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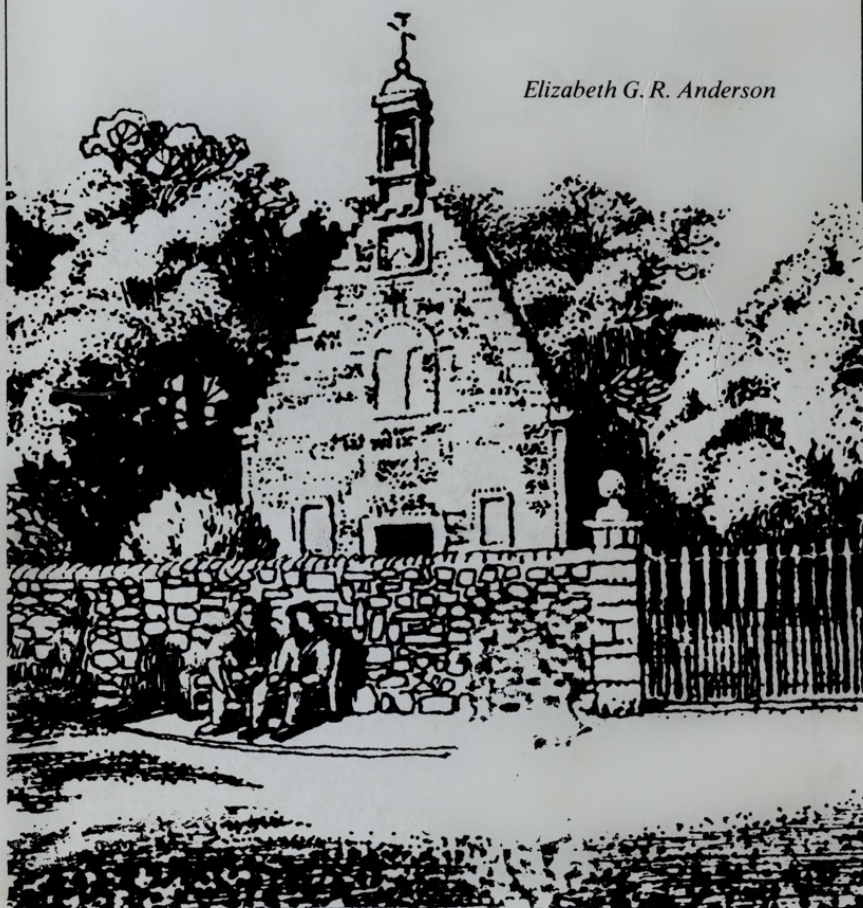
Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson

Scans of the photographs in the book did not produce very good results. These have been replaced with exact copies from the collection of PBtheCairn. Some replacements are scans of the original glass negatives taken by Peter Dewar – my thanks to David Robertson for allowing me to scan these and add them to the collection of PBtheCairn.

Six of the photographs were sourced from the template used to print the book. Three of these scans had issues and were replaced. Two depict the same scene as the photograph it is replacing, albeit at a slightly different date. These have been credited to PBtheCairn. The other, on page 41, was taken in the opposite direction but was shot on the same day! For ease of comparison the three original photographs are appended after the rear cover page.

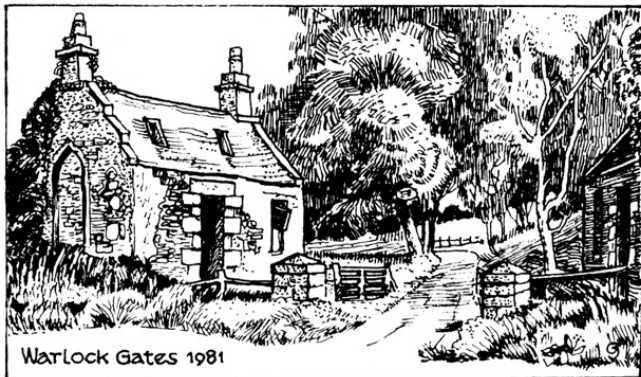
*The
Parish
of
Lochwinnoch*

Elizabeth G. R. Anderson



THE PARISH
OF
LOCHWINNOCH

*To my family
in Scotland and in Canada.*



Warlock Gates 1981

Warlock Gates.

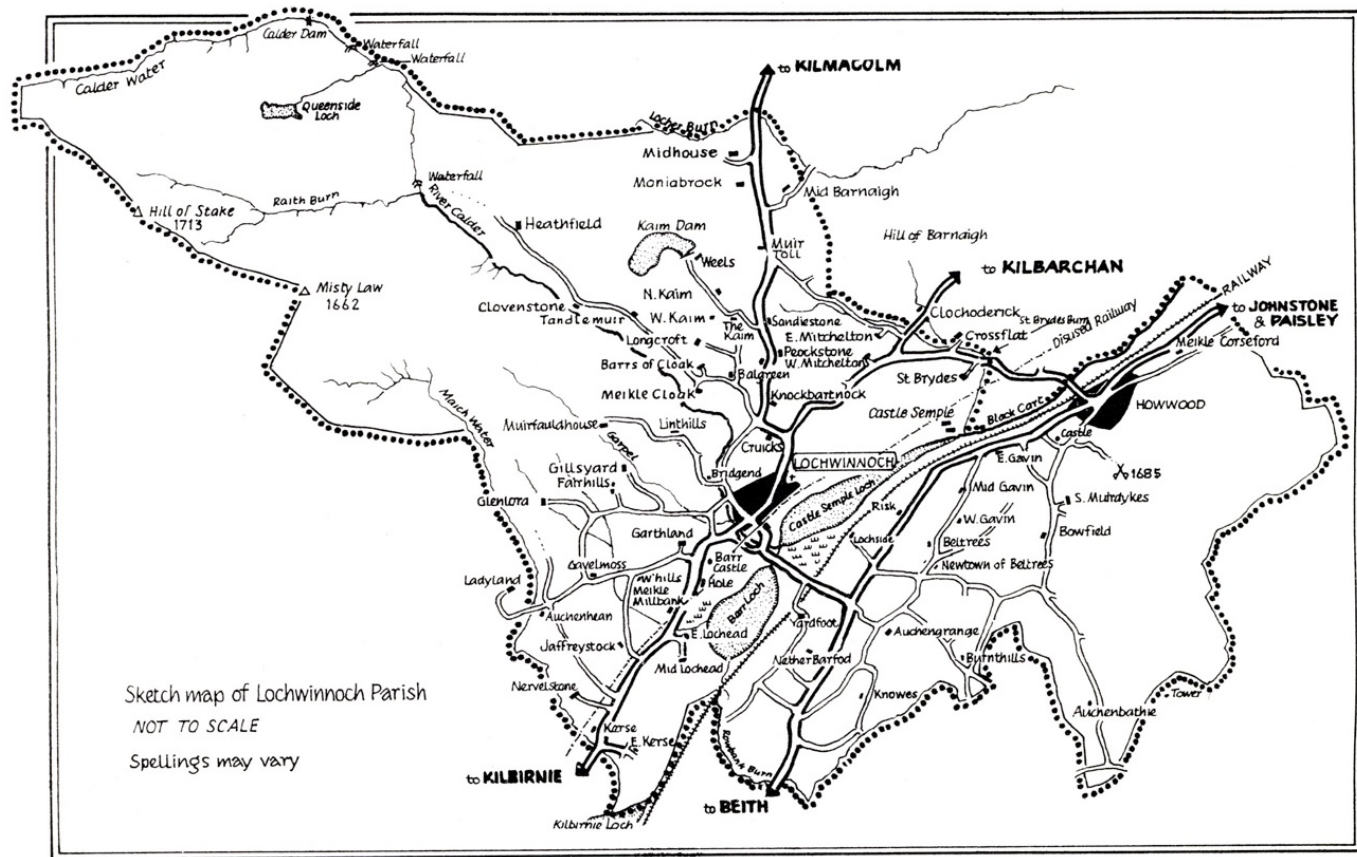
Drawing by Nora Guthrie.

INTRODUCTION

It is a long time since Cathie Robb (now Mrs Cathie Hymers of Lybster) infected me with the local history bug. It started off with a mild investigation into names of lost farms, but it developed into a fever of interest, heightened by work along with Miss Margaret Speirs and others for the S.W.R.I. History of the Parish. Finally, Mr Frank Newall's boundless knowledge of local archaeological and historical matters set me on the course of complete addiction. This book is an attempt to rid my system of some of the information I have collected over the past thirty years. It is not academic, but it is historically accurate, I hope. If there are mistakes they are unintentional. I hope they will be forgiven.

Some things may have changed since 1986 when this book was written. I have just heard of the death of Mr David Kerr who is mentioned in these pages.

*Elizabeth G. R. Anderson
Warlock Gates
March, 1987*



Lochwinnoch

If you are not a native of Lochwinnoch, then perhaps your first visit has been to the Nature Reserve, as good a spot as any to begin investigating some of the history and topography of a most interesting place. Face the village. To your left is the Barr Loch, to your right, Castle Semple Loch. In times gone by, these were joined together in one big expanse of water known by various names and a variety of spellings we can summarise as LOCH WINNOCH.

Now we have already touched on many possible routes of research. Who were the Semples who could leave their name on the map? What is the significance of "Barr"? Why is there a road where there once was water? Why Winnoch?

Winnoch is said by some to be derived from a shadowy figure from the era of Columba, Mungo, etc., called Winnoc. Certainly there were early Christian preachers in the area. A preaching stone, known as THE DUMB PROCTOR was found in the village. Farm names such as Crossflat, Cruicks, etc., indicate preaching locations. LOCH OF THE WILD FOWLING is another meaning of Lochwinnoch. What is certain is that the name is very old indeed. Over forty different spellings are in existence in charters etc., obvious attempts at recording the pronunciation only a native born villager with a lang pedigree could produce. One charter says CLOUSHINNOCH -(Could the speaker have had a speech defect?)

The centre of Christianity is where we must look for early Lochwinnoch. That is not to say there was no earlier history; the canoes dug out of the loch, the flints, bronze hoards and iron age excavations such as at Knockmade testify to a long pre-history, but that I leave to experts to explain. It is to ground above loch level we must go - to the far end of High Street, to Auld Simon, as it is known locally, a part of a church built in 1729 on the site of previous Christian buildings. Around that site grew the settlement of the Kirktoon of Lochwinnoch dedicated to St John, by St John's well and St John's Hill, now known as Johnshill. It is still possible to see traces of very old Lochwinnoch around lower Johnshill and Eastend. Dilapidated walls and piles of stones denote the site of a bustling community with at least two hostelryes- Barclay's and the Strands. But that is skipping a few centuries.

After the Celtic era came the Norman influence especially under David I, and with it the feudal system, and written records. From various sources we learn that David gave great tracts of land and tremendous



Auld Simon.

W Cochrane.

power to Walter Fitzalan, a member of one of the Norman families invited by the king to settle in Scotland. He became the first High Steward of Scotland. He founded Paisley Abbey, and to the monks there he gave lands and privileges including land at the kirk of Lochwinnoch. The first charter appeared in the twelfth century, but successive kings and High Stewards added to the list. To sum them up, the king granted lands or rights to the Steward or other person of high rank, who passed them on to others down the line, all in return of some service. Thus Lochwinnoch (the Kirktown), the lands of Moniabrock, the land between the Maich and the Calder, and the rights of fishing in the Calder and loch belonged to the monks. It is interesting to note the different spellings of Lochwinnoch in these charters:

1158 - *Lochinauche*, 1180 - *Locwynhok*,
1244 - *Lochwinhoc*, 1283-1303 - *Kertlouwcynehok*.

Obviously the few literate recorders had difficulty in writing the time honoured pronunciation, Lochenyuch.

Kertlouchwynhok is, of course, the river Cart and the loch. In those days natural boundaries were extremely important. Lochwinnoch Parish boundaries were the Maich, the Locher, St Bryde's Burn and the Cart which takes us as far as Spateston. That completes one side of the loch. The other side is more difficult to find since the burn at Spateston has been piped and some of the burns and a little loch (called Loctancu in an old charter of the lands of Auchingown) disappeared when Rowbank reservoir was made. At the Beith end, the Roebank Burn and Clerksbridge are easily found. That is a very rough indication of the extent of Lochwinnoch Parish.

Auchinbathie Tower, on the road from Howwood to Uplawmoor, belonged to the Wallaces of Elderslie, so Lochwinnoch can claim historical associations with the great Scottish patriot; it has much closer associations with Robert the Bruce.

The Semples (Sempills etc.)

Nearer to the centre of the Parish than Auchinbathie is Elliston Castle. Its ruins can be seen at Howwood. The Sempills (which I shall spell Semple from now on), who were of Eliotstoun, fought for Bruce and were rewarded with grants of land including part of the Lothians and land at Largs. The Semples were on their way to the top. Always on the side of the monarchy, they kept increasing their power. Sir William Semple of Ellieston received a charter of the Baronies of Elliestoun and Castletoun from James III in 1474. Castleton afterwards became Castle Semple. William was the first proprietor of Castleton, but the knighthood had been conferred on John Semple in 1430 by James I. William's son, Thomas, sat in parliament in 1484, but died at Sauchieburn in 1488 when some of the nobles rebelled and conspired to set up the boy prince James as king. Semple was on the king's side. The king was assassinated when fleeing from the field, and the young James found himself in the power of the rebels. To gain some kind of authority, James IV sought the friendship of some who had been loyal to his father, so Thomas Semple's son, John, became a baron in 1488, just after the battle- the first Lord Semple.

John founded the Collegiate church in 1504. This building can still be seen in the former Castle Semple estate. It is a fine example of Scottish mediaeval architecture. "Built to the glory of God and of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the prosperity of his Sovereign Lord King James IV, and Queen Margaret, his Royal Consort; and for the soul of Margaret Colvil, his former wife; and for the health of his own soul, and of Margaret Crichton his wife, then living; as also for the souls of all his ancestors and successors." He took no chances of divine retribution, did he? Yet it appears he had offended a high church dignitary, and the founding of the church let him off the spiritual hook, so to speak.

The Foundation Charter is a remarkable document. From the financing of the establishment to the punishment for unofficial "days off" every little detail is set down, especially pertaining to the teaching of the singing boys. Here was a pre-Reformation Grammar school - a "sang schule".

James IV visited the Collegiate Church in 1505. Eight years later he and most of the Scottish nobles lay dead on Flodden field, not forgetting the followers from Lochwinnoch, and John, Lord Semple.

Next in line came William, the "hard man" of the family, so it appears to me. Like his ancestors he held high office, but that did not deter him



Collegiate Church from Fishponds, 1907.

R.D.C. Museums.

from flouting the law whenever it suited him. He rode into Edinburgh with 586 followers even although he was in deep trouble with the law at the time. They killed a Dutchman then rode out again. As usual William managed to wriggle out of trouble, for there is a document of James V granting a respite to William and his 586 followers in 1526. It seems odd to us that the ruler could not stamp out what was open rebellion, but the Feudal System resulted in what amounted to a large number of private armies, in theory ready to help the defence of the realm, but, in reality, a threat to the ruler who had no standing army. Indeed, for one hundred years from 1488 there was what amounted to civil war in Scotland as different factions indulged in a power struggle. One of the most notorious feuds was between the Montgomeries and the Cunninghams, with the Semples usually on the Montgomery side. In 1533 the Semples murdered Cunningham of Craigends after lying in wait for him - in spite of the fact that William was a Lord Justiciar. Surely there has never been a greater miscarriage of justice than the trial of the Semples. Two poor scapegoats were executed but the culprits got off. Whether forcing a poor widow to sue him for milk kye, uplifted for supposed debts of her late husband, or preventing law officers carrying out their duties while himself a justiciar, William, second Lord Semple, appears in a very bad light.

The third Lord Semple, the Great Lord Semple, carried on the fighting tradition. There was greater unrest than ever because the Church Reformers were becoming more powerful. Added to that there was a child on the throne - Mary, Queen of Scots. Intense diplomatic activity was the order of the day with England and France struggling for control in Scotland. Robert, third Lord Semple, hastened to fortify his estate. He built the Peel Castle on an island in the loch, complete with bulwarks and gunports. The English invaded Scotland three times; the third time was the occasion of the battle of Pinkie where Robert was taken prisoner. Mary, the queen, was taken to France in 1548 at the age of six. Peace followed shortly afterwards and Robert was released.

Peace within the country was impossible with the internal strife. Robert faced the crisis of 1560 by creating havoc in the countryside, killing and settling old scores - "not sparand to sla auld men of foir skoir yeris of age, lyand decreppit in their beddis." He burned stackyards and houses, not in the national cause, but to further his own private feuds. Instead of appearing before the Justice-General for trial, he fortified Castle Semple, checked the Peel, and went off to Dunbar (then in French hands) leaving Castle Semple in the charge of his son, the Master of Semple. The castle was soon besieged by the auld enemy, the Earl of Glencairn's brother's men (Cunninghams), but the Master did not

surrender. The besiegers cheekily removed some sheep before they were replaced by the Earl of Arran's men. September dragged on into October. After a spell of stormy weather, Arran's men got their guns into action. It was not long before a white flag went up. Arran's men went to live in the castle, while the Master and his men had to move into a barn.

As usual, Semple managed to ride out the storms, political and otherwise, and kept his position as bailie, while still retaining his Roman faith and remaining loyal to his queen. He was never far removed from political struggles, but always kept in circles with power at Court.

The Queen, back from France, enjoyed great popularity at first, even after her marriage with Darnley. The murder of Darnley and her subsequent marriage with Bothwell lost Mary many friends, including Lord Semple. He joined forces with the supporters of the child king, James VI, and fought against Mary at the battle of Langside. It is recorded that the Semple contingent had the grandest turn out of all and outdid all others in their finery. The wily Semple managed to keep all his positions of importance, and even to oust Claud Hamilton as Commendator of Paisley Abbey in return for his services to the State - this at a time when Roman Catholics could not hold office. He allied himself to the Reformers - and retained power. Perhaps that is why he was buried in Lochwinnoch Kirkyaird instead of the Collegiate Church.

Having been predeceased by his eldest son, Robert, he was succeeded by his grandson, Robert, fourth Lord Semple. He was a Privy Councillor to James VI, but, because of his religion, the high offices of his grandfather were not open to him. He had some reputation as a poet. He became Ambassador to Spain in 1596, but thereafter fortune ceased to favour the Semples until the eighth Lord, Francis, who became a Protestant and eligible to serve in Parliament. He died in 1684.

The Semples (Sempills) of Beltrees

Glory of a different kind shone on a branch of the Semple family. This was no martial fame. Three generations of Semples shone in the world of literature.

The third Lord Semple (the Great) had married twice. John, a son of the second marriage, was at the court of Queen Mary, and there met Mary Livingstone, one of the Queen's Maries. Encouraged by the Queen, they married, receiving generous gifts of land from her. They set up house at Beltrees, acquired by the Great Lord in 1559-60. Their eldest son, James, was educated by George Buchanan, the renowned scholar, with James VI as a fellow pupil. James Semple became ambassador to the court of Queen Elizabeth. He wrote many weighty discourses, some of them against the Church of Rome, especially "The Packman's Paternoster", known also as "The Packman and the Priest". He acted as amanuensis to the King in James' "Basilicon Doron".

Robert Semple, son of James, is particularly noted for his poem "Elegy on the Death of Habbie Simpson", written in a stanza form much used afterwards by Burns.

Much of the financial trouble which beset Beltrees started with Robert. He had to set aside his poetry during the Civil War. True to family tradition, he fought for his King, the ill-fated Charles I, and suffered in his cause. Semple lands in Ireland were not restored to him. During the time of Cromwell he had little heart for poetry. Financial difficulties beset him. In 1649 he and his wife had to "dispose all and haill thair two pairte of the fyve merkland of Auchinlodment with housses, Zairds etc. lyand within the parochin of Paisley to Capitane Livetennent George Montgomerie for £3000."

Robert left considerable debts when he died; in the hands of Francis, his son and successor, the estates became less. Francis was beset by poverty all of his life. One of his best-known poems, "The Banishment of Poverty" is a moving, if somewhat amusing, account of his efforts to honour a bond taken to help someone else. Still warmly attached to the Stewart cause, he got financial help from the Duke of Albany (afterwards James VII and II), for which he greatly praised that prince.

It is amazing that Francis produced such fine poetry in the face of such a catalogue of financial disasters:-

1669- Francis and his wife, Jean Campbell, exchanged with John Caldwell of Risk, part of the Park Meadow for "twa rigs along with

the Hall of Beltrees”.

1674 - He gave a charter of alienation of lands of Thirdpart (Kilbarchan) to his son.

1677 - a horning (being outlawed). Maxwell and Paton v. Sempill for £150 Scots.

1677 - He feued “ane sextene pennie land of Glenheid, called the Hall”.

1677 - He sold or feued out the vassals of the land of Beltrees.

1678 - By that year he had sold the superiority of Beltrees

1680 - He and his wife resigned their life-rents of “pairts of the Thirdpart to Robert Semple, their son, for the younger laird’s infement in all and hail the 46/8 land of Clochoderick”, the young man paying the old laird’s debts 800 merks and £800 Scots.

To add to his difficulties, his appointment as Sheriff-Depute of Renfrewshire simply meant many unpaid fees and left our lawyer poet poorer than ever.

He must have had a “heart abune them a”, like Burns a century later, as illustrated by the following anecdote:-

In 1655, Francis and his newly wed wife, Jean, rode to Glasgow to pay an instalment of a debt owed to “Auntie Semple”, who lived in High Street near the Cathedral. Cromwell’s forces occupied the town, and every visitor had to register on arrival, stating his business, place of residence and length of sojourn. Auntie Semple was horrified to learn Francis had ignored these regulations. Fearing her goods would be poulded, she went to write a letter to the officer in charge of the English forces, but her nephew took the pen and wrote thus:-

Lo doon near by the city temple
There is ane lodged wi’ Auntie Semple,
Francis Semple of Beltrees,
His consort, also if you please;
There’s twa o’s horse, and ane o’s men,
That’s quarter’d down wi’ Allan Glen.
Thir lines I send to you, for fear
O’ poindin of auld auntie’s gear,
Whilk never ane before durst stear,
It stinks for staleness I dare swear.

Glasgow, (*Signed*) Francis Semple
Directed to the Commander of the Guard in Glasgow

The Officer who received the letter was incensed, thinking he had been grossly insulted. He ordered the arrest of Francis Semple, and told the local bailie to read the offending letter and punish the villain who wrote it. The Glasgow bailie read, then burst into uncontrollable laughter. Translated into English, the letter delighted the soldiers of the town guard so much that Francis was invited by the Captain to partake of their hospitality. The result was that Francis stayed two weeks more than he had intended. Because of this contact, some of Francis Semple's songs found their way to England.

Francis Semple's work is not as well known as it deserves to be since most of it was lost. His grandson, Robert, saved what he could.

Francis's son took on his father's debts but could not retrieve the family fortunes. He was Robert, baptised in 1656. His son, another Robert was the grandson who copied out what was left of the poems of Francis Semple. He was born in 1687 and died in 1789. He witnessed the last burning of witches in Paisley having walked from Pollok House, the home of his uncle and aunt, in spite of the removal of his shoes to prevent him doing so. Though only a child then, the memory of that day remained vivid when he was a very old man.

Although the family now lived at Thirdpart in Kilbarchan and had alienated Beltrees lands, they still kept the title "of Beltrees". Fate brings our story back to Lochwinnoch. In either 1755 or 1758 according to your choice of source, William Macdowall of Castle Semple bought Thirdpart from Robert Semple; which brings us back to the history of Castle Semple estate.

First of all we must complete the story of the Beltrees Semples. Old Robert's son, also Robert, prospered and amassed a considerable fortune as a brewer in Edinburgh. This he left to his sister's grandson, Hamilton Collins, provided he assumed the name Semple. Grand-nephew promptly did so and in a very few years lost the entire fortune. He ended up in Australia as a farmer. His farm was called "Belltrees" with two ll's. H.C.Sempill's farm is now owned by a family who researched the history of Belltrees. Recently they visited Beltrees, Lochwinnoch.

Another sister of our Edinburgh Robert, senior to Mrs Collins, married a Greenock merchant. They called their house Beltrees.

The Macdowalls

We last heard of the Semples of Castle Semple in the person of the eighth Lord, Francis. The succession passed on quickly to the eleventh Lord, Hugh. In 1727 he sold Castle Semple estates to Colonel William Macdowall; in 1741 he went to Northbar near Erskine. Hugh had a distinguished military career, and fought in the Government forces at Culloden in 1746. Colonel William set about the improvement of Castle Semple; his successors also added to the prestige of the Macdowalls.

Who were these new Lairds of Castle Semple? Colonel Macdowall was the fifth son of William Macdowall of Garthland in Galloway, descendant of Fergus, Lord of Galloway. So the Colonel had a pedigree as noble as that of the Semples, and, like them, had Army connections. The difference was that Macdowall belonged to a new era, the era of merchant princes, contemporary with the "tobacco lords" and great sugar houses of Glasgow and the west of Scotland. Colonel Macdowall had served in the West Indies, and had acquired a considerable plantation. Having bought Castle Semple estate, his next task was to demolish the ancient castle and replace it with an elegant mansion, the sad ruins of which can be seen today. This took place in 1735. Not everyone welcomed this change. One - Lord Ringan Semple - resented it, but more of that later.

Before the erection of the house, Macdowall had another matter to attend to. It was the time of Church patronages so the Colonel, as patron, ran into trouble right away. The heritors on the south side of the loch had difficulty crossing the loch to church and market. Macdowall tried to confine them to the bridge at Elliston and the other bridge at the Kerse. The heritors demanded a passage near the centre (where the present road is) as well as a foot bridge near Castle Semple. At the former place there was a ferry. The southside was on the lands of Yardfoot near where a house stood later (Loch Ha'); the north side was a gravel bank where the Calder Bridge is now. The dispute went to the Court of Session in 1732-33. The heritors won the right to crossings in both places.

The funds required to make and maintain the road were raised under an Act passed by the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, chiefly by kirk door collections in the parishes of the Synod. Funds were administered by a committee: Sir M. Stewart of Blackhall, Colonel William Macdowall of Castle Semple, Mr Robert Semple of Beltrees, Mr Robert Johnstone, Minister at Kilbarchan and Mr John Pinkerton, Minister at Lochwinnoch.



Castle Sempole House, 1907.

Thus came the new route leading from Loch Ha'to and from the Kirk.

The Forty-five rebellion took place during the Colonel's residence at Castle Semple. His wife was reputed to have Jacobite sympathies and to have "swarfit" (fainted) when the militia passed by the house on the way to Glasgow to deal with the Jacobite threat. Macdowall supported the government. This may have been local gossip; what is absolute truth is the rather Spartan mode of living of Macdowall and his lady. The inventory made when William died in 1748 showed that there were only two carpets, one of which was in the church, and the furnishings were modest in the extreme.

William, son of the late Colonel, also the Willie of "Willie's Gane to Melville Castle" fame, succeeded as second of Castle Semple. He added to his patrimonial estate that of Garthland in Galloway, acquired from his cousin, at whose death in 1775 he added Garthland to his title, styled William Macdowall of Garthland and Castle Semple. The family were amongst the foremost of the merchant princes, and took a leading part in local and national affairs. They spent large sums of money, against advice from some quarters, on draining the loch between 1770 and 1778. They had investments in the West Indies trade (mainly sugar), in ropework factories, tobacco, cotton and other industries. They were also involved in shipping, and William Macdowall (II) was one of the founders of the Ship Bank in 1752. This Bank was situated at the corner of Saltmarket and Bridgegate in Glasgow where the Ship Bank Tavern is today.

(Another Bank, the Thistle Bank opened in 1761, but much later the two Banks amalgamated to form the Union Bank which was ultimately taken into the Bank of Scotland. The insignia of the original Ship Bank can be seen today on the back of a Bank of Scotland note - a sailing ship of that time.)

One of the trading partners of the Macdowalls was the firm Alexander Houston & Co., one of whose ships was named "Castlesemples". It was armed, carrying 12 Six Pounders and two Cohorns, because of the entry of the French into the American War.

During all this time the power and possessions of the Macdowalls had increased. They had added considerably to the Semple estates. William (second) was succeeded by his son, William Macdowall of Garthland and Castlesemples. The latter was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the County in 1793, and elected at the elections of 1783, 1784, 1802, 1806 and 1807, as Parliamentary Representative of the County of Renfrew. He died unmarried in 1810. A memorial to this important Laird of Castle Semple

was placed in Paisley Abbey.

It is ironic that he died in very sad circumstances, for the direst of misfortunes had befallen the family. William, third of Castle Semple, of whom we have just heard, had a brother, James, a merchant in Glasgow, first a Bailie then a Provost of that city. The two Macdowalls had many interests, including a partnership with Alexander Houston already referred to. The bankruptcy of the latter was a mighty blow to the Macdowalls. A massive effort of the whole family was not enough. Castle Semple and other assets had to go. After William's death, his nephew, William, 20th of Garthland, formerly of Skiff Park, Castle Semple, completed the disposal of the Wigtownshire Estates in 1811. The estates of Barr and Garpel were repurchased as the Substitute Barony of Garthland and Garthland House was built, perhaps by modifying Garpel House, which had been built by David King in 1796.

Henry Charles Victor Macdowall, 26th of Garthland, sold Garthland House in 1935. The present owner of the small estate of which Barr Castle is the centre, is Fergus Day Hort Macdowall, who lives near Ottawa, Canada.



Nora Guthrie.

The Harveys

One John Harvey bought Castle Semple House and estate. He also had interests in the West Indies, in the island of Grenada.

There is no doubt that he took over an estate in good order. Macdowall had planted many fine trees, a fact recorded in Wilson's account of Renfrewshire in 1812.

John Harvey was really John Rae, son of William Rae (who had died) and Elizabeth Harvey of Midmar in Aberdeenshire. His uncle in Grenada left him his entire estate provided he took the surname Harvey. His daughter, Margaret, married James Lee who assumed the name Harvey on succeeding to the estate. It became quite a habit: first the Rae-, next the Lee-, and finally the Shand-Harveys.

To me, the most interesting Harvey is the laird who never was: James Shand Harvey, son of the last laird of Castle Semple, who emigrated to Canada in 1905, two years before his father sold Castle Semple. It is almost certain that the sale was inevitable before James turned his back on civilisation and headed for "beyond the steel". That is to say, he went to the farthest point the Canadian railway had reached, away from the rails which ended at Strathcona. From there he went to Edmonton, then a most exciting outpost with prospectors, trappers, engineers, surveyors trying to keep ahead of land-hungry pioneers, labourers, people from many nations, and many, many Scots. Near the time of the expiry of his return ticket to Scotland, he sold it to buy a horse and clothing for his first winter in Canada. Fifty-five years later, in his log cabin high in the hills of Alberta, when he was in his eighties, he looked back on his life with contentment. Ranger, trapper, prospector, he had followed the Indian trails and had lived with the Iroquois. He knew the forests, knew the location of coal and oil- in short he was a pioneer who helped to open the far west of Canada, respected and liked by all, including the Indians. He took a trip home in 1923-24, and spoke briefly to a Lochwinnoch man, now dead. He was very happy to return to his wild places and to his friends who called him "Shand". A truly remarkable man.

Castle Semple

Castle Semple estate in its hey-day was a most desirable place. Apart from the mansion house, there were houses for estate workers, the home farm, called by its ancient name, Shields (Scheils, Schellis etc.), a gasworks, a laundry, a slaughterhouse, a weather station, stables, kennels, and extensive gardens. These gardens grew the most remarkable variety of produce, including fruit of the most exotic kind, made possible by a system of heating introduced by some of the pioneer gardeners of the eighteenth century. Round the garden wall were built-in flues which conveyed the heat from a fire. In this way they could produce peaches etc.. Incidentally, many years later, foxes used these flues as a haven, causing havoc in the hen-runs of the smallholders.

As well as these amenities, there were fish ponds, the Grotto, the Fog House, now obliterated by the rhododendrons in the “fifty passages”, (beloved by more than one generation of little boys playing Cowboys and Indians), the Markethill Well, the Fancy Bridge and the Temple. It is not really a Temple at all. A hunting tower was its function. While the men hunted the deer, the ladies cooked the picnic lunch in the fireplace in the tower. There were, of course, the ice houses. One is well known, the one near the Collegiate Church, but there is a finer example a few yards nearer Lochwinnoch. It is difficult to find. It looks like a cave. Above the entrance is mediaeval carving. In front are man-made kerb stones enclosing a paved area where water was run in from the nearby sluice and left to freeze. It is a rather dangerous area, being just too near the silted-up fish ponds. The hills — Courtshawhill, Parkhill and Kenmure Hill — had farms named after them as far back as the early 17th century. There were various carriage drives in the estate, still visible — twelve miles of them. The entrances were the West Gates, the East Gates at the Howwood end (now removed) the North Gates at St Bryde’s corner (where the old smiddy building can still be seen) and Warlock Gates, where the foresters lived.

Warlock Gates is named after Lord Ringan Semple, reputed to be a warlock in league with one Jenny wi’ the Airn Teeth. He was evidently so incensed at the “dingin doon” of the ancient castle that he had some fine old “ongauns” in a coble in the loch near the Peel Castle. Some of the stones of the Peel were ferried to help in the building of Castle Semple House. That puts the date of this Semple at 1735, and round about that date. There is also Warlock Bridge over the Chapelton Burn which joins the Blackditch Burn before flowing into the loch. Chapelton Burn comes from what was Chapelton Farm, now a part of Mitchelton, past a site of a

Chapel once run by the monks of Paisley Abbey. In the same field was the Holy Well, not to be confused with the Puddock Well in Castle Semple wall. Another entrance to the estate was at Markethill, called Mercathill in times gone by. The mediaeval local market was held near the recent dairy buildings. From the village the road led over Gatesidehill, over Warlock Gates Hill, where it can still be seen from the present road, and across fields to Markethill. The part at Warlock Gates shows a clearly defined passing place.

At the North Gates entrance, the St Bryde's Burn goes under the road into the grounds of the house also known as St Bryde's. That is the location of the lost chapel of St Bryde and also of St Bryde's Mill, known in olden times as Auchindunan Mill. This was Lord Semple's Mill to which all tenants were thirled. That is to say, they had to have their corn milled there and nowhere else. The burn flows into the loch after passing the Fancy Bridge. Strathclyde Region built a weir at the outlet of the loch, but there was a weir there as early as the late 13th Century. James, High Steward of Scotland, gave a Charter to the monks of Paisley Abbey granting them free passage of water on the Cart "between his yare (weir) of Auchindunan, from the outlet of his loch of Lochwinnoch, and the yare of Lyneclifty (Linclyve) belonging to the said monks".

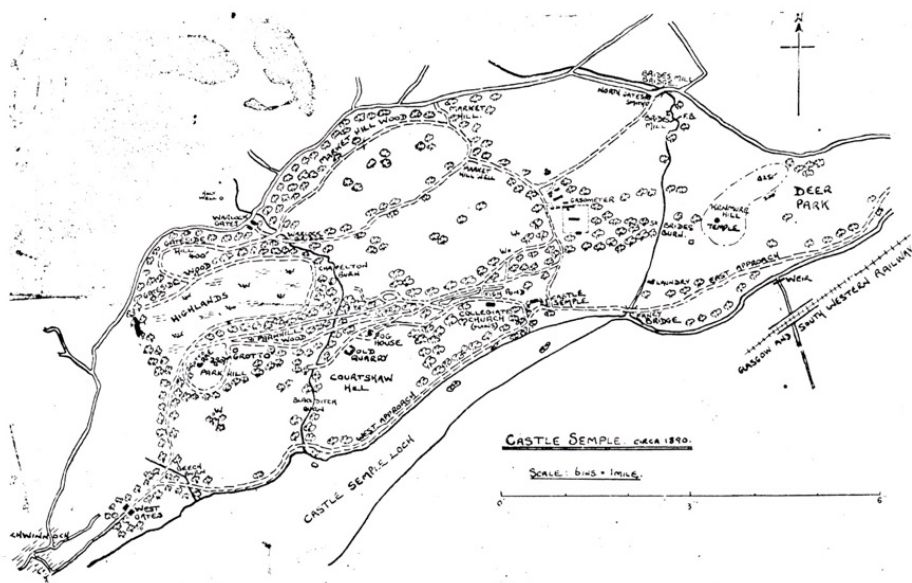
During the drought of 1984 the lost village of Kenmuir was located by Mr Robert Andrew. The old railway line has hidden some of the site, but outlines of foundations could be seen on the St Bryde's side of the line. If you go to the other side of the road and look down on the line, you will see the site of the proposed St Bryde's station which was never built.

When estates are broken up the biggest loss is the loss of gamekeepers. Vermin multiplies. In spite of all the nasty things said about the "gamey", he was a conservationist. Foxes, magpies and carrion crows are now more than just a nuisance, while some of the smaller creatures such as partridges are disappearing. Lambing ewes are under threat from dogs, not always strays, but often deliberately taken to catch hares. Oh for a gamey!

It was always good fun for boys to beat the gamey. On the other hand, it was good to get on his right side, and many of the young boys learned the art of ferreting and other country pursuits from the estate gamekeeper. One of the cottages at Warlock Gates housed the McGilps; the other was the home of Riddell, the forester.

The Riddells had a large family; when a wedding took place the dancing was held in the field called "the Highlands", exactly where the

author's home now is. The music was provided by a fiddle played by Willie Welsh, formerly of Linthills and Greenside. He went to farm at Bonnybridge. When he died his body was brought back to rest in Lochwinnoch cemetery. The Riddells came back to renew memories of life on the estate, and to see again their beloved trees, many of which they had tended carefully at the sapling stage. Some local families, including the Nicols, lived at Castle Semple. There were also McGilps at the West Gates.



Old map — Castle Semple Estate.

I Crosbie.

The Kirktown, Eastend, Johnshill and Macdonallie

We will return to Castle Semple later. Meantime we go to the roots of Lochwinnoch—to the Kirktown. The date of the first church is unknown, but it must have been in existence at the time of the early Saints, and most probably in the time of Rhydderich Hael, King of the Britons of Strathclyde, who died in 601 A.D.. The first written evidence is a Charter of Florence, Bishop Elect of Glasgow, confirming the gift of several churches in the Diocese of Glasgow to the monks of Paisley Abbey, including the chapel of Lochwinnoch. That was dated 1202-1207. Paisley Abbey was in control until the Reformation in 1560.

Eventually there was a Church built in the form of a cross which, in 1692, was in urgent need of repair. The parishioners of that time had seen some exciting events. Patrick Hamilton, a very watchful minister, reported on 19th January, 1604, that Robert Aitken and Robert Millar, “parochiners of Lochquinnoch superstitiouslie beheaved themselves...” also that Hendrie Pasley, Robert Patoun, and James King in Muirdykes had “behaved in a godles manner... dissguissing yamselfis”. Evidently they were guilty of no more than getting rid of high spirits at the old Yuletide, by banging on girdles, and indulging in dramatics. Hugh Peebles, ordained in 1647, was “outed” in 1663 at the time of religious persecution. Then there had been another bit of excitement in 1636 - a strike!. Hugh Luiff (Love) employed a number of “waars” (builders) to erect a manse - “a houss at the kirk, and quen at the waars had wrought six days, they gacave ower the woork, and would not lay a stane mo, except ane new prys quilk I was forst to give them, 8 merks. And it pleased them not. But ewerie day of fyfteen I gave them two qwarts of eale qlk was 4 Lib.” (You must have noticed by now that spelling did not matter at all in times gone by.) It is obvious where Mansefield gets its name.

The church seems to have been repaired, and its Semple Aisle and Barr Aisle were filled with worshippers. In 1727 William Macdowall bought Castle Semple and this was to affect the Kirktown, as we shall see. Meantime, in 1729, a new church was built, the gable end of which is our beloved landmark, Auld Simon. In 1731 a valuation and division of seats was made by Robert Orr and William Cochran. This was produced in court during an action before the Sheriff of the County in 1748. This lasted two years, and was a fight between relatives about who had possession of two adjoining seats in the gallery. There was no change, but the valuation list informs us where people stayed in 1731.

At that time there was the Kirktown, a very narrow Hie Street (now the lower part of Johnshill), running between Townhead and Townfit (approximately opposite St Winnoc Road), Eastend, Johnshill, and the only way westwards out of the village by the Craw Road and Bridgend. The rest of the Parish consisted of small farms - crofts really. Immediate surrounding lands of the Kirktown were the lands of Calderhaugh, Macdonallie and Johnshill.

The exact area of the Kirktown was six acres (Scots) right from the 13th Century. The tenants of the Kirktown were "kindly tenants", there by the good graces of the ministers, but they had to pay rent. In 1663, one Hugh Luiff was discharged by the minister, Hugh Peebles, on payment of forty shillings for the rent of his house. Could that have been the same Hugh Luiff who built the manse? Most likely, if not, he was probably of the same family.

In 1731, John Pinkerton, minister, with the consent of the Presbytery, assigned the glebe lands (the six acres) to Colonel William Macdowall, purchaser of Castle Semple in 1727, in exchange for part of his lands of Macdonallie contiguous with the kirk lands. A new manse was erected on Macdonallie lands. The holders of the Kirktown houses were forced, against their will, to take charters from Macdowall, to hold under him as superior in feu farm, their rents being converted into feu duties. The present owners of Mansefield have among their title deeds, the original charter to James Barclay (in a later deed called Barclay) defining the extent of land etc. of which Macdowall was superior. Dated 1735, it is signed by Will Macdowall and witnessed by Alex Houston, who, you will remember, brought Macdowall to ruin. The title deeds to Barclay in 1737 show John Lyle, shoemaker in Lochwinnoch, appointed as bailie in case of disagreement. Other signatures of witnesses are John Hamilton, younger of Barr, Michael Nasmith, schoolmaster, Robert Orr of Millbank, and Robert Donald, son to Robert Donald of Tandlemuir. From the various documents we can deduce that the so-called weaving shed now standing on the north side of Mansefield Lane was the old manse occupied at some time by Robert Love, weaver,— certainly in 1829. The windows have been built up and the building whitewashed, but the old manse is still there. Mansefield Road and part of the present Johnshill have cut off part of the original feu, but there were still sufficient foundations in 1986 to mark the manse brewhouse, boundary walls, etc., to mark the homes of Robert Orr, maltman, and, in succession in the main dwelling, James Caldwell, merchant, William Robison, William Crawford, Margaret Orr, Widow Carswell, and Neil Gilmore. Please note that was before the widening of the road in 1986.



The Kirkcubbin. Old Manse left foreground.

These houses were all before 1735. The smithy and the smith's house mentioned were probably where Mansefield Road now is. Among the smiths were Robert Orr (what else but Orr?), and Peter Barclay. The present house at Mansefield—spelling, as always, optional— was built in 1815-16. Many will know that the late Bertie Armstrong was brought up there. One last note— in “The Cairn of Lochwinnoch” is the statement: “The old manse closs is now Wm. Crawford’s lane.” That is the lane leading into Mansefield.

Somewhere near the church, if not in the Kirkcubright, was the Strands Inn to which Mary Caldwell of Lochside was going in 1767 to attend a ball. The Loch Bridge, already referred to, was rather flimsy. She was on horseback behind a manservant. The horse stumbled on the bridge. There was the still the Calder ford to negotiate but the waters were swollen after heavy rain. Both were swept away and drowned in full view of Mary’s mother, brother and fiance, whose efforts to rescue them were in vain. Mary’s grave is in the kirkyard.

Another story of the Strands Inn is an amusing one. The minister of the kirk, seeing the proprietor of the Inn nodding during the service, shouted, “Wake up, Strands, or I’ll name you!” Of course everybody called Robert Orr (again!) nothing else but “Strands”. He is said to have replied that he was not sleeping.

Another inn which was definitely in the Kirkcubright was the “Skipper Inn”— a house which has been beautifully restored by Mr John Edgar. The exact date is not certain, but the top storey was built in 1727, and the original one storey house appears to date from the 1600s, probably on the site of one of the earliest houses of the Kirkcubright. The recess for the well providing the water for this house, (the present No 5 Johnshill) can be seen in the wall. It was fed by St John’s Well across the road. Gateway pillars mark the access to it. Various owners included a Rev. John Bell, also about the early 1900s, a Mr and Mrs Brodie who ran a dairy farm there. They drove their five cows up Johnshill, turning them into the fields by way of the Boiler Road. Next to the house named “Ingleside” are two pillars marking the entrance to the Boiler Road. On the site of the garage, on the right, there was a school— there possibly at the time of Michael Nasmyth. To return to No 5 Johnshill, note the tethering ring on the wall. I wonder how many horses were tethered there in the last three hundred years. The mounting block has been removed in the interest of modern highways. The present No 7 Johnshill was on that site in 1678 and was No 10—of what? Was it 10 Hie Street or 10 Kirkcubright? In any case the date is plain to see on a back wall as is the number.

According to the late Willie Glen, (more of him later), a Miss Hepburn lived at Sunnyside. Her mother was a Crawford related to the Orrs of Kaim. On the site of the house, until recently known as Hillington, there were two old houses at least one of which had a thatched roof. A threshing mill of the old steam driven type came down Johnshill, sparks flying out of the "lum", and up went the thatch in flames. "St Margaret's" was built by the Misses Janet and Martha Hamilton and named in memory of their sister, Maggie. The Hamiltons were members of the family who joined with the Crawfords to form the firm of Hamilton and Crawford, originally Hunter, Hamilton and Crawford, makers of fine furniture. More of the firm later. The Hamiltons had been at Hallowfaulds and had moved to Crookside. Now we go downhill again to the kirk to take up its history from 1729. It was a brand new kirk but change was in the air. The valuation and allotment of seats had taken place, there was now a feudal superior in the Kirkton, a new manse was erected on Macdonallie lands, but the mediaeval character of the Kirkton was changing as the eighteenth century progressed. From 1696 until about 1760 times had been really hard; famine, starvation and extreme poverty were the order of the day.

Nevertheless, the new factories, bleachfields and small works such as candle works began to have a spin-off effect in the number of occupations other than the time honoured farmer and weaver. In the meantime Lochwinnoch was still mainly agricultural, with linen spinning and weaving still a home industry. The market had moved from Markethill to the Kirkton. On fair days such as Fair o' Hill, it spilled over into the Kirkyaird. Eventually this resulted in a wall being built round the Kirkyaird. (In 1928 part of this wall was demolished to widen the very narrow Johnshill. Loads of hay could not be brought down the hill without the danger of being knocked by the overhanging branches of trees.) The first threat to the Kirkton as the centre, came with a small factory in Factory Closs (so it was spelt), afterwards Factory Street, and now St Winnoc Road. There were still about forty years or so to go before the big mills caused a great influx of workers requiring houses which were built on the green fields of Calderhaugh, and gave Lochwinnoch new streets and a new Cross, away from the kirk.

Now we will explore the other side of the kirk, the Eastend of the kirk. Eastend has still some intriguing piles of stones and built-up doors and windows to make one curious about the past. Part of Eastend was called the Skipper's Yard, for there dwelt the Skipper who ferried people over the loch. We still have a Skipper's Path, but it was shifted a yard or two when the Council Houses were built in Gates Road. Jamieson's feu is still

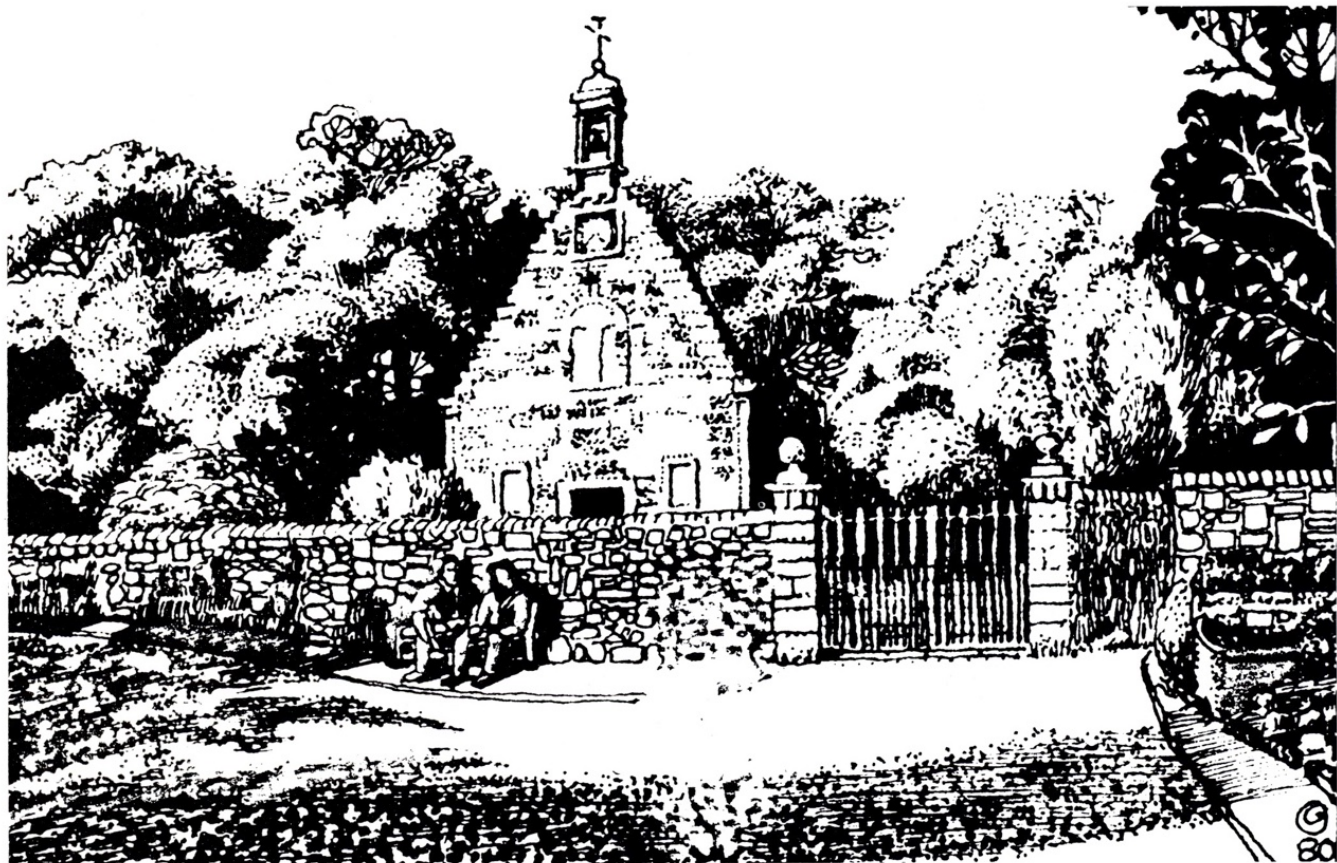
indicated in Ordnance Survey maps. The fascinating thing about Eastend is the hostelrys that stood there. One such was "Mungo Blue's", definitely in existence during the latter half of the eighteenth century, for it was featured by Alexander Wilson who spent some of his younger life in Lochwinnoch. Mungo's Pub was the setting of the poem, "Watty and Meg". Watty Mathie and his wife, Meg Love, lived in Eastend near Mungo Blue's pub. Mungo is said to have been one James Orr, called Smithie, who lived a short and merry life with an eye for the ladies (his "limmers") who supposedly lived at or near the Cruicks. He may have lived once at the Smithy occupied by the Orr family, already mentioned in connection with Mansefield. "Watty and Meg" is the story of a hen-pecked husband who finally tamed his nagging wife. Nearer our own time there was the "Wulk Hotel", the residence of one who sold fish. Further along Eastend, before Macdonallie, there was McLeod's Waxworks. Reputedly two lion cubs were kept there in a crate. Quite a place Eastend! I can almost hear you say "But where is Macdonallie?" All in good time.

To catch up with the Parish history, we find that Mr Pinkerton died, being succeeded by the Rev. John Couper. He was a very good minister, but unpopular. Many left to go to the Secession Church at Burntshields. Nevertheless he gave thirty-seven years of attentive and good service. His family were well educated, producing professors and doctors. The initial trouble, no doubt, stemmed from the fact that he was the Laird's (Macdowall's) choice. Thereafter the Parish was given its own choice. James Steven was the first chosen by the heritors (those eligible to choose).

The church had been reported in a bad state in 1750, but in 1791 Mr Steven reported the church was very well finished and contained about 1300 people.

War with the French broke out. There was an upsurge of patriotism in Lochwinnoch. Rev. James Steven was chaplain of a company of Volunteers, who could be seen drilling under Sergeant Archibald Cameron in one of the fields of the glebe.

Steven died in 1801. The new minister, Mr Crawford, had a stroke in 1809 while on his way to visit Mr James Caldwell of Lochside, on his death-bed. He was just past the Loch Bridge— an unhappy reminder of the death of Mary Caldwell of Lochside in 1767. He died five years later, but he had seen a most extra-ordinary sight in the church in 1807. Two large trees from Castle Semple were used to prop up the church which was in danger of collapse.



Auld Simon.

Meantime the manse was still occupied by Mr Crawford, who was unmarried, his brother, his sister and a niece. His assistant had to live in lodgings in the new town at Calderhaugh.

After Crawford's death, Mr Smith was ordained. The manse, however, was not considered fit for the minister. It was agreed that a new manse be built on the same site. Thus the present manse was built in 1815.

In the meantime a fine new church had been built and opened in October in the midst of open fields, with the older Burgher Kirk still further away from civilisation. The auld kirk was demolished, the gable end being saved because of the agitation of the weavers. After all, how could they possibly manage without their clock and bell to chime the hours? They had been successful in having a detested 24-hour clock consigned to the loft, but they would see that their clock was attended to. Democracy at work! Was "Auld Simon" one of the weavers? Anyhow, there stands Auld Simon, repaired by Robert Jamieson's grandfather, a nautical instrument maker in 1912, at the request of Joseph Patrick, and later often looked after by the late Bertie Armstrong. It is now the responsibility of Renfrew District Council. We cannot leave Auld Simon without repeating the story of the gentleman who, having taken up a strategic position with a gun, waited till the bell chimed five, then fired so that there was a sixth "ping", causing panic among the workers who thought they were late for work. The weather vane on top of Auld Simon is in the form of a plough which turns to north, or a thistle, rose or shamrock. Many years ago, an emigrant wrote to ask what happened to the wheatsheaf and bird on top of the plough. Gone with the wind, no doubt.

Now to Macdonallie. You will remember a manse was built on Macdonallie lands after an exchange of six acres with land in the Kirkcubbin. The house called Macdonallie is in Eastend, but if you came to Lochwinnoch after the 1950's you may know it as "Knapdale". Why people want to change a name after fully eight centuries, I cannot understand. In 1698 the tenant was William Ritchie, a victim of the hard times then, for he was one of the debtors of Bailie Pasley (nearly all owed for flax seed). He was a tenant of Semple. Then came Macdowall who gave the ground for the manse and glebe. A second manse was built for Mr. Smith in 1815. By this time Harvey was laird of Castle Semple and Macdowall was laird of Garthland. But time passes and we come to occupants of Macdonallie in Eastend within living memory. Many will remember Mrs Struthers, and, going further back, Mr. Joseph Patrick. In 1903 the Lochwinnoch United Church Choir held a grand Concert in aid



of the “poor of the village”, with Joseph Patrick Esq., C.A., of Macdonallie in the chair.

Most of the Parkhill Drive-Beechburn Crescent housing estate is in what was Macdonallie long ago, but as time went by there were changes of ownership. The part near Johnshill, for example, belonged to the Orrs of East Johnshill. Joseph Patrick did buy land from Orr, or one Buchanan, the feu on which stands Torlinn. There was a two storey tenement there where Mr John Edgar was born. That building was condemned in 1938 when there was a great drive all over the country to have modern facilities in housing. Unfortunately many good houses were demolished instead of being adapted to comply with the new regulations. Water went from this site nearly to the glebe to feed a trough for watering a horse in what was known as the Co-operative Field. Many will remember “Ossie” Eddleston driving and looking after a horse and van.

To get back to Joseph Patrick, he also owned Crooks Farm, the old form of which is Cruicks and called “the Cruicks” by older farmers. Bob Erskine rented Crooks and worked the other Patrick lands. His successor, John Erskine, bought the land, and after more changes, Mr. D. McColl had possession, and disposed of it to a building firm which erected the present housing estate, bounded by Johnshill, Eastend and the Glebe.

We are back in Johnshill. Where “Silverknowe” is now, there was a property, now demolished, nicknamed “Honeymoon Cottage” because of the short occupancies of those who made it their first home. For a time the site was the garden of “Summerhill”. When Mr and Mrs Ian Struthers lived there, a beautiful vintage Bentley often sat out in Johnshill. It was a sad day when Mr Struthers was killed while competing at the Kinneil Climb. Before Struthers, a Miss Sheriff occupied the house. “Dunstan” the home of Miss Speirs, was proudly described by her late father, Mr Archie Speirs, as a house upon a rock, as indeed it is. The next house is very old and a listed building. Mrs Wilson and her sister, Flora Greenlees, lived there, also an old retired gentleman, John Kerr. Another old man lived above the garage which must at one time have housed a horse drawn vehicle, and is reputed to have been a slaughterhouse. “Braedine” was quoted last century as Mr Brodie’s house by Andrew Crawford. The Blackwood sisters occupied it in recent times, as did the late Mr Bertie Armstrong.

“Crookside” is a home which should be venerated by all in Lochwinnoch. Before the Hamiltons, it had been the home of the already mentioned Dr Andrew Crawford who undertook the monumental task of



Macdonallie — past.



Greenlees family.

R.D.C. Museums.

recording all he could collect pertaining to Lochwinnoch in his "Cairn of Lochwinnoch". He was a highly respected member of the Kirk Session, and did a tremendous amount for the good of the community. He was buried in the Kirkyaird, his monument being prominent. The road alongside "Crookside" was the road to "The Doctor's Well".

The house above was the house of old Jake Anderson, whose stooped figure could be seen crossing the road to feed his young beasts in a field belonging to Orr. Orr's steading, next to Anderson's cottage, is still an obvious old farm, although some of the out-buildings are now incorporated in the dwelling house. These Orrs of East Johnshill were related to the Orrs of Balgreen.

The next house takes us up to the Beech Burn, or "Strype", which was once a feature of the garden of "Allandale", but which is hidden by the development of the appropriately named "Crawfurd's View". "Strype" is an old name for a ditch, small burn, etc.. The stones that built "Allandale" were said to have come from the waxworks at Eastend. Just before "Allandale" is "Gowanbrae", once a schoolmaster's house, but more readily remembered as the home of Mrs Jim Struthers, née May Hunter.

Now we are at "The Strype", now known as "Fauldhead". The family of Love, builders, farmed it during the 1914-18 War. The late Willie Love ploughed it and cropped it. He also took crops of potatoes from fields in Castle Semple, right in front of the author's house. Before the Loves, Ferguson had the Strype. They kept pigeons. The position of the pigeon holes can still be discerned, but the landing perches have been removed. During the 1940's it was possible to note on the wall a sign declaring that Angora rabbits were bred there, but that was when the Boulet family were there, after the Loves.

The "Strype" ground was feued out. The Love family did at least some of the building. Two blocks of half villas were known as Love's houses. Mrs Brown (nee Love) still lives in one. "Lochlea" next to "The Strype", was the home of the late Mr and Mrs Willie Love.

Across the road are red sandstone buildings, the work of a firm called Jeffrey. These are "Kinaros", "Jaffreyston" and "Redholme". Another house worthy of note is "Branscroft". It was the home of the late John Black, grocer at the corner of High Street and Church Street, whose family lived at the Toll House at Branscroft, in Kilbarchan, of old called Brandiscroft. John Black did not walk sedately to his work; he went at a half trot, almost running down Johnshill.

“Hillside” is one of the most prominent of the older houses. Over one hundred years old, it was built by Matheson of Langstilly for his wife who did not like it! It was let to Miss Martha Brodie of Nernelstone who married the son of the Mathesons. They had no children, so it came into the possession of the Brodies, eventually being bought by Anne Brodie (Mrs Anne Wilson)

The other houses in Johnshill are all comparatively modern, but one must be mentioned— Langlea. The Hunters must be congratulated on keeping the traditional name, their home being built on the farm, Langley, now incorporated in Crooks farm.



From the new road (Harvey Terrace) looking towards Factory Street and Auld Simon.

I Crosbie.

Townfoot (Tounfit) and Factory Closs

There was a smiddy at the Tounfit already mentioned in the Mansefield and Kirkton story. It and Factory Closs together made the weavers district of the auld toun. To quote again from Crawford, "The principal street of the Kirkton was called Hie Street from the Johnshill to Tounfit or Factory Closs now... The Tounfit leading from Factory Closs to Pinimies Pump Well was called so and now Main Street or Auld Toun. Pinimies Closs called from James Orr, son of Kames, who was the original feuar... had a peculiar custom of buttoning his coat with a pin or piece of wool instead of buttons". Orrs were everywhere but this one may have been one of the smithy Orrs.

The Main Street is of course our present High Street; no doubt named so because they already had a "Hie" Street. A house once standing next to the present No 1 Johnshill, but which was really at the Tounfit, was the home of a well remembered John Kerr, "the poet", better known as John Korr. Rumour had it that he slept in the same bed as his father, and that the following conversation took place in bed:

"Whit's that sprintnin' in ma ribs?"

"It's ma buits".

"Good gracious, ye'll sune be comin' tae bed wi' a barra!"

The factory that gave the name to the street was one of the early ones, before the big mills gave us the new town and a new cross. Before leaving Factory Street, (St Winnoc Road, sorry!) we note from Gemmell's History that the pub at the corner of the street is on the site of one of the many schools of Lochwinnoch, but the map of 1780 shows a school where No 9 St Winnoc Road is, and there may have been a pub there. Take your pick! The street was the home of the late Hamilton Robb whose anecdotes of bygone days were always a delight to listen to. Worthy of mention too are the beautiful flowers grown by his son, the late James Robb. This is perhaps the time to mention the keen gardeners of Lochwinnoch who lost their Eastend allotments when Macdonallie changed hands. Shame!

The Auld Toun 1832

Aitken. James, *grocer and spirit dealer*, Kirkton.

Barbour, John, *musician*, Eastend.

Barbour, John, *wright*, Eastend.

Blackburn, John, *wright*, Kirkton.

Cochran, James, *dentist*, Skipper's Yard.
 Crawford, William, *beamer*, Kirktown. (Mentioned in history of Kirktown).
 Crawford, Andrew, *surgeon*, Johnshill. (Author of "The Cairn").
 Duncan, Jos., *ironmonger and tinsmith*, Tanholes, Kirktown.
 Gilmour, James S., *grocer and spirit dealer*, Kirktown.
 Jack, William, *carter*, Kirktown.
 Laird, Andrew, *customer weaver and grocer*, Kirktown.
 Logan, Robert, *grocer and mason*, Kirktown.
 Orr, James, *farmer*, East Johnshill.
 Orr, William, *cattle dealer*, East Johnshill.
 Ritchie, Robert, *customer weaver*, Johnshill.
 Robertson, Miss, *milliner, leghorn straw hat and dressmaker*, Factory Closs.
 Robison, William, *teacher*, Townhead.
 Smith, Rev. Robert, *minister*, Lochwinnoch Manse. (One of Lochwinnoch's most distinguished ministers)
 Stevenson, Alexander, *boot and shoe maker*, Kirktown.
 James Riddell, *passing bellman*, Eastend. (A Town Officer who went round ringing a bell and passing on some news)



Factory Street.

I Croshie.



The New Town

The Industrial Revolution crept up stealthily on old Lochwinnoch; it finally exploded in the frantic rush of the cotton industry. The first move came in 1787 with the building of what we call "The Falls"—a dam to feed a lade providing water power for Calderpark Mill in 1788 and Calderhaugh Mill in 1789, known at the time as the "Old" Mill and "New" Mill. The Old Mill was built by Houston, Burns and Co., the New Mill by Messrs. Johnstone and Co., afterwards Fulton, Buchanan and Co..

The impact of the mills was very great. People left farms and traditional forms of employment, flocking to the new factories, and seeking living accommodation. Between 1788 and 1795 fifty-three new houses were built in Lochwinnoch, and the ground feued for more. Thus began the new town of Lochwinnoch on Calderhaugh Estate which, of course, belonged to William Macdowall Esq. then of Garthland and Castle Semple. The new minister was Mr Steven whose contribution to the Statistical Account of Scotland, written in 1791, shows the population of the parish increased from 1,530 in 1755 to 2,613 in that year. At that time there were, in the parish 148 farmers, 380 in the cotton mills, 135 weavers, 19 tailors, 14 shoemakers, 2 grocers, 2 butchers, 39 wrights, 17 masons, 31 smiths, 2 surgeons, 1 writer (lawyer), 2 schoolmasters, 14 ale-sellers, 1 minister, (Mr Steven), and 1 kirk (the Auld Kirk).

Some explanation of these facts is necessary. Some did not worship at the Parish Church but went outside the parish, for example, the Seceders who went to Burntshields, in Kilbarchan. Some factories were still to be built, and the two big cotton mills were still only half filled with machinery, so the preponderance of wrights, masons, and smiths is explained by the amount of house building. One schoolmaster taught in the school at Factory Close which we have already noted; the other was at Newton of Beltrees (Glenhead) erected there at the expense of the people with the help of 50 merks taken from the salary of the first schoolmaster. The frequent flooding of the notorious Loch Road was the reason. No comment on the number of ale-sellers except that tea was still only for the wealthy.

Lochwinnoch grew rapidly. There were new streets:- Calder Street went from the Mill Brae to the new Cross, crossing High Street then becoming Chapel Street. Later on came Harvey's Square (planned by his predecessor Macdowall). Some houses had been built about the middle of the eighteenth century at what afterwards became Newton of Barr. We have still to discuss the significance of Barr, but that will come later.



School teacher, pupils and visitor.

R.D.C. Museums (Mrs Denholm).



Industrial Lochwinnoch, Calderhaugh Estate.

The Mills 1720-1820

To understand the emergence of Lochwinnoch into the modern era, it is necessary to review the progress of the textile industry as it affected the village. Home spinning and weaving had the first threat about 1722 with thread mills in the Lochwinnoch area. A small factory to use flax, and a larger one about 1752 to make linen and cambric, appeared in Lochwinnoch. A bleachfield belonging to the factory was begun about 1740. This consumed all the buttermilk of the parish till Dr Hume of Edinburgh rescued it to the use of the inhabitants (for soda scones, no doubt) by teaching the use of sulphuric acid. This happened about 1756. There were also bleachfields at Loanhead right on the edge of the parish, and at Burnfoot. These were owned by Caldwell and Adam respectively. Fulton and Co. began bleaching near their new mill about 1793. All these firms bleached chiefly their own goods. The present Bowfield Country Club occupies premises once a famous bleachfield. Not far away was the Midton bleachfield in connection with which was a beetling mill, on the banks of the Calder, where the goods were finished for the market. That business finally became the property of John McNab and Co., which brings us to living memory and we must get back to our period.

A small number of weavers continued doing coarse work at home, chiefly for farmers, but a large number did work for the manufacturers and soon most were employed within the factories. From about 1780 muslins were made and more and more complex textiles appeared in the 1800's.

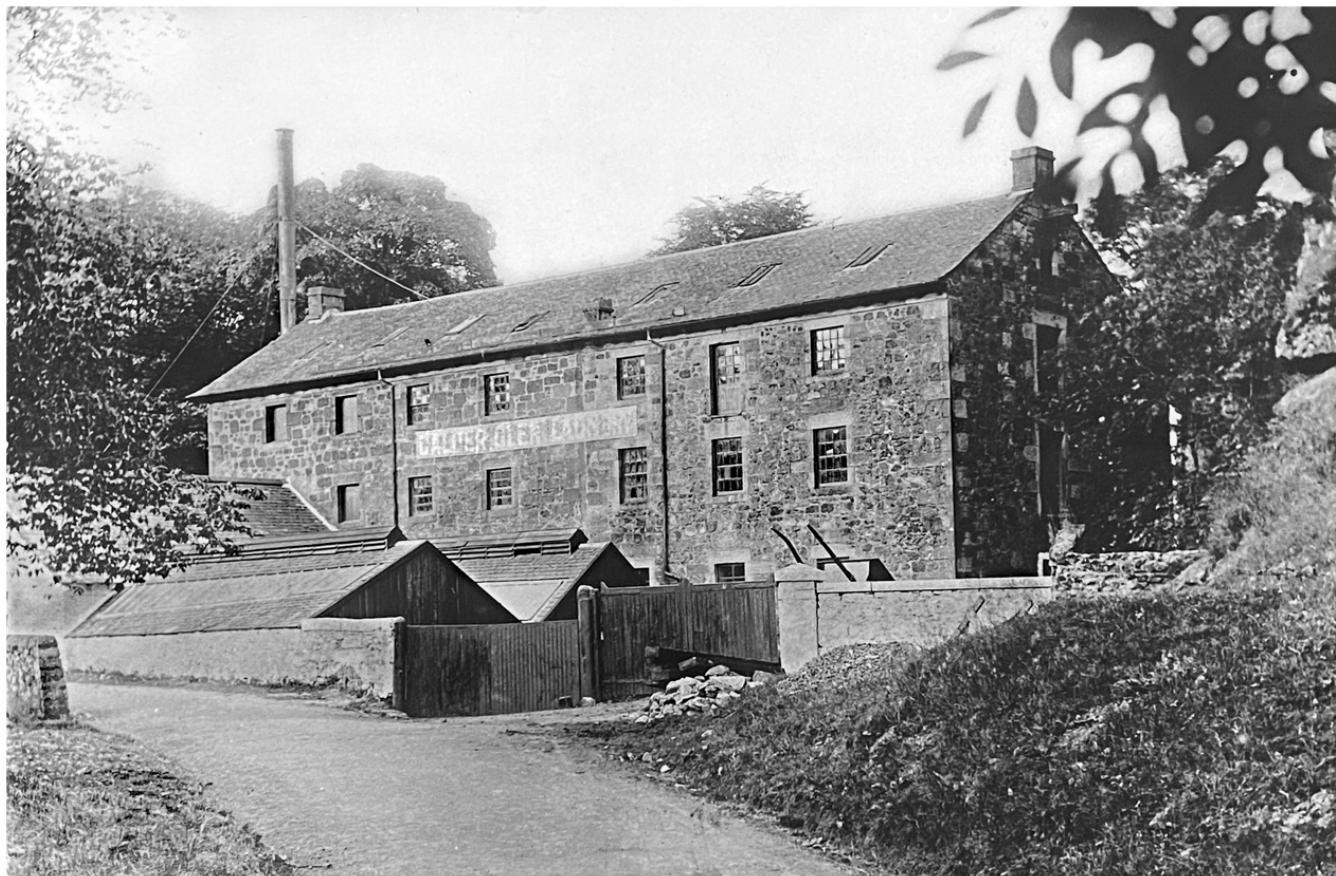
The mill at Boghead belonging to Wm Caldwell and Co. was only three stories high plus garrets, but employed 80 people. It was powered by the Cloak Burn which was fed by Boghead Dam (now silted up) which in turn was fed by the Kaim Burn. Accidentally burned in 1813, its location is almost forgotten, but the houses in the dip between Crooks and Boghead are roughly on the site.

The statistics of the Old and New Mills are almost incredible. Circular Dam across Calder (The Falls):- 19 feet 8 inches high and 85 feet circumference.

Old (Calderpark) Mill:

Employed 140 to start with, hoping for 350 when finished. Wheel - 24ft diameter. 5 stories with garrets. 152 windows, 40 skylights. 8,140 spindles.

Actual number employed at Statistical Account:
170 old and young - wages £148 a fortnight.



Calder Glen Mill — one time laundry.

New (Calderhaugh) Mill:

Water supplied from Old Mill.

Employed 240 to start with, hoping for 600 when finished. Wheel - 22ft diameter, 10ft broad. 5 stories with garrets. 360 windows, 60 skylights. 25,224 spindles, working 12,000 lb every fortnight.

Actual number at Statistical Account:

345 workers - wages £260 a fortnight.

Another mill which must be mentioned is the one finally known to us as "Whitton's Mill". It was erected in 1814 by the side of the Cloak Burn just before its confluence with the Calder. Two Crawford brothers employed 22 workers for carding and spinning. It was on the third floor, the two other floors being a complete mechanically and efficiently run corn mill.



Calderhaugh Curling Stone Work.

I Crosbie.

The New Lochwinnoch

—Sermons, Sunday Schools and Soirees—

All the great social changes in Scotland were reflected in the village: the excesses ridiculed by Burns in his "Holy Fair" found a counterpart, if only a mild one, in the habit of the young people of the village dancing in Strand's or Barclay's Inn (both very near the Auld Kirk) with their Bibles in their pockets. Communion in these days lasted several days. "Preaching Monday" or Communion Monday, fell on the day previous to Colm's Day in Largs, so, after attending the services, lads and lasses adjourned to one of the inns to drink, dance and have a good time. After midnight, they made their way over the moor road to Kilbirnie and thence to Largs. The new turnpike roads did not exist till the closing years of the century; therefore, the only way to Largs was by Bridgend.

The age of enlightenment that produced Burns also produced social reformers like David Dale, and, after him, Robert Owen. Reform did not miss Lochwinnoch. The right ministers, the right millowners, and the right mill overseers appeared at exactly the right time. Robert Burns (good name!) of Houston, Burns and Co. and his successor, William Wright of Calderpark, also William Fulton, manager of Fulton, Buchanan and Co, (who succeeded Messrs Johnstone and Co)—all encouraged the aged by giving work which they could do at home. Young children were sent to an evening school and taught free, at the expense of the company. We must remember this was about eighty years before the State provided free education for all. Religion and education progressed together. Again Lochwinnoch followed the trend of the country as a whole in the formation of Missionary Societies and Sunday Schools. In 1811 there was only one Sunday School in the Parish; in 1833 there were six in the village and one in Howwood. The one in Lochwinnoch was held in a large hall in Calder Street, belonging to one William Glen, a tailor, and father of a famous minister and missionary, and translator of the Bible into what they called "Persic". This hall was called "The Tabernacle" and its adherents "Missioners". Romance found a place in this religious revival. (Life went on just the same!). A leading member of the Tabernacle, Mr William Johnstone, an overseer under Mr William Wright at Calderpark Mill, had a daughter. She married the young Mr Drummond, pastor to the small congregation at the Tabernacle. In his spare time he ran a day and evening school, in what is now Main Street, in a hall belonging to a Mr John Shedden (another Lochwinnoch name!).



Calder Church (Burgher Kirk).

W Cochrane.



Parish Church.

W Cochrane.

The young couple also ran a shop near the Cross, a long time afterwards owned by one Robert Brodie, a cloth merchant. In their time it was a grocer's shop. He determined to extend his work with the young, to put Sunday School instruction on the map. His publicity was as good as any present-day tycoon could devise, also cheaper and much more effective. He requested his day and night pupils through the week, also every customer on Saturday evening, to make it known that a Sabbath School would start on a Sunday, adding that it would be fine if they each brought a friend. It worked. Shedden's hall was filled. He needed an assistant for the following Sunday in the person of a Mr Robert Wallace, who remained a Sunday School teacher for fifty years. The hall was much too small, so on that Sunday in 1811, Drummond and Wallace led a procession to the Tabernacle. The Sunday School movement had reached Lochwinnoch.

We will leave Calder Street and Main Street meantime and go to Church Street to carry on the ecclesiastical history. To begin with, there was no street at all— only fields and wide open spaces. Then the Burgher Kirk was built in 1792. Up at the Cross, houses were appearing and so began what was first called Chapel Street. In 1807 there was great excitement. A Masonic procession, headed by a band from Paisley, marched towards the site of the present Parish Kirk. With much ceremony the foundation stone was laid. Mr Crawford, the minister, of whom we have heard already, preached the first sermon when the Church was opened on 2nd October, 1808.

We have noted that Mr Robert Smith became minister and occupied the new manse in 1815. The new minister and Lochwinnoch had a happy relationship for over fifty years.

Mr Smith made a tremendous impact on Lochwinnoch. His first act was to visit every household in the Parish, from the Kerse to Corseford, from Cockmylane to Auchinbathie on the Uplawmoor road, from Clarksbridge to Midhouse and the Barnaighs— he did that in one year. He got caught up in the Sunday School movement, working in a sectarian-free village with Robert Wallace of the Tabernacle, William Wright of the Mill, his own elders, including Andrew Crawford of Johnshill, and Mr Shoolbraid of the Secession (Burgher) Church when he eventually came to fill the vacant charge of the kirk. Bible Societies and a Mission Station followed. He was a very busy man, but he found time, like all sensible men, to court and marry a young lady— Miss Barr of Lochside. The church was full at every service, the church extension (mission) was thriving, so an assistant minister was urgently required. It is

astonishing, but true, that there were three young ministers, all natives of Lochwinnoch, who could have filled the post. The "tack" of the Tabernacle had expired. Pulpit, seating, etc., were all taken down and sold to a Kilbirnie Meeting House. Fulton, Buchanan and Co. placed their large schoolroom at the service of the church. A pulpit was prepared, moveable seats furnished and there was their new preaching station, which stood on its own feet financially. In 1834 the young assistant was introduced to his flock. He preached in the schoolroom on Sunday forenoons and in the Parish Church at night. In the time of the second young assistant, between 1837 and 1840, more commodious premises were required, so pulpit, seats and all were transferred to "Mr Thomas Orr's large hall at the Cross". The furniture belonged to the Committee of Management. Connell and Aitken, Joiners, at the Craw Road, had made it and subscriptions had paid for it.

This, of course, was the "Orrian Academy". Thomas Orr, schoolmaster, had a classroom at the Cross. In 1813 he started in it one of the seven Sunday Schools instituted in Lochwinnoch in 1811-1832. The author was told about this famous establishment by the late wee Willie Glen, but had to wait till 1985 to see it. Calum Duncan's alterations brought the history of more than 170 years right before the eyes. There was the hall with the pegs still round the wall, and there was the imposing stairway leading, not from the present Church Street, but from the back, which must have been the front then, if you can follow a rather confused argument. In Fowler's Directory of 1831-32 is the entry "Orr, Thomas (Orrian Academy) behind the Cross Well". That well is still there in Duncan's property, but now sealed off.

So much for the Sunday School movement. One way Mr Smith got home the Christian message was in his "Quarters". Lochwinnoch was divided into districts called "Quarters" with a focal point where the faithful met to undergo interrogation on their Scripture and Catechism knowledge. These quarters were well attended. One, John J., a Joiner, was making heavy weather of his responses, and is on record as saying:

"A weel Sir, ye hae asked me a question in the way o' your profession; I will ask you ane in the way o' mine. Can you tell me how many square feet of mahogany it will tak' to veneer a chest o' drawers?"

Mr Smith said that was out of his line.

"A weel Sir, ye see it's every man to his trade, Sir, an' ye ken a' about yours, an' I'm a wright an' ken somethin' about mine, an' sae I hope, Sir, you'll excuse my want o' the questions".

"Sir" excused him with a smile.

One of the many societies started with the blessing of the Kirk was Lochwinnoch Young Men's Society. The Committee of Management is interesting: *President*— Colonel Harvey; *Vice Presidents*— William Maccowall, John Buchanan, afterwards of Glenlora, James Wright, Calderpark, Rev James Munro (Assistant Minister); *Secretary*— Thomas Dunn, Writer; *Treasurer*— James Clark, Merchant, and a Committee of 25 from all over the Parish. The driving force of all these was one John Connell. Hallow'e'en 1835 saw the Lochwinnoch carrier from Paisley drive in with a letter and two hampers to be delivered "With Care". These contained a boiler (urn), kettles, etc., lent by a similar Paisley Society. The letter read, "Dear John, . . . get a few of the young men assembled after the soiree is over, and as our soiree comes off on Tuesday, 10th November, I hope if there be any bright hand among your Lochwinnoch friends we expect him into ours to represent your society. The meaning of having a few assembled after the soiree is that we enjoy a little chit chat and make ourselves acquainted". The soiree was held in the Mill schoolroom on Tuesday, 3rd November, 1835. There was vocal and instrumental music, some of the latter provided by the recently formed Lochwinnoch Instrumental Band which played with such spirit that it was described with gusto in the "Paisley Advertiser." Those of us who are older can well remember the great event Kirk or Sunday School soirees were— the big urn, the kettle, the bags of goodies, the concert— they were the highlight of the year. Happy days! But happy days at Lochwinnoch were drawing to a close. Controversy and bitterness brought an end to the great unity of purpose that had prevailed. We have noted that Lochwinnoch was affected by all the great national movements. In 1843 came the Disruption, the greatest schism in the Church of Scotland. Mr Smith and many of his congregation "outed" themselves, and worshipped in Harvey Square which had come into existence before that. They had to suffer the indignity of the Castle Semple coach driving past to the Parish Church, but with stout hearts they set themselves to find premises with some shelter from the elements. Offers of help came from the Burgher Kirk, and also from the Missionary Hall, but that dour Scots independent streak made them build a "spale kirk" in Church Street. This rough wooden erection was behind the Court Hall (so beautifully cleaned in 1985). Two months after the opening of the wooden kirk, the foundation stone of their new church was laid, by James Love of Knowes, a member of a very old Lochwinnoch family, on a site they had acquired right next to the Parish Church. Eight months later— after a good summer but a wet and stormy winter, when the wooden church leaked badly, and despite a set-back when the west hall collapsed— the new church was ready and was opened on 14th April, 1844, amidst great rejoicing. There had been

willing financial contributions from many quarters, but the greatest pleasure was derived from the fact that the first day's collection exceeded £100. Thus began the Lochwinnoch Free Church of Scotland, known to us as the "West". They could get things done in these days could they not?

It is sad to look at the empty site in Church Street— empty apart from the barrels stored by the cooperage— when we remember the endeavour that went into the creation of the West Kirk. We can also understand the heart-searching and bitterness of the 1940's when, as a result of the re-uniting of the two churches in 1929, one of the two adjacent churches had to go at the first pulpit vacancy. The West Church was a lovely little church. The last baby to be baptised there was the author's son in 1949. Many of the congregation left and joined the U.F. Church, the historic Burgher Kirk.

The minister of the re-united churches of the 1940's was Angus Nicolson, writer of the Third Statistical Account. Robert Smith wrote the Second Statistical Account a few years before the most traumatic event of his life - the Disruption which we have just mentioned. He was almost synonymous with Lochwinnoch, which he served diligently as Mr Smith, and as Dr Smith, after an American University honoured him, until a stroke laid him low. Three years later he died, on 22nd January, 1865, to be exact.



West Church

I Crosbie.



Celebration in Lochwinnoch. (Church Street from Cross)

R. D. C. Museums.

Church Street, The Cross, and Harvey Square.

We have noted the early development of Church Street from the isolated Burgher Kirk in 1792 to the Parish Kirk, the Secession Manse, the Court Hall, Harvey Square, the inn which became the Garthland Arms, the school and schoolhouse where there is a lemonade factory. Later development brought the railway station and what are commonly called the Keanie Buildings, as well as the "Klondyke" furniture factory where soldiers were billeted during the war and which is now a cooperage.

Apart from the changes necessitated by the railway, Church Street and the Square have not changed much since 1830

Church Street (Chapel Street) 1832

Armour, Mrs, *dress, leghorn and straw hat maker.*

Galt, Hugh, *grocer and spirit dealer*

Gillies, Miss, *milliner and dressmaker*

Goudie, Robert, *precentor* (led church singing)

Goldie, George, *shoemaker*

Henderson, David, *assistant schoolmaster and session clerk*

Henderson, George, *surgeon*

Henderson, Walter, *schoolmaster and session clerk*

Maxton, John, *nursery and seedsman*

McCormick, Neil, *tailor*

Ralston, William and George, *coopers*

Stevenson, John, *wood, iron and brass turner*

Storie, Mrs, *leghorn and straw hat maker and milliner*

Wylie, Richard, *sheriff officer and constable*

Rev John Shoolbraid, Secession Manse. (He and Mr Smith worked in close co-operation for the good of the community)

Harvey Square 1832

Orr, Alexander, *surgeon*

Robertson, Misses, *milliners leghorn and straw hat makers.*

Speirs, Wm., *farmer and undertaker*

To be in the front of fashion, one had to possess not just an ordinary straw hat, but a “leghorn”, made of a very fine plaited straw from the north of Italy.

So you see, Church Street and Harvey Square have not changed much in the last 150 years. There are still two churches and a manse, the Court Hall is still there although its function has altered; within living memory there was a doctor, Dr Gregor, and also an undertaker, Mr Connell. You can still buy spirits and clothes; even if you cannot buy a hat, you can find the materials to make a woollen bonnet or tammy. No dressmaker there, perhaps, but there are the requisites for home dressmakers. No cooerage in 1832? What about the Ralstons? Did John Stevenson occupy the stone building known as Crosbie's, recently used by Ossie Eddleston as a scrap yard? How we let our local history slip through our fingers! As for nuserymen and seedsmen, there are two that could wear a professional hat any day, K.D. and L.B.. Let us not forget the constable. It is not so long ago that the police moved from under the Court Hall to Calder Street. No, the biggest change has been the coming and going of the railway and the Keanie Buildings. Shops are still there—for example the present hairdresser's shop was a sweet shop owned by a Mrs MacLean whose daughter, Miss MacLean, was a teacher, and whose son was in the lending library. At this point it is perhaps appropriate to mention the lemonade factory. Before its present use it was the local school. Pupils went there after attending the first two classes in the Macdowall School, our present library and community museum. The late Willie Glen, and the sprightly nonagenarian Mr David Kerr, presently living at 1 Parkhill Drive, both attended the Macdowall and Church Street Schools. An interesting School Board meeting took place on 30th November, 1899. The principal business was the consideration of the Inspector's Report as to the increased accommodation. They agreed to put up a wood and iron erection at a cost of £100 to £150, and also to try to appoint a certificated teacher since grants might be withheld as the school was understaffed. Mr Kerr remembers the corrugated iron classroom and also the extra teacher who came from Kilbirnie and who ruled with a rod of iron. He does not remember the Mrs William Millar who was appointed cleaner for the Macdowall School at a salary of £10 per annum, but he does remember that that was a tremendous amount of money at that time. Incidentally, a



Mr Millar, Headmaster, and Staff of Church Street School.



Some of Lochwinnoch School Staff, 1968.

Standing: Messrs Mustaphi, McLeod, Cameron (Headmaster), Kennedy, McArthur.

Seated: Miss S Todd, Mrs I Gilbert, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Chadburn (Secretary), Miss E Brodie, Miss McQueen (Mrs K Dundas).



Lunch time, Lochwinnoch School, 1958.

Standing: Miss Anderson, Mrs Love, Mr A Millar, Mrs Barclay, Mr Smith (Headmaster).

Seated: Miss M Jamieson (Mrs A Millar), Mrs Anderson, Mrs E Gray.

pointer to the life style of these times is the same School Board's decision to grant a new water closet for the teacher's house at Howwood. Truly modern!

Spring water started the Struthers family on an aerated water factory up the Calder Glen and it was the presence of that spring water at the school that brought them there when the new school was built.

The railway station which appeared in 1907 not only altered the prospect from Church Street, but accelerated the progress of Lochwinnoch to a dormitory area. Numbers of commuters increased; fewer depended on rural occupations. A huge goods yard brought the needs of the community right into the heart of the village. Coal, newspapers, the mail, wagon loads of agricultural foodstuffs and requisites, goods of all kinds came and went, and, of course furniture from the famous Lochwinnoch Cabinet Works was transported out in large quantities by rail as well as road. What a convenient address was Church Street, especially the Keanie Buildings! Some of the happiest memories of the station are of the Sunday School trips. Off went whole families to some of the Ayrshire coast towns. There were spades and pails, streamers flying out of the window, and the magical moment was when someone smelt the sea. There were races to be run and a poke of goodies to eat before a shopping expedition to buy something for Granny, or Auntie, then a noisy, happy, journey back home. We will draw a veil over the trip to Ayr round about 1950, when it rained all the time till the return to Lochwinnoch station, when the sun blazed forth. One vivid memory of these outings was the figure of the Session Clerk, John G. Ferguson, holding a large black umbrella above his head, whilst supervising the races. His sister, Mary Ferguson, produced a beautiful white wash, without any modern aids, when she was a very old lady.

We have briefly mentioned "Klondyke", now occupied by the cooperage. Hunter, Hamilton, and Crawford were set up in the Main Street in 1881. After a fire Mr Hunter wanted out, so Hamilton and Crawford joined to build Lochhead Works. As this took place about the time of the gold rush in North America the name became Klondyke because of the volume of production in a very short time. Robert Crawford died in 1907 and Mr Hamilton carried on but kept Mrs Crawford, the widow, informed. When Hamilton wished to withdraw, the Crawford family carried on. In that family was a daughter. She was Mrs James Speir, mother of Mrs Mary Purdon, of Albert Cottage, Calder Street.

When war broke out in 1939, the whole of Klondyke was requisitioned as barracks. There was a tremendous activity there as bus loads of troops were taken to Greenock to join the convoys of ships there. This was the Maritime Regiment, Royal Artillery. Lochwinnoch was considered a safe haven for forces pending overseas service.

We will leave Church Street with a quick trip back to 1899. Just at the lade corner, at the back of the manse, a buggy, driven by a Mr Buchanan, a butcher, was in collision with a bus (horse drawn, of course) The buggy capsized; the shafts were broken. Presumably the horses were unhurt since the newspaper report did not mention them. Now back in time again to the 1790's. Almost as soon as the mills went up the Cross appeared. It is shown quite clearly in Ainslie's map of 1796. By 1832 the Cross was well developed.



Celebrating Coronation of George VI. Procession passing Parish Church.

I Crosbie.

The Cross 1832

Arthur, Mrs Wm., Black Bull Inn
Carswell, Thomas, of Muirhead and Hillside, *writer*— house, Braehead
Clark, James, *grocer, wine and spirit dealer*
Connell, William, *writer*— house, Newton of Barr
Edmiston, Alexander, *grocer and spirit dealer*
Orr, Mrs Thos., *stationer, hardware and toyshop*
Orr, Thomas, (*Orrian Academy*), behind the Cross Well
Paterson, Andrew, *writer*, High Street— house, the Cross
Simpson, Thomas, Lochwinnoch Inn
Smith, John, *tailor*
Wylie, Andrew, *land measurer and town crier*

Picture the Cross in the 1830's. It is a Saturday and eleven o'clock in the morning. Most people are at work but there is a great stir nevertheless. Horses and carts are everywhere, but there are also some carriages. It is court day, held once a fortnight. The above mentioned William Carswell is most certainly installed in the hall, for he is Procurator Fiscal. At least one, perhaps two, of the following writers (lawyers) are present— Robert Caldwell, Senior, of Calderhaugh, Robert Caldwell, Junior, High Street, John Connell, Newton of Barr, William Connell, Newton of Barr, Andrew Paterson, The Cross. Robert Caldwell is almost certain to be there as he is clerk. The Justice of the Peace is drawn from— James Harvey of Castle Semple, William Macdowall of Garthland, William Cochrane of Ladyland, William Montgomery, younger, of Cloak, John Fyffe, High Street, John Buchanan of Calderhaugh, and James Wright of Calderpark. Richard Wylie, constable, is keeping a watchful eye on events, perhaps chatting to fellow officer, Robert Young of High Street, or Andrew Wylie, who has summoned everyone by ringing his bell, for he is Town Crier.

Lochwinnoch Inn, and the Black Bull Inn, if not busy at the moment, are preparing for their busiest night of the week, when work has ended and pays have been distributed. The grocers and spirit dealers are also preparing for the Saturday night packed shops. No doubt the tailor will have a suit ready for uplifting for an important date, perhaps a wedding or a christening. There is no doubt that this is now the centre of Lochwinnoch, the gossip centre, the place to watch the fashion parade. This has continued to be the centre “o’ a’ the steer”. The occupants of Cross House (above Duncan’s shop), in recognition of this fact, built a new imposing entrance and stairway in Church Street. To provide enough headroom, the adjoining room had to lose some space which

resulted in a peculiar bulging structure. To provide an extension to the shop in 1985, the stairway was removed, but, as befits a conservation village, the entrance was left.

The Court Hall was a venue for dances, concerts, and meetings within living memory. The late Sir Harry Lauder sang in it in his very early days.

Until the 1920's the Cross must have looked quite elegant with all four corners the same— the rounded off corners we still see to-day. Was the Bank the "Lochwinnoch Inn" of 1832, and the "Black Bull" the present empty shop astonishingly called "Krazy Kuts"? What we do know is that the present Bank premises were the Eagle Inn in 1887 when an American lady, Miss Ellen Semple, hired a "machine" (a horse drawn dray) to pay a visit to Castle Semple, home of her ancestors. The two ladies had walked from Lochwinnoch station— about a mile.

The Eagle Inn had quite commodious premises. There was a hall above the stabling premises known as the Eagle Hall. It was used by the Masons within living memory.



Drawing.

Nora Guthrie.

Main Street and Calder Street

We have now dealt with three corners of the Cross; the fourth corner is the one which suffered the greatest change. Where the McKillop Institute is now, there was a row of shops and houses in Main Street, and various interesting premises in Calder Street. The corner was rounded off like the other three. People can remember Miss Ross's sweetie shop at the corner. The next shop was Smith's grocer shop. Before Smith, the occupant was one Millar, son of the well-known Lochwinnoch schoolmaster. Moving along one more shop from the Cross, you arrived at the Council Offices with Mr McGhie, Registrar, in charge. Mrs Farquhar lived in the house above. She cleaned the offices. Next in line was a bakehouse, which supplied Peter Dewar's shop across the road with some of the baking. Next was the two storey house of Mr Jock Nutt, who, usually accompanied by his wife, carted barytes five days a week for Houston whose business was in Calder Street. It was said he washed with vitriol at the barytes mine. The next house was occupied by Anderson. Next house to that was occupied by Bob Ewing (that house is still standing, at present occupied by Kennedy). Bob kept cows which went through the close to a field at the back. The milk was sold direct to the public. Life was uncomplicated then. Next was "Granpa Speir's" cottage. He was a bedmaker in Hamilton and Crawford's. Behind the row of buildings just mentioned were fields stretching from Ewing's grazing to Speir's slaughter house and his butcher shop with its frontage on Calder Street. Access to the fields etc. was by a pend in Calder Street. Above Speir's shop was a billiards hall. Archibalds had a cottage which had to go with the coming of the hall. That family went to America. A new building which appeared was "The Palace", built by Love for Manders, a family which brought show business to Lochwinnoch. They started their business in Harvey Square with beautiful caravans and a tent. Mr and Mrs Manders were highly respected not only for their scrupulously clean and beautifully maintained caravans, but also for themselves as fine people. It was a big step forward to conduct their business in a cinema built for the purpose. Many young persons blessed the existence of the "Palace" for films such as "Rock Around the Clock" with Bill Haley and the Comets which, incidentally, the author saw along with her daughter and some young friends; older people, too, patronised the "Palace", including some weel-kent farmers who laughed all through the showing of "The Maggie". Lochwinnoch owed a great deal to the Manders family. It was a sad day to see the "Palace" change its function to that of a coal merchant's business, even supposing it was the weel-kent family of Paterson, coal merchants for years. In this connection also are



Funeral procession, Calder Street.

remembered such names as Archie Dale and Danny Morrison. Do you remember Frame's land in Calder Street, or Houston's Yard? He was the contractor already mentioned.

Some interesting history lies in numbers 8 and 10 Calder Street. No 8 was a newsagent's shop belonging to Mrs Janet Orr Ferguson whose son, Hugh, ran the shop almost until he died in 1899. John Ferguson took over. Now he was a wood carver and a friend of another wood carver, Mr David Kerr, whom we have already met. Recently, Mr Kerr sent to Miss Jenny Ferguson, a woollen blanket woven by her grandfather, Hugh Galt Ferguson, at his weaving shop at 10 Calder Street. On the latter's gravestone are the words "woollen weaver". Through my own research into the Orr family, and documents supplied by Miss Janet Orr Ferguson (Jenny), she can trace her roots right back to John Orr of Midhouse, born about the 1660's, who was certainly married for the second time in 1696, and who died in 1727. A lang pedigree! (We can never get away from the Orrs in Lochwinnoch).

We are still in Calder Street and still talking of Mr David Kerr. He built a woodcarving shed which he occupied for about a year before he went to Africa in 1926. (Before that he used premises now occupied by Duncan, Grocer). That building is the Gospel Hall— the present Gospel Hall. Where the original Tabernacle was I have not been able to find out, but it was most certainly in Calder Street, not to be confused with the predecessor of the present Gospel Hall which was in Calderhaugh.

Another building of special interest in Calder Street is the workshop of Connell, builders and joiners, at Nos. 22-24. The father of the present owner, the late Robin Connell in fact, still remembered by many of us, bought the Calder Street property when it was a condemned tenement building. In 1930 the firm moved in. Previously they had been in Calderhaugh, where the two bungalows are, near the Calder Bridge. The firm was established in 1764 by a young man of 27 years of age. His name was not Connell, but he was related. After all these years Mr Connell is now the eighth generation in the business. It is surely an indication of altered monetary values, and also the changing attitude towards older buildings, when a building considered worth a paltry £25 in 1930, should become a 'listed building' and therefore a burden on the occupiers, not to mention the excessive rates imposed on it. Such is life!

Afton Cottage (Ferguson's) is built on much the same plan as Albert Cottage. Above Afton there used to be a little field where a pony grazed. That is the site of the house now occupied by former bank manager, Mr D. McQueen, which is really in Braehead. Braehead meant the top of the

Mill Brae, the rising ground in Calder Street. In 1832 a Captain Robert Hunter lived at Braehead. The late Dr J.F.C. Waterston lived in "Westdene", Braehead, the original Manse for the West Church, where Dr Smith, the minister already spoken of, lived and died. Another distinguished resident of Braehead was Mr William Logan, lawyer, factor, clerk to the School Board etc. He was also clerk and treasurer to the Gas Board.

Many will remember the Gas Works. Back in Calder Street, we note the road going to the left, just past the police houses. In former days that was just past Houston's, already mentioned. In that road and up to the right the was the Gas Works—surely a most economical way of producing gas considering the tiny staff. This road also led through to the furniture factory. The first house past the road, 31 Calder Street, was known as Baxter's "Lawn" (land). Next to 21 there was a long low building. An old lady lived there who got soup sometimes from the big household of Granny Crawford across the street.

I have fond memories of 37 Calder Street. Many a beautiful piece of craft work came out of that house. Mrs Jamieson (née Stewart) produced beautiful work for the W.R.I., including a lovely chair for a Federation Show, a product worthy of a village famed for its furniture.

Next on that side of Calder Street comes Kildale, known as Kilndale in the 18th Century. The first row of houses on this site appeared in 1825 when it was obvious that more houses would be required for mill-workers. The houses across the road, three in number, were built in the late 1830's, the one at present occupied by the Templeton family being the first to go up.

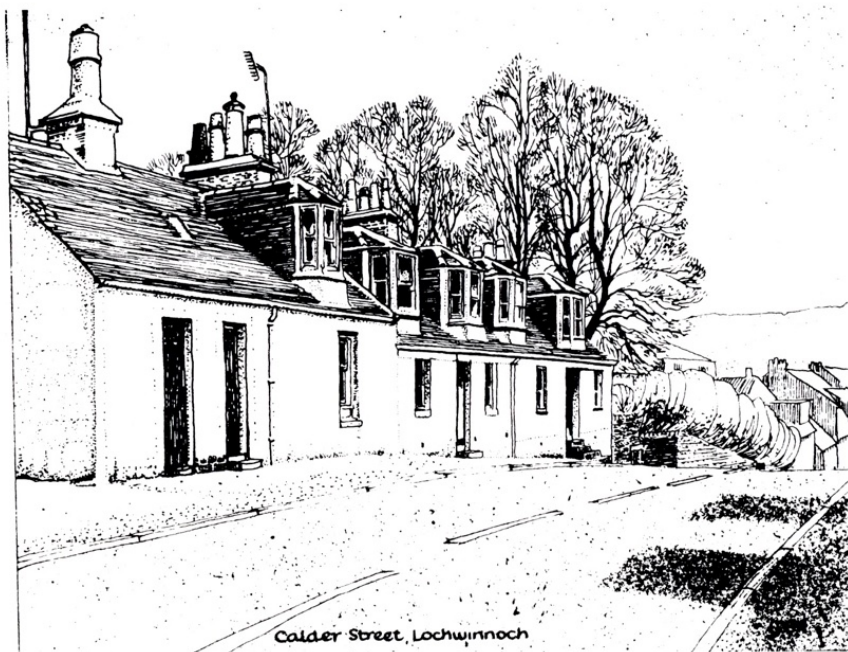
The new houses erected by Mr Connell filled an unsightly gap of former feued land. He moved from a house in Braehead already noted. The "Co-operative" Buildings are a good example of late nineteenth, or early twentieth century, buildings of which there are other examples in the village. Opposite is the Mill House, first occupied by the mill manager, then having a varied career. Some will remember Mr Smith having his contracting business here, before Mr Ian Russell, who recently retired. There are also vivid memories of when the ground floor consisted of Arthur's baker shop on one side and Mrs Ward's shop on the other. Mrs Ward's niece had the doubtful pleasure of serving the school children with sweets etc. That lady is, of course, Mrs Betty Whyte, our librarian, who is still trying to keep order among the young readers.

Practically nothing of the Old Mill survives. It was destroyed by fire in

1874, but until recently the mill lade was easily seen. You had to go past Calderpark Farm, occupied first by Shillady then by Holmes who married into the Shillady family. The Holmes family are well known locally; Willie for his “doos”, Peter for the farm at one time, Jinty, Jane and Margaret who married Dr Willie Gregor.

We are now opposite the School, built in 1905 and opened shortly after that. Down on our left we should see the depression of the mill lade, but the gardening efforts of the occupants of the Spiers Road housing estate have more or less obliterated it.

The School is on an imposing site, but was once considered too remote from the village. How times have changed! It is now practically surrounded by houses. There is a steep road going from Calder Street to the School Annexe and Calderpark Street. How many villagers can remember the lovely hedge and flower borders kept so beautifully by Charlie Craig, the School Janitor? Did you ever “tummle yer wilkies” on the railing? It will soon be twenty years since the Secondary Department closed, but those who attended it were truly privileged — both pupils and Staff.



Drawing by Nora Guthrie.

High Street

Let us retrace our steps by way of the ancient route out of Lochwinnoch, by Braehead and the Craw Road. Just behind the Museum and Library in Craw Place, we can see the remnants of the steading of Wee Willie Glen's farm, and also the more modern byre which was built for him when some of his ground was taken for building. This was Strandheads farm, which became Strangeheads finally, for some obscure reason— most probably a clerk's error. The farmhouse is in High Street between the Library and the Gable End Restaurant. Strandheads was on Calderhaugh Estate, just as most of Lochwinnoch is. In 1817 Smithy and Strandheads were put together for taxation purposes. Smithy was most probably the smithy next to the Tounfit and would lie behind the row of shops. This would be included in Willie Glen's ground. At any rate Willie's farming operations came to an end to accommodate the council houses just after the war.

Nearby must have been the yard of Connell and Aitken who supplied the seating for the Orrian Academy. Gemmell gives the address "Craw Road", but Fowler in 1832 says "High Street". Perhaps they were on the corner. The Macdowall School, after all, was not in existence until 1857. That is only speculation. What is certain is that there is no apparent connection between Connell and Aitken, and the present firm of Connell.

At the foot of the Craw Road in the eighteenth century lived a most interesting character. James Orr was born in 1742, the son of William Orr of the Kaim and Janet, daughter of James Orr of Midhouse, Airtnocks, etc.. Now, *he* could have lived on the site of the Macdowall School. All the evidence points to this. He has been mentioned before in this history. His "by-name" was Pinimie. He was the gentleman who had an odd way of fastening his coat. He was a feuar. His water supply was Pinimie's Well. Andrew Crawford in "The Cairn" takes great pains to assure us that these nicknames were no disparagement; there were so many Orrs that they were necessary. (Willie Glen's granny was an Orr).

There is so much history connected with this part of the High Street that a few memory joggers are all that there is time or space for. Do you remember Preston the chemist at Bennett's shop, — or the lending library — or the Body Building Club at the same address?

Do you remember Wee Freddie Jacques who combined his work as postman with his shop and agency for Foyles Library? Do you remember his cousin, John Scoular, who meticulously wrote down in pencil every single transaction? It might be aspirins or shoe laces or a packet of envelopes, but down it had to go in the little book. (Whaur's yer

computers noo?) John was an uncle of Mrs Rutherford, and yet another uncle of hers, Robert Stewart, had a little cabinet works in the garden at the back of Stranville, where Mr McBride the painter now is. Perhaps you remember Miss Wilson there. Do you remember Nell Train's dressmaker and haberdashery shop, Crawford's fruit shop, finally a sweetie shop? Hallowfaulds Dairy holds memories of Gilbert Ferguson's milk boys taking milk to customers in long handled milk cans. Mrs Murray, now in Canada, ran the Hallowfaulds Dairy for a time. Back at the Craw Road corner, at Lally's shop, Bertie Millar was the owner before Baird, MacArthur, and Birchall. One interesting point about this row of shops is the return of the sale of alcohol. I am told Bennett's shop was "The Bunch of Grapes"— before Preston the chemist.

We are, of course, in High Street, the Main Street of the Auld Toun which ended at Craw Road. It is all very confusing: the present Main Street and High Street were all High Street in 1832. Later, Main Street, in the 1841 Census, is Main Street, Auld Toun (High Street). Some time after, we had High Street East and High Street West and no Main Street. I give up.

The opposite side of High Street suffered some unnecessary demolition for the frontage of many of the buildings was worth preserving. All is forgiven, however, when we see the most tastefully designed houses that tone in beautifully with the rest of the village. There is only one criticism: we are not in the horse and cart era now, so some provision could have been made for car parking.

We are now at the Roman Catholic Chapel. No mention has been made of the Church of Rome in this history apart from the time of the Reformation, simply because it was impossible, for a long time, for Roman Catholics to hold high office, or, indeed, office of any kind. After attending church in Howwood in the late 1920's and St Joseph's from 1936, local Roman Catholics had the pleasure of attending their own church in 1955. The zeal with which a very ordinary building was transformed into the present church had to be seen to be believed. The latest addition, the very elegant iron railing, is dignified and improves the site.

High Street – New Town

What used to be a butcher's shop occupied by Bob Thomson, the Duncan Brothers, then MacFarlane, was before that the premises of McCulloch who hired out horse drawn vehicles, and did some contracting. The gateway into the yard at the back can still be seen, but if you look carefully at the upper storey you can still see where the hay-loft door was, although it has been converted into a window. McCulloch ran a "bus" service to Lochwinnoch Station (Lochside). Next door to the Halifax building there was Goudie's Tea Room which moved to where Jim Wylie's shop is now, which is also where Blackburn the tailor ran his business. There was also a tailor called Woods at the chemist's shop. Grant's paper shop was the small shop next to the "Penny Farthing". Watson the painter's shop is now a dwelling house occupied by the Skelley family. The Co-operative drapery, footwear, and baker's shops are now dwelling houses. Black's grocer's shop is now a forlorn corner of High Street and Church Street.

Across the road is the Bank, the former Eagle Inn. The next shop has changed hands several times. I am told it was once a fruit shop before the days of Mrs Bryson and Mrs Casey and now Neil Scally. There was an ironmonger's two doors along, belonging to Peter Barbour. This shop and the shop next to it were run for a time by Fletcher the baker who came after Boulet. Fletcher switched the two shops round to make the present empty shop the baker's, and the other the ironmonger's. Mary Kincaid was a most efficient saleswoman in the ironmonger's. In 1946, when the author came to Lochwinnoch, she was sent to Mary to buy paraffin, lamp wicks, white-wash brushes, wooden teeth for hay rakes, harness polish etc. That shopping list seems light years away now. That shop is the baker's now, and has been since Jimmy Lawrie and the Garthland Bakery. The other shop became Willie Storie's hairdresser's shop. Willie moved from his shop in Church Street, where you could also buy bicycle spares. That shop and Chapman's the butcher, were in what is now part of the Garthland Arms. Jim Wylie was also there for a short time.

You will have noticed that we have passed over the shop affectionately known as "the Tally's". There are many with fond memories of old Dom D'Ambrosio with Jimmy and Teresa in a scrupulously clean shop. One could literally have eaten off the floor. The ice cream was delicious. Teresa deserved her retirement to "St Margaret's".

No. 29 High Street will be remembered as the home of Margaret Taylor who founded the local W.R.I., working most enthusiastically for it until her sad crippling illness. It is also the address of a former jeweller's shop.

Mr George Thomson was the proprietor. Every Monday he went to Glenlora to wind up the clocks there.

The Wheatsheaf Inn was where the new flats are in High Street next to No. 29. The flats at No. 23 are where the Gas Board offices were, where Margaret Gregor worked and had the Registrar's Office as well. The pend arch can still be seen at No. 25.

Through that pend went the Co-operative horse. Further along is the Gable End Restaurant, better known to older people as Willie Guy's house and paint shop. He had a most beautiful garden. His best known assistant was Mr McConnell. How nice it is that we have a McConnell Road in a recently developed part of the village.



High Street Shops closed for Royal Celebration — Telegram Boy on right.

R.D.C. Museums.

Main Street, again, and Calderhaugh Estate

Calum Duncan's modern grocer's shop would be a source of wonder to his predecessors, should they come back in spirit. Thomas and James Orr, Peter Dewar, and Jimmy Whyte never had anything like it. Shedden's, Kennedy's and Millar the baker's shop were all well known. Mrs Law (née Anderson) worked in Millar's shop. There used to be a drapery where Wilson the baker is. The butcher's shop went from Speir to Allan Hendry and is now MacFarlane's. Most people will remember the Co-op shops as they used to be—a complete range of services, now a shadow of what was.

Main Street (High Street West) has kept its character. Interesting buildings of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century are a feature of this street as, for example, the late Jean MacDonald's boarding house (now the Doctor's surgery) and the Brown Bull. Behind the latter building was one of the many halls that served the community. This area housed Love, the builder's yard, and is now home to a printer's premises. On both sides of the street are evidences of the existence of a large estate. There are pillars some of which show an almost obliterated name—Calderhaugh. There are many traces of former grandeur. If you were confused over the Main Street-High Street issue, be prepared for even greater confusion now. The "Big Hoose" of Calderhaugh Estate was not the present Calderhaugh House, but was the present Calder House. This is clearly shown in a map of the 1780's, at present (September 1986) displayed in the Community Museum. The new turnpike road to Kilbirnie separated Calderhaugh from the gardens, shrubbery and the estate buildings which are still there beside the younger house which went up after the erection of Calderhaugh Mill in 1789. The first feu was granted by William Macdowall of Garthland to Fulton, Buchanan, and Pollock. John Buchanan J.P. was definitely in Calderhaugh in 1832. He left there to go to Glenlora which he built in 1840. There is our first mix-up, for that was the original Calderhaugh. The title deeds of the *present* Calderhaugh House show Robert Caldwell, writer, (senior), owner in 1807, followed by his son, also Robert, and a writer, in 1840. After a succession of McFarlans, up to 1922 there were a further seven owners, and then the present owners, Mr and Mrs Mackendrick. In 1906, during the ownership of Mary MacFarlan, part of Calderhaugh land feu was sold to Lochwinnoch Bowling Club. Mr and Mrs Millen sold plots and sites at Calderhaugh Lane to individual purchasers for building houses in the late 1960's.



The Surgery 1980

Let us go back across the street. We noted that John Buchanan left there to go to Glenlora. We can go much further than that. In 1721 Robert Brodie lived there. More than 200 years before that, when the Semple family held sway there, a dispute over boundaries was settled between Robert, Abbot of Paisley, for the lands of Barr, and Robert Semple of Fullwood and Richard Brown of Cultermains, Laird of Calderhauch. In 1509 the lands were marched thus:

“The Water of Calder where it enters Loch Winnoch, upwards between Bar and Calderhauch as far as Garpol Burn, and so from the Waterholm upwards by the Calder Water as far as Burn of Clook, up Clook as far as the lands of Lord Semple of Michelton, as the stones were erected and the old ditch drawn out by the said as a mark of perpetual marching. (Spelling as in charter, but I think you will recognise the Cloak.) The agreement was reached after two hours riding by the company, including arbiters, from 10 a.m. till noon”.

From this we can see that Crooks Farm was in the former Calderhaugh Estate whilst Little Cloak was not, being on the opposite side of the Cloak Burn. In 1526, James V confirmed the charter by John Semple of Kirkmichael to John Semple, his son, and Marion Maxwell, his wife, of the lands of Calderhauch, etc., ... “all and whole the lands of Calderhauch and Auchermuch... occupied by David Bryden, William Lawtie, Neil Bryden, Cuthbert Jameson, Robert Kibble, John Lyle, John Greenlees, and Agnes Byrtras” ... The tenants’ names are nearly all local names, including Lawtie (Latta).

The lands of Calderhaugh are clearly defined in the map already mentioned. They include Sandylands (Bowling Green area), North and South Kilndale, Beer Fauld, Bridge House No 1 and No 2, which takes you up to Bridgend. Broombrae is between Bridgend and the Cloak Burn. Most of the Council houses are on the High Parks of Calderhaugh, of which there were seven. Latadale No 1 and No 2 stretched from Calderhaugh to the Craw Road. Big Laigh Park, Townfoot Parks, New Factory Park, and Old Factory Park were between the present Main Street and High Street and the Loch. From Craw Road to the Crooks, between Braehead and Johnshill, was all feued, the most prominent feuars being James Orr, Doctor Caldwell and Mary Ewing. Calder House, (the original Calderhaugh), certainly shows it has a long history, and that there have been various periods of erection. There are fascinating signs of foundations of former buildings: there is a doorway up on a wall with no steps leading to it; the tower has had the staircase removed, but some of the steps are there to be seen, put to a different use;

the sudden stop of a cornice in the house shows where the present staircase breached a wall. The last alteration was certainly the work of Joseph Johnstone who occupied the house during the heyday of the furniture industry in Lochwinnoch— Johnstone of Lochwinnoch was a name to be respected in furniture warehouses. It was during his occupancy that the dormer windows were added. Mr Crisp, Bridgend, remembers helping with that task in the 1920's.

While we are still in Main Street, we should note that the present bus depot is on the site of a former chair works, and the two bungalows are where there used to be a tenement buliding which many remember.

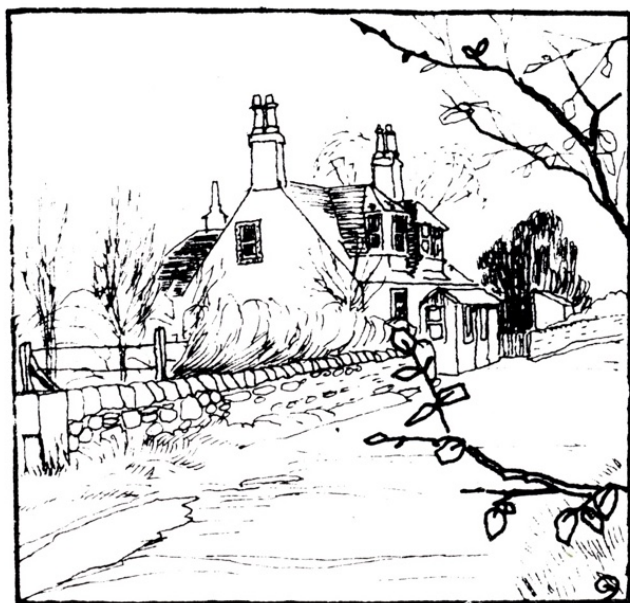
Back on the other side of the street, we see the industrial history of this part of Calderhaugh Estate; the big mill, built in 1789 and burned down in 1878 was cut down to an 11-bay rubble building. At the rear, engine room and boiler house and a range of weaving sheds became the Silk Mill. John Boyd Oliver manufactured silk at the beginning of this century, followed, in 1915, by Caldwell, Young, and Company.

Other works on Calderhaugh included the Calder Cabinet and Chair Works, built in 1880 for James Hunter and Sons, and Viewfield Cabinet and Chair Works built in 1887 for Joseph Johnstone. The Lochhead Cabinet Works, already mentioned, was also on the estate. Both Viewfield and Lochhead (Klondyke) became part of Clyde Cooperage. While on the subject of the Klondyke, we should remember that Hamilton and Crawford supplied fine chairs for many shipping companies. An example was the train-load of chairs which left Lochwinnoch to go to Harland and Wolff's yard for the furnishing of the ill-fated liner, "Titanic". It is said that the sample chair of that lot was bought by a Lochwinnoch man. Is it still in Lochwinnoch?

While in Calderhaugh we must not forget Mackinlay's flag factory. While on the other side of the Calder, it was part of Calderhaugh. Flags for every nation, banners, yacht club pennants, bunting— everything of that nature was turned out there. The wooden blocks which stamped out the patterns were cut out by men, expert in the craft, on brass and copper at the base of the wood.



Old Mill, Burnfoot



Burnfoot Cottage

Nora Guthrie.

Roads to Castle Semple

1. By the Loch

1887, Ellen Semple, an American lady, and a friend came by train to Lochwinnoch station, walked to the village, and hired a vehicle at the Eagle Inn to convey them to Castle Semple. Their route was by Church Street, Harvey Square, and what is now known as Harvey Terrace. Harvey Terrace underwent some changes, and long after the Americans went by, there were houses which provided homes for many respectable families. Mr James Speir was responsible for some of these houses, and let some young couples their first home. The houses nearer the Factory Street end had higher rents because of the oriel windows. These houses were demolished quite recently and the present houses built, but in some back gardens in the village there are souvenirs of the first Harvey Terrace—clothes poles. Further along, Harvey Cottages are still as they were built. The Speir family, the Hunters and the Daniels were former occupants.

No railway embankment when Ellen Semple drove by! What fond memories we have of the railway that came and went, with the bridge in Church Street a thing of the past. We remember old Roland Muirhead being delivered by Jimmy Edgar's taxi for his daily journey to Glasgow. At that time his name was synonymous with the Scottish National Party. We also remember Mr Wylie, Station Master, Mr Spiers and Mr Gibb.

Ellen would not have seen the Nursery worked by Rab Kerr. It was next to the Red House at the foot of the railway embankment. Rab was a kenspeckle figure on his bike which somehow stayed upright although his legs and big tackety boots seemed to propel the pedals oh so slowly!

There would be no nurse's house when Ellen went by. No Nurse Brockway or her predecessor, Nurse Jamieson. Factory Street was there, though, for it had been in existence for well over a century. That is to say, the houses on the side of the Corner Bar, and from it to the council houses. The other side is comparatively modern. Opposite the Corner Bar, where the new bungalow has been erected, was the factory which gave the street its name. Many will remember "Isa's", a wooden shop on that site. The village school was somewhere near Stanley Cottage, or 9 St Winnoc Road, (which used to be 9 Factory Street). The rest of the street, at the time of the school, was parkland: Old Factory Park on the factory side and New Factory Park on the other.

To continue Miss Semple's journey along what was really the avenue to Castle Semple, she would pass the pillars still to be seen a good bit away



West Gates.

from the West Gates, then the gates themselves, after they had been opened by the porter or lodge-keeper. The two lodges are still recognisable as such, but tremendous changes have taken place here.

Miss Semple described her route to Castle Semple as a beautiful tree-lined avenue with the trees arching overhead, and glimpses of a beautiful loch. These trees were all cut down, but are marked clearly in older Ordnance Survey maps.

2. Back o' the Woods Road

The "Back o' the Woods" is officially Bridesmill Road. It took the author a visit to the polling booth in the McKillop Institute to find she lived in Bridesmill Road. It was, of course, the road to St Bryde's Mill, and the St Bryde's Burn formed the parish boundary, so we are talking about the ground between the Cloak, going on to the St Bryde's Burn (once called Logan Water) and the Back o' the Woods Road, all farm land.

Sandiestone and Peockstone at one time must have belonged to a Sandy and a Peock, but by the late 17th century an Orr was in Peockstone and a Blackburn in "Sandy's Toun", toun being the old name for a farm, where there could be several small crofts. There was also a Blackburn at Cruicks at the same time. Cruicks meant a cross and denoted a preaching place before organised church buildings were the norm. The modern form is Crooks, but the older farmers still call it "Crucks". Knockbartnock is an ancient name for a very ancient site. "Knock-bert-nock" means "the hill of the Britons", which goes back to Celtic times. Indeed there is a Stone Age burial site on West Knockbartnock, verified by Mr Frank Newall, archaeologist, who formerly taught in Lochwinnoch School. He also pointed out to me the outlines of a mediaeval farm. West Knockbartnock is thought to have been the home of the Semple of Balgreen who died impoverished in the 18th century, with the Semples of Beltrees paying most of the expenses to give him a "daecent burial". Certainly West Knockbartnock ground went in with Balgreen in the time of the Orrs, who were still in Balgreen in the 1940's.

Gateside Farm is now part of Knockbartnock. In 1695 Margaret Spier occupied Gateside; across the road James Spier occupied Woodhead farm (now part of Warlock Gates farm), and Knockbartnock was owned by Robert Braedine and tenanted by John Crawford.

In 1832 the occupancy of the aforementioned was as follows:

Sandiestone	<i>James Blackburn</i>
Peockstone	<i>David Whyte</i>
Knockbartnock	<i>John Fulton</i>
Knockbartnock and Balgreen.....	<i>William Fulton</i>

Crooks.....	<i>Robert Orr</i>
Gateside.....	<i>John Currie</i>

The next farm on the Bridesmill Road was called Chapelton, but it and another farm, Cowanstone, were enclosed by the present-day Mitchelton. Chapelton was the site of a chapel of the monks of Paisley Abbey, as important in its day as the chapel of Lochwinnoch which became the Kirk. In one of the fields of Chapelton was the Holy Well.

Mitchelton had a very varied and long history. It was owned by the Semples of course. In 1509, as we have already noted, it was mentioned as one of the marches (boundaries) of Calderhaugh. Robert, Lord Semple was rather short of funds in 1556, so he mortgaged it and other farms. It was not redeemed by the Semples until 1585. The tenants of the little crofts that made up the ferm-toun of Mitcheltoun in that year were Neil Tarbat, Niniane Tarbat, Johne Or, Robert Tarbat, Margaret Smyth, Johne Allasoun and Johne Pacok (spelling as in Charter). In 1644 the rental of "Mitcheltoun" was, for 6 tenancies:

John Or, Sone to Rt Or X s land (ten shilling land), of cheis, XXX staine. Teynd-ij bs meill, J stirk.

The other 5 tenancies, in modern form, were:

Robert Miller, 10 shilling land of mail (rental), 3 pounds teind 3 bolls meal, fine meal, 8 bolls; 2 of fine bere; a wedder, a dozen hens.

Humphrey Cowan, 10 shilling land, 30 stone chees; 3f (forpit?) meal for teind, and 1 stirk.

Ninian Tarbet, 5 shilling land 22 pounds. Teind 1 boll 2 pecks meal a rough wedder and 6 hens.

John Tarbet, 5 shilling land . Teind 1 boll, 2 pecks meal and a rough wedder.

John Orr, 10 shilling land, 11 pounds. Teind, 2 bolls 1 forpit meal, 1 rough wedder, and 1 dozen hens.

Note:

Teind– tithe, the old money paid to the church

Boll– a measure of grain, meal, flour etc.

Bere– a variety of barley

Forpit– the fourth part of another measure e.g. a peck

Stirk– a yearling cattle beast

Wedder– a castrated ram

j = 1; *ij* = 2

In 1695 the tenants of "mitcheltoune" were William Cumine (Cumming), Ninian Terbert (spelling was not important), John Kerr, Patrick Orr and William Miller.

William Barbour was in Cowanstone in the 1750-65 period, and by 1832 Alexander Speir of Peockstone had taken over what was by then called South Mitcheltoun, while his son, also Alexander, was in East Mitcheltoun, so the two present Mitcheltons were taking shape.

We will jump a century. Mitchelton was prevented from becoming a hospital by the advent of World War II. The late Robert S. Andrew took it over and made it a dairy farm.

The Clarks were in East Mitchelton for a long time before Mr John Caldwell moved in.

Tucked into the side of East Mitchelton march, just opposite Markethill road-end, is a feu which was long known as the "six lum hooses" because of the outward appearance of the houses which stood there. The garden, much overgrown, and raided of fuchsias and michaelmas daisies, is all that is left. It is thought that one gentleman now holds the feu instead of the multiple holding at one time.

This brings us very near the St Bryde's Burn, which is the parish boundary. Before making for the Barnaigh Road, we can locate some "lost" farms. HIGHLANDS was on Warlock Gates marching with Woodhead already mentioned. HERSTINGTON was near Markethill road-end and FLEMINGSTON was down that road where Mr S. Cochrane's holding now stands.

The highest part of Mitchelton is the Gowkstane wood. Some people say the Gowkstane itself was on Greenside, across the road in Kilbarchan Parish. Some kind of spirit was said to have haunted that area, and also the vicinity of the Locher. On a dark night in that part, quite near the Clochoderick Stone, the stone of Rhydderich Hael, King of the Britons of Strathclyde, you could imagine anything.

East Mitchelton probably enclosed another "lost" farm—DOCKANLIE. There are evidences of a farm on the Barnaigh Road, most likely Dockanlie.

And so we come to Laigh Barnaigh, and on to Muir Toll on the Kilmacolm Road, once a toll house and an inn. There was still a house on that site in the late 1940's, but all that remains is a stone dyke. The Roads Department use it now to store road mending materials.

The Barnaighs

Barnaigh, once Barnach, a sizeable estate at one time, appears to have taken a bite out of Kilbarchan Parish. The estate road to East Barnaigh is still discernible just past the T-junction at Muir Toll. Now East Barnaigh is away over near Lawmarnock, which is in Kilbarchan. The explanation for this “bite” is that the lands of Barnaigh were under the overlordship of the monks of Moniabrock in Lochwinnoch, and they in turn were under the Abbot of Paisley. The lands of Moniabrock were vast. Barnaigh must have been the BARDISTRENACH in the 1204 Charter— more of that later.

Park of Barnaigh, Mid Barnaigh, Hill of Barnaigh, Laigh Barnaigh (or How Barnaigh) or Barnach,— call them what you will— their names have a Celtic origin, and are very, very old.

We move several centuries to the year 1696, when the great family of the Orrs of Midhouse was joined to the Jamiesons of How-Barnaigh. John Orr of Midhouse took as his second wife, Jonet, dochter of Robert Jamieson, portioner of How-Barnach, settling on her £100 Scots. Between 1700 and 1712, they bought, among other things,

A glas and laces.....0 - 7 - 6

Ane apron of sarge.....0 - 13 - 4

Ane unce candie to ying John's bairns.....0 - 1 - 2

Hauf a pun sape, and ane unce

alacreish, the best.....0 - 4 - 4

A Vines on Judgement.....0 - 7 - 6

N.B. *Sarge* = serge; *Ying* = young; *Sape* = soap;

Alacreish = liquorice; *Vines* = vincent (a charitable payment)

Another portioner of How-Barnaigh in 1695 was William Eweing. In Hill of Barnaigh was John Eweing, and his tenant was John Lyle. In the other Barnaighs were William Orr, and John Aikine, with his tenant, John Wilsoune.

In 1832, James Caldwell was in Mid Barnaigh, while in Hollow (How) Barnaigh, now Laigh Barnaigh, was David Clark. This was the start of a long association of the Clarks with Barnaigh. In the old kirkyaird of Lochwinnoch is a stone “erected in memory of David Clark of Burnaigh d. 1847 and Elizabeth Wylie, his wife”. In 1924 David Clark of How Barnaigh paid his stipend to the church. Many will remember the late Andrew Clark of Barnaigh, farmer and kirk elder.

Moniabrock

Moniabrock (pronounced Monee'brock), meaning moor of the badger, is a name that has survived for many centuries, like most of the place names of the district. After the Norman families came to Strathclyde, it became an important part of the lands of Paisley Abbey. In 1204 its boundaries were defined as follows: From where the hill at Barnbrock goes down to the Locher, and by a march to the west of Craigminnan to the Calder, and down the Calder to the Cloak Burn; up the Cloak to Bardistrenach (Barnaigh), and along to the Water of Logan (St Bryde's Burn), to the march at Clochoderick, and so back to the Locher.

That is a very free translation of the original Latin, but the geographical locations are correct.

From this it will be seen that the Barnaighs, Midhouse, The Ward, The Kaimes, Balgreen, Weels, Longcroft, The Cloaks, Tandlemuir, Clovenstone, Heathfield, Muirshiel and Windyhill must be included, not to mention the Kilbarchan farms of Clochoderick and Greenside. Incidentally, Greenside is thought to be derived from "Grange-side", the grange being the storage place of the crops of Moniabrock.

The monks retained power till the 16th Century when they gave some of their tenants feu rights of their mailings for the former rent as feu duty. So we find mention of the Orrs of Midhouse, in 1504, being in dispute with the Abbot— a misunderstanding of the rights of manuring the ground.

The Glen of Lochwinnoch

The lands of Moniabrock were only a part of the Barony of the Glen of Lochwinnoch which extended from the Locher Water to the Maich Water, and was given by Walter, the High Steward of Scotland, to Paisley Abbey. The early charters, as we have seen, defined territories and the rights of the Abbot and his monks, also the tenants, such as the Orrs. There were Orrs all through the Glen of Lochwinnoch. The Lochwinnoch Orrs were white meal Orrs; the Kilbirnie Orrs were grey meal Orrs, looked down on by the Lochwinnoch set, who considered themselves vastly superior. It was claimed that the Orrs of Japhraystock, Langyard (part of Glenlora) and Kaim were the most ancient Orr families. When rents were converted into feu duties, as we have seen, the Orrs, Montgomeries, Braedines (Bryden), Aitkines, Kirkwoods, Glens, etc., all emerged as small farmers in the Barony of Glen, advancing to the position of wee lairds in the 15th and 16th centuries, with the first Earl of Abercorn, then Lord Cochran, as feudal superiors after the Reformation in 1560. These two feued the remainder of the lands of Glen to the Cochrans, the Loves, the Barbours, the Lattas, the Campbells, the Jamiesons, the Burns etc., but, without a doubt, the Orrs seemed to outnumber the lot.

With such an embarrassment of information as may be found in the archives, which would fill several volumes, I shall pick out various geographical areas. From these I shall choose what, I hope, will be some interesting facts, not necessarily in chronological order.

Kaim Dam Area

Weels farm is at the dam now, but before the dam existed there was a road right through, past the Weels to a farm called Greenbrae. One of the Orrs of Midhouse, a tailor, spent some time there. In the 18th century, the farmer in 1832 was Alex Barclay; in the 1841 census a relative of Mrs Rutherford, her great-great-grandfather, to be exact, lived in neighbouring Byrebush. He was Robert Gibb, aged 79, and his wife, Isabella, was 75. One generation later, great-granny Gibb lived in Greenbrae.

The Lands of Cloak

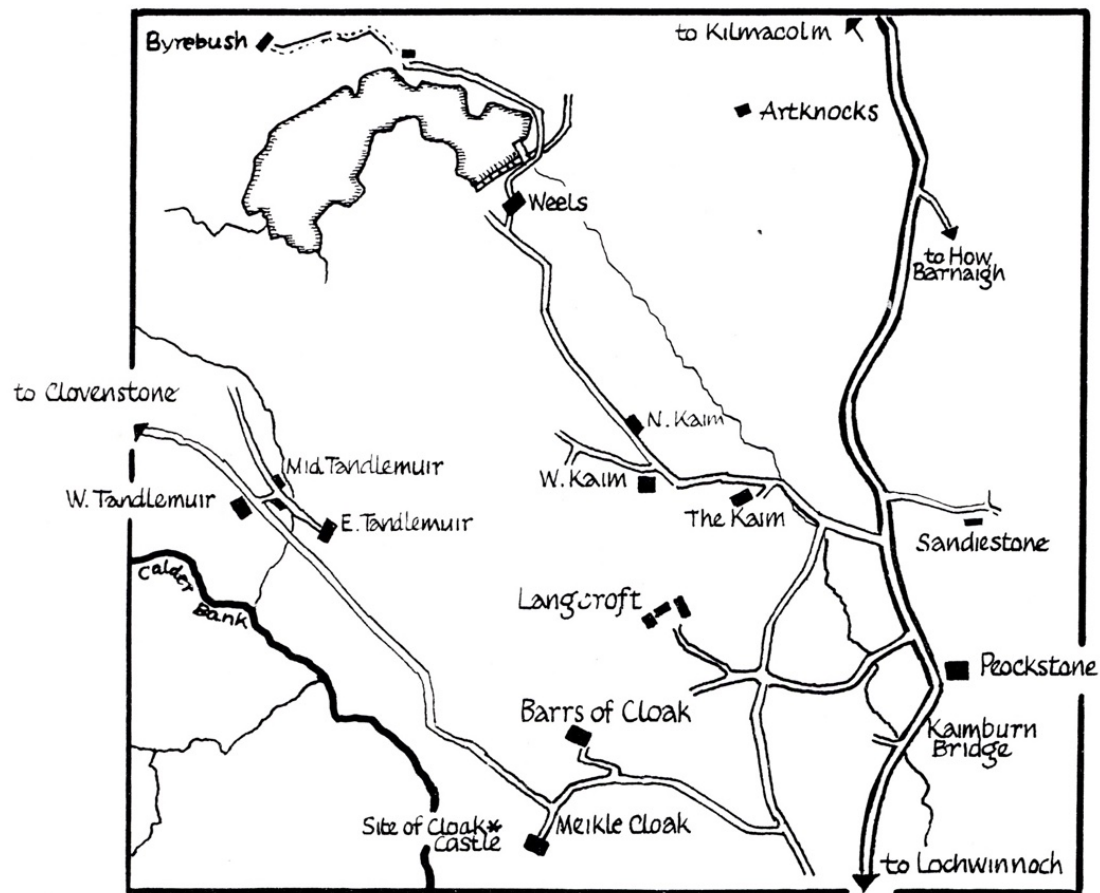
Cloak must have been an area of some significance in former times. Little Cloak, high above the Calder and perched on top of the precipice called Ravenscraig, is often mentioned in archives. Really its name is Cloak and Boghead was Little Cloak, but to-day it is "Wee Cloak". The most interesting story is not in any archive; it is the story of the hurried exit from Lochwinnoch of Alexander Wilson, poet and ornithologist. He preferred wandering along the Calder and other Lochwinnoch beauty spots to working at his loom. One day he and some friends went for a walk with a dog, the property of one of the company. While the young men were lazing in the morning sun, the dog attacked a bull. Amid a tremendous din, dog and bull went headlong over the sixty feet drop of Ravenscraig. Fearing the worst, the young friends made off. The bull was injured but not killed. Nevertheless, the thought of legal prosecution was enough for them to make off. Wilson later recorded the incident in his poem, "A Morning Adventure".

A well-known Little Cloak farmer was Bob Love. About thirty years ago he and Mrs Love could be seen driving down the Calder Glen past the School, in their governess cart drawn by a light Clydesdale horse. Little Cloak had a mill rink used for threshing crops of corn etc.

Back along the road towards the other Cloaks, we pass Boghead, home of Mr Smith, better known in his day as Rab the Bear. He jocularly called his home the Bear's Den. Actually Boghead was Little Cloak last century.

On the Muirshiel road now we face Balgreen, which was once called Easter Cloak. Turning left we find rising ground on the right— Barrs of Cloak. Barr means a hill. Along the road is what was "the Big Hoose" of the area— Meikle Cloak, once a stronghold of the Montgomery family. In 1832 William Montgomery, younger, of Cloak, was listed as factor of Castle Semple, residing at St Bryde's Mill. In recent times it was the home of Roland Muirhead, a very famous Scottish Nationalist. Muirheads still occupy Meikle Cloak.

There is a tradition that there was a castle on Meikle Cloak, called Castle Sheen or Shine. In the Ainslie map of 1796 it is distinctly marked as Shin Castle across the road on Barrs of Cloak. There is, however, a castle called Cloak marked on the Ordnance Survey map near the Calder.



Tandlemuir to Muirshiel

Tandlemuir is further up the Calder. It means “Bonfire Muir”. That goes right back to early Celtic times when bonfires were lit at festivals such as the Beltane Festival. Most probably the fire would be lit on Turnave Hill across the Calder. Tandlemuir is a little hamlet. East Tandlemuir was also known as Conveth, which also goes back to Celtic times, and was the name given to hospitality which was expected of a tenant when a chief or royal personage and retinue halted in the course of a journey. The family most associated with Tandlemuir was the Donald family, with a centuries-old occupancy which ended when they set up the firm of Craig and Donald in Johnstone.

Clovenstone takes its name from a big boulder down at the Calder which is indeed cloven in two.

Heathfield, now sadly demolished by the Water Board (why?), was once known as Old Muirshiel; indeed it and other farms were on Muirshiel Estate, for example, the Tandlemuirs, Clovenstone and Edge. The last named farm was farmed very well by a Mr Moody, according to the Statistical Account. For us, however, Heathfield is synonymous with the McKellar family who came to Heathfield in the late 1920's. The late Archie McKellar presented a silver salver to a young gentleman in 1936. It bore this inscription— “Presented to the Hon. Miles Francis Fitzalan-Howard from friends at Muirshiel on the occasion of his coming of age—21st July, 1936”. That young man became the Duke of Norfolk. His father had had the Estate of Muirshiel for only a year. The previous owners were the Bates family followed by the Fletchers. In 1903, Miss Mary Bates, daughter of Gilbert T. Bates of Muirshiel, received in the Court Hall, Lochwinnoch, a rose bowl and silver candlesticks, inscribed, “Presented to Miss Mary Bates on the occasion of her marriage, by the tenants and employees on Muirshiel Estate and friends in Lochwinnoch, 21st Feby. 1903”. William Logan, factor of the estate, was in the Chair. Mary Bates married Sir Edward Lionel Fletcher, which explains the Fletcher presence on Muirshiel. The late Peter Clark, mole trapper and rabbit trapper extraordinary, used to tell me a lot about those heady days of high society at Muirshiel. Muirshiel was moving with rabbits in these times.

Muirshiel is now Muirshiel Country Park, acquired from the Water Board. Muirshiel House was demolished long before that. The high moors were just ahead— sheep country, grouse country, but also the location of the barytes mine. This gave employment to some of the local



Bridgend past.

R.D.C. Museums.



Present.

PBtheCairn

residents, but it also brought heartache, with accidents. The barytes mine is no more but we admire the grit of people who drove up there and who worked there, and also wonder at the tremendous courage and endurance of the Covenanters three centuries before, who held their conventicles in this remote corner, with outposts watching carefully for dragoons, who would either kill them or capture them for a worse fate. We will meet one of these Covenanters later.

There are large hut circles, remains of the Bronze Age, and also evidences of a mediaeval settlement, complete with mill, pointed out by Mr Frank Newall. So the Calder Valley has been inhabited since early times. Going back down the valley, we notice the waterfalls of the river, including the famous Tapaleco and Garret's Linn, the latter being in the narrow gorge across from the lost farm of Loups, which is now enclosed by Laigh Linthills. The late Hamilton Robb used to tell of the young fellows of the village "loupin" across the narrow part of the river in order to go after the maids of Calderbank House, a little way down the bank.

At Calderbank there was a mill which lay in ruins for a time. In a poem about a big Calder spate it is called "Steeve Marble Mill". One of these heavy spates carried away a dam breast. In this area was a copper mine.

Further down we come to Bridgend. Bridgend is the place where we pick up the Covenanting story. James Glen of Gillsyard was returning home from a conventicle where he had had a child baptised. The Claverhouse dragoons were hard on his heels. Seeing a horseshoe on the ground he picked it up and placed it in his bonnet. He crossed the bridge and threw himself into the bramble bushes, but was spotted by a dragoon who struck him a violent blow with his sword. Stunned, he pitched forward and was left for dead, but the horseshoe had saved his life.

Bridgend has a very long history. Mentioned in archives as long ago as the 15th Century, and reputed to have been built by the "Pechts", it somehow or other became known as the Regent Moray Bridge. We may think it very narrow, but it was actually widened last century. Matthew Gemmell in his ecclesiastical history mentions the dwellers in "Bridgend Houses" in 1815, as John Kirkwood, the miller with his friend Miss Crawford, of Johnshill, as his housekeeper, and two or three other families including "Auld Girzie Smith" who lived alone with about a dozen cats to keep her company. Now at Bridgend we look for the Crisp family and any addition to Mr Russell's collection of antiques. We do like his old milestone, also the bridal stone in the wall.



Bridgend, showing 19th Century widening.

Linthills

A journey up Linthills takes you past the appropriately named "Fallside", with an old copper mine away to the right, then the road to the cemetery, then the first of the smallholdings which were made after the first world war. At the top of the hill is the first of the farms known as "Linthills".

This is Laigh Linthills, but there are also Mid Linthills and High Linthills. There are many stones at all of them testifying to their antiquity, particularly the bridal stones at Mid Linthills. R.B. 1688; R.C.- M.L. 1712; 1717 W.L.; W.L. 1773; W.L.- J.B. 1846.

The Loves occupied Mid Linthills for four generations until 1953. They tenanted Little Cloak until 1911, then bought it after the death of Mr Logan, Mr Love's brother-in-law.

Linthills was granted to the Glens of Barr, along with other lands before 1292. It was held for a continuous tenure, without interruption of an heiress, for 20 generations (over 500 years), up to the mid 1600's. Without differentiating which Linthills farm is indicated, here are some of the occupants:

1695 - James Cochrane; William Donald.

1698 - James Glen, *weaver*.

1731 - Robert Brodie; - Donald; John Clark.

1832 - William Love; James Wilson; William Orr; John Gemmell.

Mid Linthills is the site of a stone used by Peden when preaching in the violent Covenanting times, probably near the new bungalow.

The next farm, High Linthills, is named Townhead in the Ainslie map. Muirfauldhousie is at the end of this road. It may have been a cluster of small crofts. One of these was certainly Starrbog, occupied in 1753 by William Glen, whose daughter Margaret, married John Orr, a weaver in Lochwinnoch, who had been born at Airtnocks (more of Airtnocks later). Margaret's Tocher (dowry) was £50 sterling. In 1832 the Glens were still at Muirfauldhousie in the person of John Glen.

Proceeding westwards across the Garpel Burn and climbing, we come to the summit of Lairdsie Hill which dominates Linthills and the Golf Course. On the other side of the hill are the ruins of Cockmylane, the lonely home of a shepherd and his family for a few years. It was originally called "Tadmor Hut", and "Tadmor in the Wilderness" by the minister of the day, the Rev Robert Smith, but most people knew it as Cockmylane.

It was built in 1812 and occupied by Matthew Meikle, shepherd to James Adam Esq. W.S., proprietor then of Barr, Garpel, Burnfoot, Barr Loch, Laigh Hole etc.. Mr Meikle, his wife and six children were visited by the minister in 1815, during his first parish visitation. Two or three years later the Meikles emigrated to Canada, and nobody seems to have dwelt in Cockmylane after that. The descendants of Matthew Meikle have visited Lochwinnoch, and are intending to visit again in 1987.



The Cross and Calder Street — Linthills in background.

I Croshie.

Kaim, Langcroft, Airtnocks

The Orrs of Midhouse, Kaim and Langyard have been connected in some way with most of the Glen of Lochwinnoch, which stretches from the Locher to the Maich. The Kaim Orrs are reputed to be, along with Jaffreystock and Langyard, the oldest Orrs so far as ancestry is concerned so we must go back to the ridge of land embracing the Kaims and Langcroft. (Kaim means a comb or crest).

The Orrs spread from Midhouse to the Kaim and beyond, marrying into other old families such as the Jamiesons, the Braedines (Brydens and Brodies), the Glens, the Stevensons (Steinsons) and the Burns family. It is astonishing how long the Orr connection with the Kaim lasted. For example, in 1853, Andrew Crawford, of "Cairn" fame, got a comprehensive history of the Orrs from Mrs Orr of the Kaim, right up to her time; also the late Willie Glen, in the 1960's, told me about William Orr of Kaim who had a daughter, Maggie. William Orr's second wife came from Arran, one Christine McBride. He had a stepdaughter who married a wealthy man called Dickie. He became Dickie of the Kaim, whom many will remember. Of course many other names have been connected with Kaim. Here are some:-

- 1688 - James Cochrane; Mungo Gavin
- 1695 - James Cochrane
- 1698 - Robert Love; William Muir; Hew Wylie
- 1832 - Allan Caldwell; Robert Glen; William Glen;
William Orr of Kaim a Greenbrae

Orr was also connected with Airtnocks for a long time, though the occupant in 1832 was William Kay. Airtnocks is now a ruin, and rather difficult to find as there is no obvious road into it. If you are at the junction of Barnaigh road and Kilmacolm road you are about a park length away from it.

Mrs Rutherford tells an amusing story of Airtnocks in the time of the Watsons. When she was a girl she and some others went to do some singing at Airtnocks. In one of the lofts was an organ. During one of the singing sessions the loft collapsed and the choristers fell with it.

Cochrans

Langcroft seems to go along with Muirshiel in the 17th century. John Cochran of "Muirsheills and Langcraft" had four sons. Son number four, Archibald Cochran of Linthills, was the ancestor of Andrew Crawford of "Cairn" fame, taken through the female line. Son number two, James Cochran of Tandlemuir, had a line that failed about 1720. Son number three had interesting progeny: John Cochran, number three, was husbandman at Hill of Barnaigh, and died in 1668, but his son bought the Edge (near Heathfield). The son of "Edge" added Kilmooss to the Estate, and his son (great-grandson of the original John Cochran) bought Ladyland in 1718. His successor was Major William Cochran of Ladyland - interesting even if Ladyland lies outwith Lochwinnoch Parish - the beginning of the Cochran-Patricks. Son number one, Robert Cochran of Muirshiel and Langcroft before 1650, had a son, William, in 1655, whose daughter, Elizabeth, married John Braedine of Calderhaugh before 1677. Their son, Robert Braedine, married in 1704, and his son called himself Robert Brodie.



Crushing Plant, Muirshiel Barytes Mine, now demolished.

I Crosbie.

Brodies etc.

Robert Brodie sold the lands of Calderhaugh about 1749 to William Macdowall of Castle Semple, and bought Hessilhead in Beith Parish. His sister Elizabeth, married John Orr of Easterhills in 1724; sister Barbara married the Laird of Lochside in 1741; sister Mary married Hugh Braedine, feuar in Calderhaugh and merchant, in 1750.

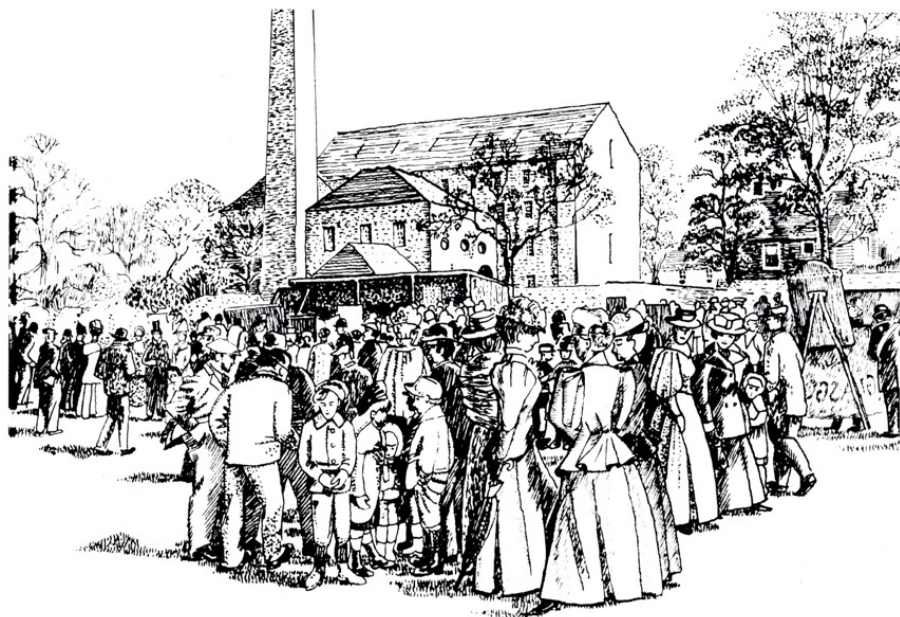
The Brodies, descended from the Cochrans, married into other branches of the Cochrans, sometimes under the name Braedine. Other Cochrans married a Glen, an Orr, and Caldwell of Yardfoot. Robert Braedine got Muirshiel and Langcroft through his wife, Margaret Cochran. One of their offspring married Aitkine of Lochhead in 1714; another, Robert Braedine of Garpel had a daughter, Mary, who married a Wardrop. Her uncle, William Braedine or Bryden, or Brodie, had Westerhills Farm in which Wardrop had half share after he paid half the valuation. William married Margaret Aitken of Lochhead. Other near relatives married Blackburn of Sandieston and a son of Brodie of Linthills who got Langcroft, 1758. Another relative was a husbandman at Burnfoot of Garpel, David Brydine. He married Belle Allan at Glengarth in 1719, and had six children: Robert Brodie born 1721 at Mavisbank (next to Nernelstone), James in 1723 at Auchenhane, and Isobel in 1740—all Brodies. So the Brodies had become well entrenched in the Glen of Lochwinnoch by the 18th Century.

A Braedine had been in Nernelstone in 1695, but at that time 2 Orrs, an Aitkine, a Smith and a Ramsay were in Auchenhane (Auchenhean—spelling, as always, variable). William Braedine was in Wester Carss (Kerse). By 1832 Kerse was occupied by Blair, Brodie junior, Kerr and Raeside, but Nernelstone was owned by William Brodie, farmer and coal mine proprietor. (The Ainslie map of 1796 shows the site of a coal mine engine). Auchinhane was then all Orr. The Stevensons were the traditional family in Auldyard (near Glenlora), and Aitkens at Lochhead.

Another 18th century family was that of King. Barbara Brodie, lady heiress of Wester Hills, after all her brothers and sisters died without offspring, married John King of Wester Kerse in 1738. Their firstborn, William King, born in 1742, was drowned in a great spate of the lochs, Kilbirnie and Lochwinnoch, in 1768. The girls all wed out of Lochwinnoch, and James died very young, which left David, born in 1755. He fell heir to Garpel in 1790. He built a house there in 1796, and died about 1800, a bachelor. His house was Garpel House, afterwards Barr House, occupied by Adam, then Garthland House occupied by Macdowall.

A Typical Farm of 1760 - East Hills

Shortly after 1760, James Barclay, who had property in what is now called Mansfield, was in financial difficulties and had to sign a trust deed in favour of his creditors. He also had to dispose of his farm, "Hills of Lochwinnoch", presumably East Hills, judging by the description of the site of his meadow hay. As well as the stock and plenishing of the house, he sold a horse, 10 cows and a bull, 3 queys, 2 stirks, 2 calves and 30 sheep. (*Quey* = heifer or young cow; *Stirk* = a calf, a year old or over, or a bullock). There was also growing corn and meadow hay for sale— a fair sized farm for the time. Among the names of creditors were Robert Holmes, *merchant* in Calderhaugh; James Lyle, *tanner*; James Patrick, *merchant*, Beith; John Caldwell, *surgeon*, Johnshill; James Campbell, Millbank; James Barbour, Cowanstone; William Millar, East Lochhead; William Brodie, Carse; John King, Carse; Robert Orr, maltman in Lochwinnoch; Robert Orr, *flesher* in Lochwinnoch; James Kirkwood, *weaver* in Lochwinnoch. I hope his sale went well.



Trot Races, Lochwinnoch

17

Orrs

You would perhaps note that Blair is still in the Kerse, and Millar was about Lochhead until very recently. What about Orr? The Orrs were everywhere, but Andrew Crawford (Cairn) complained bitterly, in 1853, that that ancient family had not taken sufficient care of title deeds and other documents. Orr of the Langyard had lost all documents prior to 1703; the Kaim lost theirs in a fire of 1711; Jaffraystock, then called Jamphraysrock, sent theirs to Edinburgh when they sold out to Macdowall, and had not had them returned, when Andrew Crawford was frantically recording Lochwinnoch history before it was lost. He did, however, unearth a great deal of Orr history. One important wedding was that of Robert Orr at Markethill, (a Midhouse Orr), to Janet Orr, daughter of William Orr of Lorabank and Auchinane. Documentation of that wedding is in the possession of Janet Orr Ferguson, a direct descendant. Lorabank was part of the Estate of Langyards, which was in the possession of Orrs for several generations.

Many Orrs emigrated to America. One, John Orr, born in 1724, settled in Richmond, Virginia. His son was the captain of a ship which was caught by the British in the Revolutionary War, and eventually he landed at Largs with no money. He refused help from his Lochwinnoch relatives when they gave advice about the spending of the money. He got home without their help. His brother, William, born 1731, was a surgeon in the American service. Both were loyal to the new country. The infant Congress was held in the Orr household.

One, Hugh Orr, born in Lochwinnoch in 1717, and reared to be a gunsmith and door-lock filer, went to America in 1737, and settled in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where he set up the first tilt-hammer in that area, and for several years he was the only edge-tool maker. He was the cause of the spread of tool manufactures in many of the States. He manufactured 500 muskets in 1748, and in the war he was well established as an iron-founder and arms merchant. He also exported flax seed, and was for many years a senator for the county of Plymouth in U.S.A.. He died in 1798, in his 82nd year.

There are still Orrs in Texas and Carolina who are trying hard to trace Scottish relatives. Helping them is hard because of the lack of documentation.



Barr Castle c. 1900.

R.D.C. Museums.

The Lands of Barr

Most of the farms and estates just spoken of were in the Barony of Glen. When David I brought Walter Fitzalan and the Norman families to Scotland, there was a family called de Ness. Lord Richard de Ness became Lord Richard de Glen. He held Lordship of the Glen of Lochwinnoch which included the lands of "Bar, Brigend, Linthills, Gaytflat" and others. Richard's son, John de Glen, inherited the lands. That was before 1292. Because of a legal blunder, the Glens lost the Lordship of Glen to the Abbey of Paisley, the Glens holding Barr, Linthills, Bridgend etc., under the Lord Abbots.

John de Glen distinguished himself fighting for Wallace, then Robert Bruce. There is a strong tradition that Robert de Glen was one of those who accompanied the heart of Bruce, during the attempt to carry it to the Holy Land. A William Glen held the lands in 1452 and he appears to have rebuilt Barr Castle, the ancestral home of the Glens of Barr since 1292, the lower parts of which are definitely Norman. The original castle in the 12th Century would have been made of wood and would almost certainly have been built on top of Barrbank, where the house, "Woodlands", now stands. We have already noted the disputed boundaries between Barr and Calderhaugh which took place in 1509. In 1506, James Glen, whom we shall call James Glen I, because of a succession of Jameses, had a grant of confirmation from Robert, Lord Abbot of Paisley, of the lands of Barr, Bridgend and Linthills in the Lordship of Glen and the Regality of Paisley. The Glens were at Flodden in 1513, but James seems to have survived, because he was well thought of at Court, and held high positions. He was killed at the Battle of Ancrum, when Henry VIII invaded Scotland. James Glen II inherited the lands in 1544. He also had high standing at Court. The Glens were in great favour with Mary, Queen of Scots. There was a long-standing feud with Semple, and Glen scored on one occasion over his powerful neighbour, that being the direct appeal to the Queen to suspend the commission of Lord Semple as Justiciar, so far as the Glens were concerned. Mary's disastrous marriage with Darnley, which ended with the death of Darnley in the explosion at Kirk o' Field, also affected the Glens, for James III was blown to pieces along with his master. One of the daughters of Glen II also served at Court.

The Glens fought on the side of Mary at the battle of Langside, and forfeited their holdings after her defeat, but all was restored by the Treaty of Perth in 1573.

The line of Glen failed in the early part of the 17th Century. They were acquired by John Wallace (one of the Elderslie Wallaces), husband of Margaret Hamilton of Ferguslie, whose name was taken by John, or his son, so that we now had the Hamiltons of Barr. Hamiltons kept possession until about 1788, when it was sold to Macdowall of Castle Semple. Round about 1810, when Macdowall was selling off his property, James Adam, already mentioned as proprietor of Burnfoot, etc., purchased the lands of Barr. In 1820 James Adam sold it back to the then representative of the Macdowall family. The present day owner of Barr Castle and the Golf Course, and some farms, lives in Canada. One of his predecessors sold the Macdowall residence, Garthland House, to the Mill Hill Brothers. It became known as St Joseph's, but is now a nursing home. This part of the Barony was called Garpel.

The Barr Loch

Once part of the large loch called Loch Winnoch, the Barr Loch along with Castle Semple Loch was the result of successive efforts of Semple and Macdowall in drainage operations. In 1773-74 a canal of nearly two miles in length was constructed, but the complete draining of the Barr Loch was the ultimate aim. The draining operations started with the deepening of the Black Cart, which lowered the level of Castle Semple Loch, then Macdowall had the canal cut right through what became the Barr Meadows, before he started on the embankment. This last stage was completed by James Adam round about 1815. This large embankment went round the Barr Loch, and there was a system of sluices, and a large conduit which took the surplus water away, by-passing Castle Semple Loch and going to the Cart. Many have tried to guess what the big structure was on the far side of the Loch. So successful was the draining of the Barr Loch, that "250 acres in summer waves with luxuriant crops of oats and hay". (*Views in Renfrewshire, 1839*)



Lochwinnoch Agricultural Show.

Millbank, Glenlora etc.

Millbank was possessed by the Semples in the 16th Century. One Semple surprisingly enough, married a daughter of the Glen of Barr. Millbank passed into the hands of the Orrs of Millbank, one of whom, Robert Orr, a Covenanter, suffered grievously along with others in the Killing Times. A lady of Millbank was reputed to have been over-thrifty; she economised on oatmeal by making the porridge very runny, like gruel, but served it so hot that the servants had not time to realise whether it was thick or thin because of the acute discomfort.

Glenlora dates from 1840, having been built by Buchanan of Calderhaugh Mill. It is on the ancient site of Lorabank. Langyard and Lorabank were long the homes of the Orrs (a marriage between them and the Midhouse Orrs has already been noted). One of the last Orrs of Langyard and Lorabank, Robert Orr, dug up the foundations of Lorabank Castle in the 1830's.

On the Ordnance Survey map, near Fairhills, is the word "Pavilion". This was the first golf course in Lochwinnoch, before the club acquired Sunnyacres, Brannockshill, etc., which make up the present Course. Facing west from Fairhills we pass what were once Auldyard then Langyard estates, past Glenlora and down to Gavilmoss where a famous bronze hoard was found. This is displayed in Kelvingrove Art Galleries, Glasgow, where also can be seen the cannon taken out of Castle Semple Loch.

Gavilmoss is also noted as the home of the Latta family, known also as Latay, Latto, etc., which produced James Latta in 1754. Son of James Latta, farmer, and grandson of Michael Nasmith, schoolmaster in Lochwinnoch, he became a surgeon in Edinburgh. He published a book on surgery in three volumes, which was very well received. Its second edition appeared in 1790.

Newton of Barr

Newton of Barr was begun in the 18th century as a result of the growing textile industry. Weaving, the growing thread industry, the bleachfields round the Calder, all merited more housing, even before the day of the big mills. Building material was close at hand—the Barr quarry from which came the freestone for some two-storey houses, no less. Later days saw “Ham” Craig’s establishment there. There have been changes at the smiddy corner, with a beautiful new house which seems to have been there for ages, blotting out the memory of the old sheds. No longer do we see horses taken to be shod—Jim Brown is a thoroughly modern farrier who travels to his horses. When he does some anvil work in the smiddy, the ringing sound is most nostalgic.

A glance at the joiner’s shop next to the smiddy will reveal a former hay loft—the agricultural roots of the village peeping through. On the other side of the road are ghosts of the former agricultural glories of Lochwinnoch: the Cattle Show was held in the field now partly covered by the garage and petrol station. The Farmers Race held that day was a poor relic of the day when a parade of farm horses was held. The horses were all decorated and were arranged according to colour (all the greys together etc.) and at the head of the procession were pipers or an instrumental band. The custom began to die out when the farmers of the other side of the loch refused to come, for some reason.

There was a toll house at Newton of Barr. Macdowall was in the habit of paying in advance for a considerable period. A new toll-keeper came along who demanded payment each time, so Macdowall made more entrances to his Estate. These by-passed the toll and went through the Barr Woods. They can be clearly seen to-day, for example, Garthland Lodge at the Calder Bridge. We have passed through the lands debated by the Lairds of Barr and Calderhaugh, have gone past the site of the curling stone factory on one side of the Calder and the “Ingaunees” (which somehow became “engine tees”) on the other, and now proceed on ground once under the extensive loch called Loch Winnoch.



Newton-of-Barr.

W Cochrane.

The Wet Lands

To our left is Castle Semple Loch, to our right is the Barr Loch. It is not difficult to imagine it as one big expanse of water, especially after the many spells of rain we have had in the last two years. Some form of management is taking place, after about 150 years of neglect, now that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is looking after the area. Lochall lies to the left of the road and beyond that Aird Meadow. Lochall was farmed at one time by Mrs Rutherford's uncle, Andrew Stewart, and later by the Finlays. Locally it is known as Loch Ha'. In the 1940's Willie Holmes of West Gates leased it from the Department of Agriculture and some farmers were allowed by him to cut reeds there for "theik" (thatch) for their corn stacks. Harvesting was very different then.

Behind the meadows lies Peel Castle, once on an island before the draining of the loch. The draining operations allowed dozens of dug-out canoes to be recovered from the loch between 1780 and 1836, in which year a person stated that in his time he had seen 21 buried in the mud between the old Peel and the north side of the loch. In that year a canoe taken out of the loch was preserved in the garden of Allan Pinkerton of Mossend. To reach Mossend we have passed the Calder Bridge, crossed the Loch Bridge—remembering poor Mary Crawford who was drowned in 1767 - and crossed the Lochall Bridge over the Dubbs Water. Before the road was made you would have crossed the Calder ford, then taken the ferry over Loch Winnoch to the lands of Yardfoot.

Barfod etc.

If you look from the high ground at the station you will see an old ruin below Mossend. This is called Low Barfod on the O.S. map. This is a little way above the landing place of the ferry, which shows how big the loch must have been. Now this was on Yardfoot lands, so why Low Barfod? We have already noted that there used to be several small farms in one ferm-toun. In 1832 there was listed a Yardfoot of Barfod farmed by John Stewart, so Yardfoot would be Yardfoot of Barfod. In that year "Barford" was farmed by Andrew Baird, no doubt an ancestor of Andrew Baird at Roadhead who made barrows, carts, trailers, ladders, etc., which are still to be found in Lochwinnoch. Back in 1832 James King was in Yardfoot, and John Adam was in Laigh Barfod, the Low Barfod enclosed by Yardfoot.



The Wet Lands — Road to Station and Roadhead. Church Street School, right foreground, houses in immediate foreground demolished for railway.

R.D.C. Museums.

Auchingown

In 1695, Barfod was part of the lands of “Auchingoune Steuart”, which also included New Mill, Burnthills, Wateryett, Wattieston, Auchingown and Middleton. The name Caldwell (still pronounced that way by old farmers) figures prominently as a heritor, but so does Stewart. Most people know that Burnthills overlooks the Barcraigs Reservoir, which is the site of Loctancu, already mentioned, but to which we shall come back. Wateryett was the home of one James Barr recorded by Crawford, in the Cairn. Before the big mills took over the textile industry he had a six-loom workshop. There he produced table cloths for the ‘big houses’ of the area such as Castle Semple, Caldwell and Ardgowan. Coats of Arms were woven in. The charge was £100. I wonder if there are still any in existence. There was also an area known as “Auchingoune Ralston”

which included Boydstone, Loanhead, Park, Muirburn, Barrodger, Netherhouses, Bourtrees and Crosshouse. Mr Andrew Murdoch, who lately retired to Lochwinnoch, farmed Boydstone, but certainly more recently than 1695, when the above list was quoted.

All this seems to infer that Auchingown must have been a very important place.

Walter Fitzalan granted a charter dated 1208-14 to the Convent of St Mary of Dalmulin upon Ayr (present day Dalmilling), giving certain lands including “all the land and pasturage of Petihauchingowin, with all things contained within these bounds, namely” etc. He goes on to define the boundaries as the water which runs from Ardecapel to the loch of Lochwinnoch along the loch to Merburen, up as far as Loctancu, and back to Ardecapel. Counting Ardecapel as Auchengrange, the water is the Wattiestone Burn going into the Risk Burn. You then go along what once was one long stretch of water to the far end of the Barr Loch to the Mereburn. What it really amounts to is; you go right up the Roebank Burn, the parish boundary, till you are in line with the reservoir and so back to Auchengrange. Thus it is evident that Auchingown took in the Knowes, Wateryett, the Risk and Lochside, and all the land along the side of the Barr Loch to Park farm and so back to Loanhead, Knowes etc..

The Charter allows the lands to be held freely, retaining only the game rights for the granter and his heirs— “the beasts of prey and birds only”—so that the convent could build or cultivate “without molestation or hindrance”.



View from Golf Course. Roadhead, Aughingain, Auchengrange etc. in background.

W Cochrane.

Walter Fitzalan, who granted the Charter, was the High Steward or Stewart of Scotland, the progenitor of the Stewart Kings. A subsequent Walter married Marjory Bruce, and their child was the founder of the Stewart dynasty, Robert III.

In 1390, Robert III granted to his illegitimate son, John Stewart, the lands of Auchingown. In 1395 he granted him Blackhall in Paisley. In 1403 he added the lands of Ardgowan, in Inverkip, where his descendants, the Shaw-Stewarts, still live. It should be noted that Auchingown was the first acquisition of John Stewart. In 1402 and in subsequent years his designation was "of Auchingown".

The boundaries just mentioned clearly divide Auchingown from Beltrees and Gavin. It might be appropriate to mention the derivation of Auchingown here. Auch is a field; gown, gowan, gavin, govan, all mean "smith". Therefore Auchingown is the field of the smith; Ardgowan is the hill of the smith.

Whether Auchingown Ralston was separated from Auchingown Stewart in John Stewart's time I do not know.

The Knowes, very near the parish boundary, has been mentioned already as the ancestral home of the Loves. As well as the 'big house' there is also a farm occupied by the McIntyre family, and another dwelling where two members of a very old Lochwinnoch family reside. I refer to the Misses Jean and Margaret Brodie.

Knowsfield is close to the Roebank Burn, and therefore near the heart of what was an industrial area in the 18th and 19th century. Obviously the peak of the industrial boom was past when the following advertisement appeared in 1840—

"There will be sold by private bargain the property at Knowsfield, in the Parish of Lochwinnoch - there is a comfortable dwelling house - and separate houses for - 40 workers. The waterfall is 18 feet, and the wheel is -of 10 horse power, but can be increased. The steam is of 8 horse power. The factory is 95 feet in length, 25 feet wide, and two stories high. The whole is lighted with gas. The water is of the very best quality for bleaching."

This was an area of industry in the middle of the 18th century. Shortly after the introduction of the Calderhaugh bleachfield in 1740, another was started at Loanhead, which is the area we are dealing with, which bleached both cloth and thread. There were about twenty thread mills in the parish, but the one which outlasted the lot was Caldwell of Clarksbrig. The candle wick factory was short lived. One industry which survives in this area is quarrying. Loanhead quarries have extended greatly recently.

Roadhead and Risk

The road eastwards was for long the high one which went by Auchingown, Auchengrange and Glenhead, but when the turnpike roads were made in the latter part of the 18th century, the present road from Beith to Howwood via Roadhead allowed public transport. In Fowler's Directory of 1831-32 we note the stage coach, "Fair Trader", ran from Saltcoats to Glasgow via Stevenston, Kilwinning, Dalry, Beith and Howwood. It was due at Roadhead Inn at 8 a.m., and also at 6 p.m. on the return journey. The distance from Lochwinnoch Cross to Roadhead was quoted as 1 mile, 1 furlong, 17 poles. Incidentally a relative of Mr Rutherford ran a sort of unofficial inn at Roadhead at one time.

The opening of the railway with a station at Lochwinnoch (Lochside) sounded the death knell of the stage coach. That was in 1840.

The stage coach which would pass Risk has a very long history. Long before the great road of 1775 went through there was born in the Cottar Row at Risk, one Margaret Patton. I quote from the Statistical Account;

"Her picture and a print from it, which the writer of this account has seen, were done from the life in 1739, with the following description, Margaret Patton, born in the parish of Loghnugh, near Paisley, in Scotland, living in the workhouse of St Margaret's, Westminster, aged 138 years".

The same account states that John King died at Risk, aged 93. That was about 1824. We are also told that his brother, James, died at Beltrees a few years after, at much the same age, and that Elizabeth Jamieson died at Burnthills in 1830, at almost 99 years of age.

In 1816 Mr Smith, minister at Lochwinnoch, enlarged his Kirk Session and included Mr William Thomson of Risk who was put in charge of that district. He is mentioned in the 1832 Directory. Also listed are Hugh Brodie, farmer, Risk; Thomas Orr, farmer, Risk; and Robert Clark, farmer, Risk. Farmers of the present day, however, will always associate Risk with Rabbie Millar, of the same family already mentioned as having a long association with Lochhead. His engineering ability was exceptional.

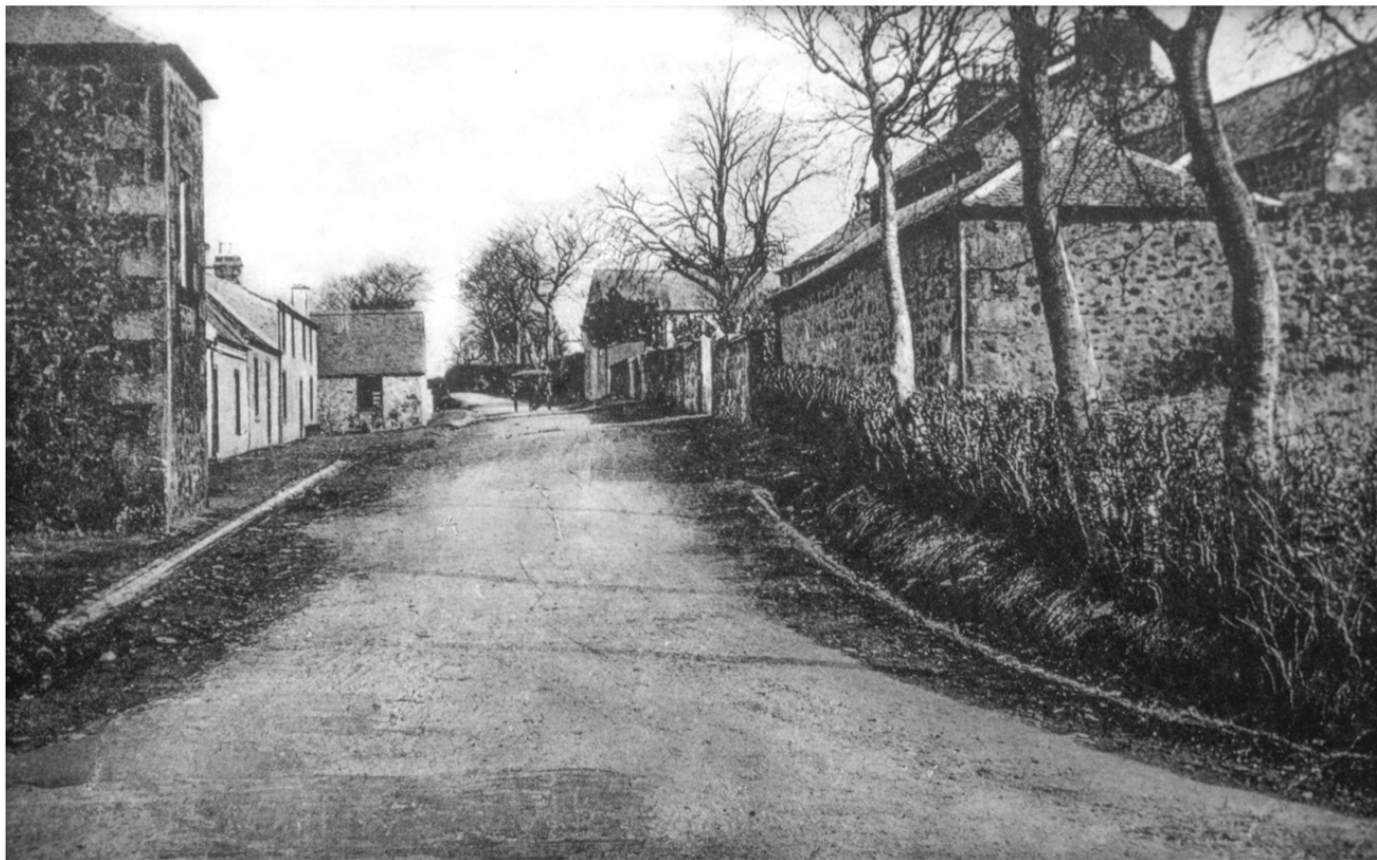
Beltrees

We have already mentioned Beltrees, in the history of the Semple family, but a few extra notes may not come amiss. Moving uphill from Risk, we come to a house named Park on the O.S. map. It was originally Park of Beltrees, but is now called Trees, a most interesting abbreviation. Hall farm, across the way, is farmed by the Parkers— an old name in farming circles— but perhaps not so old as the Christian name of one of the members— Ninian. That was once one of the most popular male names, and was very common in the Lochwinnoch area in the 16th and 17th Centuries. It was, of course, taken from St Ninian.

Going on uphill we come to Newton of Beltrees, better known as Glenhead. One of the interesting houses is the former Schoolhouse. The people on the south side of the loch wanted a school as the road to Lochwinnoch was often flooded. The proprietor obtained 50 marks for the school. The people built a Schoolhouse at their own expense, but the parish schoolmaster had to give up £5 of his salary to the teacher at Glenhead. The school lasted until about 1924, when the children were conveyed to Lochwinnoch School. We have already seen that the lands of Beltrees were purchased by William Macdowall from Robert Semple. In the disposal of the Macdowall property, one Robert Orr acquired them. He married Margaret Cochrane, sister of William Cochrane of Ladyland (we have heard that name before), and died without issue in 1770. He was succeeded by that same William Cochrane, his brother-in-law. Thus Beltrees passed to the Cochranes of Ladyland. Of course, ownership keeps changing, so in the Valuation Rolls of 1817, the property table ran thus—

Burnthills and Glenhead	<i>John Pollok</i>
Beltrees Muir.....	<i>John Peock</i>
Muirend	<i>John Barbour</i>
Lorabar	<i>John Caldwell</i>
Glenhead and Newhouse.....	<i>James Campbell</i>
Park and Hall.....	<i>Mrs Hall</i>
Townfoot of Beltrees.....	<i>William Caldwell</i>
Do.	<i>Cochrane of Ladyland</i>

Cochrane seems to have little, but his land was valued far in excess of the rest, so he had the lion's share.



Glenhead

Gavin and Risk

There are two Burnthills listed in the 1817 list in Auchingown Stewart. The Auchingown lands had diminished since the 13th Century, for Risk lands were on the same table as Gavin. Cochrane had East Gavin, while Harvey of Castle Semple had Mid and West Gavin. William Orr had Risk. Mrs Barr had another part of Risk as well as Townhead and Townfoot of Risk. She, of course, owned Lochside. William Caldwell owned Meikle Gavin, Earlshill and Wardhouse, while Allan Pinkerton owned Mossend. Before we leave Gavin and Risk, let us consider the industry round about Lochside House. There are several mine shafts there between the Peel Castle and the house. The late Mr James Robb spoke of taking a "piece" out to someone mining coal when he was a very little boy.

The industry at Midton and Bowfield has already been dealt with, but there was also coal mining at Hallhill.

But to return to the rural scene, when we go east from Risk and pass the lands of Gavin, we are passing Boyd country. For centuries the Ayrshire family of Boyd possessed these lands. Mr James Riddell lived recently to a ripe old age in Gavin. His family has been mentioned in connection with Warlock Gates.



Lochwinnoch Parish. Beltrees, Gavin, Risk, Howwood etc. in background.

R.D.C. Museums.

Howwood

We come back to Semple country when we reach Elliston, the place where the Semple story started. Elliston Castle is a ruin, but a tiny piece of land beside it — the pendicle at Elliston — was owned by Ludovic Houston in 1817, its value being quoted as a fraction of a penny over seven shillings and ten pence.

The Linnister Burn runs near the Castle. In 1816 when the Rev Robert Smith was enlarging his Kirk Session, Walter Henderson, Lochwinnoch parish schoolmaster, acted as Session Clerk. He was bound to lead the psalmody, or find someone else to do it for him. Among his substitutes was Robert Brown of the Linnister, who eventually emigrated to America with his family.

A quick detour over the Cart, and a look eastwards along the right bank, and there we see Warbuie, of various spellings, including Barbuie. Warbuie, or Wardbowie (the choice is yours), is where the Semples of Beltrees are reputed to have buried their valuables during the big scare of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion.

Other farms in the same list (Corseford and Corseflat) are—
Howwood, Corsehead, Corseford, Coalhouse Hill, Midtown, Auchinreoch, Hallhill, Whitelawmuir, Whitehills, Mounttop, Swinetrees, Burnside, Skiff Park, Little Corseford, and four different Muirdykes.

East Muirdykes farm was the location of a battle in Covenanting times. A number of refugees had gone to Holland in what was called the Killing Times. In 1685 the Earl of Argyll collected an army of 1500 of these refugees and landed in Kintyre. They marched towards Glasgow but at Kilpatrick many deserted. With a few, Argyll crossed the Clyde and reached Inchinnan where he was taken prisoner, conveyed to Edinburgh, and executed. Sir John Cochrane gathered up the remaining force and marched to Muirdykes where they were attacked by the forces of the King (James VII and II). Sir John Cochrane's men were victorious in the skirmish that followed, and they remained behind a natural entrenchment till nightfall. Being afraid of reinforcements joining the enemy, they proceeded under cover of darkness to the parish of Beith which lay southwards. What they did not know was that the King's forces had made a similar decision. The next morning there were no forces to be seen on the field. On O.S. maps you will see the legend: Site of Battle of Muirdykes, 18th June, 1685. There is on Muirdykes a field still called King's Field.

Wallace and Cochrane

The south eastern extremity of the parish could be called Wallace country. There was a Barony called Auchinbathie Wallace, and the ruined tower of Auchinbathie stands to-day to mark the site of the castle which belonged to the progenitors of the great patriot, Sir William Wallace. There was also Auchinbathie Blair, but the farms are all in Wallace country. The farm of Laigh Trees has a bit called Wallace's Knowe, where Wallace is reputed to have defended himself against some Englishmen. Bowfield, Overtrees, Rashiefield, Nether Broadfield and Over Broadfield are on the Wallace list. The Blair list has three Overtowns, Windyhill, Burntfaulds, Sproulston, Boghouse, South Castlewalls, Tophouse, Walls, two Reivochs, Tower and Broomknowes, and Tower and Fauldhouse. Auchinbathie is where Alexander Wilson, the poet, stayed for a time.

The list of 1817 shows some interesting names. For example, James Stevenson of Over Broadfield must be an ancestor of a well known Howwood farmer; Margaret Craig at Tower reminds us of the Miss Craig from Tower who used to go on the farmers' outings; John Blair at Rashiefield will remind many older farmers that the Blairs of Cartside in Kilbarchan once owned Rashiefield.

Walls Hill is an Iron Age fort, a former capital of the Britons of Strathclyde. It was an excellent place of refuge in times of trouble, precipitous, with a narrow neck of land joining it to the only access road coming from Castlewalls Farm. There was abundant room on top for livestock, and an easily defended wall and gateway.

Lochwinnoch has other Iron Age homesteads, for example, Knockmade and Dunconnel, but Walls Hill is much bigger and obviously much more important.

This Wallace country can also be called Cochran(e) country. John Cochran of Cochran had sasine of his lands of Cochran and Corseford in 1498. While the lands of Cochran are just outside the boundary of the parish of Lochwinnoch—as, for example, Cochrane Castle, Cochrane House, Cochranemill, the site of Cochrane Tower and Cochranefield—Corseford is definitely in Lochwinnoch parish.

The Cochrane influence can be seen well inland. At ruins at Auchinbathie the Cochrane initials can be seen incised in the wall. It was to Cochrane Tower that Sir John Cochran(e) made his way after the Battle of Muirdykes. He was betrayed and taken to Edinburgh, but escaped death after a remarkable series of events which are not relevant here, but which make exciting reading.

So we have reached the end of the story of Lochwinnoch Parish



The 1769 bridge at Calderhaugh.



Masonic outing to Largs.



Curling on the Loch.

Acknowledgements

I must thank all those who volunteered information, but special thanks are due to Mr and Mrs T. Rutherford, Mrs Anne Turner, Mr John Edgar, Mrs Mary Purdon, Miss Janet Orr Ferguson, Mrs Mary Mackie, Mrs McKendrick, Mr Fergus D. H. Macdowall Ph.D., Mr Calum Duncan, and Mr L. Guthrie.

Dr C. Lee of the Community Museum and Mrs E. Whyte, Librarian, gave unstinting help for which I am grateful. Mrs Jessie Smith, now of Howwood Library, is thanked for former help.

I appreciate the time and effort Mrs Nora Guthrie put into the beautiful drawings and maps.

Thanks are given to Mr M. Gilchrist and Mr W. Cochrane for photographs of the village, and to Mrs Denholm for those of Glenhead and Newton of Beltrees. Castle Semple photographs are by courtesy of Renfrew District Council Museums and Art Galleries Services.

Without the efforts of the late Parker Love most of the photographs would have been unavailable.

Finally I thank Mrs Anne Moore for typing my difficult script, and Mr Iain Crosbie, Printer, for putting up with me.

Errata

(or afterthought - if you like)

I am indebted to Mr Fergus Day Hort Macdowall of Garthland and Castle Semple, Ph.D., now in Ottawa, Ontario, for the following comments on my script—

“I don’t believe that the Castle of the Sempills was called Castle Semple, but certainly under us that barony, and the house, was called “Castlesemple”. Even my surname however, was variable; as the three Williams you mention called themselves ‘McDowall’. My spelling obtained before and after them”

He goes on to point out that Colonel McDowall was the fifth son of the fifteenth Laird of Garthland in Galloway, and not the youngest. Local gossip seems to have erred again with regard to the Jacobite rebellion; far from being on the side of the Government, the McDowalls had, in the Shawfield mansion they owned in the West Port, Prince Charles as a guest, whether welcome or not I do not know.

Fergus Day Hort Macdowall stresses that Garthland and Castlesemple are his inherited feudal baronial titles. He is also, in direct succession in the male line, the recognised Chief of the Name and Arms of Macdowall and the representative of the ancient House of Galloway.

I am grateful for the comments, but I should add that all facts were recorded as printed in reputable sources. Most of my sources, including the Archaeological Collections, the Statistical Account, and the Sale Catalogue of Castle Semple Estate in 1907, call it just that— Castle Semple.

As I have said before, for a long time spelling did not matter.

There is always something forgotten. I apologise for not mentioning the curling stone factory in High Street which many remember vividly. I also omitted any reference to the tannery, which had a brief and unprofitable existence in mid eighteenth century, not through lapse of memory, but because I did not discover the whereabouts of the Tanholes until I had finished my script.

The ditch called “The Strype” (Beech Burn) supplied the water for the tannery close to the overgrown path between Johnshill and the present Manse. There is a distinct dip in the field below the houses on Johnshill which probably was the site of the ill-fated tannery. McDowall lost his investment of £2000. James Barclay of Hills— who had the farm sale, you may remember— also lost money. His creditor, James Lyle, tanner, no doubt lost money and his job.

There is an uncomfortable contemporary ring to the sad stories of factory closures ending this history.

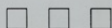
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July 1987.

Elizabeth G. R. Anderson

ELIZABETH G. R. ANDERSON, née Moffat, was born in Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, B.C., Canada, of Scottish parents. While still a baby, she was brought back to Scotland by her parents whose untimely deaths caused important changes in her life. Her mother's death caused her father to rejoin his family in Vancouver, leaving her to be educated here in the care of her grandmother. This meant her secondary school was Grangemouth High, of which she was joint dux. Her father's death shortly after her graduation as M.A. of Glasgow University meant she stayed in Scotland. After training in Jordanhill College, she taught in Glasgow. Shortly after the outbreak of war she married Louis M. Anderson who had just become the manager of Darnley Mains Farm within the Glasgow City boundary, where the working power was seven Clydesdale horses and one iron-wheeled Fordson tractor. The human power of four ploughmen, one byreman, one odd-job man and three milkers quickly diminished as H.M. Forces required them, so it was comparatively easy work to change to a smallholding in Torrance of Campsie where the working hours reduced to an average of 15 hours a day. Here Louis, Elizabeth and daughter Aileen celebrated the end of the war in 1945. In 1946 came the move to Warlock Gates, Lochwinnoch, where Elizabeth had to give up her teaching post. Another member, Tommy, appeared in the family. In 1955 Elizabeth was offered the post of teacher of English at Lochwinnoch Secondary School, when Mrs Aitken (née McConnell) died. She left in 1968 to become Principal Teacher of English at The Mount (afterwards Cowden Knowes), Greenock. Now retired, but still working a little on the farm, she is deeply involved in research into local history.





Macdonallie — present.

W Cochrane.



School teacher, pupils and visitor.

R.D.C. Museums (Mrs Denholm).



Bridgend past.

R. D. C. Museums.



Present.

M Gilchrist.