindsay, had been the first to grab Collins' gun.²⁷

The death of Reid may have had a sobering effect on the crowd: at all events, they had achieved their objective of liberating the poachers. A rider was sent, post haste, to Ayr, and the Sheriff Substitute and the Procurator Fiscal came to Cumnock, examined witnesses and took precognitions. As a result, Robert Collins was charged with culpable homicide, and a number of people from Cumnock were charged with mobbing and rioting, deforcement and assault. They were David Reid, plasterer, James Patrick, sawyer, John Thomson, carter, John White, carter, George Dickie, shoemaker, John Robertson, nailer, John Hunter (also known as Hunter Downie), labourer, John Miller, weaver, and Hugh Murdoch, sheriff officer. All were to appear at the next Circuit Court of Justiciary in Ayr, which was to be in April 1833.

In the days following the liberation of the poachers, it was reported that they were back at their work. On the 11th January - the day when the authorities had planned to try them in the Dumfries Arms - they were seen hunting for game on the Auchinleck House estate, and in the course of the same month, they were seen poaching in and around the parishes of Sorn and Muirkirk.²⁸

The trials resulting from these events took place in Ayr on the 22nd April 1833. The case against David Reid, plasterer,⁷ and his co-accused was heard first. From the point of view of the prosecution, this was not without its disappointments. One of the accused, Hugh Murdoch, failed to appear: as he had been employed as a sheriff officer, it is perhaps not surprising that he had chosen to flee: he was outlawed. Next, the defence successfully argued that the libel against John White had been incorrectly drawn up, as he lived at

Stepends, which was in Auchinleck parish, not Old Cumnock. The point was proved, and White was allowed to walk free. The cases against Hunter (or Downie) and Miller were passed down to a lower court.³⁰ Finally, the defence argued successfully that as neither the petition nor the warrant for the detention of the poachers bore their names, these were not legal arrest warrants, and that therefore the poachers detained at Campbell's had not been legally detained, and thus they could not have been illegally freed.³¹

Much of the evidence that was led by the defence centred on the action of the mob in attacking David Smith and his cart, and freeing the lone poacher.³² William Drennan testified that he had been hit by David Reid, and this was corroborated by another of the constables with the cart, James McMillan. Drennan also identified James Patrick and John Thomson as being among the crowd which attacked the cart. As we saw above, Patrick was also seen assisting the man's escape down a close near the Relief Church, and he and Thomson were also seen in the mob at Hugh Campbell's.³³ In his summing-up, the presiding judge, Lord Gillies, said to the jury that he believed the case against Reid had been clearly made: the jury concurred and found Reid guilty. They returned verdicts of not proven on the others: i.e. Patrick and Thomson, together with George Dickie and John Robertson, against whom no material evidence appears to have been led at all. Reid was sentenced to nine months imprisonment.³⁴

The case against Robert Collins followed. Many of the witnesses were the same as in the previous trial: the most pertinent again being the merchant, James Baird. It was clear that there was no desire to convict: the Advocate-Depute, in addressing the jury, said that 'he had felt it his duty to investigate and bring forward this distressing case, for the public satisfaction; and from the evidence led it was quite clear that the gun had gone off in the general confusion, and that the death of the unfortunate man was entirely accidental'. Lord Gillies, in another pointed address to the jury, said 'he was happy to find .. that the person placed at the bar was perfectly innocent'. The jury 'having conversed with each other', agreed, Collins was found not guilty, and set free.³⁵ On 21st June 1833, John Hunter (alias Hunter Downie) and John Miller appeared before the Sheriff Criminal Court in Ayr. The case against Miller was found not proven, but Hunter was found guilty, and given a jail sentence of two months.³⁶

The outcome of a day of communal madness, therefore, in Cumnock was that the poachers had escaped, and had resumed their depredations, one man had died, leaving a widow and five children,³⁷ while two men went to jail for riotous behaviour.

The *Observer's* correspondent asked a question which, perhaps, we can no more answer confidently at this distance than he could at the time:

'It is naturally and uniformly asked by every individual in this quarter, and at a distance, in whose presence the subject is mentioned, what could have induced the inhabitants of Cumnock to take part with these poachers, seeing that their whole conduct was of that description which every good member of society ought to deprecate in the most unqualified manner'.³⁸

He does, however, have some thoughts on the subject:

'The impression on the minds of the thinking part of the community is that a number of individuals whose duty it was to have prevented riot and kept the peace acted behind the

curtain and instigated some of those desperate characters who are to be found in every place to riot; and a crowd having collected, and ardent spirits having been liberally supplied to them from the house of Campbell, it was industriously inculcated on their minds that they ought to view the matter in a political point of view - that the poachers were to be made the victims of the aristocracy, and that it was oppressive and unjust to punish any man for killing game - that game was free to every person - and that the law would soon come to be administered in such a way so that no country gentleman would have it in his power to punish any person whatever therefor. Such specious arguments as these coming from individuals, heads of families, who ought to have conducted themselves in a respectable manner, and accompanied by the war-whoops of radicalism, aided with the supply of ardent spirits above mentioned, converted the congregated crowd to one mass of frenzy and madness'.³⁹

As we have seen, there was, nation-wide, much sympathy for poachers: in that Cumnock was no different from anywhere else, and, no doubt, there were individuals 'who ought to have conducted themselves in a respectable manner' who enjoyed their hares and pheasants, and saw no reason why this trade should not continue. To what extent issues of radicalism, in the period immediately after the Great Reform Act of 1832, were raised to excite the mob, is a question that remains unanswered. Certainly the *Observer's* correspondent believed so, and his belief is supported by the evidence given, in the trial of Hunter and Miller, by Hugh Robertson, the 10-year-old son of the waiter at the Dumfries Arms. He watched the crowd outside the inn, and heard many of their cries, such as 'Rescue' and 'Liberty', and others, which could be construed as having a radical political message, such as 'Let Every Man for Liberty' and 'Let the Fowls of the Air be Common Property'.⁴⁰

While the *Observer's* correspondent seems to detect a plot, and deliberate orchestration of the crowd, the events do appear to have unfolded spontaneously, if tragically. For many, perhaps, it was nothing more than the chance of a little excitement on a dark Thursday night in the middle of winter. For them, perhaps, Friday may have dawned accompanied by a sore head and a hoarse voice, but otherwise their lives remained unchanged. For some, however, life however would never be the same again. Alexander Allason of Glaisnock, the JP who authorised the arrest warrants, died on the 30th June 1833, his end perhaps hastened by the events of 10th January, and their consequences.⁴¹

David Reid, the mason, was dead. He left a widow and family to mourn his loss. His wife, Marion Murdoch, had given birth to a daughter, Margaret, on the 5th January 1833, 5 days before David Reid was shot. The birth is registered thus: 'Margaret, lawful daughter of David Reid, mason, and Marion Murdoch, was born the 5th of January 1833 - and baptized [blank] - omitted by the mother to be registered at the proper place, the father having been accidentally shot before the baptism'.⁴² Marion Murdoch or Reid died at Milzeoch Farm, Cumnock, on the 9th May 1870.⁴³

Although acquitted, Robert Collins seems never to have recovered from this incident. He had been born c.1794, and had been a gamekeeper on the Ballochmyle estate since at least 1826,⁴⁴ and probably before that: he was a resident of Mauchline parish when he married, on 27th December 1822, Mary Hunter from the neighbouring parish of Sorn.⁴⁵

On 10th September 1833, nine calendar months after the riot, the *Ayr Observer* reported that 'this morning — Collins, gamekeeper to Claud Alexander, Esq., of Ballochmyle was engaged in cleaning a double-barrelled gun, and not being aware that one of the barrels was loaded, it went off and wounded him so severely, that he died in half an hour'.⁴⁶ Accidents do happen, even to experienced gamekeepers, but coupling Collins' role in the events that had unfolded during the course of 1833 with the very real distress that suicide could bring in its wake, it seems probable that Collins had been unable to come to terms with his part in these events, and that his death had been reported as an accident to preserve his, and his family's, dignity. His wife, Mary Hunter, did not long outlive him and died, aged 37, on the 5th November 1837. They are buried in the churchyard at Catrine.⁴⁷

Rob Close

- ¹ *Ayr Observer*, 5th February 1833, 1b.
- ² *Huntingdonshire, &c Weekly Journal*, 18th March 1826, quoted in A G L Shaw, *Convicts and the Colonies*, [Dublin], 1998 ed., 156.
- ³ R H Campbell, *Scotland Since 1707: The Rise of an Industrial Society*, 2nd ed., Edinburgh, 1985, 125.
- ⁴ Shaw, *op cit*, 156. The position in Scotland was broadly similar to that in England, and was prescribed by the Night Poaching Act, of 1828, and the Game (Scotland) Act of 1832: although they have been amended by subsequent legislation, both these Acts remain on the statute book. The best general introduction to the history of poaching is probably C Chenevix Trench, *The Poacher and the Squire: A History of Poaching and Game Preservation in England*, London, 1967.
- ⁵ Shaw, *op cit*, 158.
- ⁶ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4c. There is evidence from England at this period that poaching had 'on occasions at least, become more highly professionalized'. [George Rudé, *Criminal and Victim: Crime and Society in Early Nineteenth Century England*, Oxford, 1985, 21]
- ⁷ *Ayr Observer*, 15th January 1833, 4a.
- ⁸ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4c.
- ⁹ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4c.
- ¹⁰ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, Vol. V, Ayr - Bute, Edinburgh, 1845, 224.
- ¹¹ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4c.
- ¹² *Air Advertiser*, 17th January 1833, 4c.
- ¹³ *Air Advertiser*, 25th April 1833, 4a.
- ¹⁴ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4d.
- ¹⁵ *Ayr Observer*, 5th February 1833, 1c. Hugh Campbell remained in business in Cumnock as a grocer and spirit merchant. He died there on the 16th February 1850. [*Air Advertiser*, 21st February 1850, 4f]
- ¹⁶ 'No complaint ever had to be offered over the efficiency of the local police provision. J.P. Courts met in the old parish school in the Square (with jail attached) till 1839 and thereafter in a Court House built in the Townhead. This became also the police station after the creation of a County Constabulary in 1858'. [John Strawhorn, *The New History of Cumnock*, Cumnock, 1966, 98]. It is clear from the events discussed here that in 1833 the J.Ps. met in the Dumfries Arms, and no thought appears to have been given to securing the poachers in a local jail. It is possible that these events precipitated a re-structuring of judicial processes in Cumnock.
- ¹⁷ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4d.
- ¹⁸ *Ayr Observer*, 15th January 1833, 4a.
- ¹⁹ *Air Advertiser*, 17th January 1833, 4c.

- ²⁰ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4d.
- ²¹ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4a.
- ²² *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4b; *Air Advertiser*, 25th April 1833, 4a.
- ²³ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4d.
- ²⁴ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4b. Bannatine was a gamekeeper on the Auchinleck House estate of Sir James Boswell. [*Air Advertiser*, 17th January 1833, 4c]
- ²⁵ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4b.
- ²⁶ They left 'in the room two very finely finished guns'. [*Air Advertiser*, 17th January 1833, 4d]
- ²⁷ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4b; *Air Advertiser*, 25th April 1833 4b.
- ²⁸ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4d.
- ²⁹ It will be noted that the primary victim of these events, David Reid, mason in Barshare, and the man most heavily punished for his part in them, the plasterer David Reid, bear the same name. I am not aware of any family connection.
- ³⁰ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4a. It emerged later that both Miller and Hunter or Downie had also absconded after the events: Miller for eight days or so, and Hunter for some months. It is not clear why they are treated differently from Murdoch; it was perhaps common knowledge that Murdoch had fled completely, while his role as an officer of the state increased the seriousness of his offence.
- ³¹ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4b.
- ³² When questioned about the rescue, David Smith claimed that he had his back to the cart, and had thus not seen the rescue. [*Air Advertiser*, 27th June 1833, 3f]
- ³³ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4ab.
- ³⁴ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4b.
- ³⁵ *Ayr Observer*, 23rd April 1833, 4b.
- ³⁶ *Ayr Observer*, 25th June 1833, 4c.
- ³⁷ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4d.
- ³⁸ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4d.
- ³⁹ *Ayr Observer*, 22nd January 1833, 4d. In his letter which appeared in the *Ayr Observer*, 5th February 1833, 1cd, Campbell vehemently denied supplying 'ardent spirits' to the crowd, claiming that wine had been taken from his shop during the confusion.
- ⁴⁰ *Air Advertiser*, 27th June 1833, 3f.
- ⁴¹ *Ayr Observer*, 2nd July 1833, 4e.
- ⁴² New Register House, [NRH], OPR 610/4, Old Cumnock, Births and Marriages 1819-1854, 86. [Microfilm copy in Carnegie Library, Ayr]
- ⁴³ Pre-1918 Gravestone Inscriptions in Cumnock and Doon Valley District [Cumnock], [c.1980], [GI, CDV], Vol. II, Cumnock Old Cemetery, no.479. The stone also records David Reid, 'shot during a riot'.
- ⁴⁴ A game license was issued to him in September 1826. [*Air Advertiser*, 7th September 1826, 1e]
- ⁴⁵ NRH, OPR 604/4, Mauchline, Births Marriages and Deaths 1807-1854, 262. [Microfilm copy in Carnegie Library, Ayr]
- ⁴⁶ *Ayr Observer*, 10th September 1833, 4b.
- ⁴⁷ GI, CDV, Vol. II, Catrine Kirkyard, no.33.

Reverend Robert Stirling's Air Engine

Last year the Swedish shipbuilding firm Kockums received an order to convert two submarines of the Swedish navy, to be powered by Stirling engines. Perhaps one of the least-known forms of motive power the origins of the Stirling cycle engine or 'external combustion regenerative air engine' are to be found in a small engine built in 1818 to pump water from an Ayrshire quarry. This engine was designed by the Reverend Robert Stirling.

Robert Stirling, the son of a farmer, was born in 1790 at Methven, in Perthshire. Of his early life little is known. Between the years 1805 and 1808 Stirling attended the University of Edinburgh, studying Greek, Latin and Mathematics. In 1809 he moved to Glasgow University, enrolling as a student of Divinity, remaining until 1814 when he returned to Edinburgh to continue his studies. On completing his studies he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Dumbarton in March 1816.

In 1816 the post of the Second Charge of the Laigh Kirk, Kilmarnock, fell vacant. For this position the Commissioners for the Duke of Portland, one of the chief landowners in the Kilmarnock area, put forward the name of Robert Stirling. The Duke, who owned quarries and collieries, was responsible for the construction of the Kilmarnock and Troon tramway. Opened in 1812 this line had the distinction of being the first railway constructed in Scotland for which an Act of Parliament was obtained; it was built as an iron plateway to a gauge of 4 feet, and used horse-drawn road wagons. During 1815 the Duke, on learning of experiments in steam locomotion being carried out in Northumberland by George Stephenson, decided to try steam engines. In the early part of 1816 Robert Stephenson arrived in Kilmarnock with one of his brother's locomotives; however, the experiment was not a total success since the cast iron tramway plates - being too weak to carry the locomotive - needed constant replacement. Nevertheless, this was not only the first steam locomotive to work in Scotland, but a further 14 years passed before it was matched. Robert Stirling took up his duties in Kilmarnock in September 1816.

It would seem that Stirling had not devoted all his time to the study of divinity for shortly after his appointment he applied for a patent for a 'method of diminishing the consumption of fuel used in manufacturing processes.' This patent is clearly based on practical experiments in heat recovery. Stirling was not alone in his family in having an interest in engineering, for among his relatives, who could be found in the farming community and serving as clergy with the Church of Scotland, we may mention his grandfather, who is credited with invention of a water-powered threshing mill in 1758. In the early 19th Century patent application was an expensive affair requiring separate applications for Scotland and England. How Stirling financed his patents is not known but it would seem that most of his research work was carried out in Edinburgh. At Edinburgh the Chair of Mathematics was held by John Leslie, who had published a number of papers on the transmission of heat.

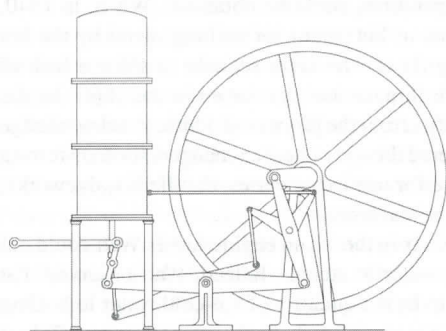
The cost of operating the fuel-hungry atmospheric steam engine had been reduced by James Watt, who in 1769 patented 'a method of lessening the consumption of steam and fuel in fire-engines'. However Stirling's proposals for saving fuel were different

to any previously put forward. What Stirling proposed was a method of recovering heat so that it might be re-used; this he called his 'economiser': however it has come to be called the regenerative process. Stirling's patent was in several parts. The first proposed an improved melting furnace where much higher melt temperatures could be obtained. When, in 1840, James Neilson sought to prevent infringements of his patent for melting metal by the hot blast method, Stirling's patent was quoted by those who were seeking to show a lack of novelty in Neilson's design. The regenerative furnace was developed in the 1860s by the brothers Siemens who, while making great profits from the process, did little to acknowledge Stirling's original patent. The second part covered the use of heat exchangers for transferring heat from one liquid or gas to another, suitable for use in breweries, distilleries, dyeworks, &c. The third proposal was for a motive power machine.

Although he made great improvements in the steam engine James Watt could not overcome the cost in energy required to turn water to steam. Indeed, Watt observed that nearly $5\frac{1}{4}$ times as much heat as is sufficient to heat a quantity of ice-cold water to boiling point is required to reduce the same quantity of water *already boiling hot* to steam. Robert Stirling used air as the working fluid in his engine so overcoming the problems associated with latent heat. The concept of the air engine can be traced back over two thousand years. Air had been used as the working fluid in simple solar water pumps. Sir George Cayley (better known for his experiments with flying machines) constructed a coal-fired air engine in Newcastle, around 1800, but met with little success. Cayley burnt the fuel inside the engine - internal combustion. Stirling however chose to burn the fuel outside the engine, in the manner of the steam engine - external combustion. In the air engine the working fluid (i.e., the air) is alternately heated/expanded and cooled/contracted, the resultant pressure change being applied to a working piston. In Stirling's air engine the working fluid is contained within a metal cylinder, not at one end and cold at the other; the air is alternately moved between the hot and cold ends. Between the hot and cold ends Stirling placed his economiser. (The economiser might be thought of in terms of a sponge, but a sponge soaking up heat.) When air is shifted from the hot to the cold end, the cold economiser takes up heat from the air, so cooling it. Once in the cold end the air is further cooled. On the next half of the cycle, the cold air passes back through the economiser; in so doing, heat is transferred from the now hot economiser to the cool air, so heating the air. The air is then further heated, and expanded, in the hot end. The basis of Stirling's invention was that heat that normally would be lost in the cooling process is captured and re-used, so giving rise to a saving in the fuel which would otherwise have been required to reheat the air.

Stirling's appointment as assistant minister did not curtail his experiments, for in Kilmarnock he met with Thomas Morton, who leased him a workshop at Morton Place. In 1806 Morton had set up on his own account as a turner and millwright. He erected a windmill which for a number of years drove his lathes. An important part of his business was supplying whorl-boxes for Kilmarnock carpet weavers. This led him to perfect, in 1811, an improved carpet loom which was quickly taken up by local weavers. From around 1817 Morton illuminated his workshops by gas and was a driving force behind the establishment of a gas works in the town in 1822. At a cost of £1000 Morton erected, at Morton Place, an observatory some 87 feet high, fitted with telescopes built by himself. He

also constructed a camera obscura giving a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. In 1836 he supplied a telescope and a camera obscura for use in a converted windmill tower in Dumfries: the camera obscura is still in use.



Robert Stirling's patent regenerative air engine, 1816

It was probably in his workshop at Morton Place that Robert Stirling built, in 1818, an air engine along the lines of his patent. The engine was erected at a quarry, and used for pumping water. The exact location is now lost but a possible site was a stone quarry at Dean Castle, a property of the Duke of Portland. This quarry lay about a mile from his

workshop; in later years it was kept free of water by a steam engine supplied by John Parker & Co. of Kilmarnock. Stirling's engine was the first practical working air engine ever built. Regrettably little information on the engine now survives. In 1819 Lord John Campbell (later Duke of Argyll) wrote to Sir George Cayley giving details of Stirling's air engine. Campbell described the engine as having a power cylinder of 8 inches diameter, giving a power of a quarter horse power with a fuel consumption of four pounds of coal per hour. Cayley calculated that the engine should have been capable of one-half horse power, and therefore lost half the real power. The engine performed its duty well until, through the carelessness of the engine-man, the bottom of the air vessel became overheated and damaged beyond repair. Given the limited facilities available to Stirling, this engine stands as a testament to his skills and ingenuity.

Stirling subsequently built two model air engines; these he presented to the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh where they still exist. No further large-scale experiments were carried out until 1824 when Stirling's younger brother James suggested improvements. James had at first studied divinity, but changed to engineering, taking up an apprenticeship with the firm of Claud Girdwood & Co., Glasgow. It was at Girdwood's works that James Stirling erected an experimental air engine of 20 horsepower. The improvements made with this engine were embodied in a patent granted to the two Stirling brothers in 1827. The English patent was applied for by Robert Stirling, who travelled to London for this purpose. James Stirling subsequently became manager of the Dundee Foundry, Dundee, where he constructed a series of experimental air engines. The results of these experiments were embodied in a third patent granted in 1840. In 1842 James Stirling erected an air engine rated at 45 horsepower, powerful enough to supply the whole of the works power for the foundry, doing so for a number of years.

Air engines were used in large numbers during the nineteenth century, predominantly for water pumping, finally fading from use in the 1920s when small petrol engines became readily available. These hot air engines were simple to operate, but very few used Stirling's economiser to improve efficiency. The modern Stirling engine dates

from the 1930s, when the Dutch firm Philips, in an effort to increase the sales of their radio sets, began a search for a suitable portable power supply that would enable their radios to be used in places without mains electricity. Philips went on to develop the Stirling engine for use in power generation, bus and car engines, and for use in large solar dish installations.

Robert Stirling became Minister of Galston in 1823. He remained there, a much-respected minister, until his death in 1878. Regrettably Stirling's papers seem to have been destroyed at the time of his death. The author would be interested to learn of any surviving records of Stirling's early experiments.

Robert Sier

Further Reading:

Robert Sier, *Rev Robert Stirling DD: Inventor of the Heat Economiser and Stirling Engine*.

Robert Sier, *Hot Air Caloric and Stirling Engines*. Vol. One: *A History*.

C M Hargreaves, *The Philips Stirling Engine*.

Stinchar Bridge, Colmonell

Colmonell Bridge

(photo D. McClure
30th March, 1996)



In April 1867, the County Road Trustees agreed to grant £1560 to the Girvan District Road Trustees, to enable them to rebuild and extend the bridge over the River Stinchar on the road which

runs south-eastwards from Colmonell towards Bardrochat and Heronsford. This was based on an estimated cost of £1800 for the work.¹ The bridge was designed by Hugh and Bryce McCall, of Daltippan, Girvan, Surveyors to the Girvan Trustees, and an advertisement for contractors was placed in the *Ayr Advertiser* of 23rd May 1867. The main contract was placed with Andrew Murray, mason, probably in Girvan. Murray kept an account of the moneys he expended in fulfilment of this contract, and this is transcribed below.²

		£	s	d
October 1867	Mens wages for hewing	10	4	0
Nov 2	Mens wages for hewing	10	16	7
	Travelling	2		
Nov 11	Wages for hewing	6		
Nov 21	Wages for John	1		
Nov 23	11 trucks of stones from Thornhill ³	18	6	8

	Discharging from trucks	5	6	
Nov 27	Paid for derrick crane	20		
Nov 27	Carriage of -do- from Shaws	5		
Nov 27	2 pair shears		8	6
Nov 28	Wages for hewing	3		
Nov 27	Archibald Murray. To account of freestone	3		
Decr 4	Carriage of stones from quarry	8	19	4
Decr 4	Discharging from trucks		5	
Decr 4	2 blocks and pinch bar, 1/6 each		4	6
Decr 5	30 fathoms of new rope			
Decr 5	1 new flake for gate		2	6
Decr 6	John Murray	1		
Decr 7	Padlock for crane			6
Decr 14	Carriage of freestone from quarry	4	5	7
Decr 14	Hewers' wages at quarry	5		
Decr 17	Jib for crane 15s; making -do- 9s	1	4	
Decr 17	Setting crane, &c	1		
Decr 28	Carriage of stones from quarry	16	16	4
Decr 28	Discharge from wagons		15	
Decr 21	Hewers' pay	2		
Decr 30	Carting 90 tons 12¾ hundredweight of freestones from quarry to Colmonell per J Brown @ 5/6	24	18	6
Decr 31	Carriage of stones from quarry	9	9	8
Decr 31	Discharging from waggons		6	
1868 January 4	Cartage 67 tons of stone - 15½ carts - to Colmonell @ 5/6	18	11	3
January 6	Carriage of stones from quarry	6	3	2
January 6	Discharging from waggons		4	
January 18	Carriage of stones from quarry	9	3	11
January 18	Weighing of carts at station		15	
January 18	Cartage 82 tons 11¾ of stones to Colmonell @ 5/6	22	14	
January 12	J Murray	1		
January 20	Alex McWhirter - disloading at bridge	1		
January 20	Andrew Fulton - disloading at bridge	1		
January 27	Hewers' wages at quarry	7		
Febry 1	Carriage of freestones from quarry	19	18	11
Febry 1	Cartage of 84 tons 10¼ cwt of stones to bridge @ 5/6	23	19	8
Febry 8	Carriage of freestone from quarry	12	.5	1
Febry 6	Hewers' wages at quarry	6		
Febry 11	Carriage of stones from quarry	3	12	9
Febry 14	Hewers' wages at quarry	7		
Febry 15	Hewers at Colmonell	5	14	

Febry 15	Carting 64 tons 0½ cwt freestone to Colmonell @ 5/6	17	12	1½
Febry 15	Carting sand 10 days @ 6/-	3		
Febry 15	To account of carting lime, Charles Melville	2		
Febry 22	2 paddock barrows	1	6	
Febry 22	David Drynan at sand		10	
Febry 22	Carriage of stones from quarry	9	14	7
Febry 27	Carriage of stones from quarry	6	1	6
Febry 27	2 burrows	1	2	
Febry 27	1 pick		2	6
Febry 27	2 pieces of rope		5	6
Febry 27	1 mast for foot bridge	3	0	0
Febry 27	45 old sleepers	1		
Febry 27	1 pick		1	6
Febry 27	1 scabbler pick		2	
Febry 27	7 wedges		1	
March 3	Charles Melville to carting lime	3	10	
March 9	Charles Melville to carting lime		5	
March 7	Carriage of 48 tons 15¾ to Colmonell @ 5/6	18	8	6½
March 7	Thornhill to Girvan freestone	1	12	1
March 7	Granite from Dalbeattie @ 7/5 per ton	2	11	11
March 7	22 stones at Dalbeattie 2/6 per foot	8	16	
March 7	2 12 feet battens		8	6
March 7	Allan Findlay wages		7	
March 7	John Crae wages		2	6
March 7	Alexander McWhirter wages	3		
March 7	Andrew Fulton wages	3		
March 7	John McWhirter	3		
March 14	Carriage of stones from Girvan	3	5	6
March 14	15 days of a cart at sand @ 5/6	4	2	6
March 14	2 blocks		3	
March 14	60 lbs rope @ 3d		15	
March 14	Adam McGarva wages	2	1	9
March 14	James Burges	2	1	9
March 14	2 navy barrows	1	1	
March 17	James Findlay, 1 cart stones		5	6
March 17	John Kerr to stone breaking	2		
March 17	Wages of men pulling down old bridge	15	14	9
March 26	Charles Melville to carting 280 bolls lime at 7d per boll. Final settlement	2	8	4
Apr 4	John Kerr to stone breaking	1	10	
Apr 11	Paid men's wages at bridge	25	5	2
Apr 16	Paid freight of timber from Stranraer	6		

Apr 25	John Kerr to stone breaking	1	10	
Apr 25	Paid men's wages at bridge foundations	24	11	6
May 2	James Brown	3	6	
Apr 30	David McWhirter for carriage of wood from Ballantrae	4	2	
May 1	3 stone of Portland cement @ 1/8		5	
May 9	John Kerr to stone breaking	1	17	
May 9	Carriage of two barrels of cement		3	
May 9	Men's wages at bridge	28	16	3
May 9	Stones from quarry carriage	1	5	
May 23	Men's wages at bridge	26	15	9½
May 23	John Kerr to stone breaking	1	8	6
May 23	Expenses to James McWhirter and Mrs Shaw	2		
June 6	Men's wages at bridge	32	10	5
June 20	Men's wages at bridge	24	0	1
June 20	Thomas Chalmers to account	6		
June 20	Carriage of engine from Jameston	3		
June 20	1 cart coals for -do-		8	8
June 20	Carriage of pump from Ayr		4	6
June 20	Dr Ferguson, Ballantrae	2		
June 20	1 cwt stone from Girvan		6	
July 4	Men's wages at bridge	38	5	9
July 4	Paid James Adair for timber	101	5	
July 4	A Murray & Sons for stone	40		
July 4	Carriage of stones from Thornhill	2	1	2
July 18	Carriage of stones from Thornhill	2	5	2
July 18	Men's wages at bridge	43	0	9
August 1	Men's wages at bridge	45	19	1
August 15	Carriage of stone from Thornhill	1	17	1
August 15	Men's wages at bridge	22	5	6
August 29	Men's wages at bridge	15	9	
Sept 12	Men's wages at bridge	15		
Sept 12	Carriage of stones from Thornhill	2	8	1
	Amount of contract	1568		
	397 yards extra banking at bridge at 8d per yd	13	4	8
	24 yards of metal @ 5s	6		
		19	4	8

There are a few additional entries at the back of the notebook:

1868 March 7	Mast for bridge at Girvan	3		
March 7	Loading & carting		16	
March 7	Dressing mast		2	

March 14	1 cart timber from Kinclaer			3
March 21	1 cart timber from Kinclaer			3
March 28	2 days of joiner @ 3/-			6

July 1868	Agreement for footbridge at Colmonell per contract of timber to become my property	10	10	
	Paid December 26 1868	7	10	

1868 Jan 16	Paid A Murray & Sons to account for stones to bridge at Colmonell	50		
Jan 16	For crane at Shaws	3		
March 5	-do- -do-	50		
July 3	-do- -do-	40		

Jan 15 1868	Colmonell Bridge First instalment	350	8	9
March []	Second -do-	328	19	8
July 3	Third -do-	379	1	7
Decr 29	Fourth -do-	459	10	
		1518	-	-

The bridge at Colmonell is unexceptional, and its construction seems to have proceeded without undue incident, though the payment of £2 to Dr Ferguson of Ballantrae may represent payment for medical assistance after an accident on the site. The minutiae of the construction would have been replicated at many other new bridges throughout Ayrshire, and beyond, and it is through these details that we learn about mid 19th Century bridge building. We note the assembly of materials from differing places: freestone from Thornhill, granite from Dalbeattie, wood for the centring from Stranraer and Ballantrae, lime brought by Charles Melville. Equipment and tools are gathered together, such as the derrick crane (for which, after a week or so, it is deemed expedient to obtain a padlock), picks, rope and, towards the end of the contract, an engine and pump. Wood (a mast and old sleepers) is obtained, and a temporary bridge put up before the old bridge is pulled down. Initially men are employed in hewing stone, but after the old bridge has been taken down, labour costs are concentrated at the bridge, with a peak of activity in the summer of 1868.

Rob Close

¹ *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald*, 10th April 1869, 3e.
² Private collection.
³ Probably Thornhill in Dumfries-shire.

Hugh Pollock

The First Mr Enid Blyton

Enid Blyton (1897 - 1968) was, and remains, one of the most popular of authors for children. Her books made her a household name: her magazine writing for children put before the public much of her day-to-day life: a life lived in the leafy English countryside that seemed blissful and idyllic. We now know, particularly from Barbara Stoney's biography of Blyton, 'the whole story behind this hardworking, complex, often difficult, child-like woman, whose relationships with those close to her were not always of the best and whose life was far removed from the sunny world she created in her writings.'¹ Among those who were close to her, and who failed to come to terms with her complexity, was her first husband, Hugh Alexander Pollock.² Pollock was a native of Ayr, and this brief note is an attempt to marshal what we know of him.

When Blyton first met Pollock he was an editor with her publishers, Newnes, in London. A career amid books was, perhaps, to be expected of a man who was the elder son of one of Ayr's leading booksellers. The business of Stephen & Pollock, booksellers, at 37 Sandgate, at the corner with Newmarket Street, was one of Ayr's best known shops for the greater part of a century. The history of the firm begins with Robert Maclehose,³ who came from Glasgow, where he had worked for his brother James, to Ayr in 1850, and set up in business as a bookseller in Sandgate,⁴ in the premises where the company remained until they closed in the early 1970s. To the bookselling business, Maclehose added a publishing business, where 'he produced a few volumes on hand-presses, printed with such taste and skill as to attract attention.'⁵ One such, in 1864, was "A Dying Ministry but a Living Christ," by the Reverend James Gould of Newton Stewart.⁶ In 1872, Maclehose having become printer to the University of Glasgow,⁷ the Ayr shop 'was left entirely to the care of his sister and Mr Pollock',⁸ but after two years of this arrangement, he disposed of his business in Ayr to two Aberdeen men, one of whom was William Stephen, who continued the business.⁹ About 1884, Stephen's partnership with his unnamed sleeping partner came to an end, and shortly after he took William Smillie Pollock into partnership. Pollock, who had been born in 1858,¹⁰ had started as an apprentice under Maclehose, and had continued to work for him, and then for Stephen. Stephen died shortly after the new partnership had been established, and William Pollock then entered into partnership with Stephen's widow.¹¹

William Smillie Pollock and his wife Jessie Smith McBride had two sons. After his death in 1942, the younger, William Alfred ('Fred'), who had previously become a partner, succeeded him in the business, which became a limited liability company c.1947. Fred Pollock died in 1954.¹² About 1972, the business was taken over by Holmes McDougall Ltd., but the shop closed a year or so later, ending a long connection between this corner and bookselling.

The elder son, Hugh Alexander Pollock, was born c.1895, probably at the family home at 42 Bellevue Crescent. He was educated at Ayr Academy, and joined his father's business. On 9th October 1913, at the Hotel Dalblair, he married Marion, the youngest

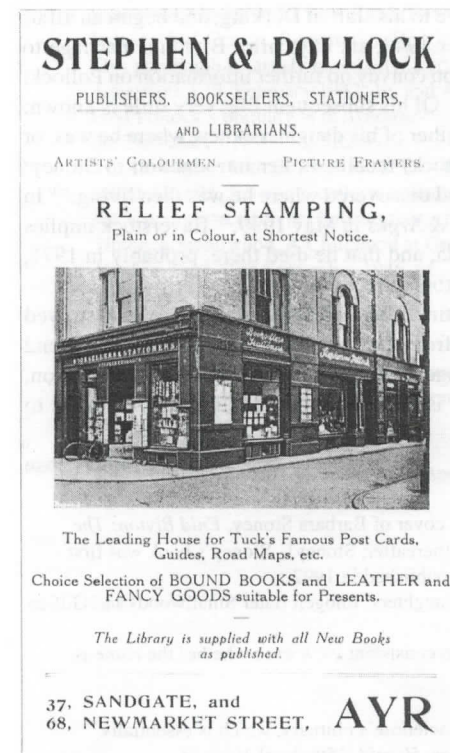
daughter of William Atkinson, farmer, Trees Farm, Maybole: there was at least one son of this marriage.¹³ During the First World War, he joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers and saw service with them at Gallipoli, and in France, Palestine and France, and was awarded the D.S.O. Unhappily for him, however, during this period, his wife left him for another man. When the war ended, he transferred to the Indian Army, and served with the Burma Rifles in India, Burma and Mesopotamia (Iraq).¹⁴

Having seen the world, and having lost his wife to another, it is perhaps understandable that Hugh Pollock would wish to make a career away from Ayr. He joined Newnes as an editor in the book department. Stoney describes him as a 'handsome, fair-

haired man with striking blue eyes [who] was in his middle thirties', and as having a 'glamorous background, [an] air of quiet authority and sophisticated manner' which 'charmed the twenty-six-year-old, emotionally very immature Enid from the start, while her childlike naïvety and zest for life drew the war-weary ex-soldier to her from their first meeting.' Blyton first mentions Pollock in her diary entry for 10th January 1924.¹⁵

Stoney details the development of their relationship, which culminated in their marriage, in August 1924, in Bromley, Kent. The marriage was, at first, successful, and two daughters, Imogen and Gillian, were born. Blyton's reputation as a writer continued to grow, while Pollock continued to work for Newnes. By 1933, he was responsible for several of Newnes' more notable authors: in particular he was editing and overseeing the publication of Winston Churchill's *The World Crisis*, which involved him in regular visits to Chartwell to discuss revisions and additions with Churchill. While with Churchill, Pollock discussed the First World War, and this

recollection of earlier traumas seems to have pushed him towards the edge of a nervous breakdown. While he continued to work, he withdrew increasingly from public and family life. He became a heavy, and secret, drinker. In her memories of her childhood, his younger daughter notes that when the family bought a new house at Beaconsfield in 1938, Pollock 'had little to do with it', and that at one point Blyton gave him 'a drum kit which ... he would play endlessly for relaxation.'¹⁶



When war broke out in 1939, Pollock joined the Home Guard. World conflict gave his life point again, and by 1940 he had been appointed Commandant of the War Office School for Instructors of the Home Guard at Dorking.¹⁷ This necessitated his being away from home, and, again, war service led to the break up of his marriage. Blyton first met Kenneth Waters, a surgeon, in 1941; Pollock was sent to the United States in June 1942 to advice on civil defence; He and Blyton were divorced in 1943, and she married Waters later that year.¹⁸

Blyton's complex character led her to forbid any contact between Hugh and his daughters; she moved quickly to change their surname from Pollock to Waters, and at this point he drops completely out of their lives. He was not blameless in the break-up of the marriage: he had recruited the novelist Ida Crowe to his staff at Dorking, and begun an affair with her. He married her in London in October 1943, six days after Blyton's marriage to Kenneth Waters.¹⁹ The published works on Blyton convey no further information on Pollock: the separation from him was complete and utter. Of his subsequent life, very little is known: when Stoney began to research Blyton's life, neither of his daughters knew where he was, or whether he was still alive. As Gillian (Baverstock) recalls, in her introduction to Stoney: 'My Father [sic] ... died just after Mrs Stoney had discovered where he was then living.'²⁰ In an interview she gave to the *Bradford Telegraph & Argus* in May 1999,²¹ Baverstock implies that latterly Hugh and Ida Pollock lived in Malta, and that he died there, probably in 1971, the year in which Stoney began to research Blyton's life.

Hugh Pollock seems to have been a victim of war. The First World War destroyed his first marriage, and he perhaps never escaped from the traumas of that conflict; the Second World War hastened the end of his second marriage. In terms of fame and public recognition, he was overshadowed by Blyton. All in all, it is perhaps not surprising that he turned to drink, flirtation and endless drumming.

Rob Close

¹ Taken from the publisher's blurb on the back cover of Barbara Stoney, *Enid Blyton: The Biography*, London, 1992 paperback edition [hereafter, Stoney]. Stoney's book was first published in 1974, and a revised edition was published in 1992.

² By her marriage to Pollock, Blyton had two daughters: Imogen (later Smallwood) and Gillian (later Baverstock)

³ Even within the family, there appears to be no consistent view as to whether the name is MacLehose or Maclehorse.

⁴ *Ayr Advertiser*, 2nd January 1851, 1e.

⁵ *Ayr Advertiser*, 21st April 1910, 4g. From Maclehorse's obituary, which is essentially identical to that which appeared in the *Glasgow Herald*, 15th April 1910, 8f.

⁶ *Ayr Advertiser*, 7th January 1864, 1c. Carreen S Gardner, "Printing in Ayr and Kilmarnock," in *Ayrshire Collections*, Vol.12, no.1, [Ayr], 1976, 69, lists one work printed by R Maclehorse in Ayr, the Reverend William Grant's "Why we Came Out in 1843 - A Sermon", with a publication date of 1875.

⁷ Robert Maclehorse acquired the business of printer to the university from the Trustees of the late George Richardson in 1872, and continued the business until 1894, when it passed to his nephews, Robert and James John Maclehorse, sons of his elder brother, William. He died on 14th April 1910. [*Ayr Advertiser*, 21st April 1910, 4g]

⁸ *Ayrshire Post*, 13th February 1942, 3a, in obituary of William S Pollock. Even before Robert Maclehorse's appointment as university printer, the management of the shop had been largely in the hands of Miss Maclehorse and 'the young assistant', as Maclehorse was 'more interested in the technical side of book production.'

⁹ William Stephen was born in Aberdeen c.1839. By 1881 he, his wife (Mary Anderson) and two children were living at 8 Hawkhill, Wallacetown. They subsequently moved to 8 Fullarton Street where Stephen died on the 27th October 1886. [1881 Census, Registration District 578, Enumeration District 23, p.15; *Ayr Advertiser*, 28th October 1886, 8e]

¹⁰ William Smillie Pollock was the son of Thomas Pollock, a shoemaker, and his wife, Margaret Smellie or Smillie. He was born in Ayr on 20th January 1858; by 1881 the family were living at 57 New Road, Newton-upon-Ayr. [International Genealogical Index; 1881 Census, Registration District 578, Enumeration District 18, p.16]

¹¹ This paragraph is largely based on material in William S Pollock's obituaries in *Ayr Advertiser*, 12th February 1942, 1c, and *Ayrshire Post*, 13th February 1942, 3ab

¹² Fred Pollock's obituary is in *Ayrshire Post*, 22nd January 1954, 13c. He had been born on the 23rd March 1898. [*Ayr Advertiser*, 24th March 1898, 8f]

¹³ *Ayr Advertiser*, 16th October 1913, 8h. The son of this first marriage was apparently called Alistair. Imogen recalls attending a family marriage in Ayr, c.1951, at which she was introduced to her half-brother; she says that he died young, of cancer. [Imogen Smallwood, *A Childhood at Green Hedges*, London, 1989, 134]

¹⁴ *Ayrshire Post*, 20th September 1946, 6f.

¹⁵ Stoney, 54.

¹⁶ Smallwood, *op cit*, 13 and 21.

¹⁷ *ibid*, 51.

¹⁸ See Stoney, Smallwood, *op cit*, 65-69, and also the introduction to Enid Blyton, *The Story of My Life*, London, revised edition, 1986.

¹⁹ Stoney, 131-134.

²⁰ Stoney, [8].

²¹ www.thisisbradford.co.uk, seen 19th August 2001.

Book Notes

The following recently published books have been brought to our attention.

Hugh Douglas, *Jacobite Spy Wars: Moles, Rogues And Treachery*

Sutton Publishing, Stroud, revised edition, 2000.

This is an account of those who were involved in the Jacobite campaign to restore the Stuart dynasty, and makes a fascinating story, carried over a hundred colourful years. The desire by both sides to obtain information produced many examples of treachery and much double-dealing in high places as witnessed by the double agent in the shape of the French woman who was mistress to both Louis XIV and his adversary the Stuart Charles II. The author emphasises that there is much more to the Jacobite story than the tale of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Within the book he unravels an intricate intelligence war on and off the several battlefields from the Boyne through to Culloden. People were drawn into this national and international intrigue from the humble in the form of the Highland clansmen to ambassadors, and even Madame Pompadour. Moles dug deeply for secrets at every court. In the final analysis, all the battles won and lost during the Jacobite century do not account for the failure of the Stuarts to be restored to the kingdoms they had lost. Ultimately, defeat lay in their failure to win the intelligence war. Buy the book: meet the author - Hugh Douglas will be speaking on the Jacobite Spy Wars to Kilmarnock & District History Group on Tuesday 19th February 2002. (see Diary).

Bill Layhe

Rob Close, *The Street Names of Ayr*

AANHS, Ayr, 2001, ISBN 0 9527445 9 7, £5.00, 136 pages.

The need to name things and places is deep-seated in the human psyche. The desire to know what names mean is likewise basic. Most folk also want to know why a name was given and when.

Hence the fascination of books like Johnston's *The Place Names of Scotland*, and their lasting popularity.

Street names in towns have only recently in the history of mankind assumed any importance, for during most of urban history not all streets had names, and none had numbers; informal addresses sufficed, and people took directions from notable buildings like the Harbour Bar or Matha Dickie's. In a town like York some people still navigate by medieval churches, some still by public houses; this summer, however, my wife nominated the place at which I was to meet her as Dutton's for Buttons.

As Rob Close informs us in the foreword to this wonderfully comprehensive book, it was in 1828 that the town council of Ayr resolved "to place the name of each street and lane in large painted capitals on the entries or corners thereof, and to number the houses."

From that date our author gives us chapter and verse for every new name approved by the council. What a joy it is to see in a local history publication myriads of footnotes, for each of Close's assertions is vouched not only by a reference to minutes of the Council and of its various committees but to newspapers and other published works, and old maps. For example, Crown Street was so named in 1922, presumably, according to Close, "to give the street a tone not conveyed by the superseded name." The whole debate about the proposed change from the former name, Clunes Vennel, appears in an amusing footnote. Provost Mathie-Morton, who was against any change, "could not see how a murder [which had been committed in the Vennel a couple of years before] should affect the letting of houses or rooms in the street," and as for changing from Vennel because it was old-fashioned there was as much sense in changing the name "Wellington Square" to "Pavilion Square."

It is traditional to allow a reviewer to find at least one fault. I have been unable to find in this otherwise excellent book any reference to *Smiths' Close*, of which I have an excellent engraving by the Ayr artist, T. Bonar Hone, and of the location of which I am still ignorant.

When Rob Close's book, *Ayrshire & Arran, An Illustrated Architectural Guide*, appeared in 1992, I expressed the view in print that I would never be without it as I travelled around the county. No one with even the slightest interest in the history of Ayr should be without *The Street Names of Ayr* as he or she goes around the town.

David B Smith.

Hugh Douglas and Michael J Stead, *The Flight of Bonnie Prince Charlie*

Sutton Publishing, Stroud, 2001, ISBN 0-7509-1989-2, £10.

The convoluted journeying of Prince Charles Stuart between the defeat of his forces at Culloden on 16th April and his escape in a French ship from Loch nan Uamh on 20th September 1746 is an oft-told tale: Bishop Robert Forbes collected numerous eye-witness accounts soon after the events, and many books have been written about it since. To produce another distinctive one demands skill and ingenuity, and the team of author and photographer has provided both. They travelled together along the fugitive's route, observing, inquiring and photographing. The result is a combination of a lively and detailed historical account and a 'coffee-table book' of striking and relevant landscapes. In a day-by-day account many minor incidents and records of conversations are used to round out the characters. The Prince, who normally demands unquestioning obedience, accepts an old boatman's objection to his plan to communicate with the untrustworthy Chief of Sleat and Laird of Macleod: "Na, you mauna do it". His mood swings from headstrong rashness to indecision. He sends a companion back, at intolerable risk, to retrieve a box of knives which has been left behind. Ironically, one laird's wife recruits clansmen to the Prince's cause whilst her husband is away serving King George, and another refuses to leave her bed to attend to a mysterious visitor who is the prince disguised as a maidservant. An appendix gives brief biographical details of the major characters. In enjoying the photographs of beautiful if sometimes rather menacing landscapes, the reader needs to recollect how much of the travelling had to be at night and often in atrocious weather. But a photograph of a

dark night would not be very useful! There is a map for each leg of the journey, and an itinerary showing how modern roads and ferries can be used to follow it fairly closely. Sites and museums connected with the flight are listed. This is an extremely well-coordinated and handsomely presented book.

Trevor Mathews

Ayrshire Federation Of Historical Societies

Swap-Shop 2001

The Federation's Swap Shop for 2001 will be held on Sunday 28th October 2001, at the University Marine Biological Station, Millport. The meeting will begin at 2.00 p.m., with a tour of the Biological Station. After this, and refreshments, there will be the usual opportunity for the exchange of information, news, problems and gossip.

We look forward to seeing many of you there, and encourage you to take the opportunity to spend a day on the wonderful island of Cumbrae. Further details will be sent to members, and member societies, in due course, but we hope that you will keep the day free, and be able to attend.

John Strawhorn Quaich

This annual prize for a noteworthy contribution to local history in Ayrshire was given this year to Gordon Killicoat, from Prestwick. Gordon received the quaich from our chairman, Stuart Wilson, at a ceremony during the Annual General Meeting in Maybole.

If last year's recipient, Margaret McCance, was inextricably linked with Girvan, then Gordon is equally inextricably linked with family history and genealogy in Ayrshire. He is a long-standing and hard working member of Troon and District Family History Society, and has devoted much of his spare time to the recording and publishing of monumental inscriptions. This is time-consuming and often tedious work, but such work is essential, and it is only through the work of people like Gordon that the researches of family historians and others are made much easier. Gordon is a popular and well-deserving winner of the John Strawhorn Quaich.

Ayrshire Bibliography

The Federation is aware that many books on Ayrshire subjects, especially those on local subjects, are launched quietly, and often never find their way beyond local distributors. We would be grateful for any information on such books, as we are trying to up-date our Ayrshire bibliography. We are also always willing to give publicity to these books.

Wanted

As a matter of urgency, a Secretary for the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies. Also material, as ever, for Ayrshire Notes 22, due in Spring 2002.

Conference 2002

Following the success of our Conference in October 2000, the Federation has agreed to hold another Conference in October 2002. The venue will be the Walker Hall, Troon, and the date, Saturday 26th October, 2002. A number of speakers have already been booked, including Michael Moss, Charles McKean and Elaine McFarland. Further details will be sent out in due course, but we expect the cost to be a bargain £10, and trust that many of you will wish to attend, and will put this date in your diaries.

Diary

AANHS	Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Meetings in Carnegie Library, Ayr, at 7.45 p.m.
KCCS	Kyle and Carrick Civic Society. Meetings in Loudoun Hall, Ayr, at 7.30 p.m.
KDHG	Kilmarnock & District History Group. Meetings in Kilmarnock College at 7.30 p.m.
LDHS	Largs and District Historical Society. Meetings in Largs Museum at 7.30 p.m.
L(MS)	LDHS, Marine Section. Meetings in Largs Museum at 7.30 p.m.
LNAFHS	Largs & North Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Largs Library at 7.30 p.m.
MHS	Maybole Historical Society. Meetings in Maybole Town Hall, High Street, Maybole at 7.30 p.m.
PHG	Prestwick History Group. Meetings in 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick, at 7.30 p.m.
SHS	Stewarton Historical Society. Meetings in St Columba's Church Hall, Stewarton, at 7.30 p.m.
WKAS	West Kilbride Amenity Society. Meetings in Community Centre, West Kilbride, at 7.30 p.m.

September 2001

Mon 3rd	MHS	Murray Cook	From Loom to Last: the Industrial History of Maybole
Mon 3rd	SHS	Mr Menzies	The Romans in Scotland
Tue 11th	LNAFHS	Elizabeth Mortimer	OPRs and Church Records

October 2001

Mon 1st	L(MS)	R Baillie	Clydeport Operations
Mon 1st	SHS	Stuart Wilson	Laigh West High Kirk, Kilmarnock, Stained Glass
Mon 1st	KCCS	Ken Gibb	Think Global, Act Local: Sustainable South Ayrshire
Mon 1st	MHS	Huw Pritchard	The Maybole Archive
Tue 2nd	KDHG	Iain MacDougall	Voices from Work and Home

Thu 11th	AANHS	Carol Swanson	Eight Years of Developer Funded Archaeological Excavations in Ayrshire: What Have We Learned?
Thu 11th	PHG	David W Rowan	Prestwick Photographers
Tue 16th	KDHG	Duncan McAra	The Maltese Falcon - and the Knights of St John
Tue 16th*	LDHG/LNAFHS		
		David Killicoat	Flesh on the Bones
Tue 23rd	LNAFHS	Charles Kelly	Irish Ancestry
Thu 25th	AANHS	Rupert Ormond	Managing Underwater Resources: Coral Reefs and the Clyde
Tue 30th	KDHG	Guthrie Hutton	The Forth and Clyde Canal
Tue 30th	WKAS	Fred Woodward	Ayrshire Pearls

November 2001

Thu 1st	PHG	Alisdair W R Cochrane	Monkton and Prestwick Churches
Mon 5th	MHS	Scottish Maritime Museum	The History of the Harbours on the Carrick Coast
Mon 5th	KCCS	Kenneth Wilson	High Jinks on the Low Green
Mon 5th	SHS	Mr Lawson	Scottish Rights of Way Society
Mon 5th	L(MS)	William Kane	An Introduction to Drilling
Thu 8th	AANHS	Chris Whatley	Looking Beneath the Kilt: New Ways of Interpreting 18th-Century Scottish History
Tue 13th	KDHG	Geoffrey Stell	The Defences of Scapa Flow 1914 - 1945
Thu 15th	LDHG	Tom Barclay	The Roundheads in Ayrshire
Tue 20th	LNAFHS	David Roberts	Photographs of Old Renfrewshire
Thu 22nd	AANHS	Emma Moorehouse	Silk Weaving in South Lanarkshire
Tue 27th	WKAS	D Mackie	The Holiday Experience
Tue 27th	KDHG	Simon Montgomery	Listed Buildings in Scotland

December 2001

Mon 3rd	KCCS	Ian Snodgrass	Planning and Transport
Mon 3rd	MHS	-	Members' Night
Mon 3rd	L(MS)	-	Members' Night
Mon 3rd	SHS	-	Stewarton Reminiscences
Thu 6th	PHG	George Kilmurry	The Trial of Oscar Slater
Tue 11th	KDHG	David B Smith	Curling - Scotland's Ain Game
Thu 13th	LDHG	Alma Topen	A Pint to be Proud Of
Thu 13th	AANHS	David Devereux	The Archaeology and History of Castle Douglas and District

January 2002

Mon 7th	SHS	Robert Ferguson	Dalgarven Mill
Mon 7th	L(MS)	speaker tbc	Faslane Naval Base
Mon 7th	KCCS	Peter Drummond	The Restoration of McCrae's Monument
Tue 8th	LNAFHS	William Gibb	Marriage
Tue 8th	KDHG	James Gibson	The Robert Burns World Federation

Thu 10th	AANHS	Kevin Wilbraham	Go and Sell All That Thou Hast, and Give it to the Poor: The Relief of Poverty in Ayrshire
Tue 22nd	KDHG	Ted Cowan	The Covenanting Tradition in Scottish History
Thu 24th	AANHS	Nicholas Dixon	Underwater Archaeology and the Crannogs of Scotland
Thu 24th	LDHG	Michael Moss	Ayrshire and New Zealand - the Curious Tale of the Bard's Nephew
Tue 29th	WKAS	Dan Kalder	It's a Good Life: Crofting in Caithness

February 2002

Mon 4th	KCCS	Pat Alexander	Parks and the Environment
Mon 4th	SHS	speaker tbc	The Montgomeries of Eglinton Castle
Mon 4th	L(MS)	Hamish Stewart	A Journey to the Highlands and Islands
Mon 4th	MHS	Fred Westcott	The Natural History of Carrick
Tue 5th	KDHG	Rosemary Gibson	The Darien Scheme
Thu 7th	PHG	Jim Allan	Art on Postcards
Tue 12th	LNAFHS	Irene O'Brian	Mitchell Library Records
Thu 14th	AANHS	Bob McSporrán	Dunaskin Heritage Centre
		and Dane Love	The Covenanters
Tue 19th	KDHG	Hugh Douglas	Jacobite Spy Wars - Moles, Rogues and Treachery
Thu 28th	LDHG	Mary Clow	The Nisbets of Hardhill - Freedom's Knot
Thu 28th	AANHS	Guthrie Hutton	The Forth and Clyde Canal

March 2002

Mon 4th	MHS	tbc	Ayrshire Mansions
Mon 4th	L(MS)	John Baxter	Seabed Surveys around St Kilda
Mon 4th	KCCS	Rob Close	The Architects of Ayrshire
Mon 4th	SHS	Iain Middleditch	Preserving History through Models
Tue 5th	KDHG	David Munro	The Voyage of the <i>Scotia</i>
Thu 7th	PHG	tbc	
Tue 12th	LNAFHS	Lesley Cooper-White	Watt Library (Greenock) Records
Thu 14th	AANHS	Nigel Price	Plant Collecting in China
Tue 19th	KDHG	Janet McBain	From Here to Posterity
Tue 26th	WKAS	Donald Campbell	'Poor Damn'd Rascally Gauger'
Thu 28th	LDHG	Elaine Edwards	Kittochside - the Museum of Scottish Country Life

April 2002

Mon 1st	L(MS)	Isobel Glasgow	The Firth of Clyde Forum
Mon 1st	MHS	Audrey Dakin	Preservation of Monuments and Stonework
Thu 4th	PHG	Alex Young	Glenburn 1914 - 1920
Mon 8th	SHS	John McGill	Loudoun Castle
Tue 9th	LNAFHS	Kevin Wilbraham	Ayrshire Archives

May 2002

Thu 2nd	PHG	members	Blether of 2002
Mon 6th	MHS	Gordon Riddle	Culzean

* Note: this joint meeting is in the Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs.

The diary for the Summer Season 2002 will appear in the next issue of *Ayrshire Notes*. Secretaries of all societies are encouraged to send syllabuses to Rob Close – address on inside front cover.

Have You Scanned Yet?

You may remember SCRAM (www.scran.ac.uk), launched some time ago with Lottery funding. Its aim was to launch a Scottish History and Culture site, allowing access to images, sounds, moves, &c., using a database created from resources in Scottish Museums. This was mainly designed for school use, and a number of CD-ROMs were created, covering topics from the Romans to the Industrial Revolution. The idea had been that local authorities would subscribe to SCRAM and pay a licence fee in order that schools, &c., in their area could access this information. Sadly, some Ayrshire authorities have not subscribed.

Now we have SCAN, the Scottish Archives Network, which is probably more useful for serious historians. As their introductory leaflet states: 'Archives are at the heart of Scotland's culture and history; they are the written guarantee of our democracy'. Once again the main support comes from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the Genealogical Society of Utah. It is an attempt to tackle the problem of accessing information from a variety of sources, catalogued in a number of ways and stored in a wide range of libraries and museums across the country.

There are three main parts to the Project, the first of which is the **Testaments Project**. The aim here is to automate the indexes of the Register of Testaments and Wills from 1500 to 1875, and to link the index entry to an electronic image of the will itself.

The second part is the **Finding Aids Project**, in which the Network will eventually hold the catalogues of most, if not all, Scottish archives, and hopefully at a later date sources outside Scotland containing Scottish material may also be included. It is not intended that the content of documents will be available on-line, but a standardised catalogue system will be used so that researchers will be able to ascertain what is held in a particular location, and whether it is relevant to their research, rather than travel half-way across Scotland only to find that they have wasted their time. Archives which already have a web site will have hypertext links to their own search rooms. Already over 50 Scottish archives have joined the network.

The third part of the Project is the Special Archive Services Project, which has an On-line Electronic Search Room available through the Internet. At present this section contains the following:-

- Knowledge Base. Here may be found the answers to many of the most frequently asked questions relating to research.
- Book Shop. A display of current publications from participating archives.
- Exhibitions. An electronic display space for materials from participating archives. Current exhibitions include Highland Railways, Herbal Medicines, Women's Lives, and Illustrated Trade Cards.
- Features. These will provide relevant aids for researchers, such as 'How to Interpret Old Handwriting'. Currently showing is a charter relating to the Carnwath Red Hose Race, dated 22nd October 1456, in which John, 2nd Lord Somerville, writes to his father, William, promising to 'render annually a pair of hose containing half an ell of English cloth.'
- Yellow Pages. Publicity for archival events and organisations.
- Useful Links. Links to sister sites.
- Electronic Discussion Forum. An opportunity for researchers to swap information, tips and experiences.
- What's New Noticeboard. This will carry the latest news for archive users.

One of the problems faced by SCAN is how to supply material to researchers. At present researchers may request a document in Edinburgh, but it may take days, if not weeks, to find it and provide a copy, and even then it may be almost illegible. Should they supply them in CD-ROM format, or should subscribers be able to download them and, if so, how much should be charged?

It is to their credit that until the beginning of August the site was running a Questionnaire asking for views on these matters, and asked the following: Which historical sites do you access?; How often would you access SCAN?; How much would you be willing to pay for a copy of a document?; Would you be willing to pay for a translation?; As regards wills, would you prefer copies in colour or black-and-white?; Would you be interested in a framed copy of a family will and, if so, how much would you be prepared to pay?

Anyone seeking further information should contact the following:-

Web-site: www.scran.org.uk

E-mail: enquiries@scan.org.uk

Correspondence: Dr Ishbel Barnes, Managing Director, Scottish Archive Network, Thomas Thomson House, 99 Bankhead Crossway North, EDINBURGH EH11 4DX

Ian H Macdonald

PUBLICATIONS of the AYRSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

available from Ronald W. Brash MA, Publications Distribution Manager
10 Robsland Avenue, Ayr KA7 2RW

Digging Up Old Ayr (Lindsay)	£1.00
George Lokert of Ayr (Broadlie)	£1.25
A Scottish Renaissance Household (MacKenzie)	£3.00
Plant Life in Ayrshire (Kirkwood/Foulds)	£4.20
The Barony of Alloway (Hendry)	£3.60
Robert Adam in Ayrshire (Sanderson)	£3.60
The Cumnock Pottery (Quail)	£5.00
Tolls and Tacksman (McClure)	£3.60
Smuggling and the Ayrshire Economic Boom (Cullen)	£4.00
The Port of Ayr 1727–1780 (Graham)	£4.20
John Smith of Dalry, Part 1: Geology (ed. Reid)	£6.00
John Smith of Dalry, Part 2: Archæology & Natural History (ed. Reid)	£7.20
Mauchline Memories of Robert Burns (ed. Strawhorn) (reprint)	£3.50
Antiquities of Ayrshire (Grose, ed. Strawhorn) (reprint)	£4.20
Cessnock: An Ayrshire Estate in the Age of Improvement (Mair)	£4.50
Robert Reid Cunninghame of Seabank House (Graham)	£3.60
Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors	£2.00
A Community Rent Asunder:	
The Newmilns Laceweavers Strike of 1897 (Mair)	£3.50
The Rise and Fall of Mining Communities in Central Ayrshire (Wark)	£3.00
The Last Miller: The Cornmills of Ayrshire (Wilson)	£6.00
Historic Alloway, Village and Countryside: A Guide for Visitors	£2.00
The Street Names of Ayr (Close)	£5.00
Servants in Ayrshire 1750–1914 (Aitchison)	£5.00
Armstrong's Maps of Ayrshire (1775: reprint, 6 sheets)	£12.00