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## A HANGING AT SYMINGTON TOLL<sup>1</sup>

by David McCclure

On Thursday 27th October 1814, late in the afternoon, there were four men eating fourpence worth of bread and drinking whisky, a gill<sup>2</sup> among them, in the public house and grocery shop kept by James Ballantine in Monkton. The tallest was about six feet, had an ill-looking, yellow face and wore a long, dark coat with yellow buttons and wide, grey trousers, like a soldier. Another was small, no more than five feet five inches, red-faced and with red hair and whiskers. The third was about five feet six, dark-complexioned, with a long, black beard. He wore a blue coat, with small yellow buttons, and his stockings were dark grey. No one could afterwards give a description of the fourth man.

Ballantine's wife was afraid of the men. She and her husband called a customer to observe them surreptitiously. This was James Henry, a weaver in Monkton, who was buying a pound of candles. When the four had left, Ballantine remarked to Henry that there would be robberies before the night was out. It was Kilmarnock Fair that day and there were sure to be some returning towards Monkton or Ayr<sup>3</sup>.

It was a little after six o'clock, dark and raining, when they found their first victim. David Dickie was an apprentice upholsterer to William Lamont in Kilmarnock. His pony having cast a shoe near Symington, he was leading it when he came to the first of the Rosemount plantations, at the sixth milestone from Ayr. He was set upon by the four men, who sprang from cover of the trees and knocked him into the ditch. They robbed him of about seven shillings in silver, his gloves, a handkerchief from his pocket and another of black silk he was wearing about his neck. When they had done with him he continued to Rosemount smithy where his pony, with commendable presence of mind, was waiting.

Soon afterwards James Ferguson, farmer in Newlands and Alexander Paterson, farmer at Aikenbrae, both of Monkton parish, came riding by and were attacked at the same spot. From Ferguson they gained a pound note and some shillings and halfpence, together with the keys of his desk. Paterson was still more productive, yielding nineteen pounds, mostly in one pound or guinea notes, and a silver hunter watch no. 47,599.

The alarm was raised in Monkton and a party set out along the road, but though they searched the plantation they found no trace of the gang.

Over near Craigie however, Robert Guthrie who lived at Townhead of Drumley rode into their path and he too was knocked off his horse and robbed. He

was sure that he had recognised one of the men as a certain Witheredge, a hawker who travelled the country with a green pack. This was actually John Worthington, a peddler who had lived for some time in Kilmarnock and was now thought to be living in Glasgow.

About eight o'clock Worthington turned up with one companion in Kilmarnock, at the house of Robert Hamilton, his daughter and his twelve year old son, who was apprenticed as a shoemaker with Alexander Macfie in the town<sup>4</sup>, having arrived there earlier. Hamilton, a customer weaver<sup>5</sup>, had known Worthington for about three years, but was not pleased to see him, being aware that he had been banished from the county for theft. However he admitted him, and Worthington sent his son to buy a mutchkin of whisky costing two shillings, sending him first with a pound note and then, when no change was to be had, with silver. He and his companion left later, saying that they were going to Irvine.

Between Kilmarnock and Kingswell on the Glasgow road was the village of Rose Fenwick<sup>6</sup>, where the Black Bull Inn was kept by David Taylor and his wife Jean Parker. Their door was bolted when, at about ten past ten that night, four men arrived demanding half a mutchkin of whisky. When the man in the blue coat, identified as Worthington, attempted to pay with a note, there was insufficient change, so he increased the order to two half mutchkins. After spending about half an hour in the kitchen they asked to stay the night, and bought another half mutchkin<sup>7</sup> to take with them to a room upstairs where there was a bed.

Jean Parker's suspicions were aroused and she did *what she never did before*. She spied on them through a broken part of the lathing at the side of the door. They were counting out money; *she saw a Note, or Notes, or something the size of a Note lying before two of the men; could not see anything lying before the other two. Some few shillings were lying on each Note; ...* Shortly after this the men came downstairs and left the inn.

*The Air Advertiser, or West Country Journal*, for Thursday, 3rd November carried an advertisement by the Sheriff Substitute of Ayrshire, William Eaton, offering a reward of twenty guineas for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of any or all of the offenders.

Worthington, the black-bearded man in the blue coat with yellow buttons, was picked up in Glasgow early in December and taken to Ayr, where a number of witnesses identified him as one of the four who had carried out the robberies. On 8th December he was despatched from Ayr to Edinburgh, under strong escort, for trial in the High Court of Justiciary. His companion on the journey was John Anderson, a sailor on the brig Amity of Ayr, who was accused of murdering Margaret Wilson by throwing her over the Old Bridge<sup>8</sup>.



John Worthington's trial took place on Monday, 14th January before the Lord Justice Clerk. The matter of the assault on Guthrie was withdrawn because of an error in the charge, and Worthington pleaded not guilty to the other charges of highway robbery, alleging that he was plying his trade as a peddler in Lochgilphead at the time. Having heard the detailed evidence of a number of witnesses, but none called in his defence to support his Lochgilphead story, the jury returned a unanimous verdict of *Guilty*.

Passing sentence, Lord Justice Clerk rebuked Worthington and one of his alleged co-offenders, also a peddler, for having brought a lawful and honest calling into disrepute. He implored him to repent of his sins, and to assist in bringing to justice his three associates. He should not believe for a moment however, that the prerogative of Royal Mercy would be invoked, so diabolical were his crimes. *Your dreadful fate is unavoidably necessary. You are to receive your punishment not at the ordinary place of execution. As a great offender, you are to be transmitted from Sheriff to Sheriff till you be incarcerated in the jail of Glasgow; and you are then to be transmitted in the same manner till you reach Symington toll-bar. I have appointed your execution to take place on the public toll road which leads from Kilmarnock to Monkton, that the inhabitants of that respectable and extensive manufacturing town, and the other inhabitants of Ayrshire, may long remember the punishment of your offences being exacted on the spot where they were committed, and that they may see the power of the Law in protecting their persons and properties.* The date set for the execution was Friday, 17th February 1815.

On that day the procession from Glasgow, with Worthington conveyed in a coach and four, was met at Flockside<sup>9</sup> on the county line by the following party: Sheriff Substitute William Eaton, Procurator Fiscal Alexander Murdoch, Head Constable Angus Gunn<sup>10</sup> into whose charge the prisoner was placed, and as escort a troop of the Second Regiment of the Queen's Cavalry. About two miles from Kilmarnock they were joined by twelve mounted special constables from Wallacetown, complete with batons, who had volunteered their services. At Kilmarnock, Worthington was allowed to see his son, whose cries were *heart-rending to all those present*.

Worthington was placed in a cart for the remainder of the journey. The magistrates of the town, and Mr Parker, Deputy Lieutenant, at the head of one hundred and twenty special constables, accompanied the procession to Riccarton Bridge. When Symington toll-bar was reached, John Worthington prayed with the two Catholic clergymen who had, at his request, accompanied him, Mr Paterson of Glasgow and Mr Scott of Paisley. *Very shortly after he ascended the platform, he dropped the signal, and was launched into eternity without any apparent*

*struggle, and his body was carried and buried in Kilmarnock churchyard*<sup>1</sup>. The Air Advertiser reported that a large crowd had an excellent view of the melancholy scene and that, thanks to the presence of the military party which was augmented by a detachment of the 91st Regiment from Ayr, there were no disorderly incidents.

One witness of the execution has left us a fuller account. John Kelso Hunter<sup>12</sup>, who was the age of Worthington's son, set down his recollections more than fifty years later in his autobiography. He called the dead man *Witherington*, echoing Guthrie's name for him; the *Withrington* who committed highway robbery near the Red Burn between Irvine and Kilwinning was presumably the same<sup>13</sup>.

According to Hunter, as it neared Symington Toll the cart slowed at some water, at which he jumped aboard and shared the last of the journey with priest (he remembered only one) and sinner. A crowd of thousands was there, enjoying a holiday atmosphere, complete with a *band of music*. The platform of the gallows was hinged at one side, the other being supported by a wooden prop with its lower end resting on a plank and connected to a length of rope. Tam Young, a soldier with the Berwickshire Militia (Hunter admits some doubt on this point), was to officiate at a hanging for the first time, and he had practised pulling away the prop several times, to make sure the platform was dropping cleanly; on each occasion *the boys never failing to salute him with a cheer*. When he performed this deed in earnest it was with such vigour that he fell backwards head over heels, while *Witherington hung with his toes ten inches off the ground*. After hanging for an hour, the body was placed in the coffin which had been lying open at the foot of the gallows, and taken to Kilmarnock Low Churchyard. From the shallowness of the grave, Worthington's friends suspected that robbery was intended, so they rendered the body unfit for dissection by means of a bottle of vitriol and a bucket of quicklime. One of them said that as they hurried away *the grave was reekin' like a lime kiln*. With this charitable, last act by his friends, ends the story of the Ayrshire highwayman.

1 From accounts in the *Air Advertiser*. 3/11, and 8/12/1814; 19/1 and 23/2/1815.

2 The following Ayrshire measures are from *Ayrshire at the Time of Burns* (Ayrshire Collections Vol. 5, AANHS 1959). I have added a metric conversion:

1 gill = 107.5 mls	2 Mutchkins = 1 choppin = 860 mls
4 gills = 1 mutchkin = 430 mls	2 choppins = 1 pint = 1.721 litres
8 pints = 1 gallon = 13.765 litres (840 cubic inches or approx. 3 English gall.)	



3 In his *Autobiographical Reminiscences* (Glasgow 1871), James Paterson tells us that many robberies were committed on the Ayr-Kilmarnock road in the early 19th century.

4 John Kelso Hunter, *The Retrospect of an Artist's Life* (Greenock 1868) p73

5 One who works for *private families*.

6 According to William Johnson's 1828 *Map of Ayrshire*, Rose Fenwick lay half a mile south of Fenwick on the Kilmarnock road, where the OS *Landranger* Sheet 70 shows Laigh Fenwick now.

7 If it assumed that on each occasion the whisky was shared equally, Worthington had consumed 331 mls. At today's strength of 40 percent, this was equivalent to 13 units. It might shock the health lobby, but he would not have been particularly drunk. At two shillings a mutchkin, his share cost 1/6½ (one shilling and six and a half pence).

8 Now called the *Auld Brig*.

9 Note the signpost on the A77 for the farm of *Floak*.

10 An *enterprising and active young man* recently appointed at a salary of £80 a year.

11 His name does not appear in *Pre-1855 Graveyard Inscriptions in Kilmarnock and Loudoun District*, ed. Beattie and Beattie (available in the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock).

12 John Kelso Hunter, *op. cit.* pp. 68-74. Hunter's description forms the basis for the account in Rev. Kirkwood Hewat, *A Little Scottish World* (Kilmarnock 1894), pp. 107-109.

13 John Strawhorn, *The History of Irvine* (Edinburgh 1985), p. 118.

## A CORRECTION

In the electronic maelstrom of editing the Spring 1995 issue of *Ayrshire Notes* some words were omitted from David McClure's article on "MILLER OF BARSKIMMING". The third paragraph should read "and concerns the inheritance of William Miller from his maternal grandfather John Murdoch, a merchant and Provost of Glasgow". As the last sentence of the article states, William Miller was a lawyer, not a merchant as the incomplete sentence lacking the words underlined above implied. We apologise to any readers who were puzzled.

## THE FIRST EARL AT CULZEAN by Debbie Camp

John, the 8th Earl of Cassillis, was born in 1700 and lived, like his ancestors, at Cassillis House. When he died childless in 1759, the succession to his title and estates was disputed by William, Earl of March and Ruglen, and Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean.

The Earl of Ruglen claimed as the grandson and heir of Anne, Countess of Selkirk and Ruglen. She was the daughter of the 7th Earl of Cassillis, who had entailed his estates so that if his sons died they would pass to his daughters and their sons. Sir Thomas Kennedy claimed that this entail was invalid, and that he was the rightful heir-male, descended from Sir Thomas Kennedy, third son of the 3rd Earl of Cassillis. The first son had become 4th Earl of Cassillis and the second had died in infancy.

Sir Thomas had two strong arguments: the earliest Kennedy charters always stated that the title and lands should pass through the heir-male, and the 8th Earl had named Sir Thomas as his heir. In 1760 the Court of Session decided that the earlier Kennedy charters should be upheld and voted by a small majority in favour of the 8th Earl's named heir. This judgement was upheld by the House of Lords in 1762.

Culzean was the family home of Sir Thomas, now confirmed as 9th Earl of Cassillis, and he decided to stay there rather than move to Cassillis House.

He had been born at Culzean on 12 February 1726 at Culzean, seventeenth of twenty children, eight sons and twelve daughters. One was stillborn, some died of smallpox. Thomas had smallpox in 1737, but survived.

In the Ailsa Muniments are several accounts for school fees for Sir John Kennedy's sons, including Thomas and his younger brother David. They entered the new school at Maybole together on the 8th July 1736. (Sir John had given money towards the new school, completed in 1736. By 1793, however, the Maybole minister described it as 'an old mean thatched house'.) No doubt, before that they were taught at home by a tutor, who may have been the family chaplain as well. At Maybole school, according to records, they learnt English, Latin, Greek, arithmetic, geography and scripture. They may have learned French, history and music too. They would have sat beside the sons of some of their father's tenants: any child who could afford the fees could go to the local burgh school. The poorer children attended the primitive parish school or none at all. Most girls stayed at home. The Kennedy daughters would have had a governess.



Thomas left school in 1741 when he was fifteen. In 1742 his father died and his elder brother John became Laird of Culzean. Thomas joined the British Army, and served in the War of Austrian Succession. In 1744 John died; Thomas became Laird of Culzean and left the army: he was eighteen years old. In 1746 (the year of Culloden) he had an expensive full-length portrait painted by Mossman, which still hangs at Culzean.

In 1748 Thomas went on his Grand Tour: it was the height of fashion for wealthy young men to visit France and Italy. Some could speak the languages; others took along their language tutors. He was so impressed by life on the Continent that he stayed there for several years, and returned for another tour with his brother David in the 1760's. An account dated May 1751, probably belonging to Thomas, lists several books including *Views of Rome* by Piranesi, Raphael's *Gallery of Psyche*, *A Gallery of Statues* and *Agro Romano*, with a plan of Ancient Rome and one of Modern Rome. Other items were "Feathered ribbon and white shoes", "Seeing of palaces with Lord Middleton" and the wages of "Mr Trant's footman". Thomas carried a letter of introduction, to admit him to high society, which praised his good manners and his playing of the bass viol.

When he returned from the Continent, he decided that his estates must be improved. The Kennedy family had diminished in power and numbers through their feuding, and later by the persecutions and upheavals of civil and religious wars. In the sixteenth century they had occupied about forty estates in south-west Scotland, but by 1781 there were only seven Kennedy lairds on the freeholders' voting list in Ayrshire. But the Culzean Kennedys were strong. Thomas's possessions included the baronies of Culzean, Turnberry and Greenan, and the lands of "Thomastoun, Balvairds and Kirklands". At this time his tenants were using the runrig system of strip farming, but, in the 1750's, Thomas started a programme of ditching and dyking to enclose the fields, and of planting trees to create hedges and shelter-belts. He began to use lime extensively to reduce the acidity of the soil, increased by manure and seaweed. Some farmers benefited from these improvements, but others lost their land when the runrig system was destroyed. Extracts from a Culzean diary record some of these events:

Nov. 1755 Planted this month in the \_\_\_ ditch crossing from Swinston through the holm at Hogstoun burn, bourtry [elder] and saugh [willow] on the top of the ditch and crab and thorn on the face thereof and of ash and plaintree at the back of the ditches, 200 trees.

Jan. 1756 Planted most part of the last march ditch with oak, ash and plaintree, and walnut trees amongst a part of them. Worst storms. Sown some pease in the gardens.

Feb. 1756 Planted out the rest of the last mentioned ditch and there is in all of trees in it 240. N.B. Some malicious persons [pulled] up several of them and also cut some of the oaks in the deer park for which ... [was offered a] ... reward ... [of] half a guinea to any [who] would inform against the transgressors. [The transgressors were probably the people who had lost their land.]

Thomas was able to borrow money from the Royal Bank of Scotland to finance his land improvements, but he did not achieve the early returns which had been expected, and he was often heavily in debt. His finances were not helped by large-scale embezzlement by his factor William Blane, not discovered until Blane was dead and the money spent. Thomas had, however, taken the first vital step towards transforming Culzean into a sheltered and fertile place.

His financial position did not deter him from spending money fairly freely and, at one time, his man of affairs was advising him to keep back £2,000 for emergencies: at the time farm labourers were earning eight pence a day. Thomas built the model village of Straiton. It is probable that there were some dwellings there before. He imported five Arab horses in 1766, when they were a great rarity. He bought the castle and estate of Newark and installed his younger brother David there. At Culzean he added a long wing to the castle, along the line of the cliff - but it was left for David to commission Robert Adam to rebuild the castle soon after he succeeded to the Earldom in 1775.

Thomas died, much lamented, on the 30th November of that year, after a long and painful illness. As the first Earl of Cassillis to live at Culzean, he devoted his energy and wealth to its improvement, and set in train the magnificent developments which created the Culzean of today.

This note is taken from Debbie Camp's unpublished "History of the Kennedys", as was "The Legend of Johnny Faa" in our April 1995 issue. The History can be consulted in the Reference Section of the Carnegie Library, Ayr. Mrs Camp is Education Officer at Culzean Castle (NTS) and a member of AANHS.



## THE KENNEDYS OF CRAIG

by Rob Close

David McClure's recent note<sup>1</sup> is a timely reminder that, for the historian of Ayrshire, much important material exists in collections outwith the county. The collections in major archives, such as the Scottish Records Office and the Strathclyde Regional Archive in Glasgow, are well-known, but others, such as the papers of Thomas Miller of Barskimming described by McClure, are found in archives throughout the country, and often as part of larger collections which on first acquaintance appear to have no connection with Ayrshire.

The purpose of this further note is to draw attention to another collection which contains material relevant to the study of southern Ayrshire. This is the Kennedy of Craig collection which is held by the Carlisle office of the Cumbria Record Office<sup>2</sup>. These records were acquired by the then Cumberland Record Office in 1967, having been gifted to the Gloucestershire Record Office along with other papers from a solicitor's office in Cheltenham.

Craig, a small estate in Colmonell parish, had been a possession of the Kennedy family from, at latest, the 18th century: a few details of the family are noted in Paterson<sup>3</sup>, but generally they cannot be said to have much troubled the historians of the county. The facts that presently concern us can be stated briefly: David Kennedy of Craig (c. 1754-1825) had a son, also David, who married Elizabeth Dalton, heiress to the estate of Crosby near Carlisle, in 1800. David Kennedy II and Elizabeth Dalton had a son, David Dalton, born in 1808. David Kennedy II predeceased his father, dying in 1819, and when David Kennedy I died in 1825, ownership of both the Crosby and Craig estates passed to David Dalton Kennedy, who was then still a minor. Administration of the estate, therefore, was placed in the hands of his Tutors, who were his mother, Elizabeth Dalton or Kennedy, and Archibald Clifford Blackwell Craufuird of Ardmillan.

Mrs Kennedy died at Cheltenham, which explains why her papers were in a solicitor's office there: the bulk of the material relates to the Cumberland estates, where she and David Kennedy II had primarily lived after their marriage, which explains why the collection was passed from Gloucestershire to Carlisle.

That part of the collection which relates to Craig dates primarily from the period during which administration was in the hands of Mrs Kennedy and A C B Craufuird, and for some years after when D D Kennedy was not in a position to take personal control, and consists in large part of letters written by Craufuird, in Ayrshire, to Mrs Kennedy, who in her widowhood appears to have

enjoyed a peripatetic existence. There are also letters from William Johnstone, written in Girvan, who had day-to-day management of the estate. I have not had an opportunity to look at all these letters, but from an initial investigation, it would appear that they throw some light not only on the management of the small Craig estate, but also contain certain insights into Craufuird's attitudes and his own personal life.

The following extracts are chosen to highlight the variety and value of this collection:

On 31 March 1829, Alexander Kennedy of Garnaburn wrote to Mrs Kennedy, who was then at Rugby: "We had much pleasure in receiving your letter of 23rd inst and in answer at your desire acquaint you of the state of our late mother during the last four months she lived; she complained much of the pain of her mouth, which partly but particularly under the tongue became cancerous and immediately under the jaw a tumour gathered which was a considerable time collecting but in its progress as much as possible impeded by leeching, in spite however of all palliatives by and by it opened and began to suppurate freely and spread rapidly over the surface of the neck and where the opening began made a large cavity inwardly so that it became an exceedingly painful sore and as named by her medical attendants an incurable cancer, all she bore with great composure and Christian resignation and could only be supported for the last two months on soups and port and white wine, seldom or never complained only sometimes groaned and sighed deep with the excruciating pain, and we doubt much that she partly died of hunger. [That] she wavered a little of intellect in her extremity were pretty apparent, but only partially so, indeed during the last three or four days she was both blind deaf and dumb. Every attention possible was paid to her. We were daily at Craig seeing her, the last ten days constantly accompanied by our sister from Palgown and stood by her bedside singing God's praises until she departed. She was also waited on by two nurses in her own employ, and she was laid decently into her grave upon the left of my late father by her two sons Alexander and John Palgown John Wallace and 7 grandsons"<sup>4</sup>. The lady whose last days are tellingly described was Mary McMillan, wife of David Kennedy I: Alexander Kennedy of Garnaburn was her son, brother to David Kennedy II, and uncle to D D Kennedy.

Three years previously A C B Craufuird had written of Alexander Kennedy: he "would go to law with his own mother if he could make a guinea by it"<sup>5</sup> Earlier in 1826 Craufuird wrote of his daughter Anne: "my dear Anne has of herself announced that she can see light from darkness, or black from white, with the eye that was operated upon, it gives me very great delight as it confirms a suspicion I have long entertained that the belladonna had been applied too strong,



and dilated the pupil beyond its powers of contracting''<sup>6</sup>. In May 1826, he could report of his daughters that Anne was "improving in everything but her sight", that Margueritta was "growing fast", and that Annette had "become quite a beauty''<sup>7</sup>. Margueritta, 14 years later, married D D Kennedy.

Writing from London in April 1826, Craufuird is concerned about the affairs of his widowed sister, who has eight children. Three boys are "at a cheap school near Stranraer", while in Edinburgh, "a short time ago a fire broke out within 2 doors of her, and the cry of pull down Mrs Craufuird's house to save the rest of the street obliged [her] to carry her furniture out into the road, by which it was much injured, and a good deal of her wearing apparel lost''<sup>8</sup>.

The theme that comes most strongly through Craufuird's letters is the unhappiness that he is forced through circumstances to live quietly at Ardmillan, rather than in Edinburgh. Although it is not specifically stated, this is presumably due to penury (or, with regard to the many much poorer people in south Ayrshire, relative penury). His uncle, Archibald Craufuird of Ardmillan had been an original subscriber, for £1,000, to Douglas, Heron & Co, the Ayr Bank<sup>9</sup>, and A C B Craufuird's father, Thomas, had, to quote Paterson, "held a lucrative office, under Government, at Bristol, by which means he was enabled to preserve the estate in the family''<sup>10</sup>. In April 1826 Craufuird announced his intention "to leave Ardmillan, rather than undertake the thorough repair it needs", and that he has bought a house in Ayr, "and shall begin to put it [in] repair to receive us by the end of the year''<sup>11</sup>; by May his plans have changed — he is going to let the Ayr house as his wife has "so determinedly announced her dislike to live at Ayr", and he admits the he himself has "no fondness for Ayr''<sup>12</sup>.

In 1836 we have two further insights into Craufuird's condition. In January of that year he writes "we have been at Ayr for ten days from whence we returned yesterday, after living at the rate of £3000 a year, without having twice £300 — occasionally a very agreeable amusement but for a continuance by no means convenient to my gouty bilious worn out constitution and altho' most abstemious, I am suffering from the luxuries of the Laird of Dalblair's table''<sup>13</sup>, while in May he writes that "I lately lost my oldest, I may say my only friend and companion poor William McAdam — we had been as brothers for 45 years. He was, of course, the only inducement I had to return here; he is no more and I am completely wretched — I have not one single acquaintance within 24 miles''<sup>14</sup>. He also notes in the same letter that John Kennedy is dead in America: "the whole family are so thoroughly forgotten in this country as if they had never existed".

In 1840 his daughter Margueritta married David Dalton Kennedy, and they returned to live at Craig, and a chapter in the history of the estate and the family

is brought to a close. It has been, however, a chapter which has granted us some useful insights into life in the grander houses of Ayrshire at that time. The aim of this note is not to draw sweeping conclusions from the letters and other documents in this collection that I have seen, but to suggest that a diligent reading of them all would produce additional information on the Kennedys and on the affairs of A C B Craufuird.

#### Notes and references:

1. David McClure, "Miller of Barskimming: the Davidson and Garden Archive", in *Ayrshire Notes*, no. 8, Spring 1995, pp 14/15.
2. The office address is CRO, The Castle, CARLISLE, CA3 8UR. The collection has the reference D/KEN.
3. James Paterson, *History of the County of Ayr*, vol. 1, Edinburgh, 1852, p 312.
4. Cumbria Record Office (CRO), D/KEN/31/4, Alexander Kennedy to Mrs Elizabeth Dalton or Kennedy, 31 March 1829.
5. CRO, D/KEN/4/31/1, A C N Craufuird to Mrs Kennedy, 16 May 1826.
6. CRO, D/KEN/4/31/1, Craufuird to Mrs Kennedy, 29 January 1826
7. CRO, D/KEN/4/31/1, Craufuird to Mrs Kennedy, 16 May 1826.
8. CRO, D/KEN/4/31/1, Craufuird to Mrs Kennedy, 13 April 1826.
9. Scottish Record Office, Register of Deeds, RD2/211, ff205-230, Contract of Co-Partnery of the Banking Company under the firm of Douglas, Heron & Co, dated 26 November 1769.
10. Paterson, op cit, vol 2, Paisley, 1852, p 78.
11. CRO, D/KEN/4/31/1, Craufuird to Mrs Kennedy, 13 April 1826.
12. CRO, D/KEN/4/31/1, Craufuird to Mrs Kennedy, 16 May 1826.
13. CRO, D/KEN/3/65/1, Craufuird to Mrs Kennedy, 14 January 1836. The laird of Dalblair is David Limond, died 1854, who was in 1836 Provost of Ayr.
14. CRO, D/KEN/3/42/5, Craufuird to Mrs Kennedy, 4 May 1836. William McAdam was the eldest son of John Loudon McAdam, and died a few months before his father.



## NEWS FROM THE AYRSHIRE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1995 A G M of the Federation was held on Wednesday, 10th April, at the North Ayrshire Museum, Saltcoats, and was attended by 20 members and society delegates. Prior to the meeting, we were treated to a guided walking tour of Saltcoats arranged by the Museum staff; this was greatly enjoyed and enabled many of us to come away with an enhanced understanding of Saltcoats, its past and its present-day attractions.

The formal business of the meeting followed: the standard fare of an A G M. Although the Federation has a relatively healthy bank account, the meeting was concerned that the Federation made a loss in the auditing period reported to the meeting, and approved a recommendation from the Committee that the membership rates be raised to £10 [Societies] and £5 [Individual members]. The old rates have been unchanged for many years and no longer reflect the necessary costs which the Federation has to bear. The new rates will come into effect on 1 January 1996, when that year's memberships become due.

The Federation records here its thanks to the staff of the North Ayrshire Museum for allowing us to meet in the museum, for the refreshments provided, and allowing us to wander at leisure through their many and varied exhibits. The Museum can be wholeheartedly recommended to any one who has not yet been there.

### AYRSHIRE SOUND ARCHIVE

The Federation continues to oversee the Ayrshire Sound Archive. Our priority in the past few months has been the completion and publication of a catalogue of the first 140 or so tapes in the collection. This work has now reached the point where editing and correction of the catalogue has been completed, and a format for the volume has been agreed, and we are now ready to go to the printers. It is our intention to distribute copies to all secondary schools and colleges in Ayrshire, local history libraries and member societies of the Federation.

Once this task has been accomplished, we hope to turn our attention to the cataloguing of the remaining tapes in the Archive.

### TROON CONFERENCE

The Federation's Annual Conference will be held in the Walker Hall, Troon, on Saturday 28 October. The cost is a very reasonable £12, which includes a welcoming coffee and a buffet lunch. We have assembled an interesting selection of speakers, all experts in their fields, and we urge all members, and indeed everyone who reads Ayrshire Notes, to attend and ensure that this Conference is a success. It is the first annual conference we have arranged for a number of years, and we rely on you, our members and supporters, to ensure its success.

An application form is included with this edition of Ayrshire Notes: alternatively, you can write to me, at the address on the inside back cover, enclosing a cheque/postal order for the relevant number of places. Since the application form was printed, we have secured a fifth speaker, Bob Winn from Edinburgh, an expert on the history of the gas industry in Scotland, who will speak on "Gas - From Inception to Integration".

### SWAP-SHOP

The Federation's Annual Swap-Shop will be held on Sunday 12 November at Loudoun Castle, Galston. Details will be circulated nearer the time, but we ask you to note the date in your diaries now. This will be an opportunity to see behind the scenes at one of Ayrshire's newest tourist and leisure attractions, and to see the current state of Loudoun Castle, burnt out for 50 years, but once given the epithet, "the Windsor of the North".

The purpose of the annual swap-shop is for societies to meet one another and to exchange information, especially on venues for visits, comment on speakers, and discuss ideas and problems that societies and their members may have.

Rob Close



## FINDING OUT ABOUT AYRSHIRE

### (8) Cunninghame, Kyle, and Carrick

Kyle for a man,  
Carrick for a coo,  
Cunninghame for butter and cheese,  
And Galloway for 'oo'.

Ayrshire, like Caesar's Gaul, was divided into three parts, which in 1207 were united to form the county. No one knows the origin of this verse, or its variation which attributes Carrick for a man and Kyle for a coo. The only certainly is that Cunninghame has long been famed for its dairy produce, and Galloway (beyond Ayrshire) for 'oo' — the wool from its sheep.

We know most about Cunninghame. When Timothy Pont at the beginning of the 17th century perambulated Scotland on his map-making project, he left behind a detailed account of the northern part of Ayrshire. *Cunningham Topographised* was first privately printed in 1825; edited for the Maitland Club in 1858; then with fuller annotations in 1876 by James Dobie and his son John Shedden Dobie; and the text reprinted in William Robertson's *Historic Ayrshire*, vol. 1, 1891.

That Cunninghame was already noted for its produce by the beginning of the 17th century is confirmed by Pont, who reports "the Industrious inhabitants lymeing of their grounds, quherby the pasture heir since this experiment was practised is become much more luxuriant than before, whence it is that this pairt of the country yields a grate deall of excellent butter."

Pont includes "Ane Alphabett" of places. To the west is Horse Island, which name he explains is derived from "Philippe Horsse, sone in law to Sir Richard Morwell." At the extreme east is Loudoun Hill, "on tope of wich there is ane great spring of Sweet water". Irvine was "the head burrough and chiefe porte .... the porte and harbry being now much decayed". By contrast, Kilmarnock was growing in importance, being "a large village and of grate repair", possessed of "a faire stone bridge" and "a prettey church". There are descriptions of castles and lairds' houses, villages and even some farms. All of which is essential reading for the local historian of any part of this area.

So too is a *Topographical Description of Cunninghame* by George Robertson. Published in 1820 by an author who was unaware of Pont's previous account, it offers a description of the contemporary north Ayrshire economy, with information on roads, railways, canals, harbours, crops, stock, minerals. There

follow chapters devoted to Cunninghame's sixteen parishes, with full details of farming, manufactures, churches, schools, and histories of local landed families. A much less comprehensive later effort was made by William Scott Douglas, *In Ayrshire*. His "Part First: Cuninghame", published in 1874, was not followed up.

By contrast, there are no comparable accounts of Kyle. All that we have are "Descriptions of some Parishes in Kyle", made in 1723, and printed in *Macfarlane's Geographical Collections*, Volume One, published by the Scottish History Society in 1906. The parishes involved are Monkton, Tarbolton, Coylton, Ochiltree, Stair, Dundonald, Riccarton, Barnweill, and Symington. None is very detailed, but there are some interesting items: "the bridge of Barskimming "over the waters of Air of one great arch the highest and largest to be in the kingdom"; "the Lady Isle .... wher is the ruines of ane old chapell with an excellent spring of water, abounds with rabbits". The principal landowners in each of the parishes are noted and their houses sometimes described. Thus Newton Castle (in St Quivox parish) is noted as still occupied: "belonging to Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie advocat stands west of the kirk 2 short miles near the east end of the Bridge of Air, has handsome orchards with high stone walls and a park close to the house with a stone dyk about it and a large handsome dovecoat." Ayr itself gets passing mention, as "a hansome royall brugh and place of trade beautified with pleasant greens to the east and west wher horse courses are run, playing at goufe and severall other manlie divertisements."

Macfarlane's *Collections* and Robertson's *Historic Ayrshire* each contain 'Carrick in 1690' by Rev. William Abercrommie, who had been minister in Maybole. But it is disappointingly incomplete. There is a detailed account of Maybole itself, but none of the lesser parish centres. Abercrommie offers a comprehensive listing of lairds' houses, but only some are described. Dalquharran, for example, "is much improven by the additions lately made thereto, which make it by very far the best house in all that countrey". Culzean, then known as The Cove, "is the Laird of Colain's Mansion-house, standing on a rock above the sea, flanked on the South by very pretty gardens and orchards, adorned with excellent terraces, and the walls loaden with peaches, apricotes, cherries and other fruit." There are included a description of Ailsa Craig and references to certain "Ancient Occurrences". There are some remarks on the economy of Carrick, noting that "it produces such plenty of all sorts of graine, that it not only serves its own inhabitants, but has to spare to neighbouring places .... great droves of cows and bullocks are carried yearly hence, both into England and other places in our kingdome .... it is well provided of fishes, such as killing, ling, cod, haddouwes, whyttings, herrings, makrills...". Also "there are great woods" which "serve the neighbourhood, both in Kyle and Cuninghame, for timber to build countrey houses, and for all the uses of husbandrie." Of the people he has this to say:



“The persons of men are generally tall and statelie, well limbed and comelie; and women are nowhere better complexioned.” But he tempers praise with criticism: “Their ease and plenty disposes them to be unruly and turbulent, so that the servants are insolent, and all of them are but uneasy subjects.” As an episcopalian minister who had been ejected from his charge in 1689, he concluded that “Carrick has been a sanctuary, or rather a nurserie, of Rogues, bearing armes against authority, upon pretext of Religion.”

**PRESTWICK HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS 1995-96**  
**THURSDAYS AT 7-30PM**  
**65 CLUB, MAIN STREET, PRESTWICK**

12 October	“Auchincruive” (with slides) Dr David B Martin
2 November	“Prestwick 500-1250 AD” (with slides) Jack Wilson
7 December	“Prestwick International - the Way Ahead” Hugh Land
1 February	to be arranged
7 March	“There is a Castle in the West” (with slides) Robin Kirk
4 April	to be arranged
2 May	Discussion on Exhibition
27 April	Exhibition, 10-12am; 2-4pm.
-4 May	“Prestwick and Robert Burns”

## EXCAVATIONS AT DRONGAN POTTERY, COALHALL

by Roland Golightly

In *Ayrshire Notes* No.7, Jim Mair gave a brief history of the site together with a description of the clayware and pottery sherds gathered during an initial field walk of the site in early July 1994. It is now though appropriate to follow up Jim's article with an outline of the subsequent excavations and their results, which were presented by the team to the AANHS at its meeting in Loudoun Hall in February of this year.

The excavations were carried out by kind permission of Mr Wilson Kennedy, owner of Pottery House and its gardens. A team comprising Roland and Sheila Golightly, Anne Johnstone, Jim Mair, Trevor Mathews and Scott Wood worked at the Pottery during summer and autumn 1994.

Our attention was drawn by Mr Henry Kelly, Secretary of the Glasgow Pottery Society, to the fact that building work was going on at the Pottery site, and we decided to examine the area in advance of any further developments with the initial aim of collecting a representative assemblage of pottery and clayware.

Jim has already described the types of material recovered during field walking within and outwith the present garden at the Pottery, and though many more sherds of pottery together with complete examples of early agricultural drain tiles were discovered during excavation the range and variety already reported was not materially increased.

The site has experienced modifications during its life as a pottery, demolition of most of the pottery buildings when it closed, the erection and demolition of miners' rows, and more recent development. The site stratigraphy has mostly been disturbed and it was impossible to distinguish more than one phase associated with the pottery itself.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1854 shows the site as comprising:

(i) A quadrangular group of buildings arranged around a central structure presumed to be a kiln. The buildings seemed to the team to be both domestic (pottery workers' housing) and commercial, with a range of sheds to the rear (North) of the kiln.



(ii) A small cottage lying to the West of the above group of buildings and close to the later railway line linking Ayr and Cumnock. This was thought by the team to be associated with the Pottery (it is certainly within the boundary of the original site) and is depicted with an oval-shaped structure behind it, possibly a second, earlier kiln.

(iii) a "clay pit" clearly marked on the O.S. map to the Northwest, and

(iv) an enclosure to the North and West of the potters' cottages, through which runs a tributary of the Shaw Burn. This may simply have been a garden, but may have been connected in some way with clay working.

A measured survey was carried out and a plan was drawn showing the location of the four trenches examined by the team. The work succeeded in locating part of the range of buildings behind the kiln including the base of a N-S wall believed to be that of the slip shop; part of the pottery drainage system comprising a drain which carried water off the roof of the rear range and a branch drain serving the slip shop; the surface of the pottery yard; and the circular stone-built base of the kiln itself.

The excavation has shown firstly that although evidence of much of the Pottery site has now been lost, there is a good possibility that the kiln base itself together with parts of the buildings to the East may still be preserved; and secondly that in spite of our failure to locate a waste dump, we have recovered a good representative assemblage of the wares produced at Drongan.

### AANHHS NEW VENUE FOR MEETINGS

Meetings on the second Thursday of the months October-March, which for some years have been held in Ayr Academy, will now be in the Reference Library on the ground floor of the Carnegie Library, Ayr. The starting time is unchanged, at 7-30 pm.

Meetings on the fourth Thursday of October-February will continue to be held in the Loudoun Hall, Ayr.

## NEW BOOKS ABOUT AYRSHIRE

### THE PORT OF AYR 1727-1780

by Eric J Graham

AANHHS £4.20 ISBN 0 9502698 75

It is almost half a century since the late Hugh McGhee outlined the history of the harbour of Ayr in the first two volumes of our *Ayrshire Collections*. Since then, the picture has been magnified and clarified by Christopher Smout's 'Overseas Trade of Ayrshire 1660-1707' in Volume 6, 1961; Angus Graham's *Old Ayrshire Harbours*, 1984; Ross Mackenzie's *Ayr's Export Trade at the end of the 16th Century*, 1988; and Eric Graham's *Shipping Trade of Ayrshire 1689-1791*, 1991. This last author has now provided another excellent monograph which presents a carefully-researched account of the port of Ayr during a period when new developments were transforming the county town, and its harbour in particular.

The story opens in 1727 when the Collector of Customs at Ayr was Laurence Nugent, who is remembered in Peterson's *History* as the man who with Colonel Cathcart took from the town council the lease of those lands from the Sandgate Port as far as Blackburn, levelled the sandhills, and vastly improved that area which would become a favoured site for later residential developments.

In the period from then until 1780 there was a "a revival of trade through the near-derelict port of Ayr". The port shared in the tobacco trade which was then dominated by west of Scotland merchants. Annually an average of four cargoes of tobacco were brought into Ayr. In 1739 a tobacco warehouse was built by Hunter, Ballantyne, and Co. Much of the tobacco went for re-export to France; some went to merchants in Ayr (2), Kilmarnock (7), Irvine (1), Mauchline (1), Stirling (2), and Newcastle (1). The War of American Independence brought that trade to an end. But Ayr continued with foreign and coastal trade.

In the six years 1774-80 "Ayr harbour was host to an impressive 1704 passages by c.580 individual vessels, who paid duty on 51,509 tons of cargo." Identifying the vessels and their tonnage, the author makes careful comparisons between the customs records and those of Lloyd's Register. He notes the importance of the Act of Parliament secured in 1772 for "deepening, cleaning, scouring, preserving, and maintaining the harbour of Ayr". This came just at "the start of a new era in Ayr harbour's development ...in the next great trade, the exporting of coal to the Irish market." Despite a general recession (caused by the



American war) and local difficulties (labour disputes in the Newton pits) 30,000 tons of coal were exported during these years, forming the cargo in 900 out of 1,500 departures. Throughout the period there was trade in a miscellany of items, including limestone, timber, soap, merchant goods, and fish, all of which are examined in detail.

Graham rightly indicates that the records he has examined "yield up much rewarding information for the historian and genealogist". From the text and the appendixes we have information about the customs officers, annual statistics of trade, and an extraordinarily useful directory of Ayrshire-built vessels, the Ayr and Irvine fleets and their masters. Just one example of how useful such material can be: L M Cullen's recent *Smuggling and the Ayrshire Economic Boom of the 1760's and 1770's* happens to mention (p. 20) two vessels, 'Greyhound Cutter' and 'Greyhound' — both are here listed, the first a cutter of 100 tons, the second a wherrie of 30 tons. And, to help us, there are clear explanations of what these and other types of vessels were.

## BOSWELL: CITIZEN OF THE WORLD, MAN OF LETTERS

by Irma S Lustig

The University Press of Kentucky, \$37.50 ISBN 0 8131 1910 3

Seven Americans, three Scots, and one Japanese were invited to collaborate, and "these eleven original essays by well-known eighteenth-century scholars, five of them editors of James Boswell's journal or letters, commemorate the bicentenary of Boswell's death on May 19, 1795."

John Strawhorn's 'Master of Ulubrae: Boswell as Enlightened Laird' presents an unexpected aspect of Boswell's character, by examining his role as laird of Auchinleck, based on researches among the estate papers at Yale. Some additional light is shone on 18th century Ayrshire, and since this volume is not yet generally available here, some extracts should prove of interest to readers of *Ayrshire Notes*.

"It is appropriate that writers have concentrated their attention on Boswell's life in London. But it is unfortunate that they have failed to appreciate how much time he spent in Auchinleck and how important it always was for him. ....Boswell could not treat Auchinleck simply as a source of income: it was a business enterprise which required his constant involvement. ....Boswell obviously scrutinised his overseers' letters carefully, and in replying to them supplied precise and detailed instructions which reveal an exact knowledge of estate matters and an intimate acquaintance with servants and tenants.

"He struck up an acquaintance with Alexander Fairlie, the county's chief exponent on agricultural improvements ....Boswell introduced new tacks (leases) which required tenants to adhere to Fairlie's system. ....Boswell was innovative in bringing to the estate the new breed of dairy cattle, which were then becoming popular. ....To obtain the massive quantities of lime which Fairlie recommended for the acidic local soils, Boswell extended the mineral operations, which from 1787 also supplied the new Muirkirk Iron Works with coal, limestone, and iron ore. ....The new system of farming brought difficulties for many tenants. ....Of the eighty holdings from which James Boswell drew rents .... more than half of the farms had to be let to new tenants during the twelve-and-a-half years of James Boswell's lairdship. Boswell's feudal paternalism matched that of his father ....expected to cooperate in providing poor relief and schooling ....the Boswells were reluctant to exercise their statutory responsibilities ....Auchinleck remained without a parish school until 1764. ....Boswell appears to have regarded learning and enlightenment as an aristocratic monopoly.

"Boswell as a leading landowner in the county was inevitably involved in its affairs. ....He was willing to offer himself as a parliamentary candidate for the county ....Had he survived until 1796 he might well have replaced Hugh Montgomerie of Coilsfield, who then had to relinquish the seat on succeeding as twelfth earl of Eglinton."

These extracts illustrate some of the topics covered. For the benefit of anyone wishing the fuller details, a copy of this book has been deposited in the Local History Centre at the Baird Institute, Cumnock.

## PICTORIAL HISTORY OF AYR

by Dane Love

Alloway Publishing, £8.95

ISBN 0 90752 658 6

This is the third book to appear in recent years presenting Ayr as seen in postcards or other pictures. Alloway Publishing, whose pictorial history series covers Darvel, Newmilns, Galston, Kilmarnock, Cumnock, and Dundonald in Ayrshire, as well as Paisley, Arran, and Dumfries, now adds this new title, which is a substantial complement to those on Ayr previously produced by Robert Kennedy and Jeanette Castle. Dane Love adds to his reputation in this latest publication. There are no fewer than eighty-six pages, each containing two or three pictures, with appropriate and detailed commentaries — ranging from St



John's Tower to Sidney Devine. These are prefaced by an extended introduction of seventeen pages which provides a historical sketch of Ayr's development, packed with information. The author admits that "this can only be a diluted history" and points the way to the Carnegie Library's Reference Room which contains so many sources on the Burgh's history.

### SCOTTISH LOCAL HISTORY, vol. 34, June 1995

Scottish Local History Forum: Chantal Hamill, Editor

£3 or annual subscription of £10

This issue, on 'The Scottish Architectural Tradition' has two articles relating to Ayrshire. Valerie Bickers from Largs, as student of Field Archaeology, writes on 'Abandoned Farmhouses of North Ayrshire' and investigates the story of Hopeton farm, two kilometres east (not west as the printer has it) of West Kilbride. Essential reading and advice for anyone interested in the archaeology of farm sites. Julian Hodgson has collected information about 'Robert Baldie, a Forgotten Victorian Architect'. Among churches he built were Saltcoats, Landsborough Free, additions (1870); Dreghorn Free and its manse (1877); Kilmarnock Holm UP (1881); Beith Trinity (1883); Mauchline UP (1885); Darvel Free (1885), this last causing difficulties when the local joiner Robert Mair died, leaving outstanding debts.

### FLORA MACDONALD: THE MOST LOYAL REBEL

by Hugh Douglas

Mandarin Paperbacks, London, £6.99 ISBN 0 7493 1920 8

Although this book is not about Ayrshire we include it because its author is Ayr-born and a member of AANHS.

Most people have heard of Flora MacDonald, and many if pressed might aver (inaccurately on all points) that a few days after Culloden she rowed the fleeing Young Pretender from the mainland to Skye, where he took ship for France. Hugh Douglas occupies 27 pages of his 305 with this central incident: the eleven days between Flora's meeting the Prince at Nunton in South Uist, and their parting at Portree on Skye. She "had heroism thrust upon her". Having known nothing of the plan to pass the Prince off as her maidservant, she was persuaded to cooperate by his charm and her own sense of highland honour, and once

involved, saw the venture through with steadfast courage. Taken prisoner and sent to London by squalid ship, she was lodged in an outrageously expensive private-enterprise gaol, always expecting to be executed until after a year she was released under an amnesty. She made a good impression on London society; respected by her enemies and lionised by a large Jacobite element, she left with a small fortune raised by public subscription. In the rude 18th century, before government propaganda usurped the public conscience, remarkable magnanimity was possible. She married and settled in Skye, but her husband was not a very successful farmer and eventually debt forced them to emigrate to North Carolina, just before the outbreak of the American War of Independence. The Highlanders were by now staunchly loyal to the Hanoverian house, and took arms in its support. Flora's husband, prominent amongst their leaders, was soon taken prisoner, and she was subjected to a spite and oppression which is not given prominence in transatlantic history books. Driven back into Canada, they received niggardly compensation from the Government for what they had lost in supporting it, and so were obliged to return to Scotland, where Flora died on Skye in 1790.

The author has looked critically at earlier biographies and refuted numerous parts of them, supporting his conclusions with 22 pages of notes, references and bibliography; a useful index is appended. His readable and authoritative book looks in depth at the society, many individual characters, the feuds and the loyalties which made the 1745 rising and the escape of the Young Pretender possible, and those which led to the loss of so much of the American colonies.



## NOTES AND COMMENTS

**RUM JARS FROM THE DRONGAN POTTERY:** Dr Patrick Douglas of Garrallan is chiefly remembered because he assisted Robert Burns who in 1786 was planning to emigrate to Jamaica. Patrick Douglas owned an estate there, managed by his brother Charles. Recently the Garrallan papers were sent to Yale. Before they went I had a look at some of the 167 letter which Charles wrote to Patrick between 1784 and 1813. There were, as I hoped, some passing references to arrangements for emigration, and though Burns is nowhere named, Charles seems twice to be referring to him. Replying to a letter of 27 August 1786 Charles tells Patrick: "The man you mention to have engaged for me I dare Say will do very well." After receiving his next letter from Patrick, dated 30 December, Charles added: "I am very well Satisfyd that you have Changed my Man, I want no Warm heads and Poets must have them." But the purpose of this note is to mention one of those things one so often comes across when looking for something else. In a letter of 4 July 1787 Charles asks his brother to send him two jars to hold twenty and thirty gallons of rum, adding "they make such at Drongan."

**THE LARGS MUSEUM** holds a print-out of the local kirkyard records covering fifty years in the 19th century. The original sexton's record has not survived but a copy made by a Dr Ward has been computerised and analysed by Dr Alastair Ward. Largs and District Historical Society has presented a copy to the Scottish Record Office.

- Contributions for the Spring 1996 issue of *Ayrshire Notes* should be sent before the end of February to Dr John Strawhorn, 51 Connell Crescent, Mauchline, KA5 5BN. Member Societies should send information about their activities to Rob Close at the address below.

- 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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