

SANDWOOD BAY

DARK ANGRY CLOUDS MOVE SWIFTLY BY,
CASTING SHADOWS ORE BLACK PEAT BOG,S
DRAPED WITH FLOWERING HEATHER,
FIRM AGAINST THE MOORLAND BREEZE
OH THIS EVER CHANGING WEATHER.

WEARY OF LEG I REST,
AND FEEL THE LONELINESS AND BEAUTY,
OF THIS DESOLATE EMPTY WILDERNESS.
REACHING THE SOULS OF ALL WHO TREAD, THIS PATH,
IN SEARCH OF MYSTICAL SANDWOOD *BAY*.
DARK CLOUDS BREAK TO CLEAR BLUE SKIES,
BROWN EARTHY WATER GURGLES UNDERFOOT
SPARKLING IN THE AUTUMN SUNLIGHT
THE SUMMIT IS NEAR, SPIRITS ARE HIGH.

A FEAST OF SPLENDOUR SURROUNDS ME.
LUSH GREEN PASTURES GIVE TO GLORIOUS GOLDEN SANDS.
WHERE FAIRIES HOLD THEIR MOONLIGHT DANCE.
OFFSHORE THERE LIES A STACK SPEARING INTO THE SKY
IT'S SAID A BEAUTIFUL MERMAID IS RESIDENT NEARBY.

MEMORIES OF SHIPWRECKS PATTERN THE GOLDEN SAND,
THUNDERING SEAS CLAIM THIS BEAUTIFUL LONELY LAND.
WHEN THE MOON CLIMBS HIGH IN THE HEAVENS,
AND THE FAIRIES COME OUT TO PLAY
THE SWEET MUSIC OF THE MERMAID SINGING, I'LL HEAR,
WHEN I RETURN TO SANDWOOD *BAY*.

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Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society

Newsletter

65

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NEWSLETTER NO. 65

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EDITORIAL

It is that time of the year again - another edition of the Newsletter to hand. Thanks go to those few who have put in contributions. Few in number but no less valued. We now register 65 editions and it is worthy of mention that the Newsletter has been faithfully produced, twice yearly, for thirty years! To keep up the good record members should think about putting pen to paper. Are there any Local Historians out there? The Society is fortunate in having an enthusiastic membership and I am certain that topics of local interest can be researched. Reminiscences of childhood days in Alloa and elsewhere would be welcome in these days of an ever-changing environment - before they are forgotten. Even if these are just notes they would be appreciated - I could put these contributions together.

This year the weather was with us, only one of the summer activities saw rain. Even so, the outing to Castlehill Reservoir and Treatment Works was most worthwhile, ably arranged by Bob Snaddon - CFSS stalwarts do not allow a little rain to hinder them. Other than that one occasion we had some glorious days. In particular, Drummond Castle and Blackness/Hopetown/Abercorn outings when the weather was just perfect. The visit to the Scottish Lime Centre was full of interest. Only 12 members attended the first excursion to Stanley Mills organised by Dick Clark and assisted by Colin Kerr, former Property- Manager at Alloa Tower - this was voted a most enjoyable day.

More recently, and organised as an introduction to the winter activities, was the Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th Sept. The morning was an unqualified success with around £250 raised after expenses were taken into account. Many thanks to all those who helped on the day with supplying produce and generally helping.

WINTER PROGRAMME - We now look forward to a successful winter session. Unfortunately there has been a change regarding speakers for the dates mentioned. Please alter your diary AND programme to read:-

Monday 22nd January 2001, this talk will now be Scottish Mountains – Ken Mackay, CFSS

Monday 26th February, 2001, Bob Lindsay will give his talk on Clackmannanshire Clocks in February instead of January.

I hope the change does not cause any inconvenience.

It has been some years since we have included a Members Night. Members are invited to bring along slides, photos of interest and papers, books for discussion. Once again I encourage members to put forward ideas for projects to allow members to become actively involved. It is our intention to take part in Historic Scotland's project to record Carved Stone Decay in Scotland. Take a walk around the neighbourhood with a camera, there are carvings from a bye-gone age still on buildings in the County. When we see what there is, we can take it from there.

Local History means involvement - do give it a try.

EDITOR

Chairman's Remarks - 30th AGM

Welcome to this 30th AGM of the Society. It is very encouraging that from small beginnings we have seen the Society grow to the healthy state it is in today. For a number of years membership has remained static at around the 150 mark. We do attract new members who replace those who have moved away. What is needed is an influx of younger people who can show an interest so that this society will continue to reach its 50th Jubilee. The Millennium Bash in December dealt with almost 30 years of activity and the event was hugely successful. The Winter Talks continue to be well attended and members enjoy the varied topics presented. The programme is organised to give a spread of interest. Geology was presented by Lesley Monk, daughter of our own Bob and Lisbeth Monk, and Local History – Robert Dick of Tullibody. There were four talks on the Natural Environment and industrial history merited two talks. This year the weather did not impede Suzanne Gilbert from coming to present her talk on James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd. All talks are reported for the local newspapers by Isobel Stewart and to keep a record, printed in the newsletter.

Following the talk on Charlestown & the Story of Lime we shall visit the area on the 20th May. Names of those wishing to take part are being taken; there is a charity cost of £4. One of our Wednesday Walks will be behind the Ochils to Jerah. John Harrison, who has researched the area hopes to join us.

You will have the summer programme. We have repeated some walks to keep the local theme. The Barbecue has been dispensed with due to falling numbers and inclement weather. Do make an effort to join us. The organisers gain a feeling of satisfaction when there is a good turnout.

At this point I should like to mention that David Cowley and Professor Thomas waived their fee.

The Council meets usually at six weekly intervals. We keep a watching brief on Planning matters and where appropriate register our views. Development at Inglewood and the Gean gave rise to concern and in a limited way we were able to put some pressure to bear thereby reducing the impact on the environment to a limited extent. Through the efforts of Dick Clark and Bob Snaddon an application to close the footpath from Inglewood to Forrester Grove was refused.

Development of green spaces is reaching monumental proportions. This is not for 'need' but to cover future projections of housing requirements. Of particular concern at the moment is the proposed Manor Powis New Settlement Plan, an urban village of 2500 houses to stretch from Blairlogie, across the A907 to the river Forth. The carseland viewed from Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument is a feature in this area and should not be spoiled. Most of this development will be in Stirlingshire but as it will destroy the beauty of the Ochil foothills with the flat plain below we should be prepared to make our views known.

The five-yearly Index of the Newsletters has been printed – copies on request. This was compiled by members and checked by Lindsay Corbett.

Twice last year we have been asked for help. Ken Mackay, at the request of the Rangers, led a Geology walk in the Silver Glen. I was asked during the Golden Age to present an illustrated talk on Clackmannanshire. This was not publicised resulting in a small audience.

This year saw the purchase of a projector and stand as well as a laptop computer, all funded by Awards for All. Production of the Newsletter on the computer is an improvement on the old style. Thanks to Marilyn this is speedily executed. There is a small residue remaining which will go towards the cost of publishing the results of the Alloa Old Kirk Graveyard Survey. After a great deal of checking and photographing the stones, it is now nearing completion. Later we intend to produce a booklet dealing with our findings. A small group meets on a Tuesday afternoon viz Alison Snaddon, Isobel Wood and Dorothy Wright as well as myself.

Some members also took part in a local church survey which meant recording all church sites from early Christian to present day churches. In the course of this Isobel Wood located the Bronze Age Cup and Ring marked stone at Tillicoultry. I showed a slide of this at the Millennium Bash. The stone is almost lost in vegetation, but the archaeologist, Lorna Main, has visited the site and a record has been made.

This leads on to an Historic Scotland project to record Carved Stone Decay in Scotland. I have the information and if anyone would like to record a special stone in their patch please let me know.

Along with Friends of Alloa Tower some of us were involved in the cleanup of the Mar & Kellie Mausoleum. Visitors to the building during Doors Open Day were appreciative of the transformation. The event ended with a service conducted by the Rev. Eleanor Fearnon of St. John's Church. CFSS contributed £5.00 towards expenses. A folder on St. Mungo's Old Church and the Mausoleum has been produced by Bob Snaddon, at his own expense. Projects like this make a very valuable contribution to Local History. John Dewar repaired the large candlesticks; myself, Alison Snaddon, Dorothy and Janet Wright put in elbow grease; photographs were by Dick Clark while Bob Snaddon supervised the whole project.

From the foregoing you will see how busy some members become in the interests of the society. It is this spirit which has enabled the organisation to grow and be respected over the past 30 years. I am sure many members have their own interests and expertise and we would like to tap this resource, even if it is only an article for the newsletter or a willingness to serve on the committee, perhaps volunteering to help Lindsay set up equipment at the meetings. Volunteers needed! In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to members of council who have shown their support to the chair and other members of the society who have undertaken various tasks.

Betty Roy

CFSS WINTER PROGRAMME 2000 / 2001

Meetings are held in Alloa Town Hall (Tommy Downs Room), unless otherwise stated, on Monday evenings -2nd and 4th of the month- 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Members of linked societies and other non-members are welcome, though non-members would be expected to join for subsequent visits.

2000

SEPTEMBER

Sat 16th COFFEE MORNING – Speirs Centre, Primrose St.,
Alloa 10am – 12 noon

OCTOBER

Mon 9th The Great Hall, Stirling Castle – Peter Buchanan, Historic Scotland
Mon 23rd Members Night – Skye slides etc.

NOVEMBER

Mon 13th Treasures of Rome – The Rev Father Reilly from Glasgow
Sat 18th 26th Man and the Landscape Symposium at Stirling University.
Conserving Biodiversity and Heritage –see programme and notes by
FNH on page 7
Mon 27th In the footsteps of Charles Edward Stuart – David Ross, author

DECEMBER

Mon 11th War Memorials of Clackmannanshire – Tony Martin, Dollar

2001

JANUARY

Mon 8th The Burgh of Clackmannan – Jim Banks, Clackmannan CFSS
Mon 22nd Scottish Mountains – Ken Mackay CFSS

FEBRUARY

Mon 12th Alpine Flowers – Freny Olbrich, Dollar
Mon 26th Clackmannanshire Clocks – Bob Lindsay, Sheardale CFSS

MARCH

Mon 12th Wee County Picture Road Show - Alex Shuttleworth,
Clacks. Museum Service
Mon 26th Industrial Visit - Stirling Stone (Springkerse & Alloa), afternoon,
Time to be arranged

APRIL

Mon 16th AGM Cheese & wine

**Note that the Airthrey Garden Group has ended. No more Oct. & March meetings,
teas and plants.

**Scottish Wildlife Trust Winter 2000 / 1 Programme
Falkirk Branch**

All talks are held in "Arnotdale", Dollar Park, Falkirk unless stated otherwise, commencing at 7.30 pm. Entry via Kilns Rd.

Tuesday 19th September 2000
Cumbernauld Green Spaces
Drew Jones, SWT Cumbernauld

Tuesday 17th October 2000
Ice in the Arctic
Mike Trubridge, RSPB Edinburgh

Tuesday 21st November 2000
Aberlady Bay
Ian Thomson, Ranger Aberlady

Tuesday 5th December 2000
Social Evening

Tuesday 12th December 2000
25 Years as a Hill Walker
Morris Watson, SWT Falkirk

Tuesday 23rd January 2001
**Paisley International Colour Slide Exhibition
(Natural History Section)**
Paisley Colour Photographic Club, in Lesser Town Hall, Falkirk

Tuesday 20th February 2001
Birds in Queen Elizabeth Forest Park
Mike Steward, Conservation officer Forest Enterprise

Tuesday 20th March 2001
Butterflies and their Flowers
Jackie Muscott, Lecturer Edinburgh

Tuesday 17th April 2001
AGM & Members slide show

THE FORTH NATURALIST AND HISTORIAN

This 26 year old charitable informal organisation of the University of Stirling presents its annual Man and the Landscape symposium on Saturday 18th November with a theme title **Conserving Biodiversity and Heritage** perhaps more simply expressed as Conserving the Variety of Life - talks plus displays include

Biodiversity in Forth Valley by Davie Black SWT
Human modification of the Forth - Jim Hansom Glasgow University
Eagle Watch - Duncan Orr-Ewing RSPB (the watching on this project was organised by the late Don MacCaskill)
Parliament and the Environment - Robin Harper MSP
Cowane Hospital (Guildhall)
Historic Garden - Carol Green DFAS and
The Millennium (Falkirk) Wheel - Marischal Ellis Project Manager

The symposium is the launch/promotion occasion for the annual journal *The Forth Naturalist and Historian*, and this volume 23 is especially featuring papers on Flanders Moss from the 1998 conference MIREs at the University - on its Geomorphological setting; its Vegetation; Conservation and Trees; its Palaeoarchaeology; plus a survey of its Spiders. The journal will include the annual weather and bird reports, also Music in Stirling; Early Football in Callander; and this time three papers on subjects of the symposium presentations - Falkirk Wheel; Biodiversity ... ; and Cowane's garden. - also others eg Birds and Set Aside, and notes on books of interest.

The symposium might also be a promotion occasion for the research survey on Menstrie Glen - landscape, history, archaeology, by RCAHMS - featuring work by John Harrison - publication is due early 2001 - and some assistance is being given by FNH, Clackmannanshire Library and others.

The 26 year old FNH will become rather less ambitious with the ageing of its Hon Sec!! but its Board has determined to continue publicly promoting environment and heritage at least by the annual journal and the complementary annual symposium.

For offers of interest / assistance, further information, programmes contact - Lindsay Corbett Hon Secy Forth Naturalist & Historian, University, FK9 4LA, or 30 Dumnar Drive, Alloa, FK10 2EH tel 01259 215091 e mail lindsay.corbett@stir.ac.uk

INDUSTRIAL VISIT - LONGANNET POWER STATION

28th March 2000

Thirty CFSS members took the opportunity to visit Longannet Power Station and enjoyed the experience.

Longannet, second largest coal-fired station in the U.K., is capable of generating enough electricity at full load to supply two million people. Since 1972, Longannet owned by Scottish Power, has been the supplier of energy to industry, transport, hospitals, shops and schools, as well as private houses. Electricity is also supplied to England and Wales, and possibly, to France via England.

The Longannet mine nearby is one of the sources for coal but some is brought from Poland and Canada. One can appreciate the vastness of the operation when viewing the turbines from the gallery in the Turbine Hall.

The building is a quarter of a mile long and has the width of two football pitches side by side. The control room impresses with its mind-boggling panels and monitors and consoles; quiet efficiency rules. Display boards and wall-charts trace the history of safety devices and show the transition of coal into steam and thence into power for the turbo-generators, which translates into the supply of electricity via the grid to the many customers, far and wide. Even the steam is recycled, and the ash is used for cement, or pumped into 'wild life-friendly' lagoons, with trees, shrubs, and grass on the banks.

ISOBEL GRANT STEWART

STANLEY MILLS - June 24th 2000

A particularly good visit was made to Stanley Mills, near Perth, when the ruins of Stanley House and Castle were seen; the walk being led by Colin Kerr, former manager at Alloa Tower.

An afternoon viewing of slides showing the development of the mill complex (on the lines of New Lanark) was followed by an extensive tour of this former cotton mill on the banks of the Tay. This part of the visit was led by architect, Chris Maegregor, who was closely involved with its development as a tourist attraction and of the site as a residential complex.

Our own member, Dick Clark, had arranged the outing.

ISOBEL GRANT STEWART

WEEKEND FIELD TRIP - DUNTULM CASTLE HOTEL

8TH, 9TH, 10TH May

"Earth hath not anything to show more fair than this" - nor had it on that idyllic May day when each corner we turned on our way north to Duntulm Castle Hotel exposed another mountain with the remains of winter snows tucked in its crevices. There's a grandeur and a fierce sort of ruggedness to these mountains - nothing 'kindly' as with our Ochils at home.

Our journey north had been full of interest. Indeed, so well had our planners of the journey, Betty Roy and Dick Clark (Ken Mackav assisted on the 'reccy'), done their work, that there was much to view en-route. For instance, there is the "Well of the Seven Heads" near the beginning of Loch Oich. In the early 16th century, two brothers were murdered by seven kinsmen for the sake of their inheritance. The deed was swiftly avenged, and the heads of the murderers, after being washed in the spring, were presented at the feet of MacDonnell in Glengarry Castle!

On through Kyle of Lochalsh towards Shiel Bridge, where a spectacular view of the Five Sisters of Kintail made it worthwhile to stop and admire. Then we reached the beautifully streamlined Skye Bridge, which has certainly made the area much more accessible - Hikers, Climbers, Cyclists etc., were making the most of the sunshine. The toll of £5.70 for a car and passengers, seemed most reasonable, though if one had occasion to use it twice a day, that might not seem so!

The area is full of legends and tales of dark deeds - not so on that beautiful spring day when Skye seemed an island of rainbows spanning burns. It seemed incredible that around this area the last skirmish of the '15' uprising took place. That here, 281 years ago, lives were lost in a battle which none of the protagonists seemed to want. It was so much more pleasant to enjoy the magnificent view of Sgurr Alasdair and Sgurr nan Gillian.

Here, in 1263, the Norwegian King and his unconquered fleet of 100 brown-sailed galleys anchored on their way to defeat at the battle of Largs - a defeat which ended Norse domination in Scotland.

On then to Duntulm Castle where the cliffs drop sheer into the sea on three sides. We visited it the following day (Tuesday). Here, a clumsy nurse dropped the infant heir onto the rocks below. It is said the child still haunts the castle. Another gory tale relates that Hugh Gillespie, on completing his castle at Uisdean, 2 miles south of Uig Bay, wrote two letters, one an invitation to the Chief, and the other to a hired assassin. The letters were wrongly delivered. Gillespie was seized and thrown into a dungeon. His food was a large portion of salted meat and an empty water jug. Until 1827 his skull and bones were placed outside Kilmuir Church and famed for their size.

Now, how did the letters get mixed up? Or is that yet another gory tale?

Not far from Duntulm flat areas near the beach feature remains of homes of long ago. We visited a museum where it was most interesting to see the thatched houses' netted roofs weighted with boulders. Within the houses were old school photographs -maybe with some of my forebears among them!

We had also visited Kilmuir Churchyard, which contains the memorial to Flora MacDonald and Johnston's tribute to her:

"A name that will be mentioned in history, and, if
courage and fidelity be virtues, mentioned with honour"

On our return journey we came across an excellent example of 'rust in the rocks' (this is Red Bole the colouration is caused when the top of the lava flow is oxydized. Ed)

Next day we were having a 'coffee break' by a stream where another traveller, a tortoise, was placed down, close to the water where his mistress said he liked to be, watching the water flow by. His name was 'Burn' and he was eighteen years old!

Another feature of interest was the 'Kilt Rock' composed of vertical basalt ribs; various colours in horizontal seams produced a 'kilt' effect. There was also a spectacular fall of water from Loch Mealt into the sea. The Old Man of Storr, surrounded by his concubines makes a most impressive sight. These are the highest cliffs in the ridge north of Portree - King's Haven, renamed after King James V visited - is a most attractive town, beautifully situated on a horseshoe bay, sheltered by headlands and by the Isle of Raasay. Our last morning, and we managed the visit to Skye Skins Tannery which we had hoped to do. The talk on the tannery process is described as 'free', though it turned out very well for the owner, as I thought if anyone came away without making some purchases! The owner told us he went to New Zealand twice a year for skins. He described one of the uses to which they were put in New Zealand - in the beds of elderly people in hospital, which I knew to be true. At breakfast on our final morning a tribute had been paid to Betty Roy and Dick Clark for their splendid work in planning this most successful weekend. Even down to the weather!
I, for one, would love a repeat visit!



"The hills of the mighty Cuillin
Stand guardian round the Loch,
A scene of magnificent Splendour,
A landscape of sculptured rock."

Doris Ann Goodchild.

Cis. McAinsh

ST. COLUMBA'S ISLAND, SKEABOST

Information gleaned from a friend of Lindsay's at Portree set us on the search for the Cathedral of the Isles. It was a beautiful morning and seeing this extensive site at the head of Loch Snizort made the effort worthwhile.

Some early carved stones were found among the rubble, including the Norman chevron. Here were buried chiefs of the Nicolson clan and also noted were two medieval carvings of knights of the type found in other places in Scotland.

What then was the "Cathedral of the Isles"? It is possible that this community possessed a separate existence from the 11th century when the appointment of a Bishop of the Isles is recorded. This personage has been identified as Wimond, ordained by Thomas, Archbishop of York in 1079.

The Diocese of the Isles was linked to that of the Isle of Man. By the end of the 14th century Scotland and England were divided in support of different popes and the Scots expelled from Man. From then there was a continuous succession of Scottish bishops of the Isles at Snizort and English bishops of the Isles in the Isle of Man

Their presence continued at Snizort until the end of the 15th century when the Earl of Argyle petitioned that the Abbey of Iona be erected into "the bishoppis site of the Isles".

The new edition of Alexander Nicolson's History of Skye states it is clear that the history of Snizort has been deliberately suppressed". Would the importance of Snizort, in medieval times, have detracted from the importance of Iona?

Betty Roy

THE BATTLE OF GLEN SHIEL 1719

This site by the Old Shiel Bridge was not easy to spot. The road had been straightened by-passing the bridge. Historic Scotland has erected an information board. The Battle of Glenshiel was the last skirmish of the '15 Rising'. The Jacobite forces included 300 Spaniards sent by Philip V of Spain. The Spanish contingent had originally numbered 5000 but most were lost by storms at sea.

Failing to gain support from Lowland Jacobites, the force of 1500 Highlanders were ordered to disband. The Spaniards surrendered and were held as prisoners of war and eventually repatriated.

Sgurr Nan Spainteach takes its name from this.

Betty Roy

JULY 12th - A WEDNESDAY WALK

Owing to the deplorable state of the access paths to Cambus Pools and Forth Railway Bridge, a snap decision was made to go instead to Clackmannan and view the 'Black Devon Rivers Project. This is Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust's first natural heritage project and has already achieved acclaim in being the first of its kind in Scotland.

The creation of a 'managed retreat' comprising fresh water and salt water pools, as well as allowing some of the land to revert to salt marsh should attract resident and migrating birds. Already 150 Snipe have been recorded. The RSPB has agreed to enter into long term management of the site to ensure its viability. Footpaths and signposts are in place and most of the work has been completed. The official opening scheduled for last year had to be cancelled due to flooding. It is hoped to announce another date in the near future.

Though our walk started from Craigrie, Clackmannan, across the former railway bridge, the site is easily accessed from Bowhouse where there is a small parking space. We did see two freshwater pools but time did not allow us to search for the tidal operated salt water one. Perhaps another visit from Bowhouse could be made at a future date.

All in all the walk was a pleasant one.

BETTY ROY

A CHANGING SCENE - ALLOA WEST DEVELOPMENT 1825-1899

As a result of being given photographs and background to Craigward and Ward Street Maltings, thoughts as to the then and after arose in the mind. The 19th century was a time of great industrial expansion when, as today, the townscape was ever changing. Comparing the 1825 map with that of 1899 emphasizes the rate of change.

In the 1825 the map of the town to the west is almost rural. Apart from the much smaller Glassworks, Brickwork, Shipbuilding and Brewery there has been little development. As to housing there is some on Castle Street and bordering Broad Street and The Walk, as well as the still existing large houses south of Bedford Place with their long rigs. These are all in an area that will show great change by 1899.

Then we see a picture of sneaking railway lines and Goods Stations serving the growing industry. The Glassworks has expanded northwards, as has the Brickworks. There is now a Gasworks and another Brewery. New streets have been added along with high

density housing, Castle Street has been shortened to accommodate the Glassworks expansion. Comparison with an up-to-date map would again show a different scene!

Featured on the 1899 map are Craigward and Ward Street Maltings, as well as Craigward Cooperage - only Ward Street Maltings remain.

CRAIGWARD MALTINGS
built 1869



Previous to this date Youngers supplemented their malt by leasing maltbarns from other producers, but with the increase in output at their Meadow and Candleriggs breweries it was necessary to build their own maltings.

The four-storey maltbarn at Craigward measured 340' by 70' (approx. 113m x 23m) and was served by four malt kilns. A well on site provided water for the 'steeps'. The south front was decorated with two massive square towers to help remove the stark appearance associated with these buildings. This was the largest building of its kind in Alloa. However, owing to its faulty construction, half of the Craigward Maltings collapsed in 1904. It was re-built, new maltstores and machinery installed bringing this malting up to date.

By the end of the 19th century Younger's Breweries were booming and saw the erection of the

WARD STREET MALTHOUSE
1899

(still a going concern,
owned by Bass Charrington).



Both these enterprises continued to belong, to George Younger & Son until 1962, at which time they were taken over by Hammond United Breweries, who, in turn, were taken over by Charrington United Breweries.

From 1962 Craigward became a store for dry barley, eventually closing in 1969. By then it was owned by Tennants Caledonian, who attempted, without success, to sell the building. It was finally demolished in 1970 by a firm that undertook the demolition work in return for the use of the material.

Another industry in the vicinity of Craigward Maltings which has disappeared is the Craigward Cooperage, bought by Youngers from Cooper, Mr Charles Pearson in 1918. A new service road leading to a number of small businesses shows the re-use of former industrial sites.

EK ROY

HISTORY OF KENMUIR – from the title deeds

When my neighbours "down the drive" were returning to England, Jean asked if I wanted documents relating to Kenmuir that she and John had been given when they purchased the bungalow. She did not see any relevance in keeping these as they referred to Kenmuir and not to their recently built bungalow. Thus fell into my hands a batch of papers which not only show the different owners of the property but in their own way give an indication of the social life of the era. On the whole the script was mostly legible and here and there a typed copy had replaced the original. So what did these documents relate to and why were they not to be kept in a lawyer's safe along with the Title Deeds? In a way they are, as these are the backbones from which the information contained in the Title Deeds is obtained,

They consist of Instruments of Sasines, Feu Chapters, Discharges, Dispositions, (and Assignations) Chartered Confirmations, Leases, Notarial Instruments, Codicils, Decrees and Letters. Without my Scottish Dictionary I would have been completely lost as to some of the terms used.

The story begins when the original owner, Thomas Bernard, Clerk of Kennetpans', leased a plot of land from James Johnstone (bosom friend of Clive of India but not such a great friend to the East India Company), in June 1909 for 999 years, in order to build a house and offices (probably outbuildings), but in 1813 he wished to cancel and SOPITE (put an end to), and instead wished to become a 'vassal' by feuing. This was registered at Sasines in June 1813. My title deeds make no mention of this previous 1809 lease and thus Kenmuir is 4 years older than I had thought!

I shall deal quite fully with the feu charter as it makes interesting reading. Johnstone being the superior retained the mineral rights (as is still the case under many feus) BUT if he wanted he could enter the property and search for coal by sinking pits or excavate for lime and stone, and make roads for "freeish" entry for machines. Oh, the horror of this happening! On the other hand he would be liable for any Skaith (damage) which might be sustained. The feu conditions were payment of £8 sterling at Candlemas yearly and two fat hens or four good chickens (known as KANE - payment with poultry), or 5/- if no poultry were available. There were further inducements to ensure the payment of feu by lump sums reducing the annual amounts. It is easily seen that Johnstone still used all the financial skills that had made him such a fortune in India! Oh yes, Thomas Bernard MUST NOT LAY DUNG, filth or anything else on that part of the property fronting his feu. He must look after the stone wall four feet in height that Johnstone had erected, (interesting to think that the lower part of the wall is as old as the house), must carry any grindable corn that THOLE FIRE AND WATER (be dried and ground) to the mill at Alva (perhaps this is the one just down the road of which we saw a remnant on my Alva walk-about), paying the appropriate dues (MULTURE), and maintain a presence at the Alva Courts of Barony when asked, and to be on good behaviour to the proprietor. Also if he misses two consecutive years of feu - he is OUT.

The document which is long and precise as to the measurements of the land and its boundaries is presented to the Notary Public who then granted the use of the ground to Thomas, "Sasine, possession, real, actual and corporal" by using the symbols of earth and stone from the property. Witnessed by R. Morrison, Mason, Alva and James, Overseer at Burnside Farm between 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon of 4th June 1813. The document was witnessed by Alex. Littlejohn, Writer, Stirling and Robert Hume, Butler at Alva House.

This text illustrates the following points - Alva was mostly an agriculture community where kane was an accepted part payment of feu and the unfair? system of a feuar's grain having to be taken to the feudal superior's mill was still in existence. The wealth underground that could be realised from coal and limestone was becoming apparent and thus should be safeguarded to the superior. The early practice of using the symbols of earth and stone was followed by the registry system at the Register of Sasines in Edinburgh. In the census of 1940 can be found Bernard (65), Robert (35), and two servants James Murray and Helen Bigt.

Then there comes in 1842, and registered in 1849, a most heart-rending document, called a disposition which starts "I Thomas Bernard, for the love and favour which I have and bear to my son Robert Bernard" and proceeds to assign the house and all of his estate to him. There are of course some provisions to be allowed for such as the payment of all Thomas's just and lawful debts, his sickbed expenses and funeral

charges. A generous £25 to his niece, Helen Sigg (is this the Helen Bigt, who is down in the 40s census as a servant?). Put just in case he has misread Robert's character he reserves his own life rent over the estate and retains right up to the moment of his death the power to revoke these "presents". As by now Thomas is blind the document finishes with the signatories of two notaries Public who then signal that it has been done by touching pens!

There is no simple right of accession in son Robert's time as he does not appear to have married so there is a lengthy document followed by two codicils in the early 1850s. The estate is to be divided up between his cousins mostly residing in Edinburgh and Leith and in the brewing and distilling industries. A few payments to be made to the children of Alexander Paton, relict of Mary Bernard, Thomas's sister - saw her small gravestone in the Kirk yard to-day. The name Archibald Porteous now appears - he is to receive £50 legacy if he serves on the trust to oversee these payments. A £30 legacy to go to Jean Murray for her faithful years as his housekeeper - another mystery-was she related to James Murray? but it doesn't really matter as in the first codicil of 3/5/1850 the payment is revoked. Did she die? or did she run off with the silver - more mystery to follow up. Auntie Janet Bigg has her annuity reduced from £10 to £5 and even worse Archibald Porteous's £50 has now been reduced to £5 and his name has been scored out as one of the trustees.

The document is called a Trust Disposition Settlement and these crop up from time to time when "who gets what" arrangements are desired to be made by in this case Robert Bernard before he parts from this world. Apart from those who will directly benefit, there always seems to be a problem to have "outsiders" stay in this quorum. The outsider is Porteous who was offered £50, which must have been a goodly sum in the 1850s, but eventually he declines and a writer in Alloa accepts the position. On Robert's death in 1854 the estate and contents are sold and the money accrued divided up among the family as all arranged. At this time the house was called Strude Cottage, a name I like and if the whole house was mine I would change it back again. The land to the north was called Strude Park and its boundary at Kenmuir was the Old Stirling Road. The land to the east and south was called Lower Strude Park but the land to the west was feued to Thomas Drysdale at the Boll Farm. Where was Bernard Cottage? Unfortunately the people next door do not seem interested in the history of their house so the ground is pretty infertile there. Adam Swan told me that Kenmuir was of later date than Bernard Cottage.

Ah well I shall just keep plugging away and who knows what will turn up. But after reading all these old documents about the Bernards and their house, I have become very fond of them, especially Thomas, the father. Now where did he get his money to build the house, outhouses, coach house, etc.?

We shall have another discussion about the other occupiers of Kenmuir, each in their own way as fascinating,

THE SCOTTISH BREWING ARCHIVE at GUABRC

This used to be at Herriot Watt in Edinburgh and has been referred to in past Newsletters. A recently received letter, and leaflet, Glasgow University Archives and Business Records Centre, archivist Michael Moss (web address <http://www.gla.ac.uk/GGHB>), says it includes the Scottish Brewing Archive and hence, the history of the Alloa breweries.

Brewing is but a small part of this extensive Glasgow archive of institutions, industry, shipbuilding, hospitals, businesses of the west of Scotland.

Only a small proportion of the running costs are from the University, the GUABRC is dependent on donations. It has a Friends organisation. Researchers should make an appointment prior to their first visit, to the Search Room at 13 Thurso St. G11 6PE, tel: 0141-330 5515. E-mail: dutyarch@archives.gla.ac.uk

The letter offers CFSS a talk and/or a visit as well.

Lindsay Corbett

ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE

Barbush Quarry, Dunblane

In the last Newsletter – Stop Press 30/3/00 (page 15), members were asked to watch this space and the following can now be reported with the information given to us by Lorna Main, Regional Archaeologist and Elspeth King of “The Smith”.

The site was excavated in September 1999. Stone lined graves or cist burials belong to the Bronze Age. The body was placed in the foetal position, together with a pot or food vessel. Sometimes the body was cremated and bones were placed in a pot known as a “cinerary urn”.

Of three cists excavated at Barbush, the sandy soil had not preserved the remains well and nothing was found in the cist (currently on display at the “Stirling Smith”). The capstone had collapsed at an earlier date.

One of the cists had a necklace made of 124 disc beads of CANNEL COAL which is an extremely hard type of coal found near the surface and also raises the question as to whether this mineral may also have been used not only for ornamentation but also to give heat!!

Another of the cists had possibly the most important find to allow dating and contained skeletal remains and an urn. This has allowed CALIBRATED CARBON DATING from the bone sample and the result just confirmed in Sept. 2000 is ‘Late Bronze Period 1049-922 BC’.

Further details may be available so watch this space in our next Newsletter.

Archaeology - Sangobeg, Durness, N. West Sutherland

John Morrisons Croft, Sangobeg – excavated Sept. 2000

During the past fortnight in one of my many visits to the above it was a great privilege to be on site of the dig by Glasgow University, Archaeology Dept. under the Supervision of Mr. Kevin Brady, of a Norse / Viking settlement remains which turned up a real surprise.

Some three years ago the site was recognised in the way that only an archaeologist interested in the period can do and once funding was available this year the investigation began.

The site overlooks the sea loch of ERIBOLL towards Whiten Head



exactly in line of where the German ‘U’ boat fleet surrendered to the British Navy at the end of World War II. Loch Eriboll is also where HMS Hood departed on her last engagement to be sunk with only a few survivors. However, the dig as I write has come to an end and what has been discovered is the remains of a Norse / Viking settlement upon an Iron Age / Pictish burial site. Various pottery and environmental evidence has been found but only this week over the past few days the skeletal remains have been uncovered and found in a foetal position on a bed of small pebbles finely placed.

To be on site as all this was taking place I must give thanks to Mr. Kevin Brady, Dr. Andrew Baines, Olivia Lelong and Eileen Mark of Glasgow University who gave permission to give this very early report. A more detailed report will be passed to our society by Kevin on completion.

Dick Clark



Sandwood Bay looking towards “Am Buachille” – the Herdsman, world famous stack.



CLACKMANNANSHIRE FIELD STUDIES SOCIETY



School children being shown various types of sieves used in the collecting & washing of earth from site.



Photo of team working (with school children) overlooking Sangobeg (Little Sands) towards Whiten Head.

The CFSS was formed in October 1970 after attempting to revive the Alloa Society of Natural Science and Archaeology established in 1865. The society's aims are "to promote interest in the environment and heritage of the local area" and it has some 100 members.

In winter there are fortnightly lectures or members nights, from September to April, beginning with a coffee morning and concluding with our AGM. In summer, from April to September, there are four Saturday outings, a weekend event and Wednesday Evening Walks fortnightly from April to August.

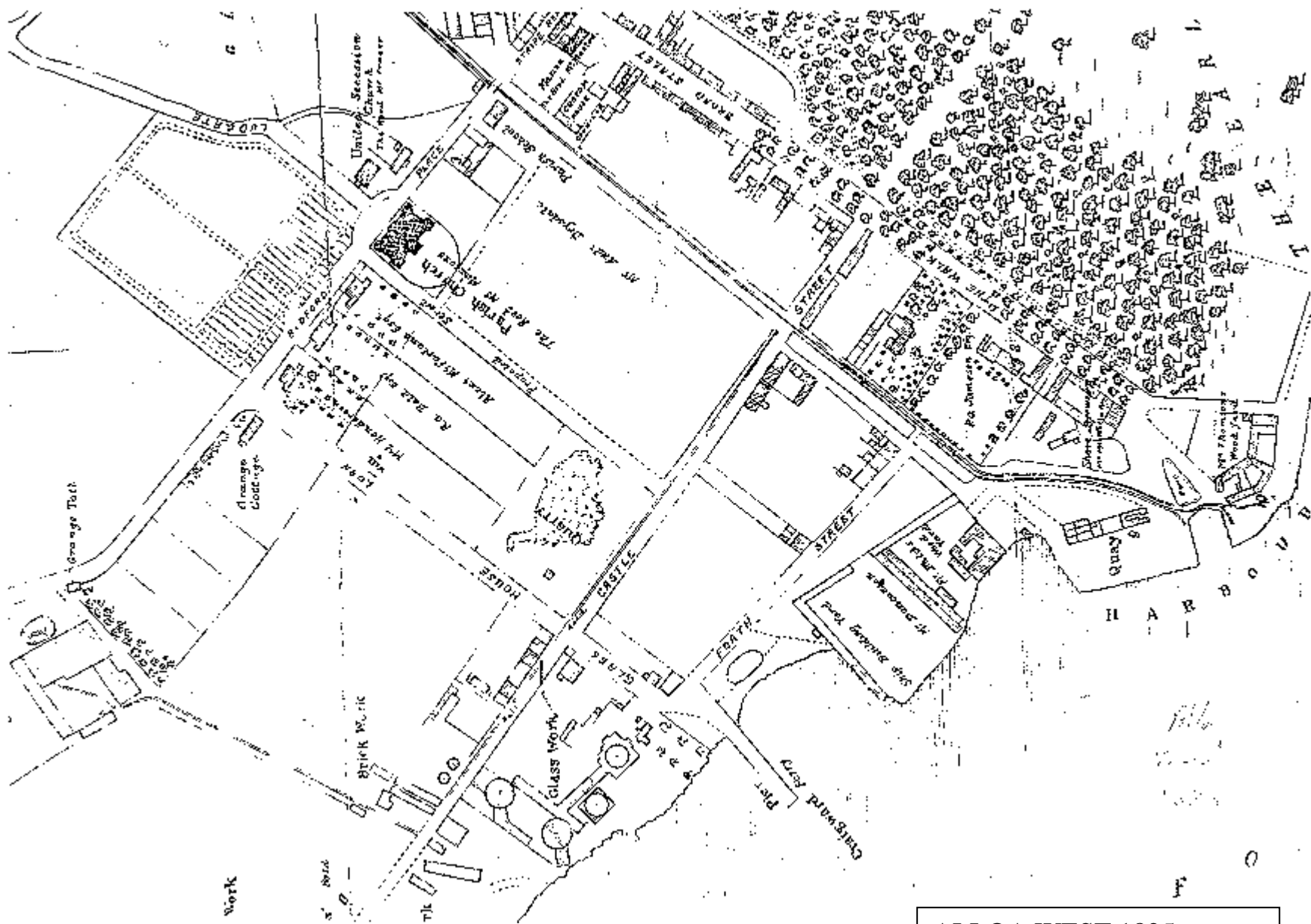
CFSS has run and participated in various events on David Allan and at Alloa Tower, is associated with the Forth Naturalist and Historian in publishing, and with the annual Man and the Landscape symposium, November 1999 was its Jubilee, 25th year; this 26th is **Conserving Biodiversity and Heritage**.

Research projects have included- Linn Mill site, Mining and Alloa Port, Ships and Shipbuilding; these have been published as booklets *Linn Mill, Mines and Minerals of the Ochils* and *Alloa Port, Ships and Shipbuilding*. A project in progress is a survey of the old Alloa graveyard. Other publications include *David Allan; The Ochil Hills – landscape, wildlife, heritage, walks*; *Alloa Tower and the Erskines of Mar*; and the twice yearly *Newsletter*. October 1999 will be no. 63, and there are 5 yearly contents / indices.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in, or desire to support the aims of the Society in this field of Local Studies.

The society has a study / council room in Marshill House, Alloa. This has a small collection of books, maps etc. which members are encouraged to use for reference or study.

L Corbett, EK Roy, I Stewart or R Snaddon should be contacted for access.



ALLOA WEST 1825



ALLOA WEST 1899