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EDITORIAL

Betty Roy

The Winter Lecture Series has now been completed, all the talks have been informative and entertaining, - numbers of members attending averaging 35.

Unfortunately there was one disappointment when Dr. Brian Jackson, head of Geology at the National Museums of Scotland was unable to attend owing to a mishap on the day. We hope that Dr Jackson will be able to deliver his talk for the 2009/10 programme.

Sales of CFSS publications, mainly through Clackmannanshire Libraries and Alloa Tower, continue to provide a welcome income and also keep the name of CFSS in the forefront. Thanks to Jack & Sadie Archibald who promote the sale of these publications.

A breakdown of sales from 1st April, 2008 until 31st March 2009 is as follows:-

East & West Walks	75
Mines & Minerals of the Ochils	41
Alloa Tower & The Erskines of Mar	121
The Ochil Hills	26

Mines & Minerals of the Ochils has recently been revised and reprinted. May I also bring to your attention that the current edition of Alloa Tower & The Erskines of Mar is a joint publication with proceeds from sales being shared with Friends of Alloa Tower.

In November, keeping up our association with the Forth Naturalist & Historian Symposium at Stirling University, representatives from CFSS helped with registration and manning the Book Stall. We were able to sell some of our books at this event. The Symposium was well attended and informative and perhaps at the next symposium we may be able to attract a few more CFSS members to attend.

Once again there has been vandalism at the Kirkyard graveyard, spray paint, knocking over stones as well as theft of the finial from the 1866 gateposts. The Bell Tower has also been a focus for vandalism, however, it has been made secure, and it is hoped that the vandals can no longer be able to gain entrance to the building.

After the completion of our 2004 study of the kirkyard, the Council decided that an earlier entrance gate, situated on the south wall, should be opened up again. This had also been vandalised with the locks being pulled off – this has also been repaired and made fast.

During the summer of 2008, I was indisposed and was unable to commence the study of the adjoining 1866 graveyard. However, weather permitting, this study should take place once the weather becomes warmer – perhaps May or June. Volunteers for recording will be required – this is a very pleasant pastime and not in the least strenuous. Phone 01259 213954 if interested.

OBITUARY

In November 2008 some members of CFSS attended Falkirk Crematorium to celebrate the life of Sheila McCallum, wife of Donald. Sheila and Donald were members of the society since the 1970s and until Sheila's health problems began, regularly attended events and meetings.

Sheila MacCallum had a pleasant personality and though suffering from sight loss loved to have a chat when one met her and Donald in the supermarket. Many of us can remember the celebrations commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Society. Sheila, on that occasion made the cake and also helped to make the celebratory evening a success.

Sheila MacCallum was a special person and will be greatly missed. We send our sympathy to Donald and the family.

Betty Roy

**Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society
Summer programme 2009**

Meet at Alloa Health Centre car park –Wednesday 7 pm, Saturday 9.30 am

Wednesdays

- May 13 Forth Ponds (Alloa to Cambus) (Marilyn Scott) Contact: 01786 832248
- 27 Waggonway from Gartmorn (Betty Roy) Contact: 01259 213954
- June 10 Kincardine: 2 bridges circuit
(Jack & Sadie Archibald) Contact: 01259 215873
- 24 Vicar's Bridge / Ardean with Eric Howman
(Betty Roy) Contact: 01259 213954
- July 8 Blairlogie, Logie Old Kirk, Menstrie Wood
(Eleanor and Robin Kelsall) (Betty Roy) Contact: 01259 213954
- 22 Black Devon wetlands (RSPB) to Clackmannan Pow
(Eddie Stewart) Contact: 01259 21687
- Aug 12 Airth castle, old village, port with John Reid
(Betty Roy / Ian Scott Falkirk Society) Contact: 01259 213954

Saturdays

- May 23 Mugdock Country Park via Killearn & Strathblane
(Betty Roy) Contact: 01259 213954
- June 27 Stanley Mills & Dunkeld Hermitage
(Jack & Sadie Archibald) Contact: 01259 215873
- July 25 Charlestown guided walk, leader from the Gellat Society
(Eddie Stewart) Contact: 01259 216878
- Aug 29 Innerpeffray Chapel & Library + Muthill, Drummond castle gardens
(Jack & Sadie Archibald) Contact: 01259 215873
- Sept 5 Coffee Morning, Speirs Centre, Alloa 10 am -12 noon. Tickets £1

Spring Weekend Field Trip:

8th to 11th May Isle of Bute

Most outings require shared transport, stout footwear and suitable clothing.

On Saturdays bring packed lunches. Visitors are welcome for most events!

Inquiries: Betty Roy (EKR) 01259-213954, Eddie Stewart (ES) 01259 216878 Jack Archibald (JA) Marilyn Scott (MS) Contact: 01259 213954



SUMMER PROGRAMME 2009

WEEK-END OUTINGS

Meet at the Smith Museum, Dumbarton Road at 9:30 am unless otherwise specified. Bring packed lunch, weatherproof gear and stout footwear.

○ **Saturday 16th May**
Chatherauld
A visit to mid-Lanarkshire to view the restored building & garden there, followed by a visit to a local historic Castle
Leader: Henry Robb (01786 473618)

○ **Saturday 6th June**
Loch Katrine
We will look at the surviving remains of the stronghold of Rob Roy MacGregor & the presence of an entirely man-made environment in what appears to be a remote mountain setting. We will enjoy a boat trip from the Trossachs Pier to Sronachlachar. Then drive back along the Water Board road stopping to see Royal Cottage, the birthplace of Rob Roy & the remains of the villages of Glengyle, Portmellon & Brenacholle. Charge of £10 for the sailing. Meet at Trossachs Pier 10am for 10.30am sailing.
PLACES ARE LIMITED TO 12
Leader Colin Davenport (01259 743257)

○ **Saturday 11th July**
Kilim. Area * Meet at 12.30pm
An afternoon visit to Moir-lanich Longhouse & Finlarrig Castle
Leader: Pat Wilson (01877 330151)

○ **Saturday 15th August**
Forteviot
An opportunity to see the excavation at Forteviot followed by a visit to Innerpefferay Library.
Leader: Paul Sorowka (01786 464578)

EVENING OUTINGS

Meet at the Smith Museum at 6:30 pm unless otherwise specified.

○ **Tuesday 21st April**
Linhfingow Loch
An evening stroll to view the prospect of the Palace from the less-visited North side of the Loch, & to look at the wild life which will, we hope, include some summer birds.
Leader: Henry Robb (01786 473618)

○ **Tuesday 5th May**
Bridge of Allan
A walk around Mine Woods, Bridge of Allan using the newly published leaflet. Waterproof gear advised. Bridge of Allan members meet Sunnylaw Road 6.45pm.
Leader: Ken Mackay (01786 461539)

○ **Tuesday 9th June**
Glen Village to Lock 16 Falkirk
Waterproof walking gear and torch advised.
Leader: Ken Mackay (01786 461539)

○ **Thursday 30th July**
Bo'ness
An evening visit to this ancient Burgh, led by local resident Mrs Chris Smith, to look at recent restoration work & historic buildings.
Please note change of weekday
Leaders: Henry Robb (01786 473618)

○ **Tuesday 8th September**
Bannockburn House Visit
Leader: Paul Sorowka (01786 464578)

Transport is by private cars, sharing petrol costs
The Society exercises normal prudence in planning and conducting its outings; members take part on the understanding that they do so at their own risk
Please notify the Leader/Contact if you later find you can't attend an outing you have previously selected.
Scottish Charity No: S0026822

REPORTS FROM WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Scottish Traditional Weapons

Dr David Caldwell gave us our first talk of the Winter Programme on Monday 13th October 08, “Scottish Traditional Weapons”.

Dealing with the period 10th to 18th Centuries he covered aspects of the development of the weapons, and the tactics used by the various leaders, on how the weapons changed over the centuries. Subjects varied from knights in armour, Scottish use of archers in relationship with the English. Tactics used by the Scottish spearmen at the battles of Falkirk and Bannockburn with completely different results.

The Scottish bowmen used what was called the Ettrick Bow quite a primitive weapon compared to the English Longbow, which brought devastation to the Scots of the 13th 14th and 15th Centuries. Ettrick bowmen from the borders supported Wallace at Falkirk, and Bruce at Bannockburn.

The rank and file of the Scottish Armies of the 13th and 14th Century were mainly equipped with axes and the Schiltron Pike or spear. These were used at Falkirk and Bannockburn, the Schiltron was mainly a defensive manoeuvre against a body of horsemen or Knights in armour. The medieval axe was a fearsome weapon, a forged iron head with a tempered edge a reverse pike probably used for opening up the opponents armour. The shaft was 4ft long with a spike on the end, a thong to give the wielder a better grip.

Following the Schiltron Pike of the 14th Century it was the Long Pike of the 17th Century, basically much the same as the former, a weapon of the Covenanting period, easy to make, it was a weapon of the conscripts. In the same vein the Lochaber Axe of the Highlanders of the Jacobite Rebellions, was a variation of the English Halberd that reputedly caused havoc on the Scots at Flodden in 1513.

The sword also developed during that time from a simple blade of the 12th Century to a well balanced refined weapon of the rich and poor. First of the famous swords was the two handed Claymore about 4 feet long, this large weapon was impressive but could have been unwieldy to use in close combat conditions. Its later development was more for ceremonial duties and was very ornate. The Broadsword followed in the 17th Century, which was considerably lighter and better balanced than the Claymore and could be used by one or both hands depending on the stature of the user. The crème de la crème of the swords in the Jacobite period was the Basket Hilt. This was so named by the design of the protection given to the handle of the sword. It is claimed that the finest of the blades of these swords was made in Germany. Another weapon of that period, which no self-respecting Highlander was without, was the dirk, the blade about 20 inches long, used for a multitude of purposes from eating to combat and some dastardly deeds in between times.

Returning to the early 15th Century and the invention of Gunpowder in Europe, saw the development of a weapon that was to change warfare of all time. Firstly came the cannon, very rudimentary in the beginning, with both ends dangerous and exploding barrels killing as many friends as foes. The iconic Mons Meg, seen to-day at Edinburgh Castle, was forged at Mons in France in 1457 and was a gift from Philip of Burgandy to James 11 of Scotland. A great innovator he had a great fascination for guns, unfortunately at the siege of Roxburgh Castle in 1460, while showing his cannons to his Queen, one of them exploded, killing him in the process.

Cannons were developed and the offshoot was the Long Gun an early form of the musket- from the matchlock mechanism to the wheel lock, Snaphaunce Lock to the flintlock, which was in use for about 100 years. The Scots are credited with the development of the Snaphaunce Lock. Muskets and fouling guns from early Scottish Manufacturers had a distinctive design, with a large paddled shaped butt and deeply carved flutes set in the curve of the stock. This design was described as the heron butt. The guns were usually fitted with large Snaphaunce Lock mechanism. From Long Guns to Pistols, Doune in Stirlingshire was

made famous by four generations of the Cadell Family for the fine pistols they turned out during that period.

In 1805 The Reverend Alex John Forsyth of Aberdeen, invented the scent-bottle lock which did away the flintlock mechanism. This was the forerunner percussion cap.

With the advent of the industrial revolution the making of weapons advanced greatly. The Carron Iron Works, founded in the late 18th Century was a case in point. They made the famous naval gun of the pre and Napoleonic Wars called the Carronade.

It was an in-depth talk by Dr Caldwell and much appreciated.

Footnote: It wasn't until recently the significance of the sign, with two pistols on it, as you enter Doune, became clear to me. It's amazing the snippets of information you pick up at the Field Studies.

Jack Archibald

Commodore Gordon – The Old Scots Navy

On the 27th October 2008 Dr Eric Graham gave a descriptive talk on the life and times of Commodore Thomas Gordon of “The Old Scots Navy”

It is believed that Thomas Gordon was born circa 1658 the son of a Dr Thomas Gordon and Jean Hay of Aberdeen but his origin is uncertain. 1688 his name appears in the Shipmaster Society of Aberdeen's Record, having sailed to the Shetlands, Sweden, Norway and Holland. He also appears in the same records of 1693, as master of a merchant ship called Margaret, of 30 Guns and a hundred men and later the privateer frigate, Neptune. This was when he received a pass of safe conduct to go to the Barbary States of Algiers Tunis and Tripoli.

Around this time the Navigation Acts were passed and English Captains began to exploit them on Scottish shipping, which ships from English Colonies had to pass customs in English ports before travelling to

Scotland. Failing to do so meant that English captains could impound Scottish ships in Scottish waters and send them to England as prize money. There was also an increase in the harassment by French Privateers in Scottish waters. Previously two Scottish guard ships Pelican and Janet had been taken in Scottish waters.

The Scottish Admiralties purse strings could not afford to purchase ships to defend the Merchant Marine. A letter was sent to King William and Mary to build three ships for charter to the Scots Navy. Scottish Admiralty paying for the running costs. In 1696 three ships (frigates) Royal William (32 guns), Royal Mary (24guns), and Dumbarton Castle (24 guns) were fitted out in London and put into service as an independent Scottish Navy. With the death of King William 111 in 1702 Anne became Queen and Gordon now an experienced shipmaster in his forties now enters the service of the new Queen.

In July 1703, Captain Thomas Gordon of Aberdeen, was posted by the Scottish Privy Council to their Royal Mary. From the date of her commission his duty was to patrol the east coast of Scotland between the Firth of Forth and Orkney. Captain Matthew Campbell patrolled between the west coast between Islay and Dublin in the Dumbarton Castle.

Captain Gordon was quite successful in his exploits with the Royal Mary and several French privateers were sold as prize money after capture, the prisoners were jailed in the tollbooths of Leith and Edinburgh, for eventual exchange with Scots prisoners in France.

One sorry incident did take place in 1704, when the English East India Companies charter Worcester was interned at Burntisland, in a tic for tac episode with Scottish Company Ship Annandale and the non return of another ship called Speedy Return. The result of the confrontation was the captain and two of the crew, after trial, were hanged at the tidal reaches at Leith in 1705.

One other episode in his career in the Scots Navy was a French Frigate and a Jacobite spy at Slains Castle in Aberdeenshire. It was claimed that it was the start of soundings for a Jacobite rebellion. He turned a blind eye to the ship being there.

Gordon was promoted to Commodore in November 1705 and put in charge of Royal William frigate of 34 Guns. This was because there was increased activity in the North Sea. There now were two ships patrolling that coast.

Again in 1707 Gordon visited Slains Castle to inform the Earl of Errol he would avoid the French frigate that was coming to collect the Jacobite Spy. He did catch up with the French but by prearranged signals was able to avoid any conflict.

In 1707 after the Act of Union the Scottish Navy was taken over by the English Admiralty. Gordon and Captain Hamilton, Royal William and Royal Mary, were re-commissioned to the joint Navy and the ships renamed Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively. Both ships were refitted for channel convoy duty.

In March 1708 Gordon was transferred to the Leopard a fourth rate vessel of 50 guns. He was part of the fleet under Admiral Byng, which was formed to thwart the attempt by the Old Pretender, with the help of the French, to land an invasion force in Scotland.

Next appearance of note was in September 1710 when returning from St Helena chased a French Privateer but failed to catch him. He then joined the Moor, previously known as the Maure and had been the flagship of the famous French Corsair, Jean Bart. He then joined the new ship the Advice.

In 1714 George 1 came to the throne and in 1715 Gordon wrote his last letter to the Admiralty from the Advice in Chatham. It was about that time he left the Royal Navy because he failed to sign a 'Letter of Abjuration' to the new King and left his post illegally. Later in 1715 John Erskine 6th Earl of Mar raised the standard at Braemar followed by

Sherrifmuir which ended the uprising. The Old Pretender not only arrived too late but also lacked the power to inspire his followers. With France no longer allowed by the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) to be home for the Old Pretender. His attempt to move his headquarters to Sweden, was finally squashed in 1716 when Charles 12th of Sweden, put paid to that idea, therefore the Old Pretender had to look elsewhere for a home.

In 1717 a number of Jacobites were arrested by the British Government, on the grounds of trying to inspire a Jacobite / Swedish, invasion of Britain. This so called threat carried on to 1718 when King Charles 12th was killed in Norway. Gordon during this time was kept informed by his Jacobite friends in London, who were arranging his transport to France.

In late 1717, Gordon was one of a group of seven officers, all Jacobite Sympathisers, who were recruited by Peter the Great whilst on a trip to Holland. Dr Robert Erskine his Physician had accompanied Peter on his visit and it is said that he had great influence on his thinking both medically and politically. Dr Erskine was the most influential of all the Jacobites at the Russian Court. It is believed that Dr Erskine was the prime mover of the new career of Commodore Gordon in the Russian Navy. Recommendations also came from other senior Jacobites.

Gordon's first command in 1718 was a sixty- gun battle ship St Catherine as Commander in Chief of a squadron of six vessels that cruised between Odenseholm and the Finnish Islands looking for enemy ship movements.

His promotion came due to a multitude of events including, Russian Admirals retiring, one being captured by the Finns, and new ships becoming available. He was made Rear Admiral of the Red section of the Fleet, his flag being flown on the 90 gun ship Liesnoiye, this vessel had been designed by Peter the Great. It is said that The Tsar dined frequently on Gordon's ship, during the campaign against Finland.

In 1721 Gordon commanded the squadron of Kronstadt flying his flag on the Isaac Victoria. This consisted of six battleships, three frigates

and two smaller vessels. In September that year he was promoted to Vice Admiral Commanding Kronstadt Squadron.

Gordon's time in Russia seems to have been plain sailing except for a bitter row with one of the other Admirals, a Dane by the name of Seivers, who took a great dislike to Gordon. This was due in part to The Tsar's liking of Gordon. Eventually this was over come by the intervention of Peter the Great himself.

In May 1727 Gordon was promoted to Admiral and later he became Commander in Chief at Kronstadt. Still in command of the Russian Fleet he took on the French at Danzig (Gdansk) in 1734 and had a resounding victory.

This was Gordon's last battle and finally he took up the position as Governor of Kronstadt.

In 1736 he visited his home- town of Aberdeen and was made a Burgess of the Burgh with all the rights and privileges of a guild brother.

Towards the end of March 1741 Admiral Thomas Gordon died at the age of eighty- two, having been in failing health for over a year. He had tried to get permission to return home but due to political upheavals in Russia his request was delayed and all hope was lost because Kronstadt was frozen for the winter. His daughter and her husband left Russia for Scotland shortly after his death.

During his life time Thomas Gordon served in three Royal Navies, Scottish, British, and Russian, under the reigns of William and Mary, Queen Anne, Tsar Peter the Great, Catherine 1, Emperor Peter 11, and Empress Anna Ivanovna, with distinction. He did his duty to all these monarchs to the very end and continue to serve the Jacobite cause through out.

A thoroughly compelling and interesting talk.

Jack Archibald

“Old Stirling”

Craig Mair, Author and Historian, gave an excellent presentation entitled “Old Stirling” to a capacity audience on Monday 10th November 2008.

He dealt with the layout of the town and its fine buildings since it was founded by David I in 1124. This was shown by a series of slides mainly taken from drawings by David Proudfoot. These were done in Medieval style and showed various places in the town including the Entrance Gate of the town which was in the vicinity of the Allan Park. Included was a gibbet, no doubt a warning to any law breakers. The road from the gate went through the town, eventually ending at the Old Stirling Bridge. Built around 1500 this was the north entrance to the town. The majority of the houses were on the hill by the castle.

Business was very good in the town and there were a number of merchants who had dealings with the Castle in the 14th, 15th 16th and even the 17th centuries, Stirling was a thriving port trading with other European countries. The harbour can still be seen to this day. With the advent of larger ships the trade fell away and the harbour fell out use except for the smaller craft.

On the road down from the Castle the Church of the Holy Rude is claimed to be one of the finest of its type in Scotland. We were shown some slides emphasising this point.

Other buildings, including Argyll’s Lodging and Mar’s Wark, the one built by the Earl of Argyll and the other by John Erskine, Earl of Mar both described as the best Renaissance buildings in Scotland; unfortunately Mar’s Wark is in a ruinous state. You can still have a guided tour round Argyll’s Lodging to sample the opulence of a bygone era.

Other buildings were mentioned, Cowane’s Hospital and Spittal’s Hospital both built by benefactors of the town; Darnley’s Tearoom among the older of the buildings in that part of the town.

The Tolbooth served as council offices, meeting room, strong room for the money collected and prison, one part for the serious offenders and another for the one nighters. The last public hanging in Stirling was in 1845. The present Tolbooth was completely rebuilt in 1705.

Altogether a fascinating evening, who would have thought so much history could have come out of one town.

The Vote of Thanks to Craig was proposed by Isobel Wood for a delightful and very comprehensive talk.

Isobel Wood

John Reid, a 17th century Gardn'er

Cairns Mason FSA Scot came on 24 November to praise John Reid, Gard'ner as a 17th century entrepreneur, an early example of the 'lad o' pairts made guid'. He said very few artisans were remembered from that time, even fewer in two continents. John Reid was, in Scotland and in New Jersey. Mr Mason demonstrated why this was the case – but the view he gave of Reid's activities in New Jersey was not savoury!

Reid was born on Niddry Castle estate in 1656, son and grandson of estate gardeners. Educated at the parish school in Kirkliston, Reid was apprenticed to an Edinburgh vintner, but this lapsed on the death of his master. Finally at 17 he retrained as a gardener. He was extremely fortunate to find a post under Hew Wood, gardener at Hamilton Palace, a leading training environment. Although Reid spent only a year at Hamilton, this gave the rigorous training he needed, including the evening study Wood required of his apprentices. While at Hamilton Reid was became a Quaker, as many important Scottish gardeners were.

Reid was then recommended to the Earl of Perth at Drummond Castle. After a year there Reid wanted to be his own boss. He spent the next three years at Lawers Estate, Comrie creating formal gardens from scratch.

At Lawers Reid got married, started his family and made the first draft of his book. In 1680 he made his last move to Shank Estate, Gorebridge. Mason assumed his wife had found Lawers too isolated, and had felt cut off from her faith. Whatever, access to the Edinburgh Quaker community had two profound results for the Reids.

In 1683 aged 27 John Reid published *The Scots Gard'ner* the first gardening book written 'for the climate and soils of Scotland'. Reid polished his draft at Shank. Without belittling Reid's achievement, Mason pointed out Reid's text took a lot from John Evelyn's translation of *The French Gard'ner*.

Also in 1683 Reid was invited to emigrate to East New Jersey. Although this was an English colony, Scots Quakers under Robert Barclay were at that time in the van of promoting emigration.

Reid sailed, on good terms, as an overseer on the first emigrant ship. Things got even better when he landed thanks to his Scottish training as a surveyor. Surveying work for the colony Proprietors was awarded with extra landholdings. As Deputy Surveyor for the colony he was responsible for making recommendation on which land be granted to each new arrival. This put Reid at the centre of property dealings in the colony. Mason called him a speculator. By 1700 he owned over 3,000 acres!

The colony was tiny. A successful man had to fulfil public service roles. Reid served on the General Assembly, and as a magistrate. Today he is remembered because he passed over some of his land at a peppercorn rent for a new courthouse, so that the court met in his home community. It does so to this day because Reid stipulated that if the courthouse was moved, the land had to revert to his descendants!

Isobel Wood

Clackmannanshire's Ponds, Hidden Treasures

January 12th 2009 was the date of the first meeting of the year, when Craig McAdam of Buglife gave a talk on Clackmannanshire's Ponds, Hidden Treasures.

With a brief description of the work and aims of the conservation charity, based in Stirling, he went on to describe a project he had done on behalf of Clackmannanshire Council in 2003-2004. This was to locate and count the number of ponds in the County, also the condition of such and establish, if and what insect and amphibian life was in or near the ponds. Seventy ponds were discovered in the county and classified and given a rating. Twenty were chosen and given a detailed examination.

Main subject of the talk was the results of the findings of the project. This dealt with the location, condition, and size, whether it was an old or new pond and had water in it all year round. Locations were in all parts of the county from Muckart Mill in the north east Sheardale, Brucefield, Foadwood, Black Devon at the River Forth, to Delph, Gean and Inglewood ponds and so on. Results varied from pond to pond some very good and some poor, as he put it, at the end of their shelf life. Insect life also varied greatly at the various ponds. There were one or two species that were quite rare to this area, also a couple of species of flora not expected to be found.

A very interesting talk, on a subject that we sometimes take for granted. We have to thank Craig McAdam for coming along to enlighten us on another aspect of Mother Nature.

Jack Archibald

Not Gone with the Wind

A description of what is being done in the USA to conserve two aspects of their history — the Colonial Period and the Civil War Period.

Roy Wood of CFSS. 26th January 2009

This talk described some of the things being done in the USA to ensure that their historic heritage is conserved and does not “blow away with the wind”.

Some Europeans may say “What American history?” There is quite a lot as a matter of fact and a short talk can only look at a few aspects of it. The aspects covered tonight were the Colonial Period and the Civil War Period.

The Colonial Period covered a wide range of historic events and conservation activity, from the near extermination of the Bison to the development of the Way West, via XVIII Century Williamsburg and Fort Niagara; the Amish colonies and the various bodies active in their conservation.

Members were amused by the description of the Sheboss Stand on the Natchez Trace, a six hundred mile trade route developed in a co-operation between the Colonial Government and the Chickasaw Indians. “Stands” were rest areas set at roughly one days travel intervals. The Chickasaw owner of the stand hadn’t much English and after he married Widow Cranfield, all enquiries were met with a nod towards his American wife and the words “She boss — see boss”.

Brief descriptions of Fort Niagara and Colonial Williamsburg were given. Fort Niagara closely resembles Fort George in NE Scotland. It was built in the same period to the same basic design and for the same purpose: control of shipping. In the Colonial Period goods bound for Lake Erie via Lake Ontario had to be off-loaded at what is now Niagara on the Lake for overland portage around Niagara Falls. It was then re-shipped at the lake port of Welland.

Williamsburg is a conserved XVIII Century town in Virginia. It covers more than three hundred acres and has more than 300 conserved or restored buildings, chief amongst them the Governors' Residence, still proudly flying the Union Jack. It has more than 1 million visitors every year.

The Amish people are a fascinating example of how a XVII Century way of life can be actively conserved by people living that life for real.

Turning to the American Civil War period, we heard a description of the various organisations involved in conservation and preservation and how they do not all see eye to eye with each other.

This followed a description of what were the causes of the war; that it was far from being merely an anti-slavery crusade. Tariffs, future expansion, States Rights vis-à-vis the Federal Government, even the wisdom of allowing commercial banks, all contributed to the tensions between North and South. Karl Marx opined that the war was "All about tariffs".

The importance of the anti-slavery lobby grew steadily throughout the war; the presence of 130,000 black soldiers gave it great impetus. Of those, no less than thirty black soldiers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour, the highest award for bravery given by the USA.

The role played by women in the Civil War was not neglected with, examples of re-enactors conserving the history of the US Sanitary Commission, a body so efficient that it outshone the work of Florence Nightingale.

The talk ended with a description of the various conservation and fund raising bodies active in this field. Notable amongst the many were the American Civil War Preservation Trust and the American Civil War Round Table movement. The ACWPT co-ordinates fund raising and facilitates study groups and Study Trails, including one on the Wirral Peninsula in Cheshire. This commemorates the shipbuilding activity of Confederates and the Mersey shipbuilders.

A similar Trail was projected for the Clyde, where enormous shipbuilding activity took place on behalf of the Confederacy. Cloak and dagger activity spread as far as Bridge of Allan!

Unfortunately, not enough of the old Clyde yards survive to make a viable Trail. This is a pity, because this was a very profitable and significant phase in Scottish history.

The Civil War Round Table movement provides a forum for people wishing to study aspects of the war to meet up with like-minded people and generally stimulate these studies.

There are more than 500 round Table groups in the USA, organised in rather the same way as Burns Clubs are in Scotland.

Betty Roy proposed the vote of thanks for the talk; especially for there not being any mention of Scarlett O'Hara!

Isobel Wood

Tulliallan and Kincardine Churches

The subject of the talk given by Andrew Lumsden (one of our members) at the meeting held on the 9th February 2009 was Tulliallan and Kincardine Churches.

From the early beginnings, with the church at Overtown, first records from 1560, was the last resting place of the Blackadder Family, also Admiral Keith was buried there in 1823. It was razed to the ground in 1830 and a mausoleum erected on the foundations for the interment of his wife and immediate family.

In 1673 a new church was built to serve the Parish of Tulliallan by the Alloa mason Tobias Bachop. This served the parish until 1833, when the present Tulliallan Parish was built. This has stood the test of time with a few additions (namely a church hall) and renovations over that period.

There have been other denominational churches in Kincardine, Roman Catholic Chapel in Chapel Place now closed and has been converted into a house.

The United Free Church founded in 1833 which is now the Community Centre.

In 1775 the United Presbyterian Church was founded, this now has been converted into a block of flats. Both these congregations have now amalgamated with the Tulliallan Parish Church.

In 1924 Colonel Alexander Mitchell obtained from the trustees of the Church of Scotland the 1673 church as a family burial ground. He spent a large amount of money renovating the fabric of the building and the grounds to bring it back to some of its former glory. His son followed suit to keep the place in a good state of repair.

Andrew gave us a well researched talk on a subject close to his heart and we thank him very much.

Jack Archibald

How Batty is Clackmannanshire ?

Back to nature can only describe the latest of our talks of the Winter Programme held on Monday 9th March 2009. John Haddow of Auritus Wildlife Consultancy, gave a talk “How Batty is Clackmannanshire”. Starting with the origins of Auritus, he described how he made an interest into a full time occupation.

A brief resume’ of the life and times of the Bat World, from the giant fruit bat of Queensland and the blood sucking bats of Central and South America, to the mainly insect eating diminutive bats of Europe, some weighing only a few grams. There are around a thousand species of bats World Wide and about 180 different in Europe. We were given a demonstration on how bats move around in flight and how humans can detect the sounds, as it is well above the range of the human ear. (22 to 27 kilohertz).

Bats hibernate during the winter making sure to put a good layer of fat on in the late summer, early autumn to get over the winter months. Bats are nocturnal creatures and they are the only flying mammals on the planet.

With the aid of a Field Studies booklet ‘Mines and Minerals of the Ochils’ he showed us old mine workings that had been documented and on investigation found bats in some of them over the years. The County has no large colonies of bats, but we were shown two places where bat roosts do exist, one being at Dollarbeg Castle and the other just outside the County at Solsgrith House. We do have five different species namely Soprano Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle, Daubenton’s, Brown Long Ear Bat and the Natterer’s Bats in the County.

Jack Archibald

Dunfermline Prisons, and the St Valentine's Day Murder

George Robertson an old friend of the Society returned on Mon 23rd March 09 to give us the last talk of the Winter Programme, entitled, "Dunfermline Prisons, and The St Valentine's Day Murder".

Starting with a brief description of buildings and places that have been prisons in the past including St Andrews Castle (Bottle Dungeon), Loch Leven Castle (Mary Queen of Scots), Inverkeithing Town House used as barracks by Oliver Cromwell troops during his incursion in Scotland. Prison Ships on the Thames used for Jacobite prisoners after the 45 Rebellion.

The Townhouses or Tolbooths of Dunfermline the original built in circa 1488 and a total of three eventually being built on the same site. Tolbooths served a variety of purposes firstly being the centre of burgh administration, law courts and prison. The prison cells were normally on the top floor of a three – storey building. Conditions of prisoners were pretty horrendous in these times with everybody mixed in together, criminals and debtors men and women. Things became a bit better after the Penal Reform Bill of 1813 and the efforts of Elizabeth Fry a leading prison reformer. The last prisoner of note to be held in the Tolbooth in 1842 before it closed was Tom Morrison a leading light in the Chartist Movement. Finally in 1845 a true prison was built in Dunfermline at the cost of £2,200 with 12 cells for men 6 for women. On 14 Feb 1852 (St Valentine's Day) Stephan Fancote an iron puddler from Smethwick, and now married and living in Dunfermline, had words, with a Michael Harrigan an Irishman also staying in Dunfermline, in the Abbey Tavern, which ended in Fancote acquiring a knife from a local butcher and fatally wounding Harrigan. Fancote was convicted of murder and sentenced to death at Perth. However after a petition started by his wife his sentence was commuted to transportation for the 'Rest of his Natural Days' to Freemantle, Western Australia. He was released from prison after 4 years, got a job and eventually started his own business. He remarried and had a family and became quite affluent, a pillar of society with streets and places named after him. He died at the age of 72 years.

During his research George has been in contact with some Fancote's descendents who still live in Australia. We have to thank George for giving an excellent presentation on a fascinating subject.

Jack Archibald

Last Summer Dollarbeg –Arndean

Looking back at the last Summer Programme and Newsletter No 81, I noticed that due to the lateness of the date 28 Sep 08 no reference was made to the exceptionally interesting walk we had, Dollarbeg – Arndean. This was organised by Eddie Stewart and due to the inclement weather we had in late August it had been delayed from the 20th.

I did the original recce with Eddie when we tried to find the route of the Devon Valley Line. At some of the places on our travels I thought we were in 'The Last Great Wilderness'. Anyway we did find a suitable path eventually. Mother Nature doesn't take long to reclaim her territory back again.

Anyway that was just the start and Eddie went on to compile a little booklet on that part of the Devon Valley, with pictures and text of the past including the bridges and viaducts of the Railway. He also gave us good descriptions of some of the local history and characters of days gone by.

The weather turned out fine for our Sunday afternoon walk originally it was to be a Wednesday evening, probably the best move, as we missed the midges. We thank Eddie for arranging the walk and also Lt Col Sir Robert Stewart for giving us permission to walk through his property, and parking, facilities. I hope we didn't disturb his pheasants too much. We hope to do an extension to this walk in our Summer Programme.

Jack Archibald

A Bog is a Bog ? Quaking bogs of the Ochils

Perhaps not ! This is an account of a June 2008 walk in the north-east corner of the Ochils - in the area to the south of Bridge of Earn and close to the site of the planned Lochelbank windfarm. It takes about 55 minutes to walk to the bogs (a gentle uphill climb). The parking place for the walk is grid reference 123158 at West Dron Cottages. (Please park off the main road as there is only resident parking at the cottages which are at the end of a short stretch of dirt road and immediately opposite the start of the Wallace Road along which we walked.) The Wallace Road is signposted and is not suitable for vehicles.

Fenwick Worrall, our guide, farms the hill ground around Glen Devon and Dunning Glen. He loves the hills with a passion and sees them through the eye of a botanist, historian, geologist and hydrologist, has become completely fascinated by this area and enthusiastically opened our eyes to its treasures.

Along the route we were introduced to the wildflowers (heath bedstraw, mouse-eared chickweed, tormentil -a tiny selection- not to mention all the grasses and potential uses of various plants).

One of the first things of note was the fell dyke built of sod casts and perhaps stones which would have created a summer enclosure amidst the fields. Irregular rigs which could be seen on the slopes would have been ploughed with oxen, rather than the customary regular ones created by a foot plough.

We came to Pitkeathley Loch (a Pictish name, SSSI and SAC) and were shown a 1742 map of the Commonty of Forgandenny. This illustrated the location of the common grazings, each knowe with its Gallic name (Tombui, Tombreast etc.) would have been rented (tenancy drawn by lot to be fair) to support a couple of cows and maybe 10 sheep which grazed in the summer while those who tended the herd / flock made butter and cheese which would have been collected and taken to market each week. A highlight was being taught to dowse to find the “butter

well” which was a damp depression used to keep the produce cool until market day.

We were given a sample of soil taken from the general background fields which was gritty, red and did not stick together. There were violets for small pearl-bordered fritillaries here and sheep’s fescue.

The bogs were pointed out, discernible by concentric coloured rings (likened to the structure of the eye) indicating different species of plant in the different areas – outer ring sedges giving way to horsetail and finally mosses. What makes these bogs unique is that they are alkaline (not your common acidic peat bog), the product of water running through calcareous rock. What is amazing is that they exist at all in an area with only 32-34 inches of rain as they are not burn-fed. All or most of the water originates underground. One could see striped ‘flushes’ of Yorkshire Fog grass and a mosaic of bryophytes (mosses). One of the rare plants is the slender green feather moss (which one needs a licence to pick). In contrast, a handful of soil from the bog was silty, not gritty as the previous sample. There were many more plants, orchids amongst them, and the herby composition of each of the seven (?) different bogs is slightly different. What they all have in common though is they will quake if jumped on.

Skylark, snipe, a swan family, a deer provided a bit of variety.

The location of the proposed wind farm was pointed out. What building this will do to the hydrology is unpredictable. A huge scar of a ditch has been dug to drain one of the SSSI bogs for no apparent reason.

This area was once fairly well populated and before the forestry grew up had wonderful views north to the Tay. There are many piles of stones en route, the remains of dwellings and farm buildings. Our return path passed the post-medieval farm settlement of Mundy, ruins now hidden from view by thick commercial forestry. Originally worked by monks from Cupar, Fenwick described the farm house, byres, stable, garden and cart shed evocatively. An 1861 census recorded a farm of

178 acres employing six labourers which now lies derelict buried by advancing vegetation.

So for a gentle, interesting walk this is highly recommended.

[Originally written for Friends of the Ochils (FOTO) but not published. FOTO Newsletter 34: Autumn 2008

<http://www.friendsoftheochils.org.uk/foton>

/foton34/Index.htm has a fuller account of other walks in this area and see

[Newsletter 28](#): Autumn 2005

<http://www.friendsoftheochils.org.uk/foton/foton28>

/alisongr.htm for a more detailed description of the Pitkeathly Loch area (flora).

M Scott