

# HISTORY & ANTIQUITIES AYRSHIRE & NOTES ARCHÆOLOGY • NATURAL~HISTORY

No. 2016/1

Spring 2016

ISSN 1474-3531  
£2.00



Contributions for the Spring 2016 issue of Ayrshire Notes, including information about the activities of Member Societies, should be sent before the end of June to J F Jamieson, 247 Guardwell Crescent, Edinburgh EH17 7SL  
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AYRSHIRE NOTES is published in Ayr by AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY in association with AYRSHIRE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES and KILMARNOCK & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP

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***Cover Staff photograph Kilmarnock Academy<sup>1</sup>***

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<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of East Ayrshire Council/Leisure

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## Transcribing Scotlands Places

This project is run by SCRAN and partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It acts as a portal for data from bodies such as the National Library of Scotland, National Records of Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland (formed in October 2015 following merger of Historic Scotland and The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland). Thus it provides access to resources and transcriptions from various classes and types of records such as hearth and poll taxes; horse tax; land tax; medical officer of health reports; the ordnance survey object name books as well as maps and plans notably the Ordnance Survey sheets available from the National Library of Scotland – all of which can be searched via a text box using free text retrieval. Transcriptions for sources such as the assessed taxes and the Ordnance Survey Name books are done by a small army of volunteers who come from as far away as Australia, Canada and the USA. Their efforts are checked by a small team of moderators who are also volunteers and the combined results can be accessed via the Scotlands Places website under the link *results in the transcription system*.

ScotlandsPlaces is useful for topographical enquiries since it holds information and images from the National Records of Scotland (NRS), the National Library of Scotland (NLS) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) – now part of Historic Environment Scotland.

A general search of the site for 'Ayrshire', or indeed any county, will return loads of results. Mentions of the county are available in the maps, documents and photographs from the sources mentioned above.



Canmore contains an online archive of the built environment ranging through archaeological reports to architectural drawings and both historical and modern photographs as well as aerial surveys. The site records also include War Memorials, gravestones and places such as Ailsa Craig

The records available from the National Records of Scotland include plans, documents and the historic tax records as well as maps and plans (mostly manuscript) from a variety of sources.

In the Ordnance Survey Name books we have the description for the village of Barr which was listed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Maps – these maps are also available to view through ScotlandsPlaces and the NLS

Here is the link to the map for Barr published in 1858:  
<http://maps.nls.uk/view/74951513>

The entry in the OS name book is transcribed as follows –

List of names as written	Authorities for spelling	Description remarks
BARR [village]	EB Wallace Niel Macdonald Stephen Walker	A small straggling village, situated at the confluence of the Gregg with the River Stinchar, about seven miles from Girvan. It contains an Established and a Free Church - their respective schools and manses - each a separate building - an Inn, the usual public houses and victualling shops, and dwelling houses, generally thatched and one storey high. The inhabitants are generally agricultural labourers and weavers. There is an annual fair held in the village. In 1653 the Parish of Barr was disjoined from the parishes of Girvan and Dailly.

In addition to the Ordnance Survey maps, the National Library of Scotland has made available many news articles, plans, photographs and a variety of other interesting documents, including broadsheets relating to incidents and executions.

So choosing to search by county, parish or town you can find many interesting facts from this extensive range of historic documents and photographs.

Try a search for yourself, just type a place name in the search box at the top right side of the screen at: <http://bit.ly/11dmxNE>

Should you wish to volunteer to transcribe, information is available at <http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/transcribe>

## Adamton Country House

Set on the edge of Monkton in South Ayrshire, Adamton House is a magnificent and impressive country house in an historic estate whose roots can be traced back to the 13th Century. Over the years, Adamton has accommodated some celebrated guests from apocryphal story of Bonnie Prince Charlie's children hiding there to Clarke Gable and Elvis Presley in more recent times.

The house is now a hotel near to Prestwick Airport and served as the officer accommodation for the US Airforce during the World War II. The house itself dates back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and was designed by Clark and Bell (according to the Historic Scotland website) and is now a grade B listed building with a magnificent sweeping central staircase.

The earliest mention of the estate, itself is in a charter dated between 1343 and 1352 by which the lands were granted by Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus to Sir Ralph Erskine. Adamton was then granted in 1363 by King David to James de Blair in exchange for a grant of lands in Perthshire in favour of Sir Ralph Erskine<sup>1</sup>. This began a connection with the Blair family which was to last for over 400 years. The last member of the Blair family was Catherine Blair who was retoured as heir in 1777 and was married to Sir William Maxwell of Monrieff in 1776. She was underage when her father died and her tutor was John Cannan<sup>2</sup> of Birley in 1753. She is also described as the only daughter and child of deceased David Blair of Adamton. After her marriage to Sir William Maxwell of Monrieff in 1776 the estate was sold to Robert Reid in 1783<sup>3</sup>. It seems to have been advertised as being for sale in 1781<sup>4</sup>. Robert Reid is described in the abridgement of sasine as in London. In a feu disposition of houses in Saltcoats from him in favour of Robert Campbell in 1797 he is described as the eldest son and heir to Thomas Reid, merchant in Saltcoats<sup>5</sup>. Robert Reid put an entail on the estate which meant that the estate was inherited by his great niece

Elizabeth Reid. He also appears to have been married twice as his first wife was Jean Campbell who was seised in Adamton on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 1787<sup>6</sup>. His second wife was Barbara McCreddie who outlived him and had a liferent in Adamton following her marriage contract in 1792<sup>7</sup>. Elizabeth Campbell Reid was retoured as heir of tailzie and provision to her grandfather, John Reid, brother of Robert and who had been in the service of the East India Company<sup>8</sup>. Indeed he had been a lieutenant colonel in their service but died about 1833<sup>9</sup>. Elizabeth's mother was Lt Col John's daughter, Elizabeth Mc Kerrell Reid married George James Campbell of Treesbank in 1822<sup>10</sup>.

The house and estate remained in the Reid family until 1875 when it passed into the hands of the Baird family, the well-known ironmasters at Gartsherrie. It was the Bairds who were responsible for the erection of the present structure in the 1890s. They were patriarchal landowners. The Ayr Advertiser in 27<sup>th</sup> December 1883 carries a report of a party for the servants at Adamton together with those at Wellwood House<sup>11</sup>. John George Alexander Baird who was the son of William Bard of Elie, was MP for Glasgow Central from the mid 1880s until 1906 when he lost his seat. Baird was also deputy lieutenant for Ayrshire as well as a captain in the Ayrshire Yeomanry. The Reverend Kirkwood Hewat dedicated his book, "A Little Scottish World as revealed in the annals of an ancient Ayrshire Parish" to John George Alexander Baird<sup>12</sup>. The book was published c1894. John George Alexander Baird married in 1880<sup>13</sup> Susan Georgina, daughter of Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran who was himself a Conservative MP. J G A Baird died in 1917. Hewat describes J G A Baird as being of Adamton and Muirkirk and mentions that the Bairds have erected a stately mansion (page 205).

The original house and estate were let in the 1860s as the Reid heiress had married a German count and was resident abroad<sup>14</sup>. The Ayrshire Express of 21<sup>st</sup> November 1863 carries an advert for the mansion house of Adamton to let with an excellent walled garden (which is still extant but does not form part of the modern estate). Applicants were to contact John Reid and Co, upholsterers in Ayr<sup>15</sup>. There was a shooting accident on the estate in 1860 when Peter



Buchanan of the firm Peter Buchanan and Company, merchants West George Street, Glasgow who was part of a shooting party at the house was shot and killed by one of his relatives<sup>16</sup>. The original house is described in the Ordnance Survey name book c1850 as "a large, plain building of 3 storeys and an attic with a neat garden. The property of Count Enisdel Reed (sic)."<sup>17</sup> Michael C Davis in his book *Castles and Mansion of Ayrshire* published privately in 1991 states that the original house may have been remodelled in the 1740s (page 34). This may have been because Samuel Neilson who designed Monkton House c.1740 advised David Blair of Adamton about repairing an old house (page 140). Adamton House is described in this book in 1863 as a large, plain building apparently of the last century (ie 18<sup>th</sup> century). It appears to have formed a long thin narrow block with two long thin detached blocks flanking the entrance forecourt. This shape is apparent on the 25" ordnance survey plan of 1850 below. Davis also points out that the house was extensively renovated in the 1950s.

The last of the owners with a Baird connection was William Weir who died at Adamton in 1913<sup>18</sup>. William Weir was the principal partner in the firm of William Baird and Company Ltd. His mother had been an older sister of the founder of the firm and he himself had been one of the trustees of the Baird Trust formed by his uncle James Baird in 1873. Amongst other activities the Baird endowed churches for the use of their employees. Weir's trustees sold the estate and house to William Whitelaw in 1915<sup>19</sup>. Whitelaw subsequently sold the house in 1929 to William L Carlow, coal exporter resident in Monkton<sup>20</sup>. The house was requisitioned for the war effort in 1939 and became the base for the American officers stationed at Prestwick Airport. In 1949 it was acquired by the Ministry of Aviation from the trustees of the late William Carlow<sup>21</sup>.

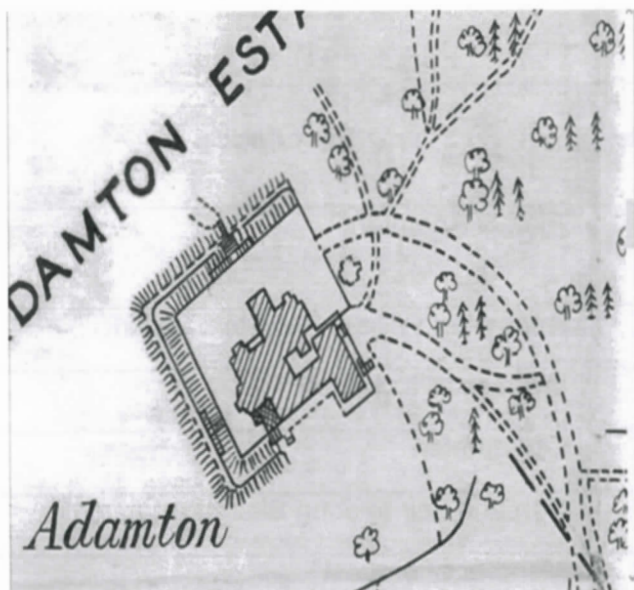
The Blairs were a prominent family in Ayrshire and seem to have been a cadet branch of the Blairs of Blair. Amongst other privileges they appeared to have had the appointment to the Chapel of Our Lady of Grace of Kyle (now more commonly known as Ladykirk). There is an instrument amongst the Maxwell of Monrieff papers relating to the Bishop of Glasgow's nomination to the vacancy at the chapel and his

rejection of William Petyt, David Blair of Adamton's candidate in 1472<sup>22</sup>. There is also letters of presentation by David Blair of Adamton in favour of Lambert Blair of the precentorship of Ladykirk in 1546<sup>23</sup>. David Blair of Adamton was on the Committee for the Defence of the Shire in 1648 against Montrose<sup>24</sup>. David Blair of Adamton was appointed commissioner of customs for Lanark and Renfrew in 1715<sup>25</sup>.

Look at the difference in the shape of the plot between the 25" ordnance survey of 1877 and the later register of sasine plan in 1930. The OS Plan is available from the National Library of Scotland website at [http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch/os\\_info1.html](http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch/os_info1.html)







National Records of Scotland RS230/976 Sasine Plan 1930 (reproduced with permission of the National Records of Scotland)

After World War II Adamton House became the headquarters of the Scottish Division of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. This was not without its problems and there was a complaint that the testing of aircraft engines by Scottish Aviation Ltd in 1949 was seriously disrupting the work of the ministry staff<sup>26</sup>.

After several changes of ownership the house and grounds survive today as a hotel which is part of the Britannia Hotels Group.

Table of Blairs

Name	Date	Description
James Blair <sup>27</sup>	1363	First of Adamton <sup>28</sup>
David Blair	1472	Appointed William Petyt to Ladykirk
David Blair	1477	Witness to a charter <sup>29</sup>
John Blair	1487	Of Adamton
David Blair	1487	Son and heir to John Blair of Adamton <sup>30</sup>
David Blair	1539	Member of Inquest <sup>31</sup>
David Blair	1546	Of Adamton
David Blair	1558	Member of Inquest <sup>32</sup>
David Blair	1617	Contract with Sir Robert Montgomerie of Skelmorlie <sup>33</sup>
David Blair	1648	Member of Committee in Defence of Shire
David Blair	1656	Described as younger of Adamton <sup>34</sup>
John Blair	1701	Younger of Adamton
David Blair	1715	Commissioner of customs
Catherine Blair	1777	Retoured as heir to her father David. The last of the Blairs of Adamton

## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> NRS GD124/1/1119 Charter by Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus, Lord of Bonckyll, to Sir Robert Erskyne [Erskine], Kt, for homage and service, of lands of Adamtoun, in barony of Kyle [sheriffdom of Ayr], for payment of 1 penny silver annually, if asked, and performance of customary forinsec service.
- <sup>2</sup> NLS Acc.7043 65
- <sup>3</sup> NLS Acc.7043 65 number 17
- <sup>4</sup> National Register of Archives for Scotland survey number 2600 reference NRAS2600/Bundle 15 Correspondence concerning the advertisement of Adamtown to let in 1781
- <sup>5</sup> NRS Montgomeries Earls of Eglinton Collection reference GD3/17/8/2/15 feu disposition in 1797 by Robert Reid of Adamton
- <sup>6</sup> NRS Ayr Abridgement of Sasines 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1788 number 1951
- <sup>7</sup> NRS Ayr Abridgement of Sasine 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 1792 number 3692
- <sup>8</sup> NRS Will of Lt Col John Reid, 1833 NRS SC6/44/6/321
- <sup>9</sup> NRS Ayr Abridgement of Sasine 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 1843 number 1341
- <sup>10</sup> Scotlands People Marriages Scotland OPR Marriages 578/00 120 0042 Ayr, 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 1822
- <sup>11</sup> British Newspaper Archive Ayr Advertiser 27 Dec 1883
- <sup>12</sup> Hewat op cit page 48
- <sup>13</sup> NRS Ayr Abridgement of Sasines ante nuptial contract of marriage 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1881 number 65
- <sup>14</sup> There is a precept of Clare Constat granted by her commissioner in 1873 where she is described as Elizabeth Campbell Reid of Adamton at present residing at Radibor Bautzen in the Kingdom of Saxony, spouse of Count Clemens Einsiedel Reid of Wolkenburg. NRS Ayr Abridgement of Sasine, 8/7/1873 Number 3685
- <sup>15</sup> British Newspaper Archive Ayrshire Express 21 Nov 1863
- <sup>16</sup> Caledonian Mercury 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1860
- <sup>17</sup> OS Name Book Ayrshire Parish of Monkton and Prestwick page 9 reference OS1/3/47/9 available on ScotlandsPlaces website at <http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>

<sup>18</sup> Times Obituary

<sup>19</sup> NRS Ayr Abridgement of Sasines, 14/1/1915 number 80

<sup>20</sup> NRS Ayr Abridgement of Sasines, 9/3/1929 number 445

<sup>21</sup> NRS Ayr Abridgement of Sasines, 29/8/1949 Number 3006

<sup>22</sup> NLS Acc.7043 65

<sup>23</sup> NLS Acc.7043 65

<sup>24</sup> NLS Acc.7043 65

<sup>25</sup> NLS Acc.7043 65

<sup>26</sup> British Newspaper Archive, Dundee Courier, 25<sup>th</sup> May 1949 refusal of Lord Guthrie in the Court of Session to grant an interim interdict to stop the testing of the aircraft engines.

<sup>27</sup> NRS GD124/1/1122 Extract of charter of David II [RMS i, 157]. Appended are copy notes of charter by James Blair to Robert Erskin, and of charter by King David II to Allan Erskine of lands of Adamtoun

<sup>28</sup> NRS GD124/1/1122 Copy of attested copy of extract of charter by King David II to Robert de Arskine [Erskine], Kt. of land of Malerbe [Mailer], in sheriffdom of Perth, resigned by James de Blair in return for land of Adamtoun, in barony of Kyle, granted to him by said Robert. c1363

<sup>29</sup> NRS GD3/1/9/7/2 Copy of charter granted by John, Earl of Lennox in favour of Adam Cunninghame of Caprington in 1477 David Blair is a witness

<sup>30</sup> NRAS2516/3 Bond by Hugh Walles of the Smythistoun that, although the town of Prestwik has infeft him heritably in a rood of land for a mill-stead, with watergang and 'dammyng', no miller or other inhabitant shall dwell on the said rood in time coming. At Prestwyk 25 Feb 1487/1488 Witnesses: John Blair of Adamtoun, Peter Coucharn, Allan Cathcart son and apparent heir of Sir John Cathcart of Carltoun kt., sirs Bartholomew [?and] Robert Hart, chaplains, and sir Andrew Mackormyll, vicar of Stratoun and notary

<sup>31</sup> NRS GD3/1/9/26/9 Service of Matthew, Earl of Lennox, son of deceased John, Earl of Lennox

<sup>32</sup> NRS GD3/1/1/53/5 Service before Robert Craufurd of Clolynane and Robert Campbell of Cragdow, sheriff deputies of Ayr of Robert Clerk in 1558. David Blair of Adamton is a member of the inquest.

<sup>33</sup> NRS GD3/2/26/22 Contract between Sir Robert Montgomerie of Skelmorlie and David Blair of Adamton over the redemption of an annualrent from the lands of Bourtreehill in 1617

<sup>34</sup> NRS GD3/1/3/39/13 Charter granted in implement of GD3/1/3/39/11 by John Blair of that ilk in favour of John Gray and Anna Crawford in 1656 David Blair younger of Adamton is a witness

## **Craufurdland and the Burns Connection**

by Pamela McIntyre

The Houison-Craufurd family can trace their ancestry back to 900AD. The First Laird of Craufurdland is known as far back as in 1245, when the lands of Ardoch, now known as Craufurdland near Fenwick, were gifted to Sir Reginald de Craufurd, 1st Sheriff of Ayr. The family have also held title in the past to land at Braehead, Cramond near Edinburgh. They continue to own and manage the estate at Craufurdland, which is run by the present Laird Simon, and his family.

In 2004 Simon's father, Peter Houison-Craufurd, deposited estate and family papers with Ayrshire Archives and volunteers began slowly working through 20 or so boxes. Archivist Pamela McIntyre, began working on the collection in 2011, and was delighted when volunteer Nan Henry identified letters in the collection from James Boswell of Auchinleck. Gordon Turnbull of Yale University, Editor of the Boswell Papers, confirmed that the letters shed an interesting light on Boswell's political aspirations (or famous lack thereof) in the elections of 1788 for the County of Ayr.

Intrigued, Pamela began investigating the whereabouts and content of other collections of Houison-Craufurd records held in other repositories, and working alongside Alison Rosie of the NRAS, established that there had been a survey completed at Craufurdland Castle in 1971. The survey list that had been produced existed in a typed format only; permission had never been granted to make it public. On looking through the contents of the survey, tantalising descriptions were identified, such as 'note to Robert Burns...'



Initially, it was hoped that the survey would support the descriptions created by the volunteers of the 2004 deposit of records. However, it was soon established that, in fact, the items noted in the survey could not be cross referenced to the collection held in the Archive. It was then suggested to the family that more documents were still at Craufurdland. A week later, Peter returned to the Archive with 14 plastic bags. On emptying and sorting through the bags, many wonderful records were identified including: records from the family branch of Walkinshaw from the 1690s, further correspondence regarding James Boswell, interesting correspondence relating to military activity in North America 1758-1762, details of the family's service in the Austro-Hungarian Army in the 1830s, an account of life on the front line in the First World War, and correspondence received by the family from eminent explorers, politicians, aristocracy and writers, including a letter dated 1750 from Tobias Smollett. Additionally, there was indeed a 'note to Burns', in fact it is a letter written to Burns as Officer of Excise in 1792 – and, even more importantly, on the letter's reverse, there is an epitaph, handwritten by Burns.

Pauline MacKay and Jonathan Henderson of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at Glasgow University were consulted, and together with Pamela, they began working to establish the authenticity and provenance of the letter and the epitaph. Their research now published in *Studies in Scottish Literature* confirms the authenticity of the document, as a previously unrecorded holograph source for 'Epitaph [on Grizzel Grim]', see the article here: <http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/vol41/iss1/20/>

Addressed to Mr Robert Burns, Officer of Excise Dumfries, and dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 1792, it reads:

"Mr Burns

Sir

I bottled yesterday 32 galls

Mor White Wine

John Hutton

Say thirty two gallons

596

32        \_\_\_\_\_

564

Written below Mr Hutton's letter, there is a subtraction in Burns own handwriting. Burns subtracts the volume of wine from an already known amount.

On the reverse of the letter, again in Burns handwriting, appears the following:

"Epitaph

Here lyes withe Dethe, aulde Grizzel Grim,

Lincluden's uggley witche

O Dethe, & what a taiste hath thou

Canst lye withe suche a bitche!"

The fact that there is a hand written epitaph by Robert Burns in amongst the Craufurdland collection is indicative of the interest, range and diversity of the other records in the collection. The family's connection with Ayrshire and their hand in its history is reflected in a fantastic range of documents, a 'note to Burns' amongst them!

[www.craufurdland.co.uk](http://www.craufurdland.co.uk)



Craufurdland

## A Victorian Teacher in Ayrshire:

Hugh Dickie (1837–1910)

Neil Dickson

On the evening of Thursday, 20 December 1904, Provost James Hood of Kilmarnock presided over what was described rather grandiloquently in the *Standard* as 'a *recherché* dinner . . . served in first-class style'.<sup>1</sup> The meal was dished up in the leading hotel in Kilmarnock, the George Hotel in Portland Street, and after dinner, Hood gave 'the loyal toasts', which doubtless included King Edward, the Indian Emperor. The assistant chairman was Hood's predecessor as provost, David Mackay, known for the evening as the croupier - a now archaic word for this function at a public dinner. Mackay gave a further toast to 'The Imperial Forces', to which an army major responded.<sup>2</sup> The imperial forces, in one of the less savoury episodes of empire, had a few months before invaded Tibet and massacred a docile and defenceless Tibetan army. Clearly however, whatever doubts the Liberal Party supporters among those attending might have had, support for Britain's imperial expansion was still sufficiently embedded in the assembled company. They would have seen the Tibetan escapade as a necessary part of 'the great game' which was being played out in defence of the Empire in central Asia. Those joining the toasts that night to British institutions were the great and the good of Kilmarnock, joined by some from further afield. The great and good of Kilmarnock by this time were solidly middle class: present were several of the town's ministers; leading members of its educational establishments; a number of prominent Kilmarnock businessmen and professionals; some local politicians; and a couple of His Majesty's school inspectors. They were there for the main

business of the evening - the retiral of the rector of the Academy, Dr Hugh Dickie after twenty-eight years in the post. Among the apologies for absence was one from a former pupil of Dickie, the sitting MP for Kilmarnock Burghs, Colonel John Denny (1858–1922),<sup>3</sup> a Conservative-Unionist, whose party had held the Kilmarnock seat for almost a decade because of the local distaste for Irish Home Rule promoted by the Liberals.<sup>4</sup> The principal toast of the evening was given by the minister of St Marnock's Church, the Revd James Armstrong, who had been a member of the Kilmarnock school board for almost twenty years. After a brief résumé of Dickie's achievements as rector, Armstrong went on to praise him as a paragon of contemporary Victorian values:

From morning till night, in season and out of season, it has been to the Rector, not a matter of stern duty, but his delight to superintend, to teach, to make up registers, and indeed to do all sorts of odd jobs which there was no occasion for his doing. If by this method of teaching and by his example he has imparted to his pupils, as well as to his assistants, the idea that self-help and strenuous toil are the only means of getting on in this world in an honourable way, he has taught them a most valuable lesson in an age which is apt to make too much of environment, of external advantages, whether educational, moral or scientific.<sup>5</sup>

Hugh Dickie was, for Armstrong, among other things, an illustration of the gospel of self-help through hard work. Who was this man who had become such a paradigm of contemporary values? And was Armstrong right? We will pursue these questions through this essay.

Hugh Dickie was the youngest of six children and was born in 1837, the year Queen Victoria had ascended to the throne.<sup>6</sup> His parents were Hugh Dickie (1797–1875), who was an agricultural labourer at the time of Hugh's birth, and Agnes McWhirter (1797/8–1885), the daughter of a farm manager.<sup>7</sup> The family lived in a cottage at Woodend, in the parish of Dailly, in the Girvan valley, and Dickie senior would later become a coachman to the landed family on whose estate



the cottage stood, the Fergussons of Kilkerran.<sup>8</sup> By the time of Hugh's birth, the parish of Dailly had come through a period of continuous change. In the later eighteenth century the agricultural improvements that the local lairds had made had also led to improvements in the living conditions, 'Even the cottages of the lowest ranks', it was reported in 1794, 'begin to assume a more cleanly and comfortable appearance.'<sup>9</sup> By 1837 there had been an increase in mining in what had been a mainly agricultural community, and coal production had risen over the previous forty years from some 9,000 tons per annum to some 20,000 tons. Agriculture, too, was changing. The age of agricultural improvements was at an end, and the growing of grain was being replaced by pasture and tree plantations. These changes in land use had led to a shrinkage in the rural population. It had the effect of an increase in the population of the village of Dailly, while at the same time the population of the parish as a whole decreased. Dickie was born into an era when, due to industrialisation and global trade, the British economy would achieve a dominant position in the world. Change was affecting British society as a whole and was not leaving untouched even seemingly remote areas as the Girvan valley.

Alexander Hill, the Dailly parish minister who, in the same year as Dickie was born, compiled his report for *The New Statistical Account* (1845), states that there were four schools in the parish. Young Hugh had his earliest education at Kilgrammie on the Bargany estate, where there was a hamlet consisting of some miners' rows. It was a private school, and it is presumably this school that Hill describes as the one to which both the proprietrix of Bargany, the duchesse de Coigny, Henrietta Dalrymple Hamilton, and the Bargany coal tacksman paid the teacher £5 annually (or the equivalent of about £220 per month at present), and additionally did 'furnish him with a school-room; an apartment for himself, and a large garden.'<sup>10</sup> Anything the teacher earned above that depended on his success in attracting pupils for the fees they paid. The monthly fees were 10d for reading English alone, with an extra 2d to learn writing; if these were combined with arithmetic, the fee rose to 1s. 4d; and if Latin were added in, then the fee rose to 1s. 8d (or the equivalent of £3.68 at present).<sup>11</sup> With the Dickie family having several children in school simultaneously, these



fees were a strain on the family budget when in neighbouring Straiton parish, a labourer, such as Hugh Dickie, snr. might earn 9s. weekly in summer and 8s. in winter.<sup>12</sup> One way used within Dailly parish to ensure education for all the children in poorer families was to send each child to school for a year in rotation until all the children in the family could read and do accounts.<sup>13</sup> But given the importance education apparently had for the sons of the Dickie family, such irregular attendance was probably avoided. Dickie's elevation to coachman to one of the principal Ayrshire landowners must have eased the financial constraints on the family considerably, and probably made their social advancement possible. The options within the valley were limited for aspiring youths: rural labour, mining, or trade. These were the courses Hugh Dickie's cousins, sons of his father's older brother, would take, becoming local blacksmiths or grain merchants.<sup>14</sup> Hill noted that 'Emigration has not prevailed much in this neighbourhood, but is on the increase'.<sup>15</sup> For a bright boy, education offered yet another way out and up.

Kilgrammie was, apparently, the only school Hugh Dickie attended as a full-time scholar, for he left school in 1850 at the age of 13 - the minimum age at which one might become a pupil-teacher. The pupil-teacher system copied an idea from the Netherlands, and had been instituted throughout Britain in 1846. It had been a major turning point in British education due to massive central government investment in teacher training to improve teaching standards. The pupil-teachers, while themselves continuing to be taught, were paid a stipend of £10 per annum that rose at the end of the fifth year of training to £20 (or about £1,171 in today's money), as long as they had been passed annually as satisfactory by the school inspectorate. When the period of training was finished the pupil-teacher could then obtain by public examination a Queen's Scholarship worth £20 or £25 to study at a Normal School—the nineteenth-century equivalent of a teacher training college.<sup>16</sup> Provided the individual obtained a certificate of merit through passing the examinations of the Normal School, he would now be a 'certified teacher', and, depending on how long he had spent at the Normal School, entitled to a government grant of £15 or £30, that augmented the salary, which had to be twice the grant sum, paid by

school managers who also had to provide a rent-free house. It meant that a certified teacher in a state-aided school would earn at a minimum £45 a year with a rent-free house, and the average salary was £70,<sup>17</sup> at a time when the national average yearly wage was some £34.<sup>18</sup> The scheme provided better trained teachers, and at the same time supplied schools with willing apprentice teachers. It also allowed able children from poorer families to stay in education while beginning to earn, with a steady professional progression, and a secure and attractive salary at the end of it. This was a much better prospect than Dickie's own rural teacher at Kilgrammie ever had; even the Dailly parish teacher only had a maximum income of £55 per annum.<sup>19</sup> Teaching became the profession of choice for working-class people wishing to enter the middle classes. This was the course that two of Hugh Dickie's older brothers, John (b.1830) and James (b.1833) had already embarked on,<sup>20</sup> and it was to the school of one of them in Paisley to which Hugh went in 1850 where he taught in both in day and evening classes. In 1856 he then entered the Church of Scotland Normal Training College in Glasgow, which had its origins in the first purpose-built teacher training college in Europe, where he studied for the next two years, and in addition he took two classes at the University. These two years were the only years - from the age of 13 until his retiral at 67 - during which he did not teach.<sup>21</sup>

In 1858, on becoming a certified teacher through the Normal College, he was appointed Rector of Airdrie Academy.<sup>22</sup> The school was a relatively recent one, having been founded a little over a decade before in 1847,<sup>23</sup> but it was already in a parlous condition, having lost its endowments, and it had dwindled to about a dozen pupils. Government grants were urgently needed, and as state-aid was given to schools with certificated teachers, the appointment of one had been a necessity. Within the year Dickie had successfully raised the attendance to 300 pupils. In 1862 he was appointed as the schoolmaster of Girvan Grammar School, the school maintained by the parish kirk session. Girvan had just been reached by the railway in 1860, and it was bringing new wealth into the town.<sup>24</sup> Later, someone who knew him when he came to Girvan described what he looked like at this time: 'A young man of medium height but with the

frame of an athlete, well set-up, broad and deep in the chest, pleasant in feature, ruddy in complexion, with copious curly black hair and a grand black curly beard and moustache, dressed very neatly in a grey morning suit, wearing a well-cared-for silk hat'.<sup>25</sup> By this time Dickie now had a B.A. to add to his name. In 1858 the University of London, which traditionally had provided access to higher education to poorer students, had expanded its role by offering distance learning programmes to candidates outside of its colleges, allowing those following a course of self-directed study to take a degree.<sup>26</sup> Dickie had graduated from this programme in 1861, and was, apparently, the first in Scotland to do so.<sup>27</sup> In Girvan Dickie was now appointed to teach 'English Reading and Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Navigation, Mathematics, French, Latin, Greek, at a salary of £40 a year'.<sup>28</sup> He would also have the government augmentation of £30 with an additional £15 for the four pupil-teachers he taught,<sup>29</sup> taking his salary up to a minimum of £85.<sup>30</sup> Again this was a troubled school. There was no discipline, with stoning battles taking place daily between its pupils and that of a neighbouring school (probably the nearby Roman Catholic school), and the state of learning in the school was also poor. To stop the warring pupils, Dickie organised school games of football, shinty, and later cricket. Along with his assistants, the four pupil-teachers, he took part in the games.<sup>31</sup> He also transformed learning and teaching. In 1910, one individual recalled Dickie's methods:

Today, while we talk complacently of "new" methods in education, it should be noted that most of those aspects of teaching were assiduously, hopefully, and with profit cultivated in Girvan Parish School close on 50 years ago. Nature knowledge, garden plots, geological and botanical excursions, practical geography and land surveying, music, drawing, and physical exercise, the memorising of good literature, and a sharp discipline in mental operations of many kinds were all contributory to his scheme of school training. Further influences were exerted through his control of the Public Library and his encouragement of concerts and lecture courses.<sup>32</sup>



The aspiration of the pupils had been to follow their fathers to sea as fishermen or sailors, but several of Dickie's former Girvan pupils later became members of the town's professional classes.<sup>33</sup> In Girvan Dickie was also involved with the town cricket club, where he was known as a fearless, if slightly foolhardy, wicket keeper. He once came to school sporting two black eyes after a match with the local rivals, Dailly—the competitive edge undoubtedly sharpened for Dickie in playing against his native parish.<sup>34</sup> Also in Girvan he had married. In December 1863, when he was 26, he had married Jessie Austin (1839–1896), a miller's daughter, and they would go on to have nine children together, born between 1864 and 1880.<sup>35</sup> However, the Girvan years were not without their humiliations. Dickie's attempts to get better pay from the parish heritors had resulted in him being made to apologise to them for the manner in which he had put his case.<sup>36</sup> But in 1867 Dickie succeeded in gaining a larger salary through being appointed rector of Dumbarton Burgh Academy. The burgh was evidently keen to progress its school during this period, for in 1865 it had erected an impressive two-storey building which also contained rooms for the Burgh Hall. It was designed by the rising Glasgow architect, William Leiper (1839–1916), in 'richly sculptured' French Gothic, and it had a square, central, four-stage tower capped by a steeple.<sup>37</sup> The Dumbarton town council would obviously choose their man carefully for the flamboyant statement that their new building represented. The new rector was to be the master for English and classical subjects, with a minimum salary of £210 'for at least so long as will give him an opportunity of bringing up the school to a self-supporting point.' Dickie was unanimously selected from a field of thirty candidates. One baillie, who had not been on the interviewing committee, was sure that was the right appointment from reading Dickie's testimonials to 'his brilliant career as a student, and his success as a teacher'.<sup>38</sup> It would seem that the town council was not disappointed. At Dickie's retiral in 1904, James Armstrong read an extract from a letter from Alex Watson, the then rector of Dumbarton Academy. Watson wrote in praise of Dickie:

No one can, perhaps, better than I, appreciate the splendid services he rendered, and the keen and laborious work he gave to the cause

of higher education during that decade of his earlier years when he worked here. Even yet in this quarter his name is synonymous with gigantic educational vigour and enthusiasm. Within a much larger circle than this he is remembered as the man who of all men did champion pioneer work for Scotland in the matter of science teaching, when science in schools, day or evening, was practically unknown.<sup>39</sup>

As Watson hints, it was while Dickie was at Dumbarton that he realised the necessity of modernising the curriculum by teaching science.<sup>40</sup> This would be of significance in his next school.

Dickie spent nine years in Dumbarton, but in 1875 he was selected from a competitive field of applicants to be rector of Kilmarnock Academy. The school he now inherited, also had had a troubled past. It had been forged out of a merger of the town's parish grammar school, which had been in existence since at least the sixteenth century, and a more recent foundation of 1727, the burgh school, which taught 'the commercial branches of education'.<sup>41</sup> These two schools had been brought together to form the Academy. The academy concept was then a relatively new one, and the first one had been founded in Perth in 1760, but its first rector, John Mair had earlier mooted the concept in Ayr when he had been rector of the Burgh School there. In 1746 Mair had envisioned

a sort of academy where almost every sort of the more useful kinds of Literature will be taught and the want of a College education will in great measure be supplied to boys whose parents cannot well afford to maintain them at Universities. Gentlemen in the County will be encouraged to send their children to Ayr, considering that the school will by this means have no rival.<sup>42</sup>

Mair had realised his vision after his move to Perth, but in 1798 Ayr eventually got its academy, the first in Ayrshire, to be followed nine years later in 1807 by the second, the Academy in Kilmarnock. The concept, named after the garden in Athens where Plato had taught, was to have an affordable education offering a broad and more modern curriculum, similar to that offered by the Scottish universities,

which, of course, at that time admitted students from the age of 15 and upwards. Kilmarnock's Academy, because it straddled the parish school, maintained by the church heritors, and the burgh school, maintained by the town, had often fallen between two sources of funding, and the buildings at times were shockingly neglected.<sup>43</sup> The Education Act of 1872 was a radical act which commenced the modern system of education in Scotland. It established the Scottish Education Department (SED) in London, elected school boards throughout the country to manage schools locally, and also enforced compulsory attendance until the age of 13. It represented a fresh start for the Academy in Kilmarnock. The Kilmarnock school board erected a new Elizabethan Gothic building for the Academy costing £4,500 which was opened on August 1876. It was to this building Dickie now came.

The 1872 Scottish Education Act had mixed consequences for Kilmarnock Academy. A major problem Dickie had to deal with was one of funding. The Academy was now officially to be reduced to being an elementary school, which meant that grants from the Scotch Education Department were for the period of compulsory education from ages 5–13 only. Yet the school board had ambitions that the Academy should at least be what would come to be called a higher-grade school, combining elements of elementary and secondary education. Dickie had been appointed on the understanding that the secondary element was to be self-supporting, as shortfalls in funding would have to be met by the local ratepayers, already groaning under the burden of the cost of building several new board schools.<sup>44</sup> As an additional source of income Dickie looked to the South Kensington Science and Art Department, which, as its title suggests, gave grants for science and art teaching. To accommodate the South Kensington subjects Dickie started the science classes from nine o'clock until ten, and then the ordinary school day began.<sup>45</sup> Annual exams for the science subjects were held after the school day finished, and they might go on until ten o'clock in the evening.<sup>46</sup> At first science subjects were taught from a textbook, but in 1882 a small laboratory, the first in an Ayrshire school, was constructed, and a second larger one was added in 1887 when an extension to the Academy was built, allowing



just over thirty pupils to be engaged in practical experimental work.<sup>47</sup> The nineteenth-century rector's role was a teaching one, and administration was in addition to his teaching duties. Dickie himself taught all the advanced classes in Greek and Latin, necessary for those intending university entrance, as well as the science subjects. One nosey pupil noticed that Dickie's book from which he taught Greek had parallel Greek and English texts, but he mentally excused him on the grounds that it 'was really quite legitimate for a teacher who had to profess the very extensive range of different subjects he undertook.'<sup>48</sup> Dickie was incessantly busy. In May 1889, for example, he recorded in the school log book: 'From early morn a busy day—Examination in practical Chemistry began at 3.30 P.M. and continued to 9.30 P.M. [*sic*]'<sup>49</sup> Dickie was so busy teaching that he had little time for supervision, and in elementary subjects supervision was nominal. Even some ten years after his appointment, the school did not rank with Ayr and Irvine academies, and some of the children from the wealthier homes in London Road were sent to Ayr Academy.<sup>50</sup>

Matters had come to a head in 1883 after the last in a sequence of unfavourable reports by the inspectorate. The school board decided that the heads of department would inspect the work of all teachers fortnightly and record how deficiencies were to be remedied, and that the rector once a month would inspect the whole school.<sup>51</sup> The following year the inspector's report was much more favourable, and was approving of the new supervision regime. 'The improvement in several respects' the report stated, 'is no doubt largely due to this change.'<sup>52</sup> Of course, the effect of this had been to increase the burden on Dickie, but from then on the inspectors' reports remained good, possibly reaching their apogee in 1893 when Her Majesty's Inspectors reported:

This large and important school is conducted with much tact and ability. The Rector who is ably supported by an ample and highly qualified staff is indefatigable in the work of supervision and has infused into every Department a spirit of cheerful activity and industry. The order, tone and discipline leave little to be desired, and in respect of

instruction the reputation of the school is worthily maintained.<sup>53</sup>

In February 1893 the Kilmarnock School Board 'resolved to make the Higher Department a Secondary Department not in receipt of Parliamentary Grants from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov last.'<sup>54</sup> Dickie had achieved the Board's goal of the Academy having a self-supporting secondary department.<sup>55</sup> Eventually in 1899, the higher department of the Academy was recognised as a higher-grade school by the SED.<sup>56</sup> In Dickie's first year the school roll had been 645 pupils, but in 1904 there were 845 pupils, an increase of 31 per cent, with much of that increase accounted for by the secondary department.<sup>57</sup> If his success is stated in financial terms, then in the same period (1876–1904), grants to the school had increased from just over £300, to almost £3,000, an increase of some 900 per cent.<sup>58</sup> Of course, by this time Dickie had also overseen the removal of the school to a new and larger building in 1898, the building we now know as the Old Academy.

During the Kilmarnock years Dickie's wife had died in 1896, and at the age of 62 he had re-married in 1899. He brought his new bride to the Dickie family house, at the top of South Hamilton Street, within sight of the Academy. His second wife was a 37-year old spinster, Marion Fergusson McConnell (1862/3–1955), the daughter of a Girvan businessman, and who was herself, through her own business interests, a wealthy woman.<sup>59</sup> Dickie's eldest two sons, Hugh (b.1864) and John (b.1873), had already graduated from Glasgow University by this time, and would become, respectively, a doctor in Morpeth in Northumberland, and a Church of Scotland minister, while his third son, James (1876–1927), graduated the year his father re-married and would eventually join his brother's practice in Morpeth.<sup>60</sup> It must have given Dickie some feeling of pride when, in 1877, Hugh had been the first Dux Literara of the new Kilmarnock Academy, and, after completing his arts course at Glasgow University, from 1883 had taught classics in the school.<sup>61</sup> In 1888 John had gone one better by becoming both Dux Literara and Mathematica.<sup>62</sup> In 1882 two of Dickie's daughters, Agnes (b.1868), and Isabella ('Bella') (b.1866), had been the two leading scholars and had qualified for a Ballochmyle

bursary.<sup>63</sup> They were by this time, presumably, pupil-teachers, and by the 1890s they had been joined by two more of his daughters, Jessie (1872–1962) and Barbara (b.1878). Given that James Dickie also taught in the school for a while during that decade, it had led to whispers about nepotism.<sup>64</sup> Dickie had one child by his second marriage, Marion (1900/1–1985). She did not marry, and in 1938 became the first headmistress of Nonsuch County School for Girls, a grammar school in Cheam, Surrey—in word that had been used of her father, Marion Dickie was described as 'indefatigable'.<sup>65</sup>

Apart from his growing family, Dickie had also been busy on a number of other fronts. Dickie had the ear of Henry Craik (later Sir Henry), the imperious permanent secretary of the SED in London, and visited him annually.<sup>66</sup> We might imagine that Dickie's counsels to Craik were all in favour of the expansion of secondary education that the Department gradually enabled. Dickie also had been a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) since 1861. The EIS had been founded in 1847, and originally had broader aims than negotiations over pay and conditions. It had placed Scotland ahead of England, where the teachers' body was concerned with terms of employment only.<sup>67</sup> Its royal charter, which had been granted in 1851, had set out its aims as being to promote learning, advance the interests of education in Scotland, and certify the qualifications of persons engaged in education.<sup>68</sup> Through it Dickie sought to advance the interests of teachers, and was later to claim that he was, perhaps, the first in Scotland to advocate limiting the age of service and a pension for retired teachers, which had led to the Teacher's Pension Act that fixed the age for retiral at 65.<sup>69</sup> When the EIS Congress was held in Kilmaronock in 1891 he was its president. In that same year the Academy pupils had been awarded a day-holiday in recognition of the honour of Glasgow University awarding Dickie an LL D, in recognition of his distinguished services to education, and also, according to Dickie himself, because of the success of some of his former pupils as students at the University.<sup>70</sup> The *Kilmaronock Standard* would proudly list their academic achievements: 'Prizemen of highest rank, medallists in every faculty and subject, Honours Graduates of Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, and Oxford, Snell Exhibitioners,



Eglinton Fellows, and quite a phenomenal group of distinguished medicals'.<sup>71</sup> The half, of course, had not been told, for two of his former pupils would be Nobel Laureates - Lord Boyd Orr, a quarrymaster's son from Kilmaurs, and the son of a farmer from Darvel, Sir Alexander Fleming—and a number of other boys who later became distinguished scientists would also pass through the school.<sup>72</sup> There were even some girls who went on to achieve fame: Janet ('Jenny') Adamson (née Johnston) (1882–1952) became a Labour MP;<sup>73</sup> and Eleanor Allen Robertson (née Moore) (1885–1955), became one of the so-called 'Glasgow Girls' group of painters.<sup>74</sup> Dickie retired, it was later stated, because he objected to the school being re-organised in subject departments. A good teacher, Dickie believed, could teach all subjects.<sup>75</sup> Whatever the truth in this, Dickie was aware, with regret, that he had reached the age of retirement. 'A teacher of youth should himself be young,' he stated at his retiral presentation.<sup>76</sup> It was to celebrate his achievements that the local notables had assembled in the George Hotel in 1904. But what sort of man was it that they were celebrating? Some clues can be found amongst the praise heaped upon him, both on that night and afterwards.

He was supremely efficient. One of Dickie's former pupils and an Academy Dux was a farmer's son from Fenwick, the Revd James Barr (1862–1949), who had become one of Scotland's most prominent churchmen and was eventually a Labour MP. He recalled Dickie's success in promoting academic achievement, before noting: 'These results were due in no small degree to the organising power and tact of the Rector, to his constant supervision, to his quiet but firm discipline, to his devotion to duty, to the love of learning he infused, and to the earnestness and thoroughness he inculcated and secured among his pupils.'<sup>77</sup> There is an absence here, perhaps, of gentler qualities, and efficiency can suggest a certain ruthlessness - we might recall the apology to the Girvan Kirk Session. Dickie, like many another teacher both then and later, was known for the use of his tongue. One other former pupil recalled on Dickie's death:

Our late Rector had the faculty of putting in a few forcible phrases, the warmth of his approval, or the douche of his disapproval. Sometimes it was what he said, sometimes it was the way he said it, sometimes it was what he left unsaid. Some would enter his class-room with all the assurance of a tyro, but they often departed both sadder and wiser.<sup>78</sup>

Only two examples of his verbal sallies survive. One is from some friendly banter that Dickie recalled at his retiral. A close friend of Dickie, who had made his fortune in business, expressed surprise that the degree of LL.D should have been conferred on a 'common schoolmaster', and had wondered how Dickie got it. Dickie had replied that 'I believed I got it just as he had got his L.s.d. by "minding my business"'.<sup>79</sup> Teachers were in Victorian Britain the largest section of the middle class, but were amongst its poorest members,<sup>80</sup> and perhaps the banter had betrayed some anxiety over their status. Certainly the exchange had stuck long enough in his mind for Dickie to recall the put-down and his riposte in his retiral speech. Dickie's other extant verbal quip was the subject of a protest in the *Kilmarnock Standard*, for he had called the son of one of the town's ministers 'a big Hibernian gorilla'—a contemporary racist stereotype of the Irish.<sup>81</sup> This latter barb does suggest a flash of temper, perhaps caused by his incessant motion. This perpetual busyness was almost certainly the cause on another occasion. Once, when late for a class, he came rushing into his room from other duties, and had caught the son of another minister with that well-kept silk top hat on which the pupil was playing the drums. The punishment was a well-aimed kick on the buttocks.<sup>82</sup>

Dickie's devotion to duty made him a driven man, which was possibly one source of his emotional reserve. Another of Dickie's pupils, and another Academy Dux, was William Boyd (1874–1962), the son of a journeyman pattern-maker and a servant maid,<sup>83</sup> who later became the head of the Education Department at Glasgow University. Boyd came to regard Dickie as the greatest Ayrshire head teacher of his generation and recalled his impressions of him as a pupil: 'At the time



he was rather remote—he never smiled or showed any special interest in the individual pupils, though, as I had cause to know later from my experience, the interest was there.<sup>84</sup> Dickie was, by his own admission, what would nowadays be called a workaholic. 'It is astonishing', wrote the contemporary apostle of self-help, Samuel Smiles, 'how much may be accomplished in self-culture by the energetic and persevering, who are careful to avail themselves of opportunities, and use up the fragments of spare time which the idle permit to run to waste.'<sup>85</sup> At his retiral, in reply to Armstrong's toast, Dickie proudly proclaimed his adherence to this ethic of hard work and self-denial of idle amusements:

Since I left school at the age of thirteen, I cannot say I have had an idle holiday. Even at that age I was engaged in helping with evening classes, and I found it necessary to use all my spare hours and play time in forwarding my own education by private study. ... Besides, I always found so much pleasure in my work, whether teaching or learning, that I never felt it hard to be kept at it night and day. In Kilmarnock here, nearly every teacher is thus engaged, and twelve hours of work with but few short intervals, make up the teacher's working day, at least in winter. No doubt he must deny himself almost all attendance at social functions and amusements.

But' - he added to laughter - 'this is perhaps more gain than loss.' He concluded this passage of his speech by quoting the Jewish Hungarian linguist, Vámbéry Ármin (1832–1913): "Work has kept me in good health, it has made me happy, and therefore rich" ', and then Dickie added 'and work is to my mind the greatest benefactor and the greatest blessing.'<sup>86</sup> There was, however, another driving force in Dickie's personality. William Boyd, writing in the 1960s, modified his apparent criticism of Dickie by adding: 'That he was basically kindly is evident from the fact that there was no corporal punishment in the secondary classes (12 and upwards), a very rare thing

then or now in Scotland.<sup>187</sup> This also points to Dickie's progressiveness. The tawse, or belt, was widely used in Scotland, and those, such as David Stow, the founder of the Glasgow Normal School, who avoided its use were seen as being in the vanguard of progressiveness. The teaching of science was another example of his progressiveness, as was his advancement of the availability of secondary education and of better pay and conditions for teachers. In his retiral speech Dickie said, 'especially in these last years, education and educators have risen greatly in popular estimation. But in the country there is still much progress to make.'<sup>188</sup> Progress was close to his heart. Undoubtedly the male ego impelled Dickie forwards: as with this last quotation, it is sometimes difficult to disentangle his sense of personal esteem from that of the causes he served; but it was Kilmarnock's good fortune that his personal advance chimed with the progress of the institution in which he worked.

The toasts that evening in the George Hotel in Kilmarnock became a series of toasts to the Dickie family, the town of Kilmarnock, Kilmarnock Academy, and the clergy. It is impossible to understand Dickie without the contemporary context of state and empire, town and school, family and church, that the evening consciously acknowledged. The people who assembled in the George Hotel were celebrating middle-class Victorian masculinity. Dickie had succeeded, from his initial education in a country school under the patronage of the landed classes, in becoming a significant employee of local government and a highly respected member of the middle class. He had moved in step with his times as teaching became increasingly professionalized and the state took over the responsibility for education from the churches. He had embraced the academy project, and then adapted it as the academies became a route into the universities to meet the career demands of the middle classes.<sup>189</sup> He had fought to create in Kilmarnock an institution that allowed the able and willing to advance. The Revd James Armstrong was right. In celebrating Hugh Dickie they were celebrating the prized moral values

of discipline, self-help, and hard-work that they were sure would inevitably lead to progress, both individual and national. They were celebrating a local icon of the age. Hard work, they were certain, was worth it. It was the crucial virtue for the Victorian middle classes, of whom the George Hotel audience was composed. It was they who now dominated the civic affairs of Kilmarnock. Like other schools of its kind, it was principally they whom the Academy benefitted in the late Victorian period and early twentieth century.<sup>90</sup> Unlike earlier in the nineteenth century, members of the upper classes no longer sent their sons to the Academy, but sent them increasingly to England.<sup>91</sup> Dickie was, of course, a real-life example of that mythical Scot - the lad o' pairts, the person of talent who rose from humble origins through his own efforts (although it is interesting to note that nobody at the retiral, or later in his *Kilmarnock Standard* obituary, invoked his origins. Were they just too polite, or had Dickie concealed just how humble his own origins had been?). Armstrong's claim 'that self-help and strenuous toil are the only means of getting on in this world in an honourable way' was an echo of the Presbyterian Scot, Samuel Smiles, in his bestseller, *Self-Help* (1859). 'We have indeed,' wrote Smiles, 'but to glance at the biographies of great men to find that the most distinguished inventors, artists, thinkers, inventors, and workers of all kinds, owe their success, in a great measure, to their indefatigable industry and application.'<sup>92</sup> The inclusion of a toast to the clergy had not been an incidental. Effort led not just to personal advancement, but to an ideal of civic progress constructed by contemporary Presbyterianism. Beyond that lay widening circles—of Kilmarnock itself, of Britain, of the Empire. Central government was increasingly enabling the British people, as had happened in education. Unrestrained by ancient privilege and with the right education and attitude, a man might advance himself in any of these different spheres, and many had and would - though it was more difficult, though not impossible, for women, and - despite the myth of the lad o' pairts - for members of the working classes. The improvement and consolidation of the Academy under Hugh Dickie was crucial for Kilmarnock as it entered the twentieth century.



The evening of Thursday, 20 December 1904, in the George Hotel offers us a bright bubble of late - Victorian Kilmarnock as it celebrated the contemporary dominant middle-class ideology and identity. Of course, everyone knew that night that the times were changing. It was a retiral after all. It was a new century. And Armstrong was aware that more structural and less individualistic ways of constructing the individual in society were being advocated - he felt the age 'is apt to make too much of environment'.<sup>93</sup> And it was no longer to proper to speak of the Victorian era. The old Queen was dead and her louche son was on the throne. Unknown to them all, perhaps mercifully, in a mere ten years, in 1914, the bubble would be rudely burst. But that evening, at least, they were celebrating an individual who seemed to embody for them all that was prized in the Victorian man. Hugh Dickie had advanced not only himself, but the community of Kilmarnock, helping to progress the place of its dominant social class in the modern world. It was an evening worth toasting.

Dickie retired to Girvan, after a life in some of Scotland's largest industrial towns—Paisley, Airdrie, Dumbarton, Kilmarnock. His wife had kept her family home in Girvan's Henrietta Street, and it was to it they retired. He remained active for a while in the affairs of the EIS, but he did not have a long retirement. He had pathology of the heart, and he was seriously weakened early in 1910 by a bout of influenza. He died on 4 July of that year due to heart failure, and was buried in the New Cemetery in Grassyards Road in Kilmarnock.<sup>94</sup>

## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> 'Retiral of Dr Dickie', *Kilmarnock Standard*, 24 Dec. 1904, 5 [hereafter 'Retiral'].
- <sup>2</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>3</sup> Dickie had taught Denney in Dumbarton, where the latter was born.
- <sup>4</sup> John Strawhorn, *Ayrshire: The Story of a County* (Ayr: Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, 1975), 155-6.
- <sup>5</sup> Revd J. W. Armstrong [hereafter, Armstrong], quoted in *Kilmarnock Standard*, 24 Dec. 1904, 5.
- <sup>6</sup> SCT1841/585, Dailly, page 3, Woodend; Grassyards Cemetery, Kilmarnock, Hugh Dickie, tombstone.
- <sup>7</sup> SCT1841/585, Dailly, page 3, Woodend; 1859 Marriages in the Parish of Dailly, p.10, entry 19, Dunlop, James – Dickie, Margaret, Statutory Marriages 585/00 0019; 1885 Deaths in the Parish of Dailly, p.3, entry 7, Dickie, Agnes, Statutory Deaths 585/00 0007; Burns Monument Centre, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire Archives [hereafter BMC], Academy Archive, Kilmarnock Academy, KA001, School Log Book 1876-1905 [hereafter SLB], p.87, 30 Jan 1885.
- <sup>8</sup> 1841 Census, SCT1841/585, Dailly – Ayrshire p.3; 1875 Deaths in the Parish of Dailly, p.1, entry 3, Dickie, Henry [sic], Statutory Deaths 585/00 0003.
- <sup>9</sup> John Sinclair, *The Statistical Account of Scotland*, 21 vols (Edinburgh, 1794), 10: 50.
- <sup>10</sup> *The New Statistical Account of Scotland*, 15 vols (Edinburgh, 1845), 5: 389.
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid., 389-40; Alexander Hill implies that these are applicable to all four schools in the parish, but it is possible that these fees may be those of the parish school only.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid., 341.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid., 390.



- <sup>14</sup> [Ian Jones], 'Descendants of Robert Dickie and Barbara Steven', word-processed typescript supplied by Ian Jones.
- <sup>15</sup> *New Statistical Account*, 5: 385.
- <sup>16</sup> 'Normal Schools' took their name from the Latin *norma*, a rule: T. R. Bone, *School Inspectors in Scotland 1840–1966* (London, 1968), 214.
- <sup>17</sup> T. R. Bone, *School Inspection in Scotland 1840–1966* (London: University of London Press, 1968), 36–7.
- <sup>18</sup> 'Measuring Worth', < <http://www.measuringworth.com/ukearnncpi/> >, accessed 20 Nov. 2013: £45 was the equivalent of £3,667.73 and £70 the equivalent of £5,705.36 at present.
- <sup>19</sup> This consisted of a salary of £30 and perhaps a further £25 in fees: *New Statistical Account*, 5: 389.
- <sup>20</sup> [Jones], 'Descendants of Robert Dickie'.
- <sup>21</sup> Armstrong.
- <sup>22</sup> The dates in the sources Dickie's various appointments for vary; the ones used here are from W. Innes Addison, *A Roll of The Graduates of the University Of Glasgow* (Glasgow, 1908).
- <sup>23</sup> 'Airdrie Academy', < [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airdrie\\_Academy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airdrie_Academy)>, accessed 20 Nov. 2013.
- <sup>24</sup> Rob Close and Anne Riches, *Ayrshire and Arran: The Buildings of Scotland* (New Haven / London, 2012), 338.
- <sup>25</sup> D. M., quoted in, 'In Memoriam. Hugh Dickie, B.A., LL.D.', *The Gold Berry: The Magazine of Kilmarnock Academy*, Christmas 1910, p.43.
- <sup>26</sup> University of London International Programmes, <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University\\_of\\_London\\_International\\_Programmes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_London_International_Programmes)>, accessed 21 Nov. 2013.
- <sup>27</sup> Armstrong; the University of London offered the BA as an initial degree distinct from the MA: 'Master of Arts (Oxbridge and Dublin)', section 3, <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master\\_of\\_Arts\\_\(Oxbridge\\_and\\_Dublin\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_of_Arts_(Oxbridge_and_Dublin))>, accessed 21 Nov. 2013.

- <sup>28</sup> Girvan Kirk Session Records, 1861, quoted in William Boyd, *Education in Ayrshire Through Seven Centuries* (London, 1961), 180.
- <sup>29</sup> The rate for pupil teachers was £5 for one, £9 for two and £3 for every additional one: Bone, *School Inspectors*, 36.
- <sup>30</sup> In 1837 the Girvan schoolmaster was entitled to receive up to £50 in fees from the pupils, and presumably this would still be in force when Dickie took over. There were, in addition, in 1837 the income from two bequests to enable fees to be waived for pupils who qualified for them: *New Statistical Account*, 5: 404–5.
- <sup>31</sup> D. M., quoted in, 'In Memoriam', 43.
- <sup>32</sup> J. F. K., quoted in 'Death of Dr Dickie', *Kilmarnock Standard*, 9 Jul. 1910, 5.
- <sup>33</sup> D. M., quoted in, 'In Memoriam', 44.
- <sup>34</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>35</sup> [Jones], 'Descendants of Robert Dickie'.
- <sup>36</sup> Girvan Kirk Session Records, cited in University of Glasgow archives, GB 0248 GB 0248 DC 130/. William Boyd, the autobiography of William Boyd, unpublished MS, p.34-17 [the pagination of this MS is erratic, and this single page is numbered thus].
- <sup>37</sup> 'Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland: Dumbarton Academy (former), Church Street, Dumbarton', <[http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/ref\\_no/1963](http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/ref_no/1963)>; 'Dictionary of Scottish Architects: William Leiper', <[http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=200002](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200002)>, accessed 20 Nov. 2013. The building later became the burgh hall.
- <sup>38</sup> 'Burgh Academy—Appointment of a Rector', *Dumbarton Herald*, 7 Mar, 1867, 11.
- <sup>39</sup> Quoted in Armstrong.
- <sup>40</sup> 'Death'.
- <sup>41</sup> BMC, Minute Book of the Directors of Kilmarnock Academy, 'Report by the committee appointed by the Directors of the Kilmarnock Academy at their meeting on 25 Novr. 1851'.
- <sup>42</sup> John Mair, quoted in John Strawhorn, *750 Years of a Scottish School: Ayr Academy 1233–1983* (Ayr, 1983), 28.
- <sup>43</sup> Frank Donnelly, *The History of Kilmarnock Academy* (Darvel: Walker & Connell, 1998), 17.

- <sup>44</sup> Auchincruive, Ayrshire Archives, 603/10/2/130, Kilmarnock Burgh School Board Minute Book, Burgh No.3, pp.55-6, 12 March 1883.
- <sup>45</sup> Boyd, *Education in Ayrshire*, p.186.
- <sup>46</sup> E.g. SLB, p.109, 2-19 May 1887.
- <sup>47</sup> See entries in SLB: p.53, 21 Mar 1882; p.77, 28 Mar 1884; p.108, 11 Feb 1884; p.111, 26 Sept 1887; p.126, 26 May 1889; p.134,14 Mar 1890.
- <sup>48</sup> Boyd, the autobiography.
- <sup>49</sup> SLB, p.126, 26 May 1889.
- <sup>50</sup> Boyd, the autobiography, 43.
- <sup>51</sup> SLB, p.74, 17 December 1883.
- <sup>52</sup> SLB, p.81, 26 August 1884.
- <sup>53</sup> SLB, pp.157-63, 13 Jan 1893.
- <sup>54</sup> SLB, p.163, 16 Jan 1893.
- <sup>55</sup> For this period in the history of Kilmarnock Academy, see Neil Dickson, 'A most interesting stage in its development': Kilmarnock Academy in the Nineteenth Century', in id. (ed.) *Global Citizens, Local Roots: Lord Boyd Orr, Sir Alexander Fleming, and Kilmarnock Academy*, Ayrshire Monograph No.40 (Ayr, 2015), 12-38
- <sup>56</sup> SLB, p.237, 23 October 1899
- <sup>57</sup> SLB, p.2, 4 October 1876; p.293, 15 December 1904.
- <sup>58</sup> 'Retiral', p.5.
- <sup>59</sup> 1899 Marriages in the District of Kelvin in the Burgh of Glasgow, p.320, entry 639, Dickie Hugh – McConnell, Marion F, Statutory Marriages 644/09 0639.
- <sup>60</sup> Addison, *Graduates of the University of Glasgow*; 'Dr James Austin Dickie', *The British Medical Journal*, 31 Dec. 1927, 1249ii.
- <sup>61</sup> Kilmarnock Academy, Duces Literarum display board; SLB, p. 66, 23 April 1883.
- <sup>62</sup> Kilmarnock Academy, Duces Literarum display board; Duces Mathematicae display board.

- <sup>63</sup> Ayrshire Archives, CO3/10/2/130, Kilmarnock Burgh School Board Minute Book, Burgh No.3, p.31; the Ballochmyle bursary was established by Sir Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle who had contributed an annual sum of £50 for bursaries, and after the opening of the new school board building for Kilmarnock Academy in North Hamilton St had left £1000 to continue in perpetuity: Archibald M'Kay, *The History of Kilmarnock*, 5th edn (revised William Findlay) (Kilmarnock: "Standard" Printing Works, 1909), 165.
- <sup>64</sup> Donnelly, *Kilmarnock Academy*, 22–3.
- <sup>65</sup> 'History of Nonsuch High School for Girls' at <<http://www.nonsuchschool.org/34/history-of-nonsuch-high-school-for-girls>>, accessed 31 Jan. 2015. 'Francis Frith: Cheam, Nonsuch County School For Girls 1938', at <[http://www.francisfrith.com/uk/cheam/cheam-nonsuch-county-school-for-girls-1938\\_88280](http://www.francisfrith.com/uk/cheam/cheam-nonsuch-county-school-for-girls-1938_88280)>, accessed 31 Jan. 2015.
- <sup>66</sup> See the annual trip to London, where the SED was then based, recorded in SLB, *passim*, esp. p.154, 10 June 1892; and Armstrong.
- <sup>67</sup> Lawrence James, *The Middle Class: A History* (London, 2006), 254–5.
- <sup>68</sup> 'Our History', <<http://www.eis.org.uk/public.asp?id=206>>, accessed 21 Nov. 2013.
- <sup>69</sup> Hugh Dickie, quoted in, 'Retiral', 5.
- <sup>70</sup> SLB, p.142, 24 Apr. 1891; *Roll of Graduates*; 'Retiral'.
- <sup>71</sup> 'Death'.
- <sup>72</sup> Dickson, "A most interesting stage", 34.
- <sup>73</sup> 'Adamson, Janet Laurel (Jennie)', in Elizabeth Ewan et al. (eds), *The Biographical Dictionary of Scottish Women* (Edinburgh, 2006), 51i–6i.
- <sup>74</sup> Ailsa Tanner, *My Parents: Eleanor Allen Moore and Robert Cecil Robertson* (Helensburgh: Springbank Press, 1997).
- <sup>75</sup> Donnelly, *Kilmarnock Academy*, 29.
- <sup>76</sup> Retiral.
- <sup>77</sup> James Barr, quoted in 'Death'.
- <sup>78</sup> G. W. D., quoted in 'Death'.
- <sup>79</sup> Hugh Dickie, quoted in, 'Retiral', 5.

- <sup>80</sup> James, *Middle Class*, 234-5.
- <sup>81</sup> Quoted in Boyd, the autobiography, 46.
- <sup>82</sup> Boyd, the autobiography, 49.
- <sup>83</sup> 'Papers of William Boyd, 1874-1962',  
<<http://cheshire.cent.gla.ac.uk/cad/search?operation=full&rsid=1891&firstrec=1&numreq=20&hitposition=1&highlight=1>> accessed 16 September 2011.
- <sup>84</sup> Boyd, the autobiography, 46.
- <sup>85</sup> Samuel Smiles, *Self-Help; with Illustrations of Character and Conduct* (1859), 211.
- <sup>86</sup> Hugh Dickie, quoted in, 'Retiral', 5.
- <sup>87</sup> Boyd, the autobiography, 46.
- <sup>88</sup> Hugh Dickie, quoted in, 'Retiral', 5.
- <sup>89</sup> RDA[nderson], 'Universities. 2.1720-1960', in Michael Lynch (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to Scottish History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 613i.
- <sup>90</sup> Cf. Nicholas Morgan and Richard Trainor, 'The Dominant Classes' in W. Hamish Fraser and R. J. Morris (eds), *People and Society in Scotland Volume II, 1830-1914* (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1990), 103-37, spec. 121.
- <sup>91</sup> Sir William Muir, quoted in 'Freedom of the Burgh to Sir William Muir', *Supplement to the Kilmarnock Standard*, 11 Dec. 1886.
- <sup>92</sup> Smiles, *Self-Help*, 65.
- <sup>93</sup> Cf. the final clause in the passage quoted above at n.5.
- <sup>94</sup> Death; 1910 Deaths in the parish of Girvan in the County of Ayr, p.11, entry 33, Hugh Dickie.



## Local Societies

Apologies if your society does not appear here. We were very late in sending the information to print.

### Cumnock History Group

DATE	EVENT / SPEAKER	All meetings start at 7pm in the Ceremony Suite of Rothesay House in Greenholm Rd, Cumnock, unless otherwise stated
Thursday 21st April 2016	AGM	
Thursday 19th May	Dane Love on Ayrshire Covenanters. We welcome the return of Dane, a local historian and author.	
Thursday 16th June	Ian McMurdo presents his new book - Knockshinnoch: The Greatest Mines Rescue in History. A gripping minute-by-minute account of the Knockshinnoch colliery disaster of 7 September 1950. 116 miners were rescued after having endured three days stuck underground.	
July & August	CHG Summer Break – no meeting	

Thursday 15th September	Donald L Reid – presents his best-selling book The Last Miners of Ayrshire's Doon Valley	
Thursday 20th October	Dr James A Begg - an illustrated talk on the family research that led to his Scots historical novel The Man's the Gowd - on the hard lives and struggles to survive of the common folk of upland Ayrshire over 300 years from the Covenanters to the start of the 20th Century.	
Thursday 17th November	Dr Fred Freeman – the songs of Robert Burns. Fred is professor of Scottish Music at the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow. There will be musical accompaniment.	
Thursday 15th December	Christmas Social	Venue to be arranged

Website of Cumnock History group

<http://www.cumnockhistorygroup.org>

## **Largs and North Ayrshire Family History Society**

12 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Barbara Graham on Edith Cavell	Largs Library Community Rooms at 7.30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2016	AGM please note earlier date	Largs Library Community Rooms at 7.30pm

Workshop 28<sup>th</sup> April 2-4pm Largs Library Community Rooms  
Find Your Ain Folks

## **Cumbrae Historical Society**

18 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Tom Barclay on Ayrshire's Great War an over view and AGM	Venue Newton Lounge at 7pm
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## **East Ayrshire Family History Society**

14 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Barbara Graham on Flora MacDonald	
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Annual General Meeting	

## Stewarton and District Historical Society Website

4 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Mrs Wendy Sandiford on Following the Drum - the Life of Military Wives and Families from Feudal Times Onwards	
8 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Dr Mark Nixon on 1884 Reform Protests in Ayrshire – the largest political demonstrations in British history	

[www.stewarton.org](http://www.stewarton.org)

## AANHS Publications

Publications of the Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society (AANHS) are available from Sheena Andrew, Secretary, 17 Bellrock Avenue, Prestwick KA9 1SO. Further information about the AANHS and its publications will be found on the society's website: [www.aanhs.org.uk](http://www.aanhs.org.uk)

39 The Church Buildings of Ayrshire (Hume) 94 pages	£7.50
38 Excavations in Ayr 1984-1987 (Perry), 140 pages (A4)	£9.99
37 Historic Troon and its surroundings, 40 pages	£3.00
36 Burns & the Sugar Plantocracy of Ayrshire (Graham) 124 pages	£6.00
35 The Masters of Ballantrae (Hunter) 30 pages	£4.00
33 Dr John Taylor, Chartist: Ayrshire Revolutionary (Fraser) 112 pages	£4.00
31 Tattie Howkers: Irish Potato Workers in Ayrshire (Holmes) 192 pages	£4.50
30 The Early Transatlantic Trade of Ayr 1640-1730 (Barclay & Graham) 104 pp.	£4.50
28 Historic Prestwick and its surroundings, 64 pages	£2.50
24 Historic Alloway, Village and Countryside: A Guide for Visitors	£2.00
20 Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors, 2nd ed.	£2.50
15 The Port of Ayr 1727-1780 (Graham)	£2.00
13 Tolls and Tacksman (McClure)	£1.50
11 Robert Adam in Ayrshire (Sanderson, revised 2010)	£4.00
Antiquities of Ayrshire (Grose, ed. Strawhorn revised 2010)	£4.00
Armstrong's Maps of Ayrshire (1775: reprint, 6 sheets)	£12.00