

Contributions for the Autumn 2017 edition of Ayrshire Notes, including information about the activities of member societies should be sent before the end of September to the editor, Jane Jamieson email: jfjamieson31@yahoo.co.uk postal address: 247 Guardwell Crescent, Edinburgh EH17 7SL

AYRSHIRE NOTES

is published in Ayr by

the AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

in association with

AYRSHIRE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

and

KILMARNOCK & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP

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Ayr Burgh and the Treaty of Union, 1707

by James Brown

As the United Kingdom prepares to end its membership of the European Union and the Scottish Government considers a second referendum on leaving the UK, it is interesting to peek inside Ayrshire's archives for hints of attitudes to the Treaty of Union in 1707. Ayr's population then was possibly between 2-2,500. The 1691 Hearth Tax records for the burgh show 629 heads of households.¹ Some dwellings would have been the town houses of country heritors and may have been infrequently inhabited while others lay empty or were in a dilapidated state. However, the period immediately before was the notorious 'Killing Time' when Covenanters, especially in southwest Scotland, were persecuted, killed or transported to slave colonies in the West Indies. The years 1695 to 1702 were known as the 'Seven ill years' when crop failures across Scotland caused considerable hardship. A list of the adult inhabitants of Ayr between the ages of 16 and 60, taken in August, 1714, contains 496 names. By June 1717 this had dropped to 405.² The Hearth Tax lists of 629 'heads of households' differs from the 1714 and 1717 lists, of 496 and 406 names respectively, in that the latter do not make this distinction, but instead record all adults and indicate a significant decline in the number of occupied houses. A census taken in 1755 set the figure for all inhabitants of Ayr parish at 2,964 with just under 600 listed as 'fighting men'.³ Assuming that, in 1707, there were 400 occupied homes each with an average of say, five occupants, then a figure of 2,000 seems a fair estimate.

Darien: hope turning to despair

Scotland's parliamentary union with England in 1707 was greatly influenced by the failure of the colony of Darien in Panama. *The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies* was constituted by an Act of Parliament on 26th June, 1695 and almost as soon as the Books for subscription were opened it attracted investment from all classes and all parts of Scotland. The lowest subscription was set at £100 Sterling. Ayrshire's 87 subscribers invested just under £20,000, equivalent to nearly £2 million today. The full list of Ayrshire subscribers can be found in *Cunninghame Topographised*, published in 1876.⁴ It included 21 Ayr merchants, each investing £100. Others in the town contributing £100 were Provost Robert Moor⁵, Patrick Liston, minister,

1 Urquhart, R.H.J. & Close, R., eds. (1998) *The Hearth Tax for Ayrshire, 1691*, pp 26-33, Ayr: Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies

2 Ayrshire Archives B6/8/1 *Minute Book of Register of Deeds 1662-1699* includes *List of the inhabitants of Ayr above the age of 16 years*

3 Kyd, James Gray, ed. (1952) *Scottish population Statistics including Webster's Analysis of Population 1755*, p.26, Edinburgh: Scottish History Society. Webster conducted one of Europe's earliest censuses

4 Dobie, John S., ed. (1876) *Cunninghame Topographised* by Timothy Pont, A.M., pp 150,151, Glasgow: John Tweed

5 The name is variously spelt Moor, Moore, Mure and Muire. The family seats were Brockloch and Blairstoun, also

and James Stevensone, *chirurgion and apothecarie*. David Kennedy of Kirkmichael also invested £100 but was slow to make his payments. Gavin Plummer, principal cashier for the company had to take legal action to get Kirkmichael to stump up his first quarter payment plus penalty money for being so late.⁶ The Burgh's subscription was £200 while Irvine raised £100. A number of the merchants can be found in the Ayr Burgh Minutes as councillors around that period⁷.

For relatives of some of those who died in Darien, their distress lingered into the second decade of the 18th century as shown by the *Index to the receipts for payment of arrears due to seamen on Company of Scotland ships, 1698-1711*. John Rankin of Ayr, sailor on the *Rising Sun*, is listed⁸. His Testament Dative, of 15th July, 1708, shows he was due wages of £6 6s. 6d. Sterling (£75 18s. Scots) which became due to his nearest in kin, his brother german, Joseph Rankin, a miller in Ayr. Acting as cautioner for the sum was Alexander Maxwell, merchant in Ayr and probably the Dean of Guild at the time⁹.

John Rankin
15 July 1708

of ffooth became can't as ane out boat
The Testament Dative and Inventory of the debts and summs of money
postamting and addeled to myse John Rankin forles on board the
Ship the *Rising Sun* belonging to the Company of Scotland trading
to Africa and the Indies the time of his decease who deceased at board
in the month of July 16 years forthwithly made and given up
Be Joseph Rankin miller in Ayr his brother german to the said
Debit and only £6 6s 6d Dative Delivered as nearest in kin to him by
Debit of the Company as of the date the 15th
Day of June 1708 and by years and ffool at more length properly
In the first their was addeled and restand among the said John

Detail of the Testament dative of John Rankin, sailor from Ayr
Reproduced by permission of the National records of Scotland

The *Rising Sun*, commander James Gibson of Glasgow, a 350-ton, Amsterdam-built vessel, was lost with all hands in a hurricane off Carolina on 3rd September, 1700¹⁰, although with disease rife in Darien, John Rankin may have died before this fateful voyage. Nine of Ayrshire's landed gentry invested £1,000 each and it is believed that their losses, as elsewhere in Scotland, had a powerful influence on how they would vote on the Treaty of Union in 1707. One interpretation of the monies from London, known as The Equivalent, distributed by the Earl of Glasgow, was compensation to them for their Darien losses (Provost John Moor received £100), while another view, as expressed

known as Middle Auchendrane

6 Ayrshire Archives ATD42/4/111 Kirkmichael papers

7 Ayrshire Archives B6/18/8 Ayr Burgh Council Minutes (1700-1710)

8 Compiled by Group Archives, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group, 2010

9 Register of Testaments, Edinburgh Commissariat CC8/8/84 National Records of Scotland

10 Barclay, T. & Graham, E. J. (2005) *The Early Transatlantic Trade of Ayr 1640-1730*, pp 53,54, Ayrshire Monographs 30, Ayr: Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society

in the song attributed to Robert Burns, *Sic a Parcel o Rogues in a Nation*, is that they were simply bribes.

General Convention of Burghs

In October, 1706, Samuel McClellan, summonsed the Burghs to send a commissioner to a Convention to be held in Edinburgh on 29th October to consider an address by the Burghs to Parliament opposing the Treaty of Union. The document stated:

‘The last General Convention, by their Act dated the Eighth Day of July last, having Recommended to me to Call a General Convention of the Royal Burrows, in case the great Concern of the Union with England, should happen to be laid before, and considered by the Parliament. And now seing, That the Articles of Treaty have not only been laid before the current Parliament, but that likeways that this Day the Consideration thereof has been entered into, Therefore, In pursuance of the trust Reposed in me, I thought myself Obliged to Call a General Convention at this Juncture; And therefore shall intreat, That you will send up your Commissioner here against the Twenty Ninth of this instant October, that being the Day of the Conventions Meeting, and that fully instructed in Relation with the foresaid Union with England, That so the Royal Burrows may have occasion to Deliberat together upon such Measures as shall be, esteemed proper for them to take in Relation to their Trade and other Concerns.’¹¹

While the great national issue of the day needed attention, domestic matters were not ignored. Ayr’s commissioner, Provost John Moor, submitted a petition on 6th July, 1706, to the committee on unfree trade seeking financial help: ‘... representing the ruinous condition of ther tolbuith and that the same would certainly fall to the ground befor the nixt conventione if no remedy be fallen upon to prevent the same.’¹²

On 20th May, 1707, the Council were informed by the Provost that £600 Scots was promised but the Convention of Burghs noted that favouring one burgh placed a burden on the others so it is unsurprising to learn that the repair work would have to be completed before funds were advanced. This might indicate a distrust of Provost Moor which, with the passage of time, would be vindicated in respect of the Union. The 11th June Council meeting authorised the *thesaurer*¹³, John Hunter, to borrow 500 merks to ensure vital work was not delayed¹⁴.

Provost John Moor regularly attended Burgh Conventions on behalf of Ayr and, on 24th October, he was again appointed (in his absence) by the magistrates and councillors to be the town’s

¹¹ Ayrshire Archives B6/36/1 Ayr Burgh Council & Police papers (1609 – 1706) Bundle 1706

¹² *Extracts from the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland 1677-1711* Edinburgh: Wm. Paterson (1880) p. 392

¹³ Treasurer

¹⁴ Ayrshire Archives B6/18/8 Ayr Burgh Council Minutes (1700-1710) 20 May & 11 June, 1707

commissioner¹⁵. Five of the eleven names on the sederunt that day had been investors in the Darien scheme - brothers Samuel and Robert Moor, John Ballantine, Baillie Mungo Campbell and Thomas McJorow¹⁶.

The Provost's name is listed along with representatives from 44 other burghs, including George Munroe from Irvine, at the Edinburgh Convention on 29th October¹⁷. The business transacted that day elected Sir Samuel McClellan, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, as *preses*¹⁸, a committee was appointed to consider the commissions and members, who had not previously qualified, took the oath and subscribed the assurance. After a break of six days the Convention approved the whole commissions and remitted to a committee 'of the wholl house' for the consideration of a draft of an address from the Royal Burghs, to Parliament, in relation to the Treaty of Union. This was to be presented by Lieutenant-colonel Ærskine, commissioner for Stirling. A day later, on 5th November, the committee's report was debated upon and unanimously agreed to¹⁹.



Pre-Union Parliament Hall, Edinburgh which now forms part of the Court of Session

Meanwhile, on 3rd November, Parliament's Minutes noted an address from Ayr that may have attracted 1,000 signatures - nearly half the town's population:

'Then the following addresses were given in and read, namely: address of the merchants, deacons,

¹⁵ Ayrshire Archives B6/18/8 Ayr Burgh Council Minutes (1700-1710)

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ *Extracts from the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland 1677-1711* Edinburgh: Wm. Paterson (1880) p. 399

¹⁸ Chairman, spokesman

¹⁹ For the text of the address, see *Extracts from the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland 1677-1711* Edinburgh: Wm. Paterson (1880) pp 400, 401

trades and other inhabitants of the burgh of Ayr, subscribers of the same ...²⁰

The previous day, Parliament's Register of procedure noted more opposition to the Union:

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'Then the following addresses were presented, namely - address of barons, freeholders and others within the shire of Stirling, subscribers of the same; address of the barons, freeholders and others within the shire of Dunbarton, subscribers of the same; address of the magistrates, town council, deacons of crafts and burgesses within the burgh of Linlithgow, subscribers of the same; address of the heritors and other inhabitants of the town and parish of Dunkeld, *alias* Caledonia, subscribers of the same, and an address of the town and parish of Dysart, subscribers of the same, all against an incorporating union with England, and were read.'²¹

Back in Ayr, on 23rd November, the Council appointed a committee of Robert Moor, Samuel Moor, Hugh McHutcheon and John Ballantine to draw up an address to present to Parliament in respect of '*the Union now in agitation w[i]t[h] England*' and to report back on Tuesday, 26th November. This was done and the Council unanimously approved it for John Moor to present to Parliament²², which he did on Saturday, 30th November, as recorded in the Parliament's Minutes:

'Address of the magistrates and town council of the burgh of Ayr for such rectifications of the articles of union and such eases of duties and public taxes as are most agreeable to the circumstances of this nation, given in and read.'²³

It was not just the burghs that were expressing opposition to the Union. In early November, the synod of Glasgow and Ayr considered a motion to encourage its presbyteries to address against the treaty and advised their parishioners to hold,

'... frequent rendezvous and exercises of the fencible men through all the Burghs and paroches of this country that in case their service and assistance shall be required for the defence and maintenance of the liberties and rights of the church and Nation they may be in all suitable readiness to answer the call.'²⁴

A hint of smuggling and the downfall of Provost Moor

In the end Provost John Moor failed to vote according to the Council's instructions²⁵. The parliamentary Union of Scotland and England came about in April, 1707 and a month later in an act of nepotism, Ninian Ballantine, factor to the Earl of Glasgow, was appointed Town Clerk of Ayr.

20 <http://www.rps.ac.uk/trans/1706/10/39> Parliamentary Minutes, 3 Dec., 1707 Accessed 15 August, 2014

21 <http://www.rps.ac.uk/trans/1706/10/38> Parliamentary Register, procedure, 4 November, 1706 Accessed 15 August, 2014

22 Ayrshire Archives B6/18/8 Ayr Burgh Council Minutes (1700-1710)

23 <http://www.rps.ac.uk/trans/1706/10/38> Parliamentary Minutes, 30th November, 1706 Accessed 15 August, 2014

24 Bowie, K. (2008) *Popular resistance and the ratification of the Anglo-Scottish treaty of union*, p. 9 https://www.academia.edu/7139971/Popular_Resistance_and_the_Ratification_of_the_Anglo-Scottish_Treaty_of_Union Accessed 14 July, 2014

25 <http://www.rps.ac.uk/trans/1706/10/42> Parliament Minutes, 7th December Accessed 15 August, 2014

But Provost Moor, Collector of Customs for Ayr, may have felt ill-served for his support of the Union when his sinecure ended only months into the new political settlement:

'Reasons given by the Comrs of Customs in Scotland why Mr Moor, the Provost of Ayre, was not continued collector of Ayre. Dated 30 Sept. 1707. Minuted:—"Send ye D. of Argyll]es paper to Comrs Cust. in Scotl'd."²⁶

In that record the reasons given state Moor and his children monopolised trade in Ayr by having control of the Customs which discouraged other merchants who complained loudly. His advanced age was another problem as he was considered unfit to learn the new (English) version of accounting.

Contrary to the fawning of the local 19th century historian, James Paterson, who described Moor as seemingly '*a person of high credit and reputation, not only in the management of his own affairs, but those of the burgh*', the English noted '*his character in the countrey is very despicable*'.

The fourth accusation against Moor was that he never made any reports to the Customs Board. They were confirmed in their low opinion of him by an incident concerning a vessel called the *John* of Ayr with a cargo of timber and brandy from Bergen, Norway. When it landed at Stranraer, the Master, on learning that Provost Moor was no longer the Collector of Customs, immediately rode to Ayr to consult with his owners. In his absence the vessel was searched and the brandy seized. Further proof of Moor's incapacity was found in his reluctant report to the Customs Board in London, which was, by their account, '*in a very confus'd form*' and had only been sent to them when they demanded it. Moor died in late 1709 or early 1710, having dominated Ayr's civic and commercial life for nearly sixty years and finally being despised by both his mercantile associates and new political masters²⁷.

Between 1703 and 1706 the average size of the Scots parliament was 226 consisting of, on average, 67 nobles, 80 shires members, 67 constituent burghs and the remainder being officers of state. After the general election of 1689 only one more was held, in 1702, before the Treaty and Act of Union²⁸. Compared to the very limited electorate in 1707, support for Scottish independence in 2014 was an average of 54% of those who voted in the three Ayrshire council areas with 46% opposed. In the vote to leave or remain in the European Union those same three areas voted strongly to remain - 103,550 to 78,293. In both referenda, trade with England and the continent featured strongly, just as it concerned the merchants of Ayr in the early 18th century.

²⁶ Volume 102: May 1-September 30, 1707', *Calendar of Treasury Papers, Volume 3: 1702-1707* (1874), pp 504-538

²⁷ Paterson, James (1863) *History of the Counties of Ayr & Wigton*, vol 2 Carrick gives an account of the Moor family

²⁸ <http://scotparlhistory.stir.ac.uk/howitworked.html> Accessed 16 January, 2017

Silver Darlings for the Kiwis. Ballantrae and the development of New Zealand's Fisheries in the late Nineteenth Century.

By Bob Mason

In the spring of 1886 the Ayrshire coast became the setting for the British end of an experiment to introduce the north Atlantic herring [*Clupea harengus*] to the Pacific. Although the Pacific has its own species of herring, these are restricted to the north of the ocean. The scheme was part of a wider one to introduce food fish to New Zealand, with whitefish, salmon, lobster and crab also being planned introductions. Previous attempts to import salmon had met with some success.

In 1886 New Zealand was, comparatively speaking, a new colony having been grabbed from under the noses of the French in 1840. Economic development was therefore a high priority. Under its Prime Minister Sir Julius Vogel, New Zealand had embarked on expansionist economic policies in the 1870s. Vogel resigned in 1876 but had returned to government in 1884 as colonial treasurer. In August 1885 Vogel wrote to Sir Dillon Bell, New Zealand's Agent General in Britain requesting him to forward from time to time shipments of various fish ova in an inexpensive manner.²⁹ Bell was initially less than enthusiastic. He appears to have been active in his own right in initiating schemes for the introduction of fish species to New Zealand between 1883 and 1884. Lack of communication with New Zealand on his part appears to have resulted in an unfortunate misunderstanding and an end to these proceedings³⁰. Vogel had very definite ideas about the colony's economic development but does not seem to have realized how complex introducing live herrings to New Zealand was going to be.

From the outset of the project one expert had been identified as being useful to ensure some chance of success. Vogel in his first letter to Bell about the project suggested calling on the services of a professor who was a herring specialist but 'whose name he had forgotten for the present'. This specialist was Professor Cosser Ewart from the University of Edinburgh. Ewart had read a paper to the Royal Society in 1884 on the natural and artificial fertilisation of sea herring eggs. The paper had dealt with his work on the Ballantrae spawning banks which involved dredging for specimens of herring ova. In addition a number of live herring were captured and some of the ripest males and females herrings had been placed in a large wooden tank in which stones and seaweed had been placed. This tank was taken to Rothesay where the spawning behaviour was observed. Some of the egg covered stones which had been retrieved from the seabed were taken to Edinburgh where they

²⁹ Correspondence relating to the Introduction of Fish Ova. Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives 1886, Session 1. [hereafter AtoJs] p1. This document is available online at <https://atojs.natlib.govt.nz>

³⁰ AtoJs p.2. See also Note 4

hatched eight days after their removal from the spawning ground.³¹ By 1886 Ewart was recognised as one of the leading experts on herring spawning.

To gain an insight into the reasons the project went the way it did, it is worth quoting from a letter dated 18th November 1885 in which Bell reported back on his activities. After dealing with salmon, lobster and crabs he reported on his discussions with Cosser Ewart.

I am in communication with Professor Cosser Ewart, who has already given me very valuable information, and with whom I am to confer more fully when he comes to London. He and Sir James Maitland are both on the Scientific Committee of the Fishery Board for Scotland, and have more than once consulted together about getting out the herring. Mr. Ewart's experiments have led him to the following conclusions : (1.) The west coast herring is the most suitable for New Zealand waters. (2.) The best place to obtain ova is at the Ballantrae spawning bank, off the Ayrshire coast. (3.) The best time of year for securing an abundant supply is February. (4.) The ova should be sent out in glass hatching-jars, like those used for shad eggs in America. (5.) The hatching can be delayed until the fortieth day after impregnation, and the fry will survive for about eight days after hatching without food. This of course leaves very little margin of time where the voyage takes from forty-two to forty-five days. Mr. Ewart thinks that a preliminary experiment might be made next February, but that before anything is done complete arrangements ought to be made in the colony for the reception of the ova or fry, and that it will at any rate be necessary to have a small closed piece of water where they may be introduced; or, better still, some floating-cars [open wooden crates] in a quiet creek where the fry would get no nourishment. By keeping some of them under observation in this way it would be possible to learn the probable fate of those turned into the open sea, while to turn them all into the sea on their arrival would be most unsatisfactory. I have told him that I think there is already good provision at the hatcheries in New Zealand for what he advises; but perhaps you will call the attention of the acclimatization societies to the matter.

Only partial success in handling herring ova seems to have been yet attained; but, so far, I am told that spawning on stones and dropping the ova into the sea has had the most result. Mr. Ewart intends making some experiments to determine the best method for delaying the hatching of herring ova on board ship ; but there are great difficulties, and I certainly was surprised to see, from Mr. Farr's report, that he himself anticipated none.³²

In view of later criticism of the project as being ill-conceived it is worth noting how aware of the potential problems both men were.³³ It also appears that the project was intended as an experiment to determine whether it was possible not only to transport ova, but also to see whether North Atlantic herrings would survive in their new habitat. The immediate creation of a New Zealand herring fishery does not seem to have been the intention of the 1886 project, or at least that was the

31 This paper appeared in 'Nature' on 3rd April 1884 and was reprinted in the Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission 30th July 1884. This copy is available online at <http://fisherybulletin.nmfs.noaa.gov/4-1/ewart.pdf>. [accessed 3rd January 2017]

32 Farr was the person sent home by the acclimatisation societies in New Zealand who arrived after Bell had been engaged in his own project to introduce food fish for some time. Bell appears to have disapproved of Farr's activities and lack of gratitude for the help he received from British officials and experts. See AtoJs p.2

33 See for example G. M. Thompson. *The Naturalization of Animals and Plants in New Zealand*. Cambridge 1922 p.186

case in the early days. Ewart appears to have been encouraged by the success of the scheme in the United States to introduce American shad into the Pacific from their home waters on North America's Atlantic coastline.³⁴ American shad were another member of the herring family. In New Zealand itself there appears to have been some scepticism about the project with acclimatisation societies expressing the opinion that the attempt was not worthwhile.³⁵

Four stages in the process of transferring live herring ova from Ballantrae to New Zealand were identified. Firstly eggs and sperm had to be collected from live herring and the eggs fertilised. Secondly the fertilised eggs had to be transported by rail to a port where they could be collected by the outgoing steamer. Thirdly the fertilised eggs had to be kept alive on the journey. Fourthly the newly emerging fry would have to be transferred on arrival to a suitable location.

For the transportation of the ova glass plates and jars were to be used. Each jar was fitted with two pipes, one of which allowed the water to enter and the second for it to be removed, thus ensuring a constant flow of water passed through the jar.³⁶ It is unclear how the plates were to be used. For the railway journey each jar was placed in a tub of ice to chill the water and retard the hatching. The problem of maintaining the viability of the fertilised eggs on the long journey to New Zealand was less easy to solve. Essentially the task was to maintain a constant flow of sea water through the containers at a temperature no higher than 34° Fahrenheit. Bell admitted to Vogel that the problem of providing constant current of cold seawater was so formidable that he almost gave up the attempt. Instead another technical expert was brought in. Thomas Johnson had acquired valuable experience of acclimatising salmon in Tasmania and New Zealand and he was asked by Bell for his advice on the best way of transporting the ova. Although able to draw up a draft plan Johnson needed more information. It soon became apparent that exchanging letters was a cumbersome and unreliable method. Therefore Johnson was dispatched to Edinburgh where he met Ewart and discovered the true extent of the difficulties. To maintain a constant supply of 120 gallons of cold seawater per hour at 34 degrees Fahrenheit Johnson proposed using two steam donkey engines to pump the water. One of these was to pump the water in, while the second either recycled the water or pumped it overboard. The seawater was to be obtained from the sea water supply of the ship's refrigerating engine. A zig-zag arrangement of lead pipes in the cold-air delivery trunk in the provision chamber was intended to maintain the sea water temperature at the correct level. Once this design had been approved work commenced on constructing it on board the New Zealand Shipping Company's ship '*Ruapehu*'.³⁷

As the experiment was so challenging, Ewart stressed the need for expert supervision during the voyage and on the ship's arrival. For the voyage he proposed sending out Dr. Lamont who was well-qualified, having worked in Ewart's laboratory on fishery work and who was one of Ewart's

34 AtoJs p.18

35 AtoJs p.6

36 AtoJs p 6

37 AtoJs pp19-20

assistants at the Fishery Board of Scotland. Lamont was also to carry out a survey of potential locations where future shipments could be deposited. However, on reflection this was considered too large a step and instead one of Ewart's laboratory assistants, Jamieson, was booked on the voyage.³⁸

As we have already seen Ewart was concerned with the treatment of the fry on their arrival in New Zealand. He recommended that Thomas Parker, Professor of Zoology at the University of Otago in Dunedin be asked to meet the arrival. The fry or ova were to be removed from the ship still in their jars and boxes and then transferred to a specially made wooden box similar to those used in British harbours to keep fish alive. Precise dimensions and construction details were provided to the New Zealand government so that these would be ready. Cheesecloth was given to the captain of the ship as this was needed for the box. Precise instructions were also provided detailing the procedures to be followed with the glass plates and jars.³⁹

In early March 1886 work began. Ewart himself assisted at the proceedings. *HMS Jackal*, the gunboat usually used for fishery protection duties in the district, was provided for the project's benefit. Leaving Loch Ryan at 6 a.m. with Ewart and Wilson the local board's fisheries officer on board and guided by a flock of gannets the *Jackal* headed for the northern edge of the Ballantrae banks where several fishing boats were found at work. Keeping its distance so as not to disturb the fish, *Jackal* dispatched a rowing boat to the fishing boats. A number of live herrings were transferred to the *Jackal* over the next hour or so from these fishing boats. The process of collecting ova and melt from the herrings seems to have been a delicate one, conducted with great care. Females were dealt with first, being gently pressed to obtain eggs. These eggs were deposited either in the glass jars or on the sheets. To ensure the eggs were evenly distributed in the jars these were rotated during the process. The eggs attached themselves firmly to the glass. Once the eggs had been obtained it was the turn of the males. It appears that the eggs were fertilised within 15 minutes. The first batch of seawater in the containers was replaced by fresh seawater after any herring scales had been removed from the inside of the jars.⁴⁰ Twenty four plates and four jars containing between two and three million ova were dispatched to Plymouth by the night train. Bell telegraphed the New Zealand government about the success of the procedure on the 18th of March. The next day he had to send another telegram to inform them that the experiment had failed.⁴¹

One of the decisions which had to be made was what to do with the apparatus on the *Ruapehu*. Bell consulted Johnson who recommended that in view of the expense which had already been incurred it should remain intact, with the exception of any elements which might interfere with the ship's

38 AtoJs p21

39 AtoJs p.19

40 Scotsman 13th March 1886 reproduced in AtoJs p.22

41 AtoJs p.13 & p.19

return voyage to England. A few weeks later Bell had a long discussion with Ewart about what had gone wrong. Both agreed it should have succeeded and it was worth trying again. Unfortunately by the time Johnson's recommendation reached New Zealand the shipping company, having heard nothing from any of those involved, had dismantled all of the apparatus.⁴²

As is often the way with failed projects there is an 'expert' who was not consulted and who could have ensured success. In this case it was a fishmonger from Edinburgh, John Anderson. On 17 March he wrote to the Scotsman warning of the scheme's likely failure as he had tried a similar thing some years before. Whether his idea which involved freezing the ova and keeping them on ice before defrosting them in New Zealand in seawater would have worked any better is a matter for debate, despite Anderson's claims that he had done it and achieved success.⁴³

It appears that the cause of the failure lay in the design of the water pumping system. By having the pipes containing the water to be pumped over the ova placed in the refrigeration chamber to be cooled the result was the water froze so none reached the ova. No more experiments of this nature were conducted until 1912 when another attempt was made which also ended in failure.⁴⁴ In his book Thompson condemned the 1886 plan as ill considered because no provision existed for dealing with the herring when they arrived in New Zealand. This appears somewhat harsh. None of those involved saw the project as easy and they were well aware of the difficulties which had to be overcome. Ewart identified the need to ensure that a suitable habitat be found for the immature herrings on their arrival. When this project commenced some success had already been achieved in introduction of non-native fish species to new locations and those involved knew this. Whether the project was desirable for New Zealand's coastal ecosystems is another question. The Victorian habit of non-native species introduction did not always end happily, as our experience of grey squirrels and *Phylloxera* in vines has shown.

42 AtoJs p.21

43 Scotsman 17th March 1886 reproduced in AtoJs pp.21-22

44 Thompson p.186

Planktologist Sheina Macalister Marshall (1896–1977), Scotland's radium works and the Cathedral of The Isles

by Prof Geoff Moore

In his biographical memoir of Sheina¹ Macalister Marshall OBE FRSE FRS (1896–1977), Russell (1978) briefly noted how, after her 1914–1915 session as an undergraduate in zoology, botany and physiology at Glasgow University, Sheina took a year out from her studies to help her uncle by marriage, the Glasgow-born metallurgical chemist, John Stewart MacArthur (1856–1920) in the small factory he established at Balloch on the River Leven, near Loch Lomond to extract radium from pitchblende (uranium ore). Sheina joined the staff of the Scottish Marine Biological Association at Millport's Marine Station in 1922 (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Sheina Marshall and A. P. Orr outside the entrance to the Aquarium at Millport's Marine Station in 1930 (from Moore (2015); original photograph taken by "Krefis")

MACARTHUR'S LOCH LOMOND RADIUM WORKS

Marie (1867–1934) and Pierre Curie (1859–1906) had succeeded in isolating radium in 1898. MacArthur opened his works at Balloch, Dumbarton (figured in West Dunbartonshire Council undated; also Harvie 2016, Figures 11 and 12), some 30 yd south of Lomond Bridge in 1915 on a site where his wife's family owned land and other properties at Dalvair, where a former sawmill was redeveloped as his works (Anonymous 1915; Harvie 2005).² His first radium factory (1911) had been in Halton (Runcorn), Cheshire (Robison 2015) but he returned to Scotland to establish premises at Balloch to gain access to clean water, something his complex extraction process relied upon. From 1911 he concentrated on refining radium on an industrial scale (hitherto it had been confined to the laboratory). The process was highly toxic,³ costly and time-consuming, with materials imported from the USA and Portugal and yielding no more than a grain from ten tons of ore.⁴ Ellam (2016: xv) referred in error to “the *mining* [our italics] of radium at Balloch on the shores of Loch Lomond.” Although pitchblende is known in mainland Scotland (from Marbrue Cove on the Solway Firth), radium was never mined at Balloch.⁵ MacArthur's works made radium for medical uses and luminous paint for instrument dials, though he profited little from the venture (Harvie 1989, 2005).⁴ The factory closed in 1928 soon after MacArthur's death, leaving a legacy of residual radioactivity that remains to this day;⁶ ²²⁶Ra having a half-life of 1602y. Radium produces radiation of much greater intensity than uranium (Harvie 2005). Its hazards were little appreciated at first; the wealthy American socialite Eben McBurney Byers (1880–1932), for instance, dying from radium poisoning in 1932 after drinking huge quantities of a popular elixir, Radithor, over a period of several years (Walker 2000: 4). By the latter part of the twentieth century, though, attitudes towards radiation had changed dramatically. In 1963, waste from the Balloch site² was barged down the Clyde and dumped offshore at the Garroch Head off the Isle of Bute, where Glasgow Corporation used (until December 1998) to dispose of their sewage sludge (Tittley *et al.* 1997).

BIOLOGICAL TRACERS, SHEINA MARSHALL AND MARINE PLANKTON

In introducing the, by then, developing field of radiation ecology, Odum (1959: 459) pointed out: "the greater the energy the greater the potential danger to biological material within the range of the particular type of radiation. On the other hand, energetic isotopes are easier to detect in very small amounts and hence make better "tracers."" The tracer concept had been developed by the Hungarian Nobel laureate,⁷ the inorganic chemist Georg de Hevesy (1885–1966) who, in 1935, began using ³²P in investigating various biological processes (Gest 2005).

In the later twentieth century, radioactive isotopes would be used as tracers for metabolic studies of marine organisms and the transfer of materials through aquatic food chains (Steeman-Nielsen 1952; Conover and Francis 1973). With her long-term collaborator at Millport (Figure 1), the marine chemist Andrew Picken Orr (1898–1962), known to all as 'A. P.', Sheina grasped this new technique, using ¹⁴C as part of their classic studies on the feeding biology of the pelagic copepod *Calanus finmarchicus* (Marshall and Orr 1955). In 1961, they reported the release of ³²P in faecal pellets of *C. finmarchicus* fed radioactive phytoplankton (Marshall and Orr 1961). Sheina's apprenticeship with her uncle would have given her beneficial grounding in handling radioactive materials and, though she was outlived by both her distinguished elder and younger sisters,⁸ she still lived a long life, dying aged 80 on 7 April 1977. John MacArthur died 16 March 1920, aged 68, from apoplexy,⁹ his address at the time being 589 Shields Road, Glasgow.

A FURTHER LOCAL LINK

Sheina Marshall's cousin, the Very Reverend John Stewart MacArthur DD (1893–1970), son of John Stewart MacArthur who had styled himself "Technical chemist" at his son's birth registration had, between 1940 and 1949, held the position of Provost at the Cathedral of The Isles and Collegiate Church of the Holy Spirit at Millport. Graduating from Glasgow University (1915) he proceeded to a doctorate (1919) at Balliol College, Oxford (where he deposited his father's archives).⁴ He had been ordained in 1924 and is remembered locally for his eccentric choice of pet (Figure 2).



Fig. 2 MacArthur

Figure 2. The Very Reverend J. S. Macarthur (1893–1970) with his pet goat “Alexander,” c. 1940 (© Cumbrae College collection, reproduced with permission).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dr Jim Gemmill (Radioactive Substances Manager, Scottish Environment Protection Agency) is thanked for his comments on the current radiological status of the Balloch site.

NOTES

¹ Although she had been christened Jean, she was always known as Sheina; consistently publishing and signing her name as such (see Russell 1978, frontispiece and references therein).

² Sometimes referred to as the Red Fox site, the radium works buildings were demolished in 1963. The site is now a boatyard.

³ Just how toxic was seemingly not known to staff nor, perhaps, to the owner and his clients, though it was suspected as birds *flying over* parts of the factory had the habit of dropping down dead; see 'The Vale of Leven, place names (R) Radium Works – Russell Drive' (URL, accessed 28 January

2017, www.valeofleven.org.uk/scottishplacenames/Rvale_names.html). Harvie (2005: 85) refers to workers being aware of the dangers of acids used in processing the ore and of escaping fumes killing birds which *perched on the roof* [our italics].

⁴ MacArthur collection: John Stewart MacArthur (1856–1920) (URL, accessed 28 January 2017, archives.balliol.ox.ac.uk/Modern%20Papers/MacArthur/macarthur01.asp).

⁵ The South Terras mine in Cornwall was mined for uranium (*inter alia*) between 1873 and 1903 and was one source of radium for Marie Curie's researches (URL, accessed 2 February 2017, www.cornwall-calling.co.uk/mines/st-austell.south-terras.htm). Substantial deposits of uranium were discovered near Stromness in Orkney in the 1970s. For other British sites, see Harvie (2005, Appendix IV).

⁶ Although contamination remains buried there it poses no current risk; the ground, though, should not be disturbed without specialist advice (Dr Jim Gemmill, personal communication to P. G. Moore, 2 February 2017).

⁷ in Chemistry, 1943.

⁸ Margaret Marshall became the Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland while Dorothy, an internationally distinguished amateur archaeologist, became several times President of the Buteshire Naturalists' Society.

⁹ What we would call a stroke.

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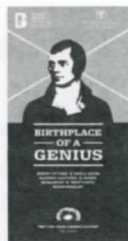
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Burns Cottage: 10 Years of the National Trust

The land to build Burns Cottage was feued from Hamilton of Rozelle by William Burness, the poet's father on 25th June 1756. The plot is described as 7 acres 18 falls of ground bounded on the southeast by the road from Slaphouse to Bridge of Doon and on the southwest by a new road from Alloway along the Sergeant's Burn in the Barony of Alloway. The neighbouring plot was feued at the same time to the Tennant family who set up as the village blacksmiths and continued for many years in the property. The Burness family (William changed the surname from Burness to Burns following his removal from the Montrose area) occupied the cottage which William built with his own hands for 6 short years prior to their removal to Mount Oilphant. It was the place where Robert and some of his siblings were born and always seems to have retained a place in his affections.



Subsequently the cottage passed to the Incorporation of Shoemakers of Ayr who ran it as a pub. The landlord was apparently fond of telling mostly apocryphal stories of the Burns family and the time they spent there. In 1881 the Shoemakers sold the cottage to the Burns Monument Trustees who opened it as a museum and tearoom. There then began a long and successful collaboration with W H Dunlop of Doonside who amassed a remarkable collection relating to Burns and the cottage. He was also owner of the Ayr Advertiser. Dunlop was fairly particular in the details he collected concerning various artefacts and manuscripts. The trustees ran the museum and tearoom until 2007 when the cottage became part of the National Trust for Scotland and was renamed Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. By this time the Burns experience had expanded to include the Tam O'Shanter Experience complete with restaurant, small audio visual theatre and the walk from between the cottage and monument.

Burns Monument was erected in 1822 as a memorial to the poet. It was designed by the architect Thomas Hamilton who had also competed to design the new County Buildings in Ayr in 1816 although that contract was awarded to Robert Wallace. Originally the Monument was set in a spot where it commanded a good view approaching around the bend from the cottage but the later addition of Alloway Parish Church hides it from view when approached from this direction. The monument was paid for by public subscription and the group of trustees who were formed to see it into completion were the same people who formed the Commissioners of Supply and Road Trustees for Ayrshire. These trustees instructed their secretary to write to the parish schoolmaster of every parish to try and collect funds for the monument. This was only partly successful as the time 1818-

1822 coincided with a period of economic depression in Scotland following the end of the Napoleonic Wars. In fact a large part of the money raised came from abroad particularly Scottish military men serving in India and elsewhere.

In 1844 a huge celebration of the poet took place in his native Alloway with a procession which went from Ayr past the cottage to the monument. The Burns Festival on 6 August 1844 attracted over 100,000 participants to Alloway. A banqueting marquee was specially constructed for 1,400 invited guests and a platform was built in front of Burns Monument to seat the guests of honour, including the poet's three surviving sons - Robert Burns, late of Somerset House and the Stamp Office, the eldest son of the poet, Major Burns, the poet's youngest son and Colonel Burns, the poet's second son (The Vindicator, Belfast, 10 Aug 1844)..

In July 1914 there was an attempt to blow up the cottage by two suffragettes who were apprehended by the night watchman as they climbed over an iron fence. They had bombs and fuses. One of the women escaped but the other was apprehended and taken for trial to Ayr Sheriff Court before Sheriff Brown. She gave a false name as Janet Arthur. Her real name was found to be Janet Parker and she was a niece of Lord Kitchener. She was imprisoned in Perth Prison where she was went on hunger strike and was force fed according to the regime of the time. On her release on 16th July 1914 according to the Edinburgh Evening News she was warmly greeted by a small group of supporters in the streets of Perth. An information pack for schools is available online at <http://www.scottisharchivesforschools.org/suffragettes/fannyParkerOrJanetArthur.asp> This has been prepared by the National Records of Scotland.

Fire remained a worry for the cottage owing to the thatched roof and proximity to the main road through Alloway.

The full postal address is -

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum

Murdoch's Loan, Alloway, Ayr KA7 4PQ

Tickets can be bought at Burns Cottage and at the main Museum on Murdoch's Lone. The two sites are connected by a pedestrian walkway called the Poet's Path with carvings relating to Burns and his works.

The museum and cottage are open daily from 10am -5pm but closed from 12.30pm on 24 December 2017, reopening at 10am on 4 January 2018.

The following charges apply (2017)

National Trust for Scotland Member: Free

Adult: £9.00 Concession: £7.00 Family: £22.00 1 Parent: £17.00

Mr Dunlop
24th
Kilwinning,
22nd Aug. 1888.

Dear Sir,

My Wife, a friend & I
left here yesterday morning
to visit the Land of Burns.
We reached the Monument
safely made a few purchases
and after inspecting all the
wonders we proceeded to the
Brig o' Doon & thence to the
Shell Cottage where we also
made purchases. We were
most courteous & received
by the attendant & we enjoyed
the sight very much.
We next visited the old
kirk & the attendant there
was most polite & he & the
old man at the Shell House
were rewarded for their courtesy

Having observed from the
Notices that Tea & Coffee
was to be had at Burns's
Cottage we next drove
there. The attendant here
was a different slouch
& when we were passing him
& after paying 5⁰ each the
Horrocks said to me in
jest "They'll make a lot out
of Burns" to which the attendant
impatiently replied "If you
make us more than I do you're
not making your meat."
We were shown into the
cottage proper but no attempt
was made by anyone to
sell any of those articles
which we supposed were meant
for sale - The shop appeared
to be shut.

We next went for a cup of
Coffee as advertised & all of a
sudden I remembered that the
Horrocks had some luncheon

Letter of complaint from Kilwinning gentleman

It has never been a free museum. Shortly after opening in the 1880s there was a complaint from a gentleman. He had been to the monument and the old kirk and then proceeded to the cottage and tearoom where the party forgot to bring in their sandwiches and he went out to 'the machine' to collect them and was subsequently charged for reentering the museum and teashop. The keeper of the cottage who also ran the teashop was not too impressed either by the fact that they had brought their own lunch rather than buying from the teashop. The gentleman who had come all the way from Kilwinning subsequently complained about having to pay each time he went out to collect his belongings from the machine but the charges were still applied. The machine seems to have been an early car as public transport to Alloway was and still is a bit of a problem.

County Buildings
Apr 3rd May 1881

Sir,

I have the pleasure
of informing you that the
the Trustees have appointed
you and your wife to the
vacant situation of Keepers
of Burno Cottage near Ayr-
upon the following terms
viz.

The engagement shall be
by the month and either
party shall have power
to terminate it by giving
one months notice, or in
the case of the Trustees
by paying one months wages
beyond which you shall
have no other claim

Your wages will be
six pounds a month
and you shall have the
use of

First page of letter appointing Mr and Mrs Drummond as keepers of Burns Cottage.

Initially the tearoom next to the cottage was run by a husband and wife (Mr and Mrs Drummond) who had been recruited from the Falkirk area where they had formerly run a pub. They were unable to make a reasonable living out of the proceeds of the tearoom and left their employment c1900 and subsequently emigrated. The keepers also lived in the house which now forms part of the shop.

The modern site consists of the following locations -

Burns Cottage

The rustic three-room cottage where Burns was born and lived until the age of seven

Monument and Gardens

Designed by Sir Thomas Hamilton, complete with nine pillars from Greek mythology.

Brig o' Doon

Where Tam o'Shanter's crossed the river to escape the pursuing witches using the 15th century cobblestone bridge over the River Doon. In the early years of the 19th century the commissioners of supply wanted to demolish this bridge which had fallen into disrepair. These commissioners consisted mostly of the same people who were also trustees of Burns Monument.

Poet's Path

This pedestrian walk way connects Burns Cottage with the other museum sites

Alloway Auld Kirk

This where the graves of Burns' father and sister are in this 16th century church ruin, 'where ghaists and houlets nightly cry'. Agnes Brown, the poet's mother is buried in Bolton Churchyard near Haddington as Gilbert, the poet's brother moved through to East Lothian to become an estate factor.

The Museum

The main museum in Murdoch's Loan where according to the National Trust you can listen to his words, handle objects connected to the man, play games that unravel his mysteries and enjoy visual artworks

Events

Information on various events and activities which go on all year long is available via the following link <http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk/events/>

The main purpose built museum is in the building in Murdoch's Loan. It houses displays on Burns' life and works as well as providing some interactive features for children and others.

The Bard's Bakery and Café can be found in the Museum Building in Murdoch's Lane and opens at 10am with the museum and last orders are 4.30pm in the winter and 5pm during summer months. Hot food is served in the Cafe from 12-2pm and they also offer a range of sandwiches, paninis and toasties throughout the day. Weather permitting you can sit outside and enjoy the garden. The cafe also caters for groups offering morning coffee with shortbread or breakfast rolls, soups and sandwiches, meals, afternoon and high teas.

Visiting the National War Museum of Scotland

This perhaps little known museum is located in the hospital square of Edinburgh Castle. Indeed the buildings of the former military hospital were converted in the 1930s to form the United Services Museum. In 1998 the museum was taken over by National Museums Scotland the name was changed to National War Museum Scotland.

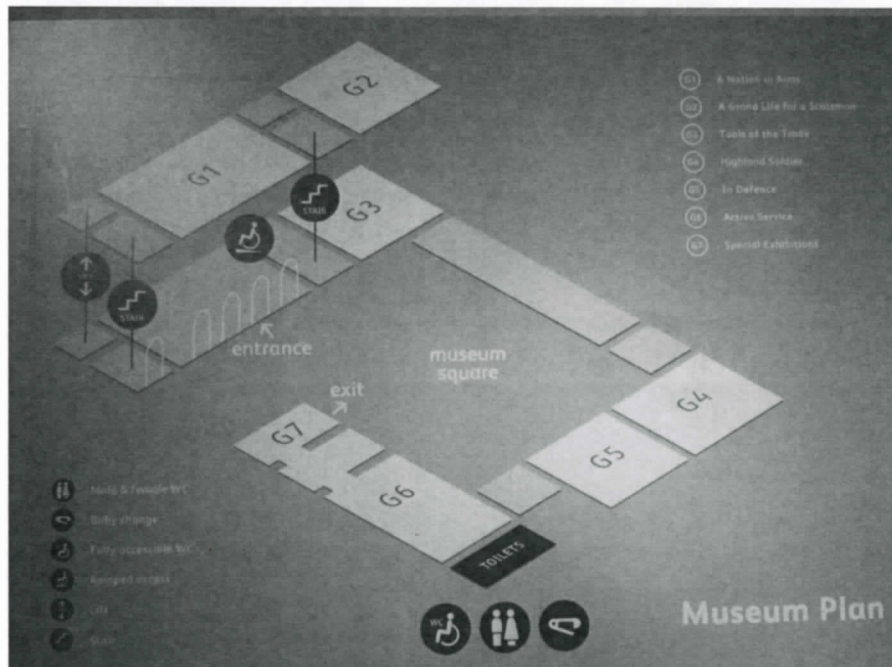
Hospital Square is located within the Edinburgh Castle complex down a steep slope to the left and on the Princes Street side of the castle. This location gives it fantastic views out over Princes Street, the Firth of Forth and Fife beyond. It is reckoned that on a good day you can see for c50 miles.

The entrance to the museum is on the left side of the square looking north towards Princes Street. Entrance is free but unfortunately you must pay to get into the castle. At time of writing (2016) this is a hefty £16.50 for a normal adult day admission. Hospital Square also contains the statue of Earl Marshal Haig on horseback. This statue was relocated from the Castle Esplanade in order to provide the Tattoo with extra space.



Looking towards the museum entrance with Earl Marshal Haig in middle foreground.

The layout of the museum is wheelchair friendly with only galleries 1 and 2 located upstairs everything else is downstairs and basically goes round the square exiting just to the left of Earl Marshal Haig. Galleries 1 and 2 can be accessed by the lift located next to the staircase on the right of the museum entrance and past the museum shop.



The diagram above gives a rough idea of the museum layout. Please note that there is also a disabled toilet as well as ladies and gents toilets.

The following is a list of the galleries with a brief description of each -

gallery 1 – A Nation in Arms and Safety of the Nation, 1638-1707 with audio visual presentation

gallery 2 – Strategic Union, 1707 and A Grand Life for a Scotsman

gallery 3 – Tools of the Trade and Securing Scotland, 1600-1746 equipping the individual for war

gallery 4 – Scotland and the Empire, Changes in the Military Force in the Highlands

gallery 5 – Home Defences, How Scots undertook part-time and voluntary military service

gallery 6 – Active Service Individual Stories and Medals, with audio visual presentation

gallery 7 – Special Exhibition Gallery presently housing exhibition relating to the formation and

service of the Royal regiment of Scotland, 2006-2016 with audio presentations

Items of note include the story of Sir David Baird and his victory over Tipu Sultan of Mysore in gallery 1; the elephant's toes in gallery 2 which were preserved from the mascot of the 78th Highland Regiment; gallery 3 contains arms and armour from the 17th century to the present day; the painting 'The Thin Red Line' by Robert Gibb in gallery 4 commemorating the Highland Regiment's decisive role in the Battle of Balaclava. This is the original painting although there are copies in Glasgow and Stirling; recruiting information for the 16th Battalion Royal Scots, 1914 which recruited a number of professional football players; case 1 in gallery 6 contains a pipe given by a German soldier to a sergeant of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards on Christmas Day 1914 during an unofficial halt in the fighting on the Western Front.

There is not huge amount of material relating to Ayrshire as such but the following may be of interest.



Uniform of Captain Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle, commander of a new troop of the 2nd (Cunninghame and Cumnock) Ayrshire Yeomanry, 1820-27. The formation of this troop was a direct response to armed political demonstrations in nearby industrial towns.

The Ayrshire Yeomanry was called out to deal with riots in Ayr, Glasgow and Paisley. The members of this rural mounted force would have had little sympathy for these urban political demonstrators who they viewed as dangerous revolutionaries.

This is in gallery 5. Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle was a Commissioner of Supply for Ayrshire and prominent figure in the Ayrshire Yeomanry. Colonel Claud Alexander was born in 1789 and became an officer in the Guards. He married Elizabeth Keatinge but died without issue in 1845. He inherited Ballochmyle estate from his father also called Claud and bequeathed it on his death to his brother, Boyd Alexander⁴⁵. The main collection relating to the Ayrshire Yeomanry is in the museum

⁴⁵ Information taken from Landed Families of Britain and Ireland <http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/85-alexander-later-hagart-alexander-of.html> accessed 10/11/2016

in Rozelle House in Ayr.



This is also in gallery 5. It is a miniature of Captain John Peebles from Irvine. There is also a silver cup presented to Peebles from the Irvine volunteers in 1802 in the same case.

Captain John Peebles was from Irvine and served in North America with the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment under Lt General John Murray⁴⁶ or during the American War of Independence in 1763. He served first as an ensign and then a captain. He returned to Irvine and in 1803 he was commissioned as captain in the Irvine Volunteers⁴⁷. His journal of his service during the American War of Independence still survives in 13 notebooks which are held by the National Records of Scotland under the reference GD21/492. On his return to Irvine probably about 1782, he married Ann Hamilton daughter of Charles Hamilton of Craiglaw⁴⁸. He rose to become a major in the volunteers but was only allowed to use the title when they were on active service⁴⁹. He was also surveyor of the customs at Irvine from c1792 until 1809⁵⁰. He died on 7th December 1823⁵¹ and his wife predeceased him in 1812. There is also an account by him of his journey from Greenock to Boston and then onto Halifax in 1776⁵².

46 National Records of Scotland GD21/676

47 National Records of Scotland GD21/690

48 National Records of Scotland GD21/59 ante-nuptial marriage contract with Ann Hamilton

49 National Records of Scotland GD21/689 commission as major

50 National Records of Scotland GD21/191

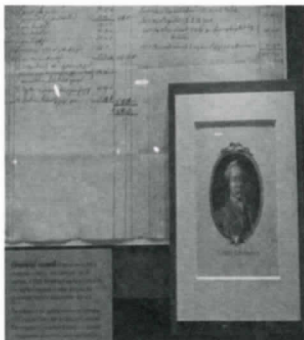
51 National records of Scotland GD21/249 executry of Captain John Peebles

52 National Records of Scotland GD21/491



This portrait of Captain Hugh Campbell Wilson of Sornbeg who was in the service of the East India Company is in gallery 1. He appears to have been retired out of the service between 1839 and 1841⁵³. According to the Naval and Military Gazette he was in the service of the Bengal Army and was permitted to return to Europe on health grounds in 1837⁵⁴. He appears to have been suffering from ill health from at least 1834 where another officer is appointed to act on his behalf due to the indisposition of Lt Adjutant H C Wilson⁵⁵. A birth of a son at Sornbeg is recorded in the Perthshire Courier, 17th November 1835 (Alexander Boswell Campbell Wilson) although neither his first name nor that of his lady is recorded in the newspaper. By this time he was serving with the Bengal Army.

Hugh Campbell Wilson was born in Galston in 1804 and married Eliza Falconer in 1831 in Bengal. They had 7 children together. The first two both boys were born in India and the last five were were all born in Galston. Eliza died in 1883⁵⁶.



The following object relating to John Campbell, Earl of Loudoun is in gallery 4. John Campbell died on 27th April 1782 and was described as one of the sixteen peers of Scotland, General of His Majesty's Forces, Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards and governor of Edinburgh Castle⁵⁷.

53 British Library India Office Papers 10R/2/E/16/W240

54 British Newspaper Archive Naval and Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of United Services, 18th Nov 1837

55 British Newspaper Archive Naval and Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of United Services, 3rd May 1834

56 Familypedia accessed 22/11/2016 [http://familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Hugh_Campbell_Wilson_\(1804-1855\)](http://familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Hugh_Campbell_Wilson_(1804-1855))

57 British Newspaper Archive, Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 13th May 1782



View from gallery 2 overlooking the old hospital entrance and showing the viewing platform looking northwards to Princes Street. On this platform there is a telescope and two information boards relating to the buildings seen from this vantage point.



(previous page) View showing the Caledonian Hotel at the west end of Princes Street and the Standard Life building. Taken from the National War Museum top window in gallery 2. The view from the museum out over Edinburgh are really quite spectacular especially on a sunny day.

How St. John's Tower got under my skin

by Yolanda McCall

This contribution to Ayrshire Notes is primarily to advise readers of a new website for St. John's Tower in Ayr. I will also share with you the journey that led to the creation of: www.stjohnstower.btck.co.uk and a book for children, 'The Tale of a Scottish Tower.'

In January 1993, I moved from Hampshire to Ayrshire for work. During my first week, I stayed at a B&B in the centre of Ayr, in sight of St. John's Tower. I subsequently moved to Prestwick, but by summer 1994, I was back in Ayr's Fort area, renovating a run-down Victorian terraced house with my husband, Peter. In those days, we occasionally visited St. John's Tower with Sheena Andrew on her walking tours of old Ayr, but in truth I was more interested in the great view from the top than in trying to grasp facts about its background. I knew it was an important historical building, and I was pleased to have settled next to its beautiful grounds, but 'history' was never my favourite subject. At school, I always struggled with the amount of reading, essay-writing and recollection of information that it demanded.

In 2001, South Ayrshire Council set out plans for developing the grounds of the tower. We had friends round for supper one evening, and the council's proposal sparked a lot of discussion. None of us were happy. The plans were unsympathetic to the natural beauty of the tower's surroundings, and we decided to take action. We knocked on doors, gauged opinion throughout the neighbourhood, devised a constitution and set up a public meeting which Michael Hitchon kindly chaired. And thus, in February 2002, FrOST was officially formed: the Friends of St. John's Tower. FrOST opposed the planned development for the tower and won. But more importantly, we established recognition to work alongside the council from that point forward. We undertook the facilitation of Doors Open Days and generally kept an eye on the place, picking up litter, weeding the parapet, changing the shredded flag and alerting the council to broken lights, water ingress, etc., before minor issues became major problems. Yet through it all, I still had little understanding of the historical significance of the tower.

However in 2014, Pamela McIntyre invited residents to her 'History of Our Streets' nights at the Carnegie Library. I rolled up with only mild curiosity, but how wrong could I be? On that night, my outlook on 'history' completely changed. I saw the names and occupations of people who had lived in our house since it was built in 1865, and tingles travelled down my spine. I realised that Ayr had actually become my home, and I felt a connection to the past that ignited my interest in local history. I was ready to become more involved.

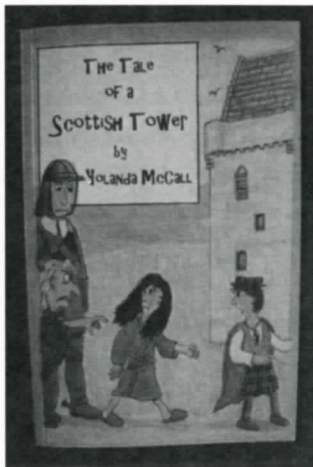
Access to St. John's Tower has unfortunately always been an issue. Tourists often pass its grounds,

take photos and enquire about getting inside. The FrOST group are keen to make the tower more accessible, but providing enough people to man it safely for Doors Open Days and occasional special events (art and sound exhibitions, school visits, etc) is sometimes a struggle, so it is unrealistic to commit to more frequent openings. We discussed the idea of making a film that would show the interior of the tower, and in spring 2015 the idea became reality when Pamela secured FrOST the opportunity to be part of a pilot project for a new Heritage Lottery Fund venture, 'Scotland's Urban Past'. Under the SUP team's supervision, FrOST created a virtual tour of the tower which SUP offered to host on their website.

The film making was fun, but the preparation beforehand was what captivated my interest in Ayr's history further. We began to create a script, but the SUP team challenged the 'history' detailed in our brochures and laminate handouts. We visited the library and sought references for all our 'facts' and attempted to get them right. By questioning our beliefs, my knowledge of the tower grew greatly, and I was fascinated by its rich past when it was part of the 12th century church of St. John the Baptist. Then, not long after completing the film project, I read a children's book in which a present day child connects with the spirits of 19th century aboriginal people in Australia [The Ghosts of Barrengarry, by Peter Harrold]. The book provides an insight to life in Australia's bygone days from a child's perspective, and I wondered if I could write a story that would make the history of St. John's Tower more accessible to kids in Ayr.

While considering funding options for publishing my book, I stumbled upon BT's community website builder: <https://www.btck.co.uk/> It has a good selection of templates to host a basic website, and is free for communities to use. The website for St. John's Tower was fairly straightforward to set up – my husband and I put it together in under three days - and I would be happy to offer assistance to other historical societies wanting to set up something similar. Please take a look at www.stjohnstower.btck.co.uk to find out more about the tower.

I read everything I could find about the tower and eventually picked the 17th century as a focus for my book, 'The Tale of a Scottish Tower.'



It tells the story of Martha, an ordinary eleven year old schoolgirl who has an incredible adventure when she spends a week visiting her aunt and uncle in Ayr. Martha finds herself transported back to the year 1652, the time when Oliver Cromwell's Citadel was being built and when Cromwell's soldiers took over the old church and turned its bell tower into their armoury and storeroom. I hope the story will appeal to Ayrshire children, aged 10+, and give them a feel for what life was like in 17th century Ayr.

Front cover of children's book based on St John's Tower

If you would like a copy, please contact Yolanda via the St. John's Tower website or by phone, 01292 280420. Collection in Ayr can be arranged at a price of £5.00 per copy, or can be

posted out for £6.50.

New Ayrshire Publications

A Look Back at Dalmellington – by Ayrshire author, Dane Love

The latest title in a series of books from Carn Publishing takes *A Look Back at Dalmellington*. Written by well-known Ayrshire writer and local historian, Dane Love, the book contains forty pictures of Dalmellington over the years. Each of the pictures is accompanied by a large description of the scene, with a detailed history of the view. There are many images of the old part of the village, including some pictures which probably have not been in print before.

There are early photographs of Main Street and High Street, showing shops and businesses that have been consigned to history, and the adjoining caption gives information on who was in various premises over the years.

There are many images depicting buildings that no longer exist, sadly being lost to lack of maintenance and need, such as the old Cross Keys, Our Lady's Chapel, the school, railway station, corn mill and Knoweview. It is also interesting to see how many old buildings in the village were at one time thatched.

The captions include much of interest on the history of Dalmellington's residents, including poets, shopkeepers, businessmen, and publicans.

This is the fifth book in the 'Look Back' series from Carn Publishing. Other local titles cover Cumnock and Girvan, as well as one on Ayrshire Farming. The author belongs to Cumnock, but has known Dalmellington for many years, and has written over thirty books on various Scottish subjects, and on Ayrshire places in particular.

A Look Back at Dalmellington is published by Carn Publishing, and is available from various outlets across the county. In Dalmellington itself, it is on sale at the Doon Valley Crafters giftshop. It can also be bought from the publisher's website – www.carnpublishing.com – or from Amazon.

ISBN 978 1 911043 03 4

80 pages paperback 40 illustrations £7.50 RRP

www.carnpublishing.com/lookbackdalmellington

Carn Publishing, Lochnoran House, Auchinleck, Ayrshire, KA18 3JW

info@carnpublishing.com 01290 425594

The Battle of Largs by Edward J Cowan

Ayrshire and Natural History Society Ayrshire Monographs 42

Price 38.00

96 pages with black and white illustrations.

This monograph is by one of Scotland's best known and respected historians. He is emeritus professor of Scottish History and Literature at the University of Glasgow and was formerly director of the university's Dumfries campus. Ted Cowan is an acknowledged expert on the history of Viking Scotland. As he states in his forward to the publication Ayrshire's greatest Norse legacy remains the Battle of Largs and this short study aims to offer the most thorough examination of the Battle by examining how Scottish and Norwegian forces came to confront each other at Largs. The central chapter deals with the battle and the difficult circumstances in which it was fought. The aftermath is then traced through to the Treaty of Perth in 1266 and the unique nature of the concord. The final chapter explores the battle in context looking at wider ramifications and considerations.

Kerelaw House – A History of the Ayrshire Mansion, Families and the American Connection

By Alex McLatchie

An interesting and informative insight into the house and people who lived there. The house was built by Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton who was related to General Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the United States of America.

The paperback is priced at £8.50 with all proceeds going to Stevenston Common Good Fund. The book is on sale in both Stevenston and Saltcoats libraries and Starks Newsagents 10 Hamilton St, Saltcoats KA21 5DS.

Local Societies

Name of Society: **Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society**

Website: aanhs.markprovan.com

Contact Details: secretary Sheena Andrew, 17 Bellrock Avenue, Prestwick, KA9 1SQ. Telephone 01292 479077 or Ian Holland at ianwholland@btinternet.com

Location of Talks: Thursday 7:30 pm in Ayr Town Hall

| Date and Time | Subject | Speaker |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 12 th Oct 2017 | The Botany of Ailsa Craig | Bernhard Zonfrillo, Honorary Lecturer, University of Glasgow |
| 28 th Oct 2017 | St Ninian and the Sea: New Work on Early Christian Whithorn | Dr Adrian Maldonado, University of Glasgow |
| 9 th Nov 2017 | The Lowland Clearances | Peter Aitchison and Andrew Cassell, University of Glasgow |
| 23 rd Nov 2017 | People and Water at the Heart of Neolithic Orkney (Buchan Lecture Sponsored by Society of Antiquaries of Scotland) | Caroline Wickham-Jones, University of Aberdeen |
| 11 Jan 2018 | Neolithic to Art Nouveau: Conservation Projects at AOL Archaeology | Natalie Mitchell, AOL Archaeology |
| 25 th Jan 2018 | Nature reserves of Ayrshire | Gill Smart, Reserves Manager Scottish Wildlife Trust |
| 8 th Feb 2018 | Ardrossan Castle | Tom Rees, Rathmell Archaeology |
| 22 nd Feb 2018 | Discovering the Prehistoric Settlements of Ayrshire: Evidence from Recent Excavations | Kevin Paton, AOL Archaeology |
| 8 th Mar 2018 | The King under the Care Home: James I and the Perth Charterhouse Project | Professor Richard Oram< university of Stirling (followed by short AGM) |
| 12 th Apr 2018 | Social Evening in Loudoun Hall | |

Summer outings:

| Date and Time | Venue | Arrangements, Cost etc | Contact for Outing |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| 6 th May 2017 | Full day visit to Rothesay | £36 per person | Mrs Sandra Carolan 5 Alexander Place Irvine KA12 0UR 01294 312702 |
| 7 th June 2017 | Evening visit to Covenanting Museum at Fenwick | £8.00 per person | |
| 18 th June 2017 | Full day visit to Kilmartin and Dunadd, Argyll | £33 | |
| | | | |

Name of Society: **Friends of St John's Tower, Ayr**

Secretary: Peter McCall

Website: <http://www.stjohnstower.btck.co.uk/>

Other Events :Unlocking the Tower sponsored by Scotland's Urban Past

Join SUP for a free, all-day event

Saturday, 6 May 2017 10:00-16:00 no booking necessary admission free

Venue St John's Tower, 6 Eglinton Terrace, Ayr KA7 1JJ

Join us throughout the day for...

Treasure Hunts

Photography

Storytelling

Stone Rubbing + Grave Markers

Historical Graffiti

Laser Scanning

Tower Tours

Period Costumes

Soap Carving

Virtual Reality

Tale of a Scottish Tower: Meet the Author

For more information visit the website <http://scotlandsurbanpast.org.uk/event/unlocking-tower>

AANHS Publications

Publications of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural history Society (AANHS) are available from Mrs Sheena Andrew, Secretary AANHS, 17 Bellrock Road, Prestwick KA9 1SO. Further information about the AANHS and its publications will be found on the society's website:

www.aanhs.org.uk

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| | Armstrong's Map of Ayrshire 1775 (reprint 6 sheets) | £12.00 |
| | Antiquities of Ayrshire by Grose (edited by Strawhorn revised 2010) | £4.00 |
| 11 | Robert Adam in Ayrshire (Sanderson) revised 2010 | £4.00 |
| 13 | Toll and Tacksman (McClure) | £1.50 |
| 15 | The Port of Ayr 1727-1780 (Graham) | £2.00 |
| 20 | Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors 2 nd edition | £2.50 |
| 24 | Historic Alloway, Village and Countryside: A Guide for Visitors | £2.00 |
| 28 | Historic Prestwick and Its Surroundings 64 pages | £2.50 |
| 30 | The Early Transatlantic Trade of Ayr 1640-1730 (Barclay & Graham) 104 pages | £4.50 |
| 31 | Tattie Hawkers: Irish Potato Workers in Ayrshire (Holmes) 192 pages | £4.50 |
| 33 | Dr John Taylor, Chartist: Ayrshire Revolutionary (Fraser) 112 pages | £4.00 |
| 35 | The Masters of Ballantrae (Hunter) 30 pages | £4.00 |
| 36 | Burns & the Sugar Plantocracy of Ayrshire (Graham) 124 pages | £6.00 |
| 37 | Historic Troon and Its Surroundings 40 pages | £3.00 |
| 38 | Excavations in Ayr 1984-1987 (Perry) 140 pages | £9.99 |
| 39 | The Church Buildings of Ayrshire (Hume) 94 pages | £7.50 |
| 41 | Mining and Quarrying in Stevenston (McLachie) 210 pages | £9.50 |
| 42 | The Battle of Largs (Cowan) 95 pages | £8.00 |