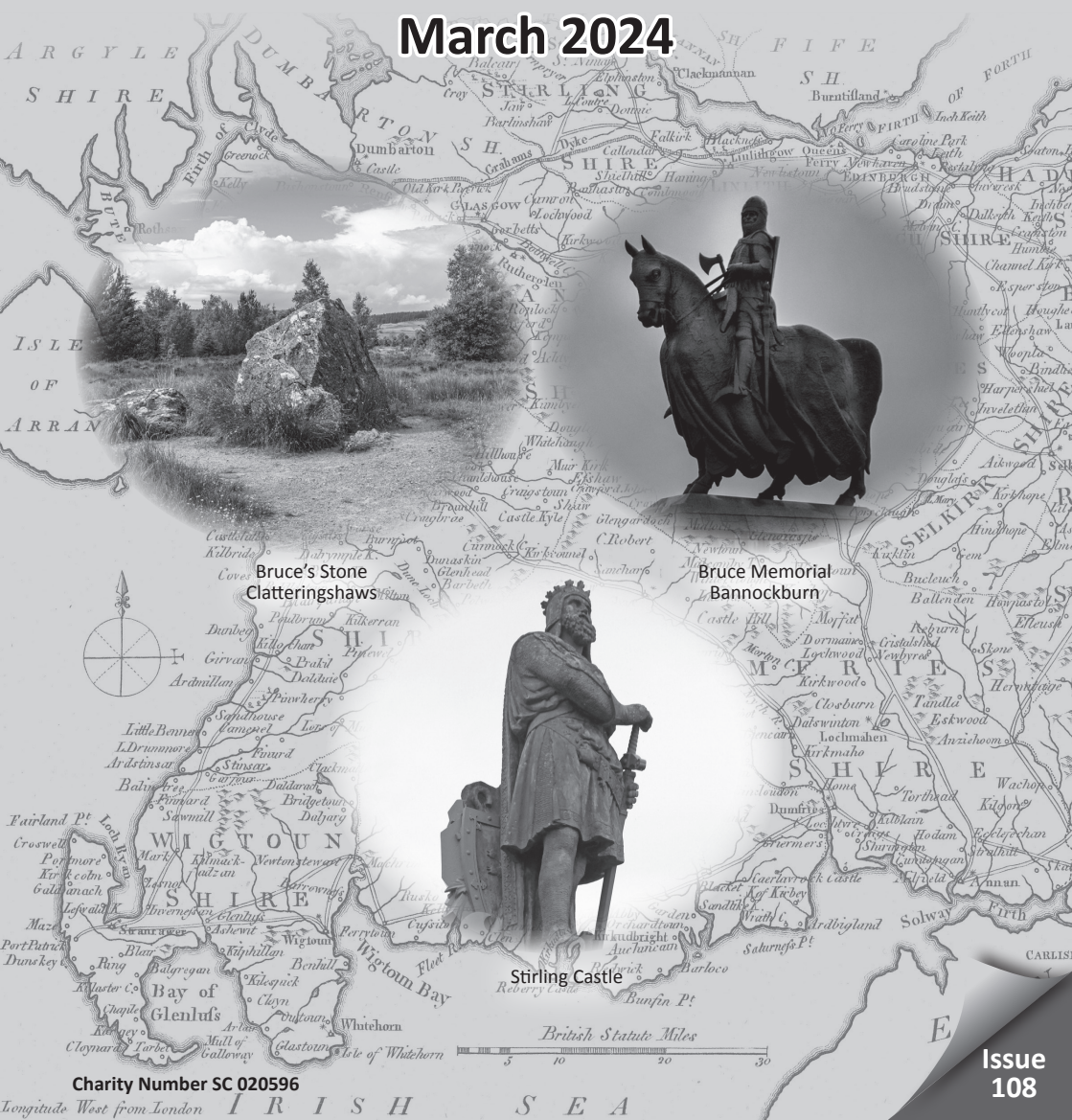


Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society Newsletter

March 2024





DUMFRIES and GALLOWAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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DISCLAIMER

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 17 April at 7.30pm. The Secretary shall receive nominations for Office Bearers and Council members not less than 21 days prior to the AGM. Likewise anyone wishing to include items for the Agenda should contact the Secretary not less than 21 days prior to the AGM.

Dumfries & Galloway set to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the birth of Robert the Bruce, with an exciting series of events with local communities across the region.



ROBERT
..... THE
BRUCE
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY
750

aims to showcase the vital role D&G played in the story of Scotland, while generating opportunities to explore this vibrant region as it is now.

The programme will bring to life our wealth of hidden histories and the story of The Bruce through a series of educational experiences, walks, talks, tours, films and interactive themed events.

Dumfries & Galloway set to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the birth of Robert the Bruce, with an exciting series of events with local communities across the region.

The Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust in partnership with The People's Project Dumfries and The Imaginarium's Gallovidian Way, alongside local community organisations and businesses will be celebrating the 750th anniversary of the birth of Robert the Bruce. The 5 month long programme of events will showcase the influential and pivotal role Dumfries & Galloway played in the life and times of the most famous King Of Scots, and its lasting impact on Scottish Medieval history.

Robert the Bruce is known as a visionary leader, accepted as Scotland's most successful monarch and is one of Scotland's most iconic heroes. He was also Lord of Annandale, Dumfries & Galloway, the seat of the Bruce family. He was influenced by its people, friends and foe, and it was where he forged his alliances, and honed the skills that provided the foundations from which he propelled his journey to the throne.

Through a variety of community-led cultural activities dotted across the region, the Robert the Bruce 750th programme

Saturday 10th February will see the launch of the first series of events in the RtB750 calendar. More events will be announced in March, when additional dates will be released for a series of RtB related talks, community events & interactive tours. The RtB750 programme will simultaneously be launched online and in person at 'The Commemoration of the Slaying of the Red Comyn'; a living history storytelling event, delivered by The Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust. People are invited to gather at Greyfriars Church, Dumfries at 11:00am where they will witness the Bruce in procession to the site of the slaying, and will then be invited into Greyfriars Church, where they will meet The Bruce family and friends, who will share their stories and the impacts of that fateful day in Dumfries.

The Slaying of Sir John 'the Red' Comyn III, Lord of Badenoch, changed the course of history in 1306, it was the event that set Robert the Bruce on the path to the Scottish Throne and its commemoration provides a fitting start to this year's celebrations. 'The Commemoration of the Slaying of the Red Comyn' has become a tradition marked every year by the Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust on the exact date and location that the slaying took place, in the heart of medieval Dumfries.

Between 12pm – 4pm on Saturday 10th February you will also be able to drop in to Dumfries Museum for themed craft activities, and to explore their new display about Greyfriars in Dumfries.

At 1pm, join a 'Medieval Meander' around Dumfries Town Centre. This walking tour delivered by Tom Hughes of Dumfries Museum leaves from Greyfriars Church where you will learn more about how Dumfries would have looked at the time of the Bruce, venturing further into the town's Medieval history.

Then at 3pm, to mark the closing of this historic day, there will be a medieval Vespers Service in Greyfriars Church, held in memory of the Red Comyn, to commemorate the end of his life. This will be a chance to time travel, immersing yourself in the experience of an authentic medieval religious ceremony, one that would have been familiar to the Bruce and his contemporaries. This ceremony will be delivered by The Bishop of Whithorn, Diocese of the British Isles, in collaboration with Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust & The Gallovidian Way.

The day will conclude at 7pm with an exploration of the home of Bruce's companion on that fateful day, Roger 'Mak Siccarr' Kirkpatrick, the man who delivered the fatal blows to the Red Comyn. The award winning Mostly Ghostly will offer their tour of Closeburn Castle, the ancient seat of the Clan Kirkpatrick, and a true hidden gem steeped in dramatic history.

This day of events on the 10th February will act as a taster for the kind of events that will be delivered during the 5 month long programme of RtB750 activities, running from Feb-July 2024, culminating in a weekend of celebrations in Dumfries on 13th and 14th July 2024 the closest weekend to Robert the Bruce's 750th

birthday. Events that weekend will include a Medieval Market, Storytelling, Living History, Re-enactments, Themed Family Entertainment, Tours and special live performances from acts including the sensational Clanadonia, who will bring their high energy tribal Scottish music to the streets of Dumfries for the first time, and into the Court of De Brus.

The team are working with a number of different community organisations supporting them to organise their own local events and activities to add to the programme over the upcoming months. They hope to inspire the region to take ownership of their stories, elevating the profile of the multifaceted and fascinating range of local history associated with the life and times of Robert the Bruce.

The programme seeks to follow in the footsteps of Robert the Bruce, into the various places and spaces that he frequented across Dumfries and Galloway. Each location will bring to life the influential parts each place played in the Bruce's story, and the shaping of Scottish history, celebrating the heritage and ancestry of the region, and the inspiring hidden histories that lie dormant in each local community, as we follow The Bruce Trail across Dumfries & Galloway.

The project aims to quite literally put King Robert the Bruce's expansive history within Dumfries & Galloway on the map.

The initial programme of events will be launched on Saturday 10th February. Communities who are inspired by the programme are invited to get involved in the celebrations by hosting their own events between February and the finale of his birthday celebrations in July. Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust will happily advertise their events on their website's Diary of Events.

To find out more about the initial events, visit brucestrust.co.uk/750

Please visit the website on Saturday 10th February when RtB750 will reveal their exciting calendar of events, OR head along to one of their launch events in person to pick up a hard copy of the programme.

The team are incredibly grateful to their main sponsors of the programme for their generous support: Jardine Funerals, Historic Environment Scotland, Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival.

We are also very thankful for the enthusiasm, support and very special contributions of our key collaborators: Mostly Ghostly, Dumfries Devorgilla Rotary Club, Dumfries Museum, D&G Heritage Service, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Wordsmithcrafts, HM Prison Dumfries, Guid Nychburris Association, Dumfries Family History Society, Visit Scotland and The Barony of Buittle.

Mark Jardine, Founder of The People's Project, Dumfries stated: "These incredible events, celebrating the 750th birthday of Robert the Bruce are not to be missed, so mak siccar and put them in your diary."

Elizabeth West, Chairperson of Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust:

"We are so excited and delighted by the programme and our wonderful partners. We are eagerly looking forward to finally putting Dumfries & Galloway at the heart of Scottish medieval history."

DJ McDowall, Creative Director of The Imaginarium / The Gallovidian Way: "We have had the most incredible response to this project, it's been overwhelmingly heartening. The purpose of RtB750 has captured the imagination and enthusiasm of the people of Dumfries & Galloway, who are clearly ready to embrace the hidden histories of our region, reclaiming

and heralding their ancestral connections, which includes King Robert the Bruce, and so many other inspirational and influential Gallovidians whose memories have been lost in the mists of time - it's time for them to make a long overdue, triumphant return!"

For any press enquiries please email Emma Porteous, emma@porteouscreative.com

Media Facts:

- **Partners include:** The Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust, The People's Project Dumfries, The Imaginarium's Gallovidian Way.
- Launch Event is The Slaying of the Red Comyn on Dumfries High Street on Saturday 10th February at 11:00am and the programme of events will be uploaded / launched on the website on 10th February at 10am. brucestrust.co.uk/750
- Robert the Bruce is an iconic Scottish King and is known in Dumfries & Galloway for the slaying of his cousin, John, "The Red" Comyn, in Dumfries, which started his quest for the throne of Scotland
- Charity Number for Medieval Bruce trust: SCO49156
- Contact email: robertthebrucestrust@gmail.com

The Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust:

The Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust is a volunteer led charity based in Dumfries & Galloway to promote King Robert the Bruce within Dumfries and Galloway.

The People's Project Dumfries:

The People's Project was set up in 2008 by Mark Jardine who wanted to rekindle the meaning of community in Dumfries and Galloway. Their philosophy is based on a well-known saying: "Nobody can do everything, - but everyone can do something"

The People's Project recognises this fact and asks you to embrace that philosophy in an effort to improve the quality of life for every person living in the region.

The Imaginarium's Gallovidian Way:

DJ is a Creative Community Development Consultant, Creative Director & Cultural Producer for her organisation The Imaginarium, and its sister heritage organisation The Gallovidian Way (formerly Hidden Histories of Dumfries &

Galloway). They specialise in grassroots, impactful heritage and Youth / Community engagement. They are passionate about the history of Galloway, and working with under-represented voices especially within heritage. Their work is multi award winning and known for delivering groundbreaking projects, and their change making inclusive participatory practice.

Emma Porteous

HEADSTONE SAFETY – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COUNCIL

A programme of memorial/headstone safety inspections is a permanent responsibility of all burial authorities.

Lair holders are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their lairs, including memorials and headstones. Dumfries & Galloway Council are responsible for the safety of members of the public, visitors and their team members within D&G cemeteries.

Check out the Dumfries & Galloway Council website. They are currently working on Phase 3 of the project with further information on work completed to date, as well as ongoing work: <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/24475/HeadstoneSafety>
Points to consider:

- Each Lair Holder has a 'Duty of Care' to ensure their own headstones/memorials are maintained and are in a safe condition in any cemetery.

- Lair Holders are responsible for arranging for their headstone to be repaired and for the costs associated with this.
- Some headstones/memorials are so old that the original lair holder has died / there is no detail of the current owner.
- If you know of a family headstone/memorial in any cemetery, it would be helpful to contact the local authority and ensure the cemetery register is kept up to date.
- When local authorities check their cemeteries and discover an unsafe headstone, they refer to the cemetery register or the local undertakers to try to locate descendants.

If you have any enquiries or would like to discuss the Headstone Safety project, they can be contacted using the details below:

Tel: 030 33 33 3000

Email: headstonesafety@dumgal.gov.uk

ARTICLES REQUIRED

Following our request for the Newsletter. We would like to thank those members who have responded to this request, we have enjoyed reading the interesting articles submitted. Keep up the good work, please keep sending anything you are researching.

Editorial Team

THE GENTLE SHEPHERD - COMES TO PALNACKIE!

The Brydsons' Impact on Allan Ramsay's Legacy in 19th Century Rural Kirkcudbrightshire...



The Palnackie Players 1898-99 in costume for the production of The Gentle Shepherd, performed in Palnackie schoolhouse in the background.

Left to right: Mr James Brydson Jr, Miss Stitt, Mr W. Wilson, Mr J. Stevenson, Miss J. Johnstone, Mr R. Wright, Miss Halliday. Mr James Cannon, Mr James Thomson.

In 2022 Edinburgh University Press published what must be the definitive edition of Allan Ramsay's once hugely influential pastoral comedy and ballad opera *The Gentle Shepherd*. The product of years of detailed research and assiduous editing by Steve Newman and David McGuinness, it reproduces the text along with analysis of all the sources and other material. You can see a link to the (rather expensive..) book [here](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-the-gentle-shepherd.html):

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-the-gentle-shepherd.html>

Ramsay's romanticised tale of 18th century rural life is now little known and rarely performed.

However, in the 18th century it was hugely popular, enjoying many performances all

over the UK, London in particular, and even throughout the 19th century it remained a popular work for performance in provincial towns and villages throughout the Scottish Lowlands, in English cities and even overseas.

In August 2022 in conversation with Professor Murray Pittock of the University of Glasgow, I mentioned that amongst the old family documents passed down from my late father, Dixon Brydson Halliday, was an extraordinary cast photograph of a production of *The Gentle Shepherd* that took place at Palnackie Schoolhouse in 1898 and 1899. These performances were produced by the 'Palnackie Players' or 'Palnackie Comedians', a group of local amateurs who regularly staged theatrical events and concerts in their small port village, located near Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire, Dumfries and Galloway. Backdrop to the photo is Palnackie School, where the performances took place, and where many of my forebears, including my father, first went to school. The school is still there today.

Most of the cast members were my relatives, including local grocer James Brydson Jr, my great grandfather, who played none other than Pattie, the Gentle Shepherd himself! Professor Pittock indicated that photographs of provincial productions, particularly of this period, were exceedingly rare. I therefore made the photograph and the associated newspaper review, published in the *Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser* on 6 January 1899, available to him and the Ramsay research team. One of them, Dr Brianna Robertson-Kirkland of the Royal

Conservatoire of Scotland, kindly wrote up a piece for their Ramsay blog! Link here:

[hRps://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/research/researchcentresandnetworks/robertburnsstudies/edinburghenlightenment/blog/#blog51%3A9june2023, blog46%3A18november2022](https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/research/researchcentresandnetworks/robertburnsstudies/edinburghenlightenment/blog/#blog51%3A9june2023, blog46%3A18november2022)

James Brydson Jr ran a successful grocer's business in the village and also delivered to local farms and houses from his cart. His father James Sr had started the business but for centuries before then the Brydsons had been cottars, and weavers in the parish of Buittle, at Broomiebrae, just down from Buittle Kirk. James Jr was an outgoing, energetic and generous individual with a down to earth hard edge when required. A talented musician, singer and dancer, he was one of the prime movers in the social life of the community. The performance took place on 28 December 1898. The review commented, "Pattie (sic) and Rodger, being already on the boards when the curtain rose, were greeted with a storm of applause, as their tall handsome figures in their smart rig - out were revealed to those present in the room". Indeed, we can see from the cast photo how splendid everyone looks in their costumes, particularly Pattie (far left) and Rodger (far right) standing proudly with their crooks.

This performance was the ballad opera version of *The Gentle Shepherd*, as the review reveals that Henry Murdoch's band supplied the music, which was 'excellent[ly] style[d]' and there was even a dance after the comedy concluded.

These community events always had a local charitable cause at the heart. The review noted that the performance was in aid of the school's soup kitchen, to provide hot soup lunches for the children.

In fact this was not the first time that *The Gentle Shepherd* was performed in

Palnackie Schoolhouse. On 29 December 1891, a charity performance of *The Gentle Shepherd* took place, also with the proceeds noted to be 'in aid of Soup Kitchen Fund'. There is little doubt that many of the older performers in 1898 had already been involved in 1891. An advertisement printed in the *Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser* on 25 December 1891 stated it was 'Under the Patronage of the School Board of Buittle'. Its charitable purpose made it very much an expression of community spirit, and the people of Buittle and the parish of Buittle responded enthusiastically.

Advert Dumfries & Galloway Standard for

<p>GRAND ENTERTAINMENT.</p> <p>UNDER the Patronage of the School Board of Buittle the Pastoral Comedy of "THE GENTLE SHEPHERD" will be acted in PALNACKIE PUBLIC SCHOOL on the EVENING of TUESDAY, 29th Dec., 1891.</p> <p>Proceeds in aid of Soup Kitchen Fund.</p> <p>Admission - Front Seats, 2s.; Back Seats, 1s.; Children, 3d. Tickets at the Door.</p> <p>Doors open at 7 o'clock; Performance to commence at 7.30 P.M.</p> <p>AN ASSEMBLY will follow. Gentlemen's Tickets, 1s 6d; Ladies free.</p>

the 1891 Palnackie production of The Gentle Shepherd

The review of the later 1898-99 performance, recorded in the *Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser* paints a vivid picture of the occasion:

"Allan Ramsay's pastoral comedy of the *The Gentle Shepherd* was played in the Schoolroom before a bumper house on the evening of Wednesday 28th ult (ie December 1898, JDH), by a company of local amateurs, and proved a complete success - the object being the providing of funds for the carrying on of the school soup kitchen. The staging took up a considerable amount of floor room, but Mr Macaulay's resources in improvising seats for the occasion afforded sufficient siting accommodation for about 200 persons. The seats were nearly all filled by the time for opening the play. The stage was tastefully decorated with evergreens by John Nivison, while Mr Sam Paterson

acted as stage manager, both lending willing hands in getting up the necessary equipments. The curtain, a beautiful painting of Southernness lighthouse and surrounding scenery, was raised at exactly the appointed time, so that the audience had no cause to weary. Pattie (sic) and Rodger (sic), being already on the boards when the curtain rose, were greeted with a storm of applause, as their tall handsome figures in their smart rig out were revealed to those present in the room. They made a capital commencement, and at the finish of the first scene were loudly cheered. The reception they met with gave courage to the younger members of the company, many of whom were rather nervous at the idea of facing such a multitude of people.

This feeling soon wore off, however, and after Peggy and Jenny's washing scene, which was loudly applauded, they regained their composure, and mounted the stage as if they had been professionals. Although so young, both Mause and Madge played their parts well, and also with Elspeth in their quaint old-fashioned dresses and sow-backed matches, made good auld wives. Our old friends, Bauldy, Glad and Simon came on fresh and frisky as in years past - seven. They fairly brought the house down with their excellent acting. Sir William in his military costume looked every inch the knight, and in the difficult part he undertook to perform fully realised the expectations of the company's selection.

The following were the dramatis personae:

Sir William	Mr J Stevenson, Chapel Croft
Patrtie	Mr Jas Brydson Jr, Palnackie
Rodger	Mr Jas Thomson, South Glen
Bauldy	Mr R Wright, Douganhill
Glad	Mr W Wilson, North Glen
Simon	Mr Jas Cannon,

Woodhead	
Peggy	Miss Stitt, Palnackie
Jenny	Miss Halliday, Palnackie
Elspeth	Miss Caird, Schoolhouse
	[Note: daughter of the village schoolmaster William Caird,]
Madge	Miss J Johnstone, Kirkennan Cottage
Mause	Miss Walker, Palnackie

Aker all expenses are paid there will be a surplus of about £12, which will be applied to paying off the debt, and to keep the pot boiling for several years to come. The music during the play was supplied in excellent style by Mr Henry Murdoch's band. A dance followed which was well attended." (Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser and Galloway News.)

Performances of The Gentle Shepherd were not unknown in the area at the time. There had been a production in Dalbeattie Town Hall in March 1880, "for the benefit of the poor", by the

'Rerrick Amateurs' and in 1889, a performance of The Gentle Shepherd was staged by the 'Carsphairn Amateurs' at the Schoolroom, Dalmellington. The review of the latter, also published in the Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser on 8 February 1889 noted:

"The large room was densely packed, every inch of available standing room being occupied. Out national pastoral seems always able to draw an audience, and though old is ever fresh"

162 years after its first known production, The Gentle Shepherd's popularity remained popular with Scottish theatre troupes and audiences.

Nor was it the last time The Gentle Shepherd was performed in Palnackie! Whilst researching other family history documents

at the wonderful Dalbeattie Trust Museum, I discovered by chance a very similar Gentle Shepherd cast photo, uncatalogued, in a folder of miscellaneous items! See photo below!. The photo is undated, and the hand-written notes of actors' names on the reverse are not reliable or complete. There are a couple of actors who are in both productions. This photo is taken by the harbour at Palnackie, and the sawmill/timberyard in the background was owned by my other great-grandfather George L Halliday.....

However, it is definitely the Palnackie Players and the costumes look pretty much identical to the earlier photograph. I think it dates from 1915, as going through more of my father's things I have since also found a poem penned by my great grandmother Jane Brydson (the wife of

James who played Pattie in 1898). My father had added the date ca 1915 to her hand-typed MS. See the poem in the Appendix below. In her whimsical semi-serious poem in Ramsay-like verse, Jane Brydson mourns the passing of some of the original cast members, but notes this

Palnackie Players cast for The Gentle Shepherd,



with Palnackie harbour behind, date ca 1915? Left to right (tbc) James Thomson, Mrs Muir, Jack Greenway, John Halliday, Mrs Gordon, Miss Whitelaw, John Thomson?, Mrs Tom Murray.

will spur the next generation to great things. James Thomson who played Roger in 1898 returned as Pattie in the later performance.

I have to date not managed to confirm the precise date of this second photo and so now need to explore the elusive past copies of the Galloway newspapers of the early 20th century... More research needed..!

Meanwhile it is remarkable how a small port village in rural Galloway could bring together a team of local people and inspire and marshal them into producing an evening of musical theatre of such quality, energy and impact. And to choose Allan Ramsay's *The Gentle Shepherd*, which after decades of neglect, is now regarded as one of the foremost texts in Scots literature, some 50 years before Robert Burns, was remarkable - and a source of pride!

These photos and the poem cast us back to a different, quieter age. Lively yes, hard, also. But Jane Brydson's poignant and rather nostalgic last stanza, written from a keen awareness of the sufferings of the First World War, suggests a world that was already passing away.

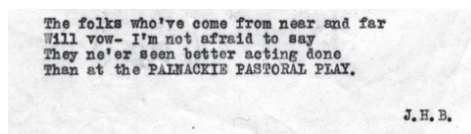
John D Halliday # 6827

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to Professor Murray Pittcock and Dr Brianna Kirkland-Robertson of the University of Glasgow Ramsay Project. Also to Dalbeattie Trust Museum for their warm welcome and assistance in identifying relevant files. The 'ca 1915' photo is in their collection.

Appendix

Poem by Jane Helen Brydson (nee Black)



My father's writing on this MS suggests it was from ca 1915. This needs further work. Not sure if she would have used a typewriter in 1915. Unless it's a later typed version.

THE GENTLE SHEPHERD.

My dear auld freen's it pleased me weel
When I heard that you had once again
Revived the good old Pastoral Play
Which langsyne gave our village fame.

"The Gentle Shippherd"- What memories sweet
The title brings into my mind
Of the dear happy bye gone days
When all the world to us seemed kind.

But the memories also make me sad
When I think of those who were with us then
And who now have crossed the Harbour Bar,
But whose names shall always fresh remain.

Our dear auld "Maister" with great skill
Did train each one to do their part
And strived with firm yet kindly hand
To guide us as it pleased his heart.

The Good Sir William of manly grace,
Glaud- from whose lips did wisdom fall,
And gentle Elspeth, sweet, winsome maid,
Whose untimely end was mourned by all.

And Bauldy too, whose boisterous laugh
And ready wit kept up the fun,
And dear old Mause her troubles o'er
Has gone from where there's no return.

Their days are o'er, but their memory will
Inspire each one to do their part,
Patie and Peggy shall sweetly sing,
and Roger shall win his Jenny's heart.

And Glaud and Symon, honest men
Will ca' the crack on nei'hours roon,
And notes compare on prices got,
For sheep and kye at the market toon.

Mause and Madge shall hatch a plot,
Which a' will be for Bauldy's guid,
And cure him o' love for ane wha is
Destined for ane o' gentler bluid.

Elspeth shall haste and set the board
Wi' haggis famed o'er a' the earth,
Guid usquabae shall warm their hearts
And mak' a scene o' jovial mirth.

Sir William too shall safe return
To gladden hearts both far and near,
And wi' kindly grace will grant the wish
For his son to wed his Peggy dear.

The Play shall close with joyful song
And "Corn Rigs" shall swell the Hall,
The Scotch Reel danced, the audience will
Regretfully see the curtain fall.

An appreciative poem
on the Pastoral
play

"The Gentle Shepherd"

played by the

Palnackie

Players

around

1915?

By Jane Helen

Black/Brydson

DBH's Grandmother

DUMFRIES OBSERVATORY & MUSEUM

William McDowall wrote the following description in his book 'McDowall's History of Dumfries:

'A familiar landmark, that long like a gigantic bird flapped its wings on Corbely Hill, seemed in 1834 about to drop away, fatally disabled by the archer Time,'

He was referring to the old windmill built in 1789 on Corbely Hill Troqueer. No longer in use, it was about to be demolished when the building was purchased by the Dumfries Astronomical Society. Local architect, Walter Newall, drew up plans for the old building and it was turned into an Observatory with telescope and camera obscura. (now the oldest working one in the world). There was also accommodation on the ground floor for a caretaker.

In the 1860s the Society, with the involvement of the newly formed Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and

Antiquarian Society, had acquired more objects worth preserving so an addition was made to the building, possibly designed by another local architect, James Barbour.

In 1934 the Observatory was taken over by Dumfries Council and has remained in their hands ever since. Extensions to the building have been added over the years and it remains open to the public with the camera obscura working on suitable days.

The grounds are laid out in lovely gardens with a fountain, plus statues of Robert Paterson (Walter Scott's 'Old Mortality') and his pony.

The Observatory is well worth a visit and has different displays featured as well as local history and great views over the town from the elevated position.

Elizabeth Hogg #3796

EBENEZER JOHNSTONE BARTON FROM EAGLESFIELD, MIDDLEBIE PARISH

Ebenezer Johnstone Barton was born on 20th March 1839 at Ecclefechan in the parish of Hoddum and baptised the following day. He was the oldest child of William Barton (formerly an excise officer) and his wife Ann Bell. William and Ann had a further six children after Ebenezer:

- 1) Andrew (1840-1858)
- 2) Norman Lockhart (1842-?)
- 3) Eaglesfield Smith (1844-1866). He was named after the founder of the village of Eaglesfield where the family were then living. He was visiting Dublin and was walking along Liffey Street when his hat blew off in the wind. He was attempting to catch it when he fell over the quay wall on Liffey Street into the River Liffey and tragically drowned.
- 4) William (1847-1926)
- 5) Jean (or Jane) (1850-1907)
- 6) George (1851-?). George subsequently went to Philadelphia.

On the 1841 Census, Ebenezer's father (William) is recorded as a cotton hand loom weaver in Ecclefechan. Ten years later, the family had moved – this time to the village of Eaglesfield in the neighbouring parish of Middlebie with William now working as a schoolmaster.



The Village of Eaglesfield

When Ebenezer was old enough, he assisted his father at Eaglesfield school and attracted the attention of the school's Inspectors (the Reverend Mr Nivison, Minister of Middlebie; and Sir John Heron Maxwell, Bart, of Springkell). Their sponsorship of Ebenezer allowed him to attend Edinburgh University where he achieved the Straton prize for the advance of Latin scholarship in 1859, and the following year won three prizes: for the study of Livy; work done during the summer half year of 1859; and in Mathematics. In addition he received the Bruce Scholarship. The next year at the age of 21, Ebenezer successfully passed the competitive

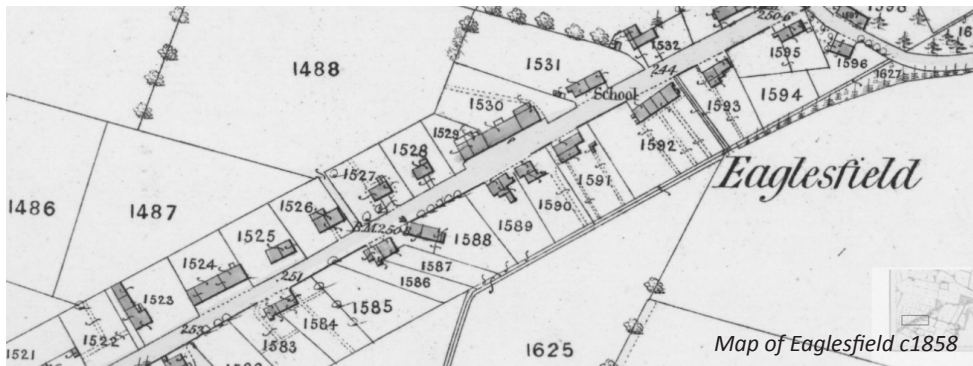
examination for the Civil Service of India, coming 28th out of 80 entrants.

The map below shows the location of the original village school where Ebenezer assisted his father. This was rebuilt in 1907 and sited on the same plot of land. In 1896 the building occupying plot 1527 was demolished to make way for the newly-built public hall.

Having gained his MA and passed the Civil Service of India examination, Ebenezer duly arrived at Bengal on 10th October 1862 and 11 months later was appointed to the post of Assistant Magistrate and Collector [of Revenue] for the 24-Pergunnahs District in Bengal. The area was so-called from the territory originally ceded to the East India Company which contained 24-Pergunnahs, or sub-districts, with its capital at Calcutta.

On 27th February 1865 Ebenezer was initiated into the Star of Orissa Masonic Lodge (No. 1106) at Cuttack in the Odisha district of India, 250 miles south-west of Calcutta: Ebenezer must have been transferred there from his original posting in the 24-Pergunnahs district, before he was transferred back there later in his career. Four years later, on 2nd March 1869, he transferred to the Excelsior Lodge, Calcutta (No. 825). In both cases he is recorded as being a "Civil Servant".

In 1870 the population of the 24-Pergunnahs



was c.700,000 with a total area of 2,536 square miles, although these figures were imprecise as much of the area was difficult to access and thus incompletely surveyed.

A large portion of the area is intersected by the Meghna river, one of several major rivers that form the Ganges Delta. The southern and eastern portions are covered in mudflats intersected by multiple tidal streams and channels. The Bay of Bengal is noted for its cyclones: the triangular shape of the Bay acts as a funnel and causes massive storm surges. This topographical description is important because one of the most deadly cyclones in Indian history, that of 1st October to 1st November 1876, occurred at a time when Ebenezer was the local magistrate responsible for reporting on the devastating effects of the cyclone and the subsequent cholera outbreak, recommending what action needed to be taken and, more importantly, responding quickly to the emergency.

In due course, Richard Temple, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal reported to parliament on the effects of the cyclone and the subsequent famine and cholera epidemic. At that point in his career Ebenezer was Magistrate of Backergunge. Temple wrote "Mr E Barton was as prompt as possible in sending every sort of help to the scene of distress; his conduct in that trying moment has received my high commendation." However, in spite of Temple's commendation of Barton's actions in this report, he reprimanded Ebenezer for a lack of care and discretion in giving away public money in the form of gifts which should rather have been loans. He copied this letter to others and it found its way to the Indian Daily News who reported that Barton's energy and ability "had better not be mentioned as it might possibly prejudice the Bengal powers that be against one of the ablest district officers that Bengal ever had".

Temple described the devastation following the cyclone in his report which gives some indication of the scale of the relief operation required.. "Most homesteads have dead strangers lying about, washed in from distant villages. The corpses began to putrify before the water cleared off the grounds, so they are left unburied in numbers all over the country (in a Mahomedan population there is no cremation). They are indeed masses of corruption which no one can bear to approach, and they present a sickening spectacle. Mixed with human bodies are the bodies of cattle, all heaped up together. The smell in many places was distressing Weather-tossed seamen in the Bay of Bengal saw many corpses floated out from land with the waves."

A comment was made by Frederick Peacock, the Officiating Commissioner of the Dacca Division that "buffaloes, being strong swimmers had fared better, but even among them the loss has been very considerable".

The huge storm surge had destroyed the clean water tanks of many of the villages, and that together with the difficulty of disposing of the corpses led, inevitably, to a devastating outbreak of cholera. There was, at that time, no effective remedy for the disease.

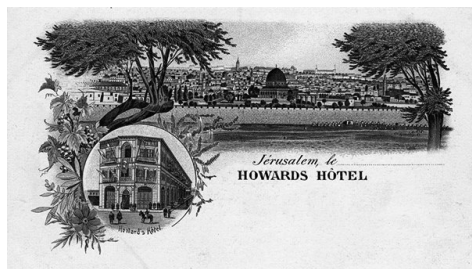
There is no reliable estimate for the numbers of dead, either from the cyclone or the cholera epidemic, although the figure generally reported is over 315,000: with 215,000 drowned and another 100,000 dying as a result of famine and cholera.

After 25 years' service, Ebenezer retired from the East India Company on 30th August 1887. On the 1891 census he is recorded as an "HM Bengal Civil Service Retired" lodging at 51 Burlington Road, Paddington. Although London was his base until his death a few years later, he retained his links with Eaglesfield and left legacies in his will to benefit the village.

Ebenezer, still lodging at 51 Burlington Road, Bayswater, died on 2nd December 1895 at "Howard's Hotel", in Jerusalem. Late in the autumn of 1895 Ebenezer and several of his friends left London in a yacht for the Mediterranean. They then left the yacht to tour Palestine. On arrival at Jerusalem Ebenezer felt unwell and instead of continuing the tour with the party remained with a doctor friend at the hotel. Along with his friend he walked out to the Garden of Gethsemane on 1st December but the following day he was found dead in bed.

Alexander Howard was the proprietor of two hotels: "Howard's Hotel" at Jaffa and the "Howard's Hotel" at Jerusalem. In 1895 he published the popular Howard's Guide to Jerusalem and vicinity with a map of Palestine. The book extolled the virtues of the hotel and included testimonials from such notables as His Imperial and Royal Highness the Crown Prince Archduke Rudolph of Austria. The Jerusalem "Howard's Hotel" (where Ebenezer died) was located in front of the Jaffa Gate and was advertised as being able to entertain 125 persons, first class with hot and cold baths.

Howard's Hotel, Jerusalem

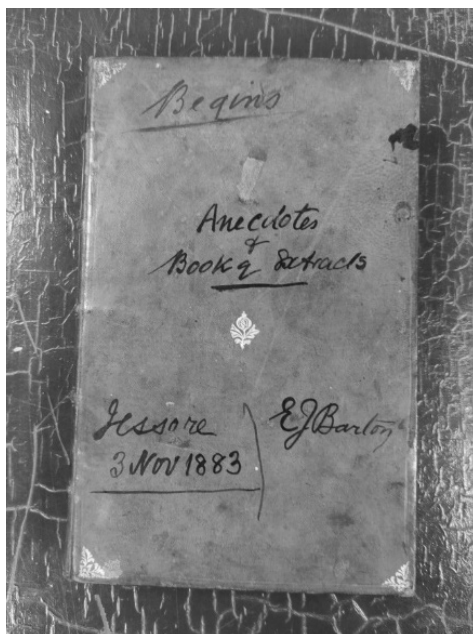


Ebenezer never married. Of his surviving siblings, his brother George (b 1851) went to Philadelphia; Norman (b 1842) married but then disappears from the record (perhaps he also emigrated?). His brother William (1847-1926) married Sarah Taylor (1850-1912); both died at Eaglesfield and are commemorated on the family gravestone

at Middlebie. His sister Jean (1850-1907) married John Henderson (1845-1916); their gravestone can be found at Ecclefechan. The short life of his brother Eaglesfield (1844-1866) has been previously referred to above.

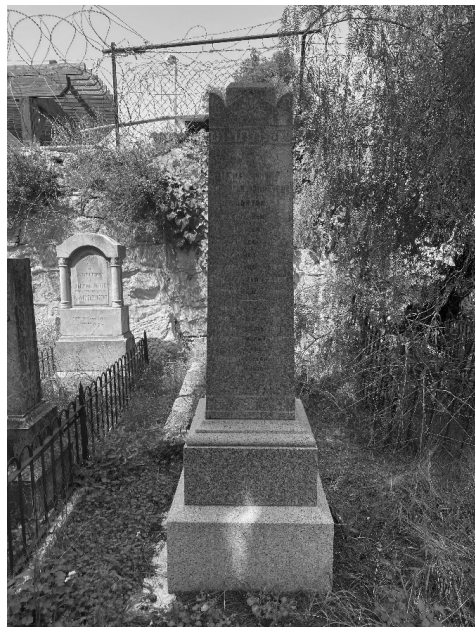
Probate was granted on 3rd February 1896, in London, to Lewis Cameron MD and the Reverend James John Monilaws, Clerk. The estate was valued at £19,016 5s 5d. Interestingly, in addition to the usual family bequests, Ebenezer made a specific condition in his will that his executors should "seal up and burn, as soon as may be after my death, all my private diaries and letters without inspection". We are fortunate, then, that his book of anecdotes and extracts still exists and was indeed auctioned by Thomson & Roddick, Auctioneers of Dumfries on 14th July 2022.

Ebenezer Barton's Book of Anecdotes and Book of Extracts (Jessore, 3rd November 1883)



Ebenezer also left a sum of money to provide for two granite monuments to his memory: one where he was buried and the other in

the churchyard of Kirkconnel, Ecclefechan. He also specified the exact inscription that the monuments should bear: "In memory of Ebenezer Johnstone Barton of the Bengal Civil Service. Born at Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, 20th March 1838, died at He was engaged for many years in the Judicial and Executive Department of the British Government of India".



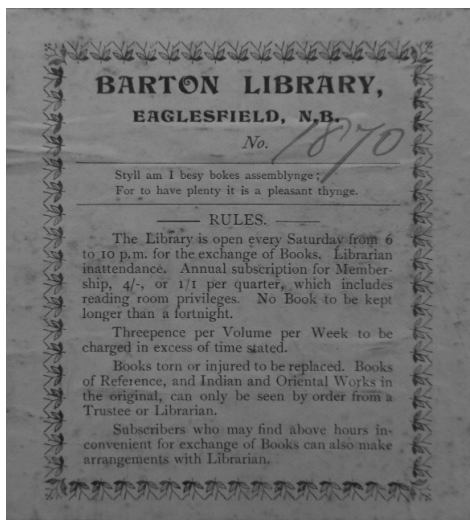
Ebenezer Barton's memorial at Jerusalem

A monument was duly erected at Jerusalem with the inscription that Ebenezer had specified in his will. There does not appear to be a similar memorial to him in Dumfriesshire, so perhaps the cost allocated to this was exhausted with the erection of the monument at Jerusalem.

He bequeathed £1,000 to build a hall in Eaglesfield and also gave his valuable library of books to the village. This latter gift was on condition that provision was made for the accommodation, custody and management of the library, which was eventually housed in the village hall. However, when Ebenezer

had visited Eaglesfield in the autumn of 1895 he was satisfied with the hall and, finding that his intended bequest was not required, he made a codicil to his will (dated 16th November 1895) with regard to the spending of that £1,000: £500 was to be for a gymnasium and swimming bath to be attached to the hall and the balance invested and spent on the hall's repair and maintenance.

Over the years, Ebenezer had collected around 3,000 books, including works on theology; reports on criminal trials; English and Scottish topography; travel; religious books on India, the Middle East and Europe. Most of them dated from the late 18th Century or early 19th Century and were relatively scarce. The Barton Library was opened on 27th April 1899 by Mrs Irving of Burnfoot who was presented with a silver key for the purpose. In 1992 the contents of the library was auctioned by auctioneers Roddick and Laurie Thomson. Before the auction it had been claimed that a local farmer took sacksful of them away but there were still "thousands" remaining.



Bookplate from the Barton Library (No. 1870)

The bookplate pictured below which was affixed to one of the three volumes of Thomas Pennant's *A Tour in Scotland and Voyage to the Hebrides* was numbered 1870. It details the rules of the library and its interesting quotation.

The quotation: Still am I besy bokes assemblynge; For to have plenty it is a pleasant thyng" comes from the 15th Century German book *Das Narrenschiff* (The Ship of Fools) by Sebastian Brant (1458-1521). The work is a moral satire and describes a ship laden with fools destined

for the fictitious "fool's paradise" land of Narragonia. Many examples of 15th Century folly are depicted in the 112 chapters, each portraying a different fool.

The first fool represented in the book is the foolish reader who possesses many books but neither reads nor understands them: Ebenezer's choice for his library labels!

A man with a sense of humour!!

Margaret Kennedy # 6467

MY MYSTERIOUS ANCESTOR

My mysterious ancestor is Joseph Little, born about 1789 Kirkbean, Kirkcudbrightshire (KKB) Scotland, parents yet to be verified. When his son Robert Little died in Casino NSW Australia in 1888, his death Certificate states his father's name as Joseph Samuel Little

On further research I found a family in Kirkbean, KKB by the name of Samuel Little (1756-1822) married Jeanie/Janet Corrie (1757-1815) and had the following children: Theodore (1788-1807), Mary (1790-), Ebenezer (1793-), Joseph (1795-1816) and Nellie (1798-).

Ref. Monumental Transcriptions of Kirkbean KKB by Alison Mitchell page 23.

Note: Robert Little worked for Jeany Little nee Corrie's nephew Robert Wilkin at Ettrick Station, Richmond River NSW Australia.

Is there a connection between Samuel and Joseph Little?

Joseph Little (1789-) married 1818 Troqueer KKB, Margaret Herries (1798-1873) they had the following children: Robert (1821-1888), Jean (1822-), Joseph (1823-), Mary Frazer

Little (1824-) and John (1831). They were baptised at Colvend KKB.

Margaret's maiden name of Herries has other spellings which include Harries, Hannahs and Hanis.

In the 1841 census, Joseph Snr. was a sailor and must have been at sea. Margaret Little listed as married and the 2 youngest children, Jannet and John, are with their mother. Robert and Joseph were apprentices to John Herries their uncle, Jean and Mary were working elsewhere. After the census was taken Robert Little immigrated to NSW Australia arriving in December 1841. Robert's assisted immigration papers states his parents as living.

By the 1851 census Margaret Little is listed as a widow born at Colvend and living at Bogknow near Colvend, KKB, living by herself and occupation-farm servant.

Where is Joseph her husband? Did he die at sea and his body never found? Or washed up on shore somewhere and unknown?

The question still is who were his parents?

In the book 'History of The Colvend Coast-Napoleonic and Victorian Times' by John Gillespie. On page 10, Rev James Little (1747-1811) was ordained 21 Sep 1775 and became the minister for Colvend Parish Church shortly after. He married Elizabeth Clark and the couple had 11 children, but the Rev James Little was not very good at recording Baptisms in the parish as only 2 children, Archibald and Mary to Elizabeth are mentioned in the church records and sadly several of the other children perished at an early age. In March 1801 Elizabeth died and the Rev James Little remarried in 1804 to Anne Fraser and a further 3 children were born.

Next question? Is there any relationship between Joseph Little and Rev James Little?

Is he one of the 11 children born to Rev James Little and Elizabeth Clark or no connection at all?

Joseph Little and Margaret Herries called one of their daughters Mary Frazer Little. Is there a connection or just co-incidence?

In John Gillespie's book 'History of The Colvend Coast' page 12. An interesting story from Rev. Samuel Dunlop, former curate of Colvend Parish wrote 100 years later that the Rev James Little may have been rather inclined to turn a blind eye to the smuggling activities—the life blood of this remote parish. This was further borne out by the discovery of a secret cellar in the new 2 storey manse built in 1804. There were trap doors in the

centre of the dining room, well hidden by a carpet, leading down to a secret cellar.

It would be an interesting twist in the family story if in fact my Joseph Little, being a sailor, was in cohorts with Rev James Little in the smuggling game.

Through my DNA it is showing connections to Northern Ireland and there were Littles residing there in the time period. This also leads to Iceland and Norway (Viking ancestry)

Any help with these questions would be much appreciated. It is hard on this side of the world to look for further clues as to who Joseph Little's parents were and what happened to Joseph Little.

I am also interested in the surname KIRKONNALD which appears in my family. It has been very difficult to source.

Ref. The Stewartry of Kirkcudbrightshire-vol 2 Colvend- Monumental Inscriptions by Alison Mitchell p. 17-23- John Gibson in Auchenlosh 1762, 69th year, his wife Jannet Kirkonnald 1778 in her 70th year.

Would appreciate any ideas as to where this name came from or any variations of the name and its origins.

Kay Francis.
Kara55@bigpond.net.au
NSW Australia
Member no.4556

JOHN GIBSON PATON

The 24th of May will be the 200th anniversary of the birth of the world famous missionary John Gibson Paton. He went to the Island of Tanna, South Pacific, to preach the gospel, converting the cannibal population to Christianity.

Sadly his young wife and child died and were buried there. He had to guard the grave for two weeks for fear of the bodies being dug up and eaten. In the year 1866 he picked up a coconut on the beach and hollowed it out to make a money box. This money box made its way back to Scotland

and was used for 70 years as a collection box in various churches around Glasgow. In early May 2019 it came up for auction in Edinburgh and sold for £938 to a member of the Paton family. (Jim Maxwell from Ayr).

In September that same year the coconut was brought to an open day at the only remaining Cruck Cottage in the area. It stands near to where the cottage stood that John Paton's brother William Paton was born in 1839. William served in the navy and later became an elephant keeper for Prince Alfred (Queen Victoria's son). He was on board a ship for 18 months with the elephant before the ship finally docked in Plymouth. From there the beast was taken by train to Sandringham. On the journey it became restless, William entered the carriage to calm the animal down and was fatally crushed to death. The elephant ended up in Ireland where it was involved in another tragic death of a keeper.

A Los Angeles man named James Gray Rough, who had done a lot of trading in Samoa and Polynesia, was so impressed by the life of John Gibson Paton he decided to visit Torthorwald in 1966. His intention was to build an arched gateway in the shape of an open bible at the Paton cottage. On arrival he was disappointed to find Paton's cottage had been demolished in 1947. He then wanted to build the arch at the church, but the Church of Scotland rejected this idea as being too elaborate for a simple village church. He was given permission to erect a simple set of gates instead. Architect Charles Henshaw from Edinburgh was employed to design, build and erect the gates, the quote was \$1600. Robison & Davidson, builders from the parish, built the pillars and the opening ceremony was held in September 1967.

Mr Rough chartered a plane from Los Angeles to Scotland with invited guests, including a minister from Samoa, to come and lay a wreath on Paton's grave. He also

paid for 40 guests to stay at the Cairndale hotel in Dumfries with a formal meal at night. Mr Rough also paid for 2000 printed copies of Paton's life, 1000 for America and 1000 for the children of Scotland. Fifteen local children, aged 11, were invited to write a letter to Mr Rough about their life in the parish, which he took home. On showing the letters to his daughter, who was a teacher, she commented that the children in Torthorwald were better educated than the same age group in America. James Rough also paid part of the cost to build a porch at the Church.

A set of brass candle sticks belonging to John Paton's father, when he lived in the Cruck Cottage from 1830, are now back in Torthorwald's existing Cruck Cottage Museum. They were donated by Robert Paton from America.

A Cruck Cottage roof is supported by six oak trees and made up of heather, turf and straw. The floor is made of sand, lime, and a cow dung mix and there is a hanging Lum (chimney). The Cruck Cottage in Torthorwald is the last remaining example of an 18th century Cruck Frame Thatched Cottage in Scotland. Once a common sight in Dumfriesshire, there were 60 such cottages making up the village of Torthorwald. This one is the last to survive. It has been saved many times throughout its long 300 year history. Last being restored in 1993 following a huge grant from the Secretary of State for Scotland. It is available for the public to visit. However, recognising the challenges this poses for all concerned, a group of members from the local district formed 'The Cruck Cottage Heritage' entering into a partnership with 'Solway Heritage' in 2003 to aid the day to day management of the cottage which now enters numerous events, participates in T.V. Adverts and even makes films.

Willie Clowe

SASINES

A Sasine (pronounced “sayzeen”) is a record of a transfer of land. In 1617, King James VI of Scotland & 1st of England made his one and only return visit to Scotland since his move to London in 1603. Among the things he did on that trip was to undertake a reformation of the Faculty of Advocates and he initiated the register of sasines. With only minor alterations, this system was in use until 2004 when the Feudal System was repealed by the Scottish Government.

Although the majority of Scottish people did not own land, a significant proportion did, and it is always worthwhile checking to see if your ancestor owned property. Property was acquired through purchase or inheritance. If purchased, there isn't a lot to learn except the details of the property in question and how the purchase was financed. If money was raised by a loan or mortgage (a wadset) there will almost certainly be a discharge at a later date when the money was repaid. This can be confusing, especially if you are only using the indexes. It is always recommended that the full sasine be read. All sasines are kept in the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh and are free to access. See <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk>

In 1617, when the register began, many of the early sasines were written in Latin, and combined with old handwriting they can be difficult to read. A Scottish writing kit can be purchased for £12.15 from www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk and Glasgow University run on-line courses. Until 1845, a piece of earth and stone from the property was handed over, signifying a change of ownership.

There were three types of register. 1) The Particular Register. This was particular to a county. Dumfries had one, but some did not.

2) The General Register. This register covered all Scotland. In practice, even

some counties with a particular register used this, especially if the lawyer handling the transaction was based in Edinburgh.

3) Royal Burghs kept separate registers. In 1781, the particular and general register ended, and abridgements began. These were county by county and most counties began to have a ‘places index’ and a ‘people index’ sometimes appearing in the same volume. The abridgement provides a concise (sometimes too concise) description of the original transaction. It also includes the reference to enable finding and checking the full sasine.

An example from a Sasine Abridgement;

June 26th 1835

“Janet Forsyth, relict of George Wilson in Carmacoup, Catherine Forsyth, relict of William Milligan in Knowe, Jean Forsyth, relict of John Paterson in Fleshclose, Mary Forsyth, spouse of Thomas Reid in Waterymeetings - and William Ireland, jun., residing in Kirkcudbright as Heirs Portioners to John Forsyth of Troloss, their brother and uncle, respectively.”

Some terms used.

- **Infett** - To put a person in possession of heritable property.
- **Precept of Clare Constat** - a document recognising the claim of an Heir to inherit and be infett.
- **Wadset** - pledge of lands (conveyed by Sasine) but with right of recovery on repayment of money borrowed.
- **Warrandice** - Guarantee that right conveyed shall be affected.
- **Assig** - Assignment
- **Disch.** - Discharge
- **Gen. Disp. And Settl** - General Disposition and Settlement (usually a Will)
- **Not. Instrument** - Notarial Document (conducted by, or before, an official Notary.

Sp. And Gen. Serv. - Special and General Service (Services of Heirs)

Early sasines can be difficult to read. It can help to have an idea of what to look for.

Sasines follow a normal layout.

Near the top is the date

Then there is mention of the Notary who is completing the transaction.

Who else is there? Those who are giving the land and those who are receiving.

Details of the giver.

Name of lands involved.

Definition of the lands involved.

Details of the document of disposition.

Names of receivers

Details of what land rights are.

Any exceptions? E.g. Liferent to occupant.

Any Feudal dues.

Details of registration

Witnesses names

Notary's names

In Dumfries, the DGFHS Research centre has copies of the Particular Register for Dumfriesshire which includes Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire. The Ewart Library holds the same and also copies of the Abridgments from 1781 until the 1930s'. Only the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh has copies of the Royal Burgh Sasines. In this area, the Royal Burghs were Annan, Dumfries, Lochmaben, Sanquhar, Kirkcudbright, New Galloway, Whithorn, Wigtown and Stranraer. The dates of these registers vary, and boundaries changed too. For example, the Convent in Troqueer is registered in the Dumfries register when it is located over the river in Kirkcudbrightshire. The old maxim, "any competent court" sometimes applied.

Ian A McClumphia #806

WILLIAM COPLAND

BORN 1832, DALBEATTIE, SCOTLAND

I was eleven when my Granny Copeland (Bessie Boyd Lanter) told me about my 2x great grandfather, William Copland, who was born in Galloway, Scotland in 1832. She handed me a yellowed, creased, typewritten sheet of paper which contained a biography of William Copland, detailing his experiences once he settled in South Charleston, Ohio, and his marriage to Jane Hopkins, whose family had immigrated to Ohio from Donegal, Ireland in 1849. This biography had been originally published in Portrait and Biographical Album of Greene and Clark Counties, Ohio, by Chapman Bros. in 1890.

The biography indicated that young William Copland first arrived in South Charleston, Ohio, in 1850 at the age of 19. Initially, he lived with his cousin, George Murray, a farmer. William's mother, Margaret Murray Copland, arrived from Scotland about a year after her son, according to the biography. William's mother had remarried but was not clear when or to whom. William's father,

George Copland, remained in Scotland his entire life.

That was all I knew about William Copland's life in Scotland. Galloway was a large area with many towns and several counties. After taking an introductory genealogy class at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow last year, I was able to locate William's baptism record on Scotland's People.

William Copland was born in Dalbeattie, Parish of Urr, on 16 September 1832 and was baptized on 21 April 1833. This record confirmed that his mother was Margaret Murray and that his father, George Copland, was a mason. Curiously, George Copland did not attend William's baptism. The record clearly states that "the mother presented the child..." which seems to have been unusual.

But by 1841, this young family had all but disappeared from the Parish. According to the 1841 census, William, age 8, was

living with James and Mary Murray and their children on Main Street in Dalbeattie. James Murray is listed as 30 years old and a shoemaker. Mary is age 25, and the children are Marianne (7), Agnes (5), twins John and Jean (3), and Maxine Murray (6 mos). An older couple also live in the home, Charles and Lucinda Aitkins (ages 50 and 45, respectively). They were employed as agricultural laborers and most likely were Mary Murray's parents.

George Copland and Margaret Murray were not living with William in 1841. In addition, I can find no other children born to them. Perhaps James Murray was Margaret's brother or cousin. I have searched the 1841 and 1851 census looking for any information concerning the whereabouts of Margaret Murray and George Copland, with no firm leads. George may have died shortly after William was born and Margaret may have placed herself as a servant in someone's home. Obviously, wherever she was, she could not keep her son with her.

I believe I've located a baptism record for George Copland, born to William Copland and Janet Millar of Ingleston Farm, New Abbey Parish in 1808. William and Janet eventually moved to Kirkbean Parish about 1810 and have three more children: Anna, John, and Mary Ann. In the 1841 census, William and Janet Copland are living in Troqueer Parish, on Glasgow Street in Dumfries. A 17-year-old daughter named Jane is living with them.

William Copland, George's father, was born at Barlochan Farm, near the fishing village of Palnackie, in the Parish of Buittle. He was baptized on 16 November 1776. His parents were John Copland and Mary Alexander.

I have not been able to find a baptism record for Margaret Murray or for James Murray or any records that tell me how Margaret may have been related to James. But, when William Copland left Scotland for the US, he came directly to South Charleston, Ohio to live with his "cousin" George Murray.

By the mid-1850s in Clark County, Ohio, Peter, James, and George Murray, were all locally known, successful men. They were the sons of Mungo Murray (b. 1775) and Catherine Ewen who emigrated from Crieff, Perthshire to the US in 1801. Peter, James and George were all born in the first decade of the nineteenth century in Delaware County, New York, but the family were living in South Charleston, Ohio by the 1830 US Federal Census.

While I believe that William's mother Margaret Murray is somehow related to these Murrays from Perthshire, I have yet to find a connection.

After immigrating to Ohio, William Copland lived with George Murray for a few years, until he could save enough money to buy a tract of land from a neighboring farmer named James Pringle. William married Jane Hopkins in 1856 in the Presbyterian Church in South Charleston. Her parents were Robert Hopkins and Jane Hemphill, Ulster Scots from Donegal, who are buried near William and Jane in Greenlawn Cemetery, South Charleston.

William applied to become a naturalized United States citizen in 1860, and it was then that he changed the spelling of his last name from Copland to Copeland.

Paula J. Copeland #7118

AN INFORMATION REQUEST

I am seeking any information about the Heron-Maxwell family of Springkell House, Eaglesfield. I believe they had a son, born in 1850's who joined the Indian Army. Does anyone know about this son? Thank You.

Ian Riley Member No 6838

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE



John Clark married Jessie Thomson in 1835. She had been born in Kirkmahoe, one of the three daughters of James Thomson and Jessie Reid. Her father was the first Cameronian minister of Quarrelwood. He was originally from Kilsyth and prior to training for the ministry he had been a joiner to trade. When he was called to Quarrelwood in 1796 there was a hamlet there with 70 people, but no meeting house. James Thomson did all the joinery work in the construction of the church and also built the pulpit for Hightae Church.

The premises occupied by the society has a long history. The site immediately on the corner of Glasgow Street and Galloway Street presently occupied by Merlin Office Supplies and adjoining our centre was not built on until it was purchased in 1824 by John Clark from Thomas Hairstens. Although Thomas Hairstens owned the property our centre occupies, at that time the corner site housed a weighing machine. Thomas Hairstens had a very profitable tannery in Maxwelltown at the time. Joseph Pagan the proprietor of The Kings Arms Inn which stood on the opposite side of Glasgow Street was married to John Clark's sister Agnes and he in turn had close links with The Hairstens and Hyslop families who occupied Cassalands where John Clark had been born in 1792.

John Clark was an ironmonger to trade the son of David Clark, who farmed Cassalands, and Margaret Pagan. He did not marry until he was 43 and well set up in business as a general merchant and ironmonger and by that time had built his shop on the corner of Glasgow Street and Galloway Street with a house above. His property extended from the corner of Glasgow Street to Browns Close which borders the Family History Centre. He let the two shops and house above to tenants. He had an illegitimate daughter, Helen Clark, who was living with him when he drew up his will in 1824.

James Thomson drew worshippers from 30 miles around at a time when communion services spread over three days with worshippers setting out on Saturday, camping out over Sunday and Monday and, after the Monday services, returning home by Tuesday. James Thomson served Cameronian congregations in both Quarrelwood and The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

John Clark was a member of The Reformed Presbyterian Church Dumfries and even prior to his marriage had planned to leave money to this congregation for the benefit of the poor and to establish a library for the church members. John and Jessie Clark had three sons, James Thomson Clark, who carried on the family business after the death of his father in 1862, John Clark, who became a druggist and occupied the shop which neighbours the Society's premises. Parrus Clark, their third son, disappears from records and presumably died young. Their daughter Wilhelmina Clark, lived above the shop in Glasgow Street until her death in 1921. John Clark let the society's shop to Thomas Kirk who was a shoemaker. William McCourty took over the tenancy from Thomas Kirk. He also was a shoemaker to trade and died in 1879.

Jessie Clark died in 1894 but by that time her sons were no longer in business and the corner shop was occupied by James



Maxwell with the shop next door a druggist, tenanted by John Hastie Nicholson 1853-1921. James Maxwell did not live above the shop but at 20 Laurieknowe. When he died in 1889 his two daughters continued to run the grocer's business. John Hastie Nicholson who was the Provost of Maxwelltown, remained a bachelor and ran his chemist shop until his death in 1921 at his house in Terregles Street. The Family History shop was occupied by shoemakers, drapers and a dairyman, until it was bought by the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Cooperative Society. Half the shop was a grocer and the other half a butcher. What had been James Maxwell's grocers on the corner of Glasgow Street and Galloway Street continued as

a grocer's under the ownership of John Leitch, who also occupied the flat above, after the death of Wilhelmina Clark. The chemist shop was run by J W McCallum.

The grocer who followed John Leitch was James Kirkpatrick and the shop and flat above were in the Kirkpatrick family from 1935 but occupied by James Payne until 1960 and Archibald Hastings until the 1980s. The Dumfries and Maxwelltown Cooperative Society occupied the Society's shop until 1974. The chemist shop was by the 1950s the property of Norman Murray. The shops and flat became the property of the well known local musician Ian Holmes and for a short time the Society's shop was a computer centre until it was at first rented from Ian Holmes for its present use as a family history centre in 1996 and finally purchase by the society in 1997. There is no longer a grocer's shop a chemist shop or a weighing machine next door, but the business premises set up all those years ago as an ironmongers by John Clark is now Merlin Office Supplies.

Lynda Mackie # 4741

UK NEW MEMBERS INTERESTS

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7183 | Clare Lewis , clareandlewis@gmail.com Carruthers, Norris, Rae surnames in Dalton, Hoddom, Middlebie & St Mungo; Gillespie in Annan and Kirkmichael. Laidlaw & McAlister surnames. | 7190 | Kirkinner
Jill Covell , jillff@btinternet.com Biggam family, Leswalt, Portpatrick etc, trying to find my way back from Andrew Biggam 1715 |
| 7185 | Anthony Robson , ajrobson3@aol.com Robison and Robson in the Dumfries area, areas including kirkgunzeon, Auchencalm, Kelton, Twynholm and all general areas around these points. | 7191 | Gregory Lawson , glas86@live.co.uk Carruthers, Lupton, Johnstone, Blacklock, Bell, Graham, Scott, Carlyle . Researching my family history from my maternal grandparents back through our long association with Annan and the surrounding areas |
| 7187 | Darren Kermack , darrenkermack@gmail.com Wigtownshire, mainly New/Old Luce and Stoneykirk | 7192 | James McCrae , jimmccrae46@gmail.com McCrae, McKie, McMaster |
| 7188 | Chris Hanratty , email not working at present, Hanratty, Cranny , Wigtown, Newton Stewart, | 7193 | Francis Petchey , agricp7@yahoo.co.uk William Young Kirkpatrick |

- born 29th June 1845, looking for place of birth, was baptised St Mary's, Dumfries. Parents?
- 7194 Sarah **Docherty**, saze07@hotmail.com Kirkcudbright – **Lindsay, Thorat, Locke, Milligan, Connelly, Ross, Docherty, McCready**
- 7197 Ian **Stewart** st1nge@aol.com **Stewart** surname
- 7199 James **Gilchrist** j.m.gilchrist@gmail.com **Gilchrist**, Dunscore
- 7200 Dina **Adamson** no email, History of Dumfries and Galloway
- 7201 David **Moriarty** davidmrrt82@googlemail.com **Jolly, Shaw, Papple, Caven, Riddick, Kirkpatrick, Dalrymple**, Kirkcudbrightshire, Bogue and Kirkcudbright within it.
- 7202 J ake **Townsend** evegrnt@gmail.com **Dickson** of Mouswald, **Phillips and Mundell** at Eastmain of Rockhall Mouswald, **Irving/Phillips** at Ruthwell, **Shearer** at Inch parish in Wigtown. **Roddick** in Mouswald with **Dickson**.
- 7203 Martin **Norford** m.norford@btinternet.com **Smith, Anderson**, Stoneykirk
- 7204 Francis **Gibson** f.gibson@sky.com **Scott**, Annan, Dumfries
- 7205 Tim **Brooks** greatleap2@icloud.com **McCall**, Glencairn, Dumfriesshire
- 7207 Geoffrey **Elliott-McGuffie** geoffem11@gmail.com McGuffie's of Cubbicks, near New Galloway
- 7208 George **Simkins** hevsimk@gmail.com **Jardine, Fleming Williamson, Moffat and Dalgliesh** family histories. Applegarth, Dumfries, Lockerbie, Lochmaben, Closeburn and other parishes too.
- 7209 John **Park** jwpark1883@icloud.com Not at present
- 7211 Tasha **Cook** natashacook69@aol.com **Graham, Beattie, Calvert, McIntosh, Richardson, Scott**. Canonbie, Langholm, Kirkcudbright, Castle Douglas.
- 7212 Jackie **Hawkins** jackiehawkins2004@hotmail.com Surnames **Bains, Baines, Holland**. Travelling theatre, The Royal Oak, New Fleshmarket Street, Dumfries
- 7213 Una **Forster** unafoster@aol.com **Telfer** surname Rerrick parish Auchencairn
- 7214 Christine **James** christine-james62@outlook.com **Laidlaw**. Laidlaw village, Clan Scott. Border Reivers.

NEW OVERSEAS MEMBERS

- 7129 Christine **Dimelow**, AUS, christineannbrown54@gmail.com, **McLellan, McClellan, McClelland, Boyes, McFee, McFie, McPhee, Lock, Locke, Dixon, Dickson, Hunter** – Caerlaverock, Holywood, Kirkmahoe, Terregles, Tinwald, Torthorwald, Troqueer
- 7131 Brooke **Bailey**, USA, b-bailey@hotmail.com, **McAllister** - Kirkcolm
- 7132 Ethan **Bishop-Blaikie**, USA, etbishopblaikie@gmail.com, Blaikie surname (Blackie, Black, Blake) in 18th century, Colvend & Southwick, Dumfries
- 7133 Lindsey **Pagnucco**, CAN, rlpag@telus.net,
- 7134 Christine **Bennett**, NZ, christinebennett290@gmail.com, **Jardine** – Kirkpatrick Fleming, **Kirk** – Kirkmichael, **Kerr** – Kirkmichael, **Carruthers** - Holywood
- 7135 Carolyn Springfield-Harvey, USA, springfieldharvey.carolyn@gmail.com, **Jardine, Halliday, McKnight, Kerr** – Ecclefechan, immigrated to Nova Scotia, Canada, and later to the United States. As they were all born in the late 1700's and early 1800's and immigrated in 1816 and 1824

- 7136 Jeanene **Howard**, AUS, jeanene_howard@yahoo.com.au, **Ritchie Agnew Irvin(e)g** – Leswalt, Kirkcolm
- 7137 Carol **Yeo**, NZ, carol@yeoyeo.co.nz, **Richardson** – Annan & Dumfries
- 7138 Michael G **Baird**, CAN, mgcbaird@gmail.com, **Baird & Ferguson** -Kirkconnel 1725-1800
- 7139 Gary **Maxey**, USA, 60maxey@gmail.com, **Ferguson/ Fergusson, Craighead**
- 7140 Timothy **Kee**, USA, timkimkee@gmail.com, I am writing a historical fiction book about the lairds of galloway during the 16th and 17th century. My ancestral line includes the Mackie's, Stewarts, Agnew's, Gordon's, Dunbar's, Macdowell's, Vaus/Van's, Kennedy's and many other local lairds. The focus of the book will be on the Mackie's of Larg and their neighbors the Stewarts of Garlies and their local interactions, altercations and adventures during the above period. The key parish is Minnigaff but also includes Penningham and others.
- 7141 Mary **Bennett**, CAN, mbqi@yahoo.com, **Murdoch, Dempster, Inch** – Wigtownshire, Stoneykirk
- 7144 Becky **Sodenkamp**, USA, soda03@msn.com, Great Great Grandmother Isabella **Jardine** believed to be descended from John **Jardine**, born Dumfries in 1723 and married Agnes **Hamilton** in 1759. Isabella **Jardine** married William **Simpson** who has possible ties to Dunfermline, Fife.
- 7145 Jenny **Clendenen**, USA, JennyRClendenen@gmail.com, **Glendinning, Douglas** – D & G, particularly Kirkcudbright
- 7146 Sue **Smurthwaite**, NZ, Smurthwaite.g.s@xtra.co.nz, Trying to trace my Maternal Grandmother's Family. Her name was Elizabeth Dobie and she was born in 1890 in Glasgow but the rest of the family is mainly listed as being in or from Dumfriesshire.
- 7147 Jennifer **McBride**, USA, hcolieb13@gmail.com, **McCornack, Fie, McGeough, Hanna**
- 7148 Catharine **Mitchell**, CAN, bflows@sympatico.ca, **Lattimer, Lottimer, Lorimer** – Wigtownshire
- 7149 James **Beveridge**, NZ, jamesbeveridge@xtra.co.nz, **Beveridge** – Dumfries
- 7150 Susan **Cannon**, AUS, cannonsm@bigpond.net.au, **Cannon, McMath**
- 7251 Laurie **Wolfram**, USA, lauriewolfram@icloud.com, **McCall, Hill, Geddes, Duff, Pagan, Pegan, Copland, Coupland, Teat, Tait, Orr, McBride, Conchie, Concher, Thomson** - Parishes: Annan, Closeburn, Dumfries, Holywood, Kirkbean, St. Michaels, Counties: Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, Ayrshire
- 7252 Shawn **Barber**, CAN, shawngrahambarber@gmail.com, Troqueer Parish
- 7253 Laura **McHarg**, AUS, dictum@bigpond.com, **McKenzie, McHarg, Woodrow, Bowie**
- 7254 Rachel Little **Morris**, USA, rachel.morris@gmail.com, **Morris - Borders**
- 7255 William **Brown**, CAN, wjb1062@gmail.com, I am researching my family history in Dumfries/ Galloway- essentially Robert **Brown** and his descendants from Barchain Farm, near Castle Douglas. The last known descendants in Dumfries were Alex and Agnes **Brown**. I will be visiting Dumfries June 12-14/24 (from Canada) and hope to meet any relatives I may still have in the region.
- 7256 Patricia **Gerstner**, USA, pgerstner86@gmail.com, Dumfries, Annan, Hoddam, Canonbie, St Mungo, Dryfesdale, - **Laidlaw, Baxter Ferguson, Graham, Roddick, Hunter, Richardsone, Annison**

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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2022 / 2023

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DUMFRIES and GALLOWAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Email: researchcentre@dgfhs.org.uk

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S H

I S L E

O F

A R R A

Fairland

Crosswell

Port

Kirkcaldy

Galloway

Maze

Port Patrick

Dumfries

Longitude West from London

I R I S H S E A

