

AYRSHIRE § NOTES §

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MAUCHLINE WARE

Did you know that some Mauchline-made boxes are worth several hundred pounds, and that rare items could fetch thousands? There is now a Mauchline Boxware Society with members all over the world, and Mr Alexander Wilson, one of its founder-members, recently enthralled a crowded meeting of Mauchline Burns Club with an account of the town's famous old craft, and a rich display of specimens.

The making of Scottish Souvenir Ware did not originate here. Until the 18th century most snuff-boxes were made of gold and silver because these were the only ones which kept snuff completely dry. Then James Sandy of Alyth in Perthshire invented a machine tool which could turn out wooden boxes with an air-tight hinge. The patent for this invisible hinge was acquired by Charles Striven of Laurencekirk in Kincardineshire, who developed a profitable trade.

In 1807 a Frenchman visiting Sir Alexander Boswell of Auchinleck left one of these Laurencekirk snuff-boxes for repair, and from it two local craftsmen learned the secret of the hinge and began manufacturing in Auchinleck and Cumnock, and others followed on in Catrine and Mauchline.

In Mauchline several firms became involved, including Davidson, Wilson and Amphlet, but the most successful and eventually the sole manufacturer was the firm of William and Andrew Smith. Beginning in 1807 they specialised in de luxe snuff-boxes, hand-crafted, hand-painted, each sealed with 36 coats of varnish, and earned a royal warrant in 1832. Though demand for snuff-boxes declined, the Smiths were acute enough to diversify and their markets were widened after a display of their products at the Great Exhibition of 1851. They manufactured tea caddies, egg cups, paper knives, visiting card cases, bookcovers, sewing boxes, children's toys (including whistles and pop-guns), and a whole range of other souvenirs. These were decorated with transfers (often of Burns Scenes), and many were embellished with tartan, fern leaves, or lacquer. For tourists visiting other parts of Scotland, items featuring scenes from such places were produced; English resorts were also supplied, and the Smiths even began foreign exports. They supplied wooden souvenirs for Holland, Belgium and France (Boulogne and Nice). Other specially-designed items went to South Africa, India, Australia and Canada. The United States of America took Mauchline ware for sale in twenty-seven of the states.

By the 20th century the demand for Mauchline ware was reduced. German firms began selling in Britain cheaper mass-produced wooden souvenirs, and

items of other materials were becoming more popular. W & A Smith, the sole surviving firm in the trade, continued by manufacturing trays and a simpler range of goods till in 1933 there was a disastrous fire in the box works. The business finally closed down at the outbreak of war in 1939. The boxworks, whose prominent chimney appears in several photographs of old Mauchline, occupied the site where the fire station now stands. The Smiths had a career of 132 years. Over that period, as Mr Wilson concluded, the Smiths had shown ingenuity in manufacture, enterprise in innovation, skill in marketing, and their achievement was a most remarkable one.

There is a splendid collection of Mauchline Ware within the Burns House Museum in Mauchline. The District History Centre in the Baird Institute, Cumnock (see Notes and Comments in this issue) has also acquired a valuable stock.

THE C.S.A. SUMMER SCHOOL

This year, the C.S.A.'s Summer School will be held in Hexham, Northumberland, from Friday 20 to Monday 23 May. There are two principal areas of interest. Many small but interesting castles remain from the long years when continual skirmishing made a defensible dwelling necessary, and they, rather than the larger and more commonly visited castles, will be studied and visited. Similarly, the wealth of Roman remains along and near Hadrian's wall include some which are less well-known, including a graveyard, and visits have been arranged to some of these.

Booking closed on 31 March, but there could be room for latecomers: telephone Susan Robertson on 031 225 7534 ext. 311, Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

EXCAVATIONS AT LOUDOUN HILL

by Anne Johnstone

When a high terrace known as the Leven was stripped of turf and topsoil prior to sand and gravel extraction by Tilcon Quarries, two stone alignments were revealed. These were observed by three members of the AANHS, who are also members of the Association of Certified Field Archaeologists, Glasgow University: Jim Mair, Gerry Hearn and Anne Johnstone. The trio regularly walk in the Irvine Valley and the surrounding area looking in particular for newly disturbed ground.

The Leven lies north of the A71, adjacent to the site of the Roman Fort of Loudoun Hill which was destroyed in 1955 by sand and gravel extraction. There are other known archaeological sites in the surrounding area, such as Wallace's Knowe, Hendryton Hill round cairns, Bankhead Homestead (excavated by A Hendry) and Loanfoot long cairn.

The two stone alignments suggested the remains of a double palisade, a feature not previously recorded in this district. Plans were drawn up and forwarded to 'Discovery and Excavation' and the regional archaeologist Dr Carol Swanson. Since the site was under imminent danger of destruction, Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division undertook its rescue excavation in October and November 1993, funded by Strathclyde Regional Council, Tilcon Quarries Ltd and finally Historic Scotland.

The excavation confirmed that the site found was indeed a palisaded enclosure. The visible stones had been packed in the trenches to secure the timbers of the structure. Another double palisade was found, as were many post and stake holes scattered over the site. Evidence for a further enclosure overlying the double palisade, and a linear feature cutting across the outer palisades emerged. Two hearths were found over 30m. outside the palisade complex.

John Atkinson from G.U.A.R.D., who was in charge of the excavation, has produced a preliminary report in record time and puts forward his first interpretation of the site, while awaiting the results of analysis of soil samples and radio carbon dating of the charcoal found in various contexts. This report includes details of the method of construction of the outer palisades, and a description of the entrance and of the massive posts defining it. The two pairs of twin palisades are considered to be contemporary and it was shown that they merge to form a double palisade round the north west corner of the terrace.

Within the outer but overlying the inner palisades a trench slot suggests the existence of a later enclosed area surrounded by a structure, different in construction from the main palisades. The spread of a large number of post holes within the site has made interpretation difficult, but it is tentatively suggested that a possible circular structure existed within the inner area.

A third phase of use is represented by a long dark band of reddish brown silty gravel overlying the outer palisades.

Some worked stone and pottery were found. These included quartz, chert, flint, pitchstone and worked shale while some of the pottery sherds found in one of the hearths may possibly be of Neolithic date.

In his conclusion John Atkinson says that the main occupation of the site may be bronze age with three phases represented. A possible earlier phase may be seen in the hearths outside.

Since no other palisaded enclosure has been found in Ayrshire, the information from this site is considered to be an important addition to the present knowledge of date and construction of palisades in Scottish prehistory.

KYLE AND CARRICK CIVIC SOCIETY NEWS

Coach outings. Bookings to Michael Hitchon, 1 Barns Terrace, Ayr. Visitors welcome. Bring picnics or try the tea rooms.

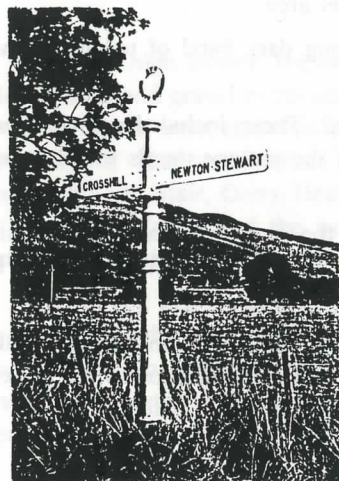
Sunday 24 April. Maxwellton House, Moniaive, and the Mill on the Fleet, Gatehouse of Fleet. Depart Barns Park 9 am; cost £10 including admissions.

Sunday 8 May. Ayton Castle, Eyemouth, and Paxton House, Berwick-upon-Tweed. Depart Barns Park 8-30 am; cost £12 including admissions.

Ayrshire Open Doors Day. The Civic Society has been invited by Enterprise Ayrshire to co-ordinate Doors Open Day in Ayrshire this year. Make a note of the date - Sunday 4 September 1994 - when you can take a look inside many of the most interesting buildings that are not always open to the public. Watch out for leaflets in the Ayr Flower Show 4-6 August, or in local libraries and tourist offices.

Kyle and Carrick Civic Society, inspired by the AANHS booklet *The Cumnock Pottery*, by Gerard Quail, recently bought a **documentary teapot**. It bears the inscription "Mrs Stitt 1887 Wanlockhead". The teapot has been lodged on permanent loan with the Scottish Museum of Mining at Wanlockhead, where it is on display in the 1890 cottage.

ROADSIDE HERITAGE

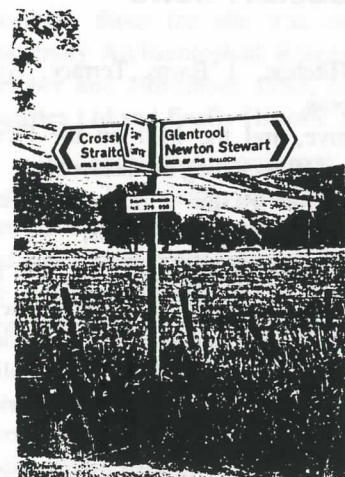


The photograph on the left, taken in August 1991, is of a signpost on the road from Crosshill to Newton Stewart, where it meets the road from Barr at Balloch. I was cycling when this old signpost caught my eye, and it was no premonition that it would not be around much longer that led me to snap it. But gone it is, as the photograph, taken in September 1992 shows (below, left).

I suppose that the old post fails on some readability standard and it had to go. Locals don't need the post, so this must be for the benefit of tourists. As so often happens, in making it easier for the tourists to get about, we spoil what they come to see. The Roads Department, with all the sensitivity of a Ratners in an old town centre, insists on a uniform style, whether at a busy junction of two trunk roads or, as here, at a lonely intersection by the headwaters of the Stinchar. A similar substitution has occurred at nearby Rowantree Toll.

Will *Minnyschant* (below) soon follow those other old signs to the scrapyard?

D McClure



RECORDING AYRSHIRE

Problems and Rewards of Publishing

The AANHS is one of the very few societies which publish booklets regularly. This brief review of its past publications, and comments on some of the practicalities of publishing, may interest regular readers. To suggest to some Sister Societies the possibility of entering this field, the Council for Scottish Archaeology published a similar note from us last year in its *Archaeological News*.

The Ayrshire and Galloway Archaeological Association published eighteen impressive volumes of *Collections* between 1878 and 1897. The AANHS was formed in 1947, and in 1950 followed its predecessor's example by publishing the first of its more modest series of *Ayrshire Collections*, of which 10 volumes appeared in the following 22 years. The first volume had 262 pages, and contained 17 articles plus reports, indexes and a membership list. It cost £299 to print. The Society then had 162 members and its ordinary annual subscription was £1 1/-. By 1972 the rising cost of printing imposed a change of policy: since then we have published two monographs a year for free distribution to our members. They now number 230 and pay an ordinary subscription of £10 a year. We normally print 1,000 copies, and sales to the public, directly and through booksellers, actively promoted by Ronald Brash, contribute significantly to the costs.

As a non-profitmaking organisation, we have received financial support for many of our publications from Ayr Town Council, Ayrshire County Council, the Ayrshire Educational Trust and the four modern District Councils. They contributed both to hard-back books such as *The Royal Burgh of Ayr*, Dunlop, 1953; *Ayrshire at the Time of Burns*, ed. Strawhorn, 1959; and *Ayrshire, the Story of a County*, Strawhorn, 1975; and to paperback monographs. The recent *Cumnock Pottery*, Quail, 1993, was a joint venture with the Cumnock & Doon Valley D.C.

The Society's objects include promotion of interest in the archaeology, antiquities, history and natural history of the county, and we have a proud record as far as local history is concerned. We were fortunate in having among our members such distinguished historians as Sir James Fergusson and Dr Annie Dunlop. We were able to publish articles on Ayrshire by young historians who would later earn wider reputation: Geoffrey Barrow (1957), T C Smout (1960), and more recently Margaret Sanderson (1976) and C A Whatley (1983). We have also had authoritative contributions from established writers such as George Pryde, Roy Campbell, Ian Cowan and David Stevenston. Local writers with specialised knowledge have of course also been represented. Amongst these is

John Strawhorn, a member of committee since our society was founded, and involved in editing for the last forty years! From time to time original documents have been reprinted, as items from protocol books, facsimile extracts from Grose's *Antiquities*, a report on *Ayrshire Miners' Rows in 1913*, and the Armstrong Map of Ayrshire in 1775 in six sheets, which has required several impressions since 1951. Natural History has most recently been covered by publication in 1992 of *Plant Life in Ayrshire*, Kirkwood and Foulds, our first venture into colour.

One disappointment has always been our failure to obtain for publication a regular supply of items of purely archaeological content. Within our *Ayrshire Collections* may be found fully-documented, well-illustrated reports of a number of small excavations and discoveries, but the amount of field work within Ayrshire has been limited and not all of it has been reported. Many of our articles have of course covered related subjects. When industrial archaeology was a novelty we covered it in Volume 7, 1966. Also we were able to provide surveys of prehistory in *The Stone Ages in Ayrshire*, Morrison and Hughes, 1989, and *The Bronze Age in Ayrshire*, Morrison, 1978. And we plan a commemorative volume to celebrate the centenary of John Smith's *Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire*, 1895.

For most of the Society's career we were virtually the only publisher in the area of items on local subjects. Even now, when there has been a sudden outburst of books and brochures by commercial firms, AANHS provides a desirable outlet. We can assist authors prepare their text for printing. We can handle material for which there is no obvious market elsewhere. All this is made possible by a sizeable membership which is happy to see part of its annual subscription spent on publication, by the willingness of authors to provide worthy material without fee and by careful attention to quality and economy.

It is possible to print 1,000 copies of a 40-page monograph, stapled, with a thin board cover and excellent workmanship, for about £1,000, provided that the text is on computer disk and the artwork is camera-ready. Authors can save the Society a lot of time and money by using a word-processor, or persuading a friend to use one to transcribe the text. To help the printers, the resulting disk should be in DOS/ASCII format. Colour printing and plastic-laminated covers increase the cost, but we are now using them where the artistic content justifies it. Although the difference between printing cost and cover price seems to offer a healthy profit, and our publications sell, they do sell slowly and we do not quite break even. This is a price which AANHS is happy to pay.

The actual printing and binding process only takes a week or two, but there is a lot of preliminary work to do, and it helps if authors deliver a virtually complete package of text and illustrations six months before publication. It would be a great comfort to the editors to have a few works awaiting publication, and

they are always happy to consider original, well-researched material which relates to Ayrshire, and which is written with the general reader in mind.

Publication enhances the standing and coherence of a society, serves those of its members who for whatever reason do not attend lectures, and meets a real need amongst both specialists and the public for authoritative source material. It is hard work, but rewarding.

FAMILY HISTORY

The most recent event organised by the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies was a Family History Workshop, aimed at introducing the various research tools available to newcomers to family history. The workshop was run in conjunction with the Family History Centre (FHC) of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints (the "Mormons" or the LDS Church to themselves) in Kilmarnock. Notification of the event was issued to all members of the Federation, but many of the 20 or so participants were attracted by a write-up we received in the Kilmarnock Standard.

The LDS Church believes in eternal life, and that its members can bestow the benefits of church membership on their ancestors, and hence have a particular reason for developing genealogical research. Anyone who has used microfilms of either Census enumerators' returns or Old parish registers will have noticed how many of these films were made by the LDS Church. They form the core of the International Genealogical Index (IGI), which lists the names in these records alphabetically by county. Worldwide, over 22,000,000 names are now indexed in the IGI. It is an essential tool for the family historian. Liz McInnes, the director of the Kilmarnock FHC, outlined to us the nature of the various records, and the way in which the machinery - computers, film readers and fiche readers - can be used to create your own family pedigree. Most of the workshop was, however, devoted to hands-on experience for the participants, with guidance from the volunteers at the FHC as to how best to work from the information they already had. Besides the world-wide IGI, the Kilmarnock centre is building up an impressive collection of films and fiches relating to Ayrshire parishes. They are now beginning to go beyond the fiches: computerisation is proceeding apace. A program stored on CD-ROMs now enables the researcher to quickly locate all known siblings: a process which used to be time-consuming, especially if the family were peripatetic.

Rob Close

Jeannie Deans: The centenary production of Hamish MacCunn's Scottish opera.

On Monday 12th November 1894, the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company opened at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, for "Six Nights and One Matinee" with a programme which included "Carmen", "The Merry Wives of Windsor", and "Jeannie Deans". The latter was a new opera, composed for the company by Hamish MacCunn, who would conduct the premiere performance on Thursday. The libretto, by Joseph Bennett, was based on Sir Walter Scott's "The Heart of Midlothian".

This was a significant cultural event in Edinburgh, meriting no less than 42 column inches (over a metre) in "The Scotsman" the following day. The reviewer found the Lyceum "crowded to the doors" and thought it natural that "enthusiasm should reign supreme". Although Scott's characters had found their way on to the operatic stage before, in Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" (1835), Bizet's "La Jolie Fille de Perth" (1867) and Sullivan's "Ivanhoe" (1891), Jeannie Deans was "a Scottish opera, composed by a Scottish musician, and produced for the first time in the Scottish Capital". It was, wrote the reviewer, "a musical work of distinct character, conceived and carried out with great dash and boldness" and was "strikingly dramatic ... frequently Scottish in character".

The original playbill for the week can be found in the National Library. It lists prospective engagements for the theatre including "Charley's Aunt", "A Royal Divorce" and the "Mr. R. D'Oyly Carte Opera Company".

MacCunn's dramatic music can be heard at the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr, where the Opera West centenary production of Jeannie Deans will be performed on three nights, Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th April. Late twentieth century fire regulations will ensure that the crowding is restrained within reasonable bounds.

FINDING OUT ABOUT AYRSHIRE (5) The Census

Local history is more than finding out about interesting persons, places and events relating to a particular neighbourhood. It should try to reveal how the community has changed over the centuries. The best way to consider how it has changed over the last two hundred years or so is to examine population figures for that period. Generally, population has grown, as a result of declining death rate and changes in the birth rate. But the rate of growth varies from place to place, and in some places and in some periods has actually declined. Decline or slow growth is usually an index of economic difficulties -- loss of trade, decay of local businesses. Rapid growth is an indication of people moving into a locality because of new or expanding industry. If you look at your own parish on the accompanying table you can work this out for yourself -- drawing a graph is a simple exercise. You can see, if you like, how rapidly Auchinleck parish developed in the second half of the 19th century as a result of expansion of coal mining; how Stair, a purely rural parish, has declined in numbers in the 20th century. In most parishes you can note how growth of population in the middle of the 19th century was halted as cotton handloom weaving became less profitable. You may be puzzled at a sharp decline in some coastal parishes between 1921 and 1931 -- this is a statistical aberration: there the 1921 figures were abnormally inflated, because the census was then taken in summer and many holidaymakers were present.

The first real count of numbers in Scottish parishes was made in 1755 by Rev. Alexander Webster, with the assistance of local ministers. Again in the 1790's they or their successors made a count as part of their contribution to Sir John Sinclair's *Statistical Account of Scotland*. These early "census reports" cannot be regarded as totally accurate. Many persons objected to giving exact numbers for fear that it was the prelude to a new tax, and some on religious grounds objected to the counting of heads -- "Go now through all the tribes of Israel, that I may know the number of the people. ...And David's heart smote him after he had numbered the people. And David said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that I have done. ...So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel" (II Samuel, xxiv, 2-15).

The first official census was in 1801, and has been repeated every ten years since (except in 1941 when more urgent matters were being attended to). The published *Census Reports* contain more than numbers in the various parishes. Numbers in burghs, and in some instances even villages are shown. Numbers are broken down by age and sex (an ambiguous expression!). There are details of

households, number of rooms, occupations, birthplaces, Gaelic speakers, and in the reports of the more recent censuses, particulars of household amenities. A great deal of information about the larger communities can be discovered from the older *Census Reports* -- as indicated in an article on "Ayrshire's Changing Population" in Volume 8 of the *Ayrshire Collections*, and "How Ayr has grown" in Volume 2 of *The Royal Burgh of Ayr*. Social progress can be noticed by comparison of number of persons per room at different times and in different places. In 1861 there were 2.06 persons per room in Ayrshire, improving to 1.57 in 1901. In 1931 housing conditions remained bad in Galston (1.71) as compared with Girvan (0.98) which was so much better. A generation later in 1961 the Ayrshire average had improved from 1.33 to 0.91; this improvement was reflected in Galston (0.96) as in Girvan (0.8); and the only places continuing with more persons than rooms were Ayr (6th ward), Kilmarnock (2nd and 8th wards) Irvine (2nd and 3rd wards) Stevenston, Auchinleck, New Cumnock, and Dalmellington. Since then another generation has passed, and when the 1991 *Census Report* for Ayrshire is published it will be possible to assess the extent of continued developments in housing.

Returns of 1881 and subsequent censuses have been retained by the Registrar General for Scotland in Edinburgh. Confidentiality requires that a hundred years must pass before any Returns may be made generally available for perusal. Until recently it required a trip to the New Register House in Edinburgh to examine them. But now microfilms of these Census Returns covering 1841 to 1891 have been acquired by a number of local libraries. These have been of special interest to those pursuing family histories; but they are equally of value to local historians by allowing us to analyse the changing composition of a particular community over the greater part of the 19th century. By examining them you can easily compute the numbers of persons in different occupations, how many were incomers, and even the proportions in the different age groups. This is not difficult for a village or other small community, though much more work is involved for a larger town. As an example, Prestwick burgh in 1841 had a population of only 770, 302 of whom were gainfully employed, more than half of them in the cotton trade, with 120 handloom weavers, 27 women sewing muslins, and another 20 working in ancillary jobs like pinn winding. 7% of the population were immigrants from Ireland; the high death rate of the time is indicated by only 5% surviving beyond the age of sixty. By 1891 Prestwick's population had risen to 1,479 but there were only a dozen handloom weavers, vastly outnumbered by 105 domestic servants, mostly employed in the new houses erected near the shore for incomers, who formed 63% of the population; and 9.5% were over the age of sixty. Later this year a new *History of Prestwick* will appear, which will further reveal the wide range of information which may be extracted from the published *Census Reports* and the microfilmed Census returns.

AYRSHIRE PARISH POPULATIONS 1755-1961
REPRODUCED FROM *AYRSHIRE COLLECTIONS* VOL.8, 1967-69, p28, fig. 7.

	Girvan (GR).	Dailly (DA).	Colmonell (CL).	Ballantrae (BA).	Barr (BR).	Maybole (MY).	Stratton (ST).	Kirkoswald (KO).	Kirkmichael (KM).	Dalmellington (DN).	Coylton (CY).	Dalrymple (DM).	Ayr.	Newton upon Ayr.	St. Quivox.	Dundonald (DU).	Monkton & P.K (MP)	Tarbolton (TA).	Symington (SY).	Craigie (CR).	Auchinleck (AU).	Mauchline (MC).	Muirkirk (MK).	Sorn (SO).
1755	12	8	18	10	9	21	11	12	7	7	5	4	30	6	5	10	6	14	4	6	9	12	7	15
1791	17	16	11	8	7	38	9	13	10	7	7	4	46	17	15	13	7	12	6	7	18	11	28	
1801	23	16	13	8	10	32	10	17	11	8	8	5	55	28	21	12	10	18	7	8	17	26	33	
1811	31	18	14	10	7	39	11	17	16	12	12	8	63	40	36	16	13	20	7	8	14	19	28	
1821	45	22	20	13	8	52	13	18	22	10	14	9	75	40	54	25	17	22	7	8	15	21	27	
1831	64	21	22	15	9	63	14	20	28	11	14	10	76	40	53	56	18	23	9	8	17	22	31	
1841	74	23	28	17	10	70	14	20	29	12	15	9	83	45	61	67	19	26	9	8	17	22	34	
1851	86	24	29	18	9	76	15	22	33	15	15	11	91	48	71	73	20	28	9	8	37	25	42	
1861	71	21	26	15	9	67	15	21	28	14	16	13	93	51	71	76	19	26	9	8	42	33	40	
1871	57	19	23	13	7	59	14	18	23	12	14	14	96	49	61	70	17	27	8	6	62	24	33	
1881	55	22	22	14	6	66	12	18	20	64	31	14	102	65	74	81	21	36	7	6	67	25	51	
1891	49	18	19	13	5	76	11	17	19	50	27	13	111	86	77	95	26	36	6	6	62	23	52	
1901	49	17	20	11	6	79	10	16	18	53	25	12	316	316	113	39	39	40	6	5	24	50	36	
1911	53	19	19	11	5	69	13	17	17	62	30	13	362	389	139	56	56	46	6	5	74	24	38	
1921	85	19	20	13	5	65	12	22	17	62	26	14	404	404	183	94	50	51	6	5	72	24	35	
1931	61	17	17	11	5	62	11	18	16	62	24	14	440	440	165	94	51	61	7	5	66	25	34	
1951	67	18	16	9	4	70	16	18	15	71	27	14	440	440	190	131	131	61	8	5	68	42	37	
1961	68	19	14	9	5	71	31	19	14	63	23	17	466	466	169	143	143	65	9	5	64	45	37	

Numbers in hundreds. Newton and St Quivox absorbed in Ayr after 1890. Other minor boundary changes ignored.

	Old Cumnock (OC).	New Cumnock (NC).	Ochiltree (OH).	Stair (SR).	Kilmarnock (KK).	Riccarton (RI).	Loudoun (LO).	Kilmaurs (KS).	Galston (GA).	Stewarton (SW).	Dunlop (DP).	Fenwick (FK).	Irvine (IR).	Kilwinning (KW).	Dreghorn (DR).	Ardrossan (AR).	Stevenson (SN).	Largs (LA).	West Kilbride (WK).	Kilbrnie (KB).	Beith (BE).	Dalry (DY).
1755	13	15	12	4	44	7	15	11	10	28	8	11	40	25	9	13	14	12	9	7	21	15
1791	16	12	12	5	68	13	23	11	16	30	8	13	45	24	8	15	24	10	7	7	29	20
1801	18	11	13	7	81	14	25	13	21	27	8	13	46	27	8	18	21	14	8	10	31	23
1811	20	14	15	6	101	18	32	14	30	30	9	16	58	33	8	25	29	18	10	11	37	28
1821	23	17	16	7	128	21	37	17	34	37	10	19	70	37	9	31	36	25	14	13	44	33
1831	28	22	16	7	181	25	40	21	37	45	11	20	52	38	9	35	35	28	17	15	51	37
1841	28	24	16	8	200	32	44	26	43	47	11	20	52	53	12	49	38	40	19	26	58	48
1851	38	28	18	8	213	46	47	31	44	46	10	17	57	64	18	56	38	37	20	55	64	89
1861	37	29	17	7	236	56	48	35	53	44	10	15	57	77	33	68	55	36	20	53	57	112
1871	40	34	17	7	241	58	55	34	63	45	11	13	59	74	32	72	50	41	19	50	62	109
1881	49	38	15	9	259	71	64	37	60	43	13	12	60	70	39	78	57	51	21	52	65	102
1891	47	44	21	11	280	81	82	45	70	40	15	11	65	81	43	118	62	55	23	55	71	82
1901	51	54	19	12	331	81	90	43	72	39	14	11	68	84	44	117	95	60	30	72	75	74
1911	55	57	20	10	338	76	90	46	68	40	13	12	75	88	45	165	107	126	32	76	67	72
1921	55	63	21	10	346	79	80	46	68	37	13	12	83	85	43	137	116	85	46	80	63	68
1931	56	64	20	10	364	84	76	44	63	37	12	12	105	85	42	180	137	110	39	82	60	68
1951	79	67	28	6	328	148	75	62	62	39	13	12	143	101	41	203	140	114	42	76	69	65
1961	113	69	52	4	318	216	69	64	57	41	13	12	143	106	41	203	140	114	44	87	67	65

Numbers in hundreds.

NEW BOOKS ABOUT AYRSHIRE

THE CUMNOCK POTTERY

by Gerard Quail

AANHS £5

Many readers will already be familiar with this new monograph, one of the most impressive of recent AANHS productions. Seventy-seven pages long, and lavishly illustrated with pictures in colour and in black and white, it provides a definitive account of the pottery which operated from 1792 until 1920. It is of interest not only to collectors but to anyone interested in the industrial and social history of this area. Particularly gratifying is the cooperation of Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council in this production, its enthusiasm demonstrated by paying a very substantial share of the costs in return for a corresponding share of the books.

DISCOVERING AYRSHIRE

by John Strawhorn and Ken Andrew

John Donald

First issued in 1988 and now sold out, the publishers have commissioned an updated reprint which is virtually a new edition, promised for spring 1994 at a price still to be announced.

BURNS NOW

edited by Kenneth Simpson

Canongate Academic, £14.99

While most of the twelve authoritative contributions to this collection of essays are of interest to Burnsians, two of them are of special interest for local historians. John Strawhorn writes on 'Everyday life in Burns's Ayrshire' and deals with Landlords, Housing, Food, Dress, and Opportunities. C A Whatley, now of the University of Dundee, takes as his subject 'Work, Kirk, and Community in Later Eighteenth Century Scotland'. This book has grown out of lectures delivered at Strathclyde University, which since 1990 has sponsored an annual series on Burns.

IN AND ABOUT LARGS

by I B Kerr

Largs has featured among the new books in our previous three issues! This one, first published over twenty years ago, has been updated and is available from the Treasurer, Largs and District Historical Society, Kirkgate House, Manse Court, Largs, £1.50 plus 50p postage.

THIS TIME OF CRISIS

by Andrew Jeffrey

Mainstream, £14.99

Sub-titled 'Glasgow, the West of Scotland and the North Western Approaches in the Second World War', this contains material relating to the Firth of Clyde and to the development of Prestwick airfield.

HISTORY OF THE AYRSHIRE JUNIOR GOLF LEAGUE

by Alastair J Malcolm

Record of twenty-five years of young golfers, some of whom have reached national and international status. Available from booksellers at £3.50.

SCOTTISH LOCAL HISTORY No. 30, February 1994

Scottish Local History Forum

£3, or annual subscription of £10

This issue contains three items of Ayrshire interest. 'The Fifes of Fairlie' by John Miller is a most informative and well-illustrated account of William Fife, who launched his first yacht in 1812, and of his successors who continued the boat-building business until 1985. Jim Tildesley, director of the Scottish Maritime museum at Irvine, records the achievements of its first ten years. Finally, there is a well-researched contribution from Rob Close on the abortive plan of 1899 to provide Ayr with a pleasure pier.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE OPENS

On 6 November 1993 Eric Ross, Convener of Cumnock and Doon District Council, officially opened a splendid new history library in the refurbished Baird Institute in Cumnock -- providing a resource which should be much patronised by people throughout the District and further afield.

Anyone who is interested in any aspect of local history will be able to consult books and maps relating to Ayrshire in general, and each community within the district has its own shelf. There are special collections relating to James Boswell and Robert Burns. The archives contain public and private papers and range from records of the Lugar iron works to those of the Auchinleck Curling Club.

Anyone wishing to find out about family history, or local places in the past, can search for what you want in a number of records on microfilm. Among these are parish records, census returns, and the International Genealogical Index; and a computer data-base of the Centre's holdings is being compiled.

John Laurenson, the library specialist on local history, is available to help with inquiries. Charles Woodward, newly-appointed as Curator of district museums, is in charge of the extensive collection of boxware and pottery, the Keir Hardie Room, and arranges various displays in the exhibition areas of the Baird Institute, opened in 1891 as a museum, with recreation and reading room; now completely renovated to form a History Centre, with all visitors welcome and special accommodation for school parties undertaking projects.

Open weekdays (except Wednesday) from 10 am - 1 pm and 1.30 - 4 pm;

Open Saturdays (museum only) 11 am - 1 pm

For use of microfilms, better book in advance: phone 0290 42107

Mr Woodward will be speaking on
"Local studies and museum services: the Baird Institute model"
at the AANHS meeting on 8 December 1994.

BURNS COTTAGE

While the cottage at Alloway has long attracted visitors, many have been put off by the condition of the interior, with its confusing clutter of artefacts which gave inadequate representation of what it was like originally. Now, however, the Trustees have engaged Gordon Lyall, Edinburgh-based Heritage Planners and Design Consultants, who have completed a major reconstruction to show it as it was when occupied by the Burns family. Employing audio-visual aids, they allow visitors now to understand more clearly what domestic life was like in the 18th century, so that Burns Cottage can be appreciated by those interested in the local past even though they have little special interest in the poet, providing a great new asset. Over the next few years, similar improvements in other places in the Burns country are under way in anticipation of the bicentenary of the death of Robert Burns in 1796.

JOHN SMITH: GEOLOGIST, ANTIQUARIAN AND NATURAL HISTORIAN

An accompanying leaflet announces a full-day symposium in Ayr on Saturday 25 March 1995 to celebrate the centenary of the publication of *Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire*, in 1895, by John Smith. He was a truly remarkable character with an amazing range of skills, and experts in his various fields will examine the relevance of his work today and update it where necessary. A limited edition reprint of the book itself is also planned. It would be very helpful to David Reid and the organising team if those interested would return the tear-off slip soon.

SCOTLAND'S MUSICAL PAST

Another leaflet concerns a public lecture by Dr John Purser on 27 October, arranged jointly by AANHS and Kyle & Carrick District (as was the Peter Hill lecture on Whithorn last October). If support continues to be as good as it has been, such public lectures could become a regular event. Tickets are on sale at the Gaiety Theatre, and reasonably early booking might be advisable. Musical instruments surviving from as far back as the Bronze Age, as well as early manuscripts and historical research, provide solid evidence for the lecturer's conclusions as to how the music is likely to have sounded, and its place in the nation's life.

● Contributions for the Autumn 1944 issue of *Ayrshire Notes* should be sent before the end of July to Dr John Strawhorn, 51 Connell Crescent, Mauchline, KA5 5BN.

● Local Societies may obtain additional copies of *Ayrshire Notes* for their members at reduced rates by prior arrangement with Dr Trevor Mathews, 10 Longlands Park, Ayr, KA7 4RJ.

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