



## CLACKMANNANSHIRE FIELD STUDIES SOCIETY

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 150 members.

In winter there are fortnightly lectures or member's nights, from September to April, beginning with a coffee morning and concluding with the 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 – Conserving Biodiversity and Heritage and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs are the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Research projects have included- Linn Mill, Mining, and Alloa Harbour; these have been published as booklets *Linn Mill, Mines and Minerals of the Ochils*, and *Alloa Port, Ships and Shipbuilding*. A recent project is *Old Alloa Kirkyard, Archaeological Survey 1996 – 2000* further work is in progress. Other publications include *David Allan, The Ochil Hills – landscape, wildlife, heritage walks*; *Alloa Tower and the Erskines of Mar*; and the twice yearly *Newsletter* with 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 Marshall 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, R. Snaddon or D Clark should be contacted for access.

# **Clackmannanshire**

## **Field**

## **Studies**

## **Society**

## **Newsletter**

**72**

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**NB** – this CFSS Newsletter 72 includes brief reports on the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Forth Naturalist & Historian's Man and the Landscape symposium, November 2003 – Water, Life, Landscape

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## EDITORIAL

Once again a successful and well attended series of talks has taken place. Unfortunately owing to the pressure of work with the Alloa Old Kirkyard Outreach Project, few of these have been recorded. The work involved with the project has been enormous, though rewarding. Those members who were involved have found the experience worth the effort.

The project is nearing completion, and publication of research papers, records, walks and displays should be produced in the near future. Also in the pipeline, two drama productions;-- WINDOWS – by Isobel Grant Stewart deals with aspects of Alloa`s past history in the 18<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is in the form of cameos relating various incidents from the hardship of women bearers in the coal industry, Georgian times and the 19<sup>th</sup> century fire at Patons. With readers from among the membership, as well as some children, this is to be recorded on tape and hopefully a video produced.

The second drama to be performed by the Bowmar Drama Group using research on the Port and linked to personalities buried in the Kirkyard. This is scheduled for September and is to be a live performance.

Thanks must go to those members who have entered enthusiastically into the many aspects of this project. Special thanks to Alan Wilson at the IT unit of Clackmannanshire Council for the excellent interpretation boards he has produced. The Co-ordinator, Dick Clark, has done sterling work in promoting the project. He is also due heartfelt thanks for his efforts.

On March 16<sup>th</sup> 2004, a number of CFSS members viewed the Local History Initiative Scotland`s Conference in the Nation Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. Displays from the 12 groups who had received lottery money to promote projects based on their area with the primary aim of bringing their communities together. Those attending came from as far away as Shetland to South Ayrshire as well as Aberdeenshire and The Mearns, Wigtown and not forgetting Clackmannanshire. Everyone had an interesting story to tell, it was a worthwhile exercise.

Some members have attended events organised by outside organisations – Man and the Landscape Symposium at Stirling University, An evening at Stirling Castle, led by Doreen Grove of Historic Scotland, when the on-going excavations in and around James V`s Palace were explained, The Council for

Scottish Archaeology`s conference based an Cramond as well as the Symposium at the National Museum entitled “Communities and Graveyards”.

By this time you will have received the Summer Programme that has been organised to include local walks, as well as exploration of areas farther afield. I hope you will be able to join in and enjoy what has been arranged. These days much emphasis is placed on the Health Factor and CFSS does provide the opportunity to spend time in the fresh air.

The weekend field trip is one of our most successful events and always booked up as soon as an announcement is made. Melrose is the area to be visited this year and is to be organised by Elizabeth Crane and her daughter, Lizanne Lumsden.

We look forward to another successful year of events and hope the weather will be kind to us.

The Society extends our good wishes to Mrs Hilde Axien of Redwell Place, Alloa who is returning to her homeland. Hilde has been a member for 20 years and a faithful attendee at events and meetings. We shall miss her presence but sometimes there has to be a parting of the ways.

BETTY ROY.

## ***FORTH NATURALIST AND HISTORIAN***

FNH is an informal charitable organisation formed to promote Forth area environment and heritage.

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Man and the Landscape symposium on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2003 – Water, Life, Landscape – involved 100 people, including six speakers, displays, and the welcome assistance of some CFSS members. The programme is detailed in the last Newsletter. John Shaw was ill and we had a study of Forth Fisheries in his place. For some there was a field trip on Sunday on the Carse and Flanders Moss. We hope to publish some symposium presentations in the annual journal in November.

This year a symposium will be on the subject – Coal in Central Scotland – date Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The annual journal 2004 volume 27 will be launched that day as usual.

The Forth Naturalist and Historian 2003 is volume 26, 136pp, and has full colour covers featuring – in front lampreys from Maitland's paper, and at the back Gainsborough's Beautiful Mrs Graham ( of Schawpark, Alloa) from the National Gallery's exhibition paper by Smailes. Other papers include – Heavy Metals in the Ochils; Dark Age Stirling; the 36pp Forth Bird Report 2002; Clacks Breeding Birds; Nature's Calendar – Phenology – global warming; 1000 years of Climate; Founding of Gartmore; Mrs Hunter of Bridge of Allan; Climate Change and Natural Heritage; Detecting Climate changes locally; 17C weather; and book reviews of interest. All good value and interest at £6 – the printing alone cost £8!!

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)'s Scottish staff are now based in Stirling University and their conference at Pathfoot recently had well over 100 attending, with displays, including FNH's of its birds papers published since 1975 – the annual Forth report, Central Scotland book's chapter, check list, and over a dozen other subjects bird papers. Significant by FNH for this area, and for Scottish coverage by SOC (Scottish Ornithologist's Club).

LINDSAY CORBETT

## **SUMMER PROGRAMME 2004.**

Meet at Alloa Health Centre car park – Wednesday 7 pm, Saturday 9.30 am. – except for Saturday June 26 when the departure time will be 9 am - \*\*

### **Wednesdays**

May 5 Blackgrange new path circular walk (Betty Roy)

19 Around Old Dunblane (Alec Wilson)

June 2 Muckhart to Crook of Devon (Bob Snaddon)

16 Kippenrait Glen/ Darn Road (Roy Sexton SWT)

(Meet at junction of Upper Glen Road & Blairforkie Drive, Bridge of Allan)

July 7 Gartmorn Dam/Linn Mill (Betty Roy)

20 Kennet/Chapel Hill, Look About Ye Brae (Eddie Stewart)

Aug 4 Plean/Throsk (Marilyn Scott)

17 Alva Environs – details to be arranged (Betty Roy)

### **SATURDAYS**

May 29 Blairdrummond Moss (Ken Mackay)

June 26 Boat Trip – Glasgow Braehead (maritime museum)

& ferry to Central

Glasgow (museums & science centre) (Betty Roy)

9am \*\*

July 24 Monimail Tower & region (Eddie Stewart)

Aug 28 Newhailes/Musselburgh (Betty Roy)

Sept 11 Coffee Morning, Spiers Centre, Alloa 10-12

Weekend Field Trip – May 14<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> to Melrose, Leaders Elizabeth Crane & Lizanne Lumsden.

## **PROGRAMME – STIRLING FIELD & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Weekend outings Meet at the Smith Museum, Dumbarton Road at 9.30am (\* = 12.30). Bring packed lunch, weatherproof gear and strong shoes.

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May. \* 12.30 – Loch Lomond Cruise, North from Tarbet – leader Mike Green (472152). Boat leaves Tarbet 2.30, returns 4.30; cost £10. Pay on booking.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. – Water of Leith Visitor Centre – Guided Walk (2 ml) to Colinton Dell. Bus back. Cost £2.50 + bus. Afternoon in Dean Village. Leader Mike Green.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Glencoe & Ballachulish. NTS has re-sited its Glencoe Visitor Centre; cost £3 to non-NTS. Nearby sites associated with 1692 massacre and 1752 murder of `Red Fox` - Leader Henry Robb (473618).

Joint Meeting with Hamilton Society.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Newark Castle (Port Glasgow) & James Watt Museum (Greenock). Leader Ken Mackay (461539).

**TUESDAY EVENING MEETINGS – Meet At the Smith Museum at 6.30pm. (\*=6pm).**

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April – Carsebreck Lochs – Short walk from Braco- Gleneagles Road – last winter wildfowl & first spring migrants. Leader Henry Robb (473618).

ALSO Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Drove Roads Near Vale of Leven. Carman Muir, on Vale of Leven-Cardross road was Tryst/Cattle-fair second only to Falkirk. Leader John Mitchell.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Cambuskenneth Village & Abbey – An evening stroll through the picturesque village to visit the ruins of the historic abbey. Leader Christine Ghioni (465662)

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July – Lochearnhead: North Shore – Last year`s exploration continues with fort-site, cross-slab, castle ruins & deserted settlement. Leader Ken Mackay (461539)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September – A Walk Round Historic Alloa with Betty Roy (Chair CFSS). Alloa Tower, Old St, Mungo`s, Bauchop`s House .... Leader Rita Barth (8502771).



## **REPORTS FROM WINTER TALKS.**

(Owing to pressure of work, only a few have been written up this time)

### **MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – THE STIRLINGS OF KEIR 1710 – 1760.**

Speaker – Bill Inglis, Chair, Local History Forum.

The subject of this talk dealt with The Stirlings of Keir in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This family were landowners, near Stirling, they had done very well until John Stirling, a father of 22, decided to back the Jacobite cause in 1708. That was the time of a rising that never was, since the British Navy prevented a French ship landing in Scotland with the “Old Pretender” on board, along with support troops and stores.

At this time John Stirling had been training men and making arrangements to join a Jacobite Rising. The Government knew of this, Stirling was arrested, sent to London and his estates confiscated. The family then went from being extremely wealthy to being poor.

It was then that Archibald Stirling, grandson of John and son of James Stirling, raised enough money to get himself to India, having made use of friends in the East India Company. Archibald travelled to India as a Purser and in this way was allocated space in the ship`s hold and thus was able to carry goods with him for sale in India. Many of his contemporaries died, some quite soon after arriving in India, but, although Archibald took ill, he recovered and was soon well on the way to making a fortune. Unfortunately, James Stirling was foolish enough to join in The 1715 Jacobite rising, which also ran out of steam, and, again the Stirlings in Scotland were in a bad way. However, Archibald worked very hard and his fortunes grew.

His brother, Robert, had by now gone to Jamaica, where his star was starting to rise. He was working on a sugar plantation, where, at that time it was normal practice to employ slave labour. He did well enough for a time and actually bought a plantation of his own. It should be noted, that, prior to the Union of the Parliaments of Scotland and England in 1707, such opportunities did not exist for Scots. The estates in Scotland had by now been regained by the family.

However, Robert`s fortunes began to decline and Archibald, who had been giving him financial support was asking where his money had gone and when he would be receiving some return on his investment. Instead of consolidating

his interest, Robert bought a further two sugar plantations. Robert died in 1764, unmarried, leaving a large amount of debt.

Fortunately for the family in Scotland, they inherited some money and at this time Archibald decided to return to Britain, but not to Scotland. He felt a country life was not for him, although he did invest in improvements at the estates of Keir and Cawdor. When Archibald died, he had become a very rich man, one who had started from virtually nothing.

Mr. Inglis was a very interesting speaker who delivered his talk by using photographs and printed text on the screen, supplemented by voice recordings of the text.

BOB. SNADDON.

**MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH – Conservation Areas in Clackmannanshire –**  
Stephen Blow, Projects & Operations Manager, Scottish Wildlife Trust.  
(Stephen Blow deputised for the original speaker, Ian Findlay)

At the regular meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March, we were treated to a very good talk by Stephen Blow, area conservation manager for Clackmannanshire and Fife.

He began with a general talk about the aims of the Trust and the area he looks after. With a series of slides he took us first to the Black Devon at Linn Mill. Sadly some of the first slides shown, showed a No Entry sign. The bridge is in a dangerous state, due to erosion and vandalism. SWT hope to do something about this in the future. (Note – A project at Linn Mill resulted in the birth of CFSS- Ed)

He then took us to Cambus Pools with slides showing the site from different angles, including aerial shots. There is wild life there but there are problems with the reed beds, these are out of control. The reeds choke flora where they grow. There are ways of controlling this, but this is costly and time consuming.

The next places visited were Tullibody and Alloa Inches. Tullibody Inch is inaccessible due to mud flats and no landing area. SWT hope to do a survey in the near future as they have acquired a boat and hope to land on the south side of the Inch.

The Alloa Inch is the larger of the two islands. It was farmed until the 1960s. There were cattle, sheep and arable land giving crops of barley, wheat and potatoes. One of the reasons for the demise of the farm was the breach in the sea wall that encircled the island. The farm buildings are still there, along with some of the farm machinery. The slides showed us the sea wall and where it has been breached, also the flooded area. The cost to repair the wall would be too expensive. The mud flats are a haven for wading birds, and shellduck are in the river beside the island. It is good to know that areas like these are being managed for the future.

We must thank Stephen for coming along as a replacement for the original speaker, and Fraser Macintosh for his vote of thanks.

SADIE ARCHIBALD.

### **MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> March. INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO UNITED GLASS.**

This year`s Industrial Visit gave a rare opportunity to see inside Alloa`s United Glass Plant, where we were welcomed by the General Manager, Mr. Mike Noble.

CFSS members took on a new persona, and indeed were quite unrecognisable, when decked out in protective blue overalls, goggles, earplugs, baseball caps emblazoned with UG, and, wait for it, bright blue hairnets. Ena Sharples would definitely have approved.

An entertaining introductory video told us that glass making had been introduced to Alloa in 1750, and that, these days, the UG plant makes bottles for the distilling companies. In fact 2.5 million bottles are produced every day – that is 600 every minute. Beer bottles are made at the company`s other major factory at Harlow.

After the film came much discussion. Lady Frances Erskine had, it was stated in the film, brought Bohemian and Flemish craftsmen to Alloa in 1750, so setting up the industry. When Mr. Noble was bold enough to cast doubt on the role of the Erskines in all of this there was a united cry of dismay from the audience. However, he did agree that Alloa has the oldest glasswork in Europe still on its original site.

In 1955 Alloa Glassworks became part of United Glass.

We were shown samples of the raw materials used by the plant. These are finely ground sandstone, mined from the company's own quarry in Devilla Forest, soda ash (sodium carbonate) from Cheshire and finely ground limestone from Derbyshire. The finest, whitest sand goes into white, clear glass. Darker seams at the quarry are used for green and amber bottles.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the bottles and jars which you have conscientiously put into the bottle banks? They are broken up into small pieces (now called cullet) and fed into the furnaces in a mixture with the other ingredients. (There is never enough cullet – so keep on recycling!).

Being by now very well informed about glass making, we were taken out in groups to see the whole thing for ourselves. The Training Officer, and Personnel Officer kindly accompanied us, along with Mr. Noble.

Across yards, between towering hoppers and up many steps we went, to see the largest white flint (clear glass) bottle-melting furnace in the world. (The company's furnaces burn 120,000cu.ft. of gas an hour.) Through a darkened hand-held screen we could watch the molten glass flowing by at a great speed inside the furnace, and then, in a cooler office, see the computer screen's version of what was going on.

From there it was down to the bottle-making plant. The route took us alongside the hot wall at the end of the furnace, where, it was slightly discomfiting to know that, just a few inches away was glowing molten glass at 1230c.

The sight that met us on that lower floor was truly amazing. "Gobs" of molten glass, now at only 1130c, emerged from the base of the furnace and were cut into bottle-sizes pieces before seemingly flying like rockets along channels into moulds which formed the glass into "parisons", i.e., solid bottle shapes with an open neck. These were then picked up by automated tongs and inverted into moulds where air was blown into them to create hollow containers. From here a recognisable bottle shape emerged - Chivas, to be precise. However, the glass was still aglow.

The bottles must now be reheated and carefully cooled in annealing "lehrs" to remove stresses. Then a surface coating of metal organic compounds is sprayed on to them and this doubles their strength.

Our next move was to the room where all the bottles being produced on that shift were being shunted along what appeared to be miles of snakelike, narrow conveyors, being checked electronically for imperfections. At the end of all this sat an employee, clearly with awe inspiring powers of concentration, who could watch the hundreds of bottles passing before him and remove those with slight flaws. Fortunately he was required to do this for only 15 minutes at a time.

Rejected bottles immediately became cullet.

Here were other familiar bottle shapes such as Johnnie Walker and Smirnoff Ice.

Incidentally, each Alloa bottle has a number 8 on its base.

Next came packing and dispatch.

Huge sheets of cardboard were machine folded to make trays and lids for large batches of bottles. This was followed by shrink-wrapping in plastic. A machine would cut a length of plastic from a roll and, with long arms, place it over the pallet of bottles like a balloon. In a trice it fitted perfectly and that consignment was ready to begin its journey to its distillery, trundling along yet another conveyor belt.

Cast your mind back to all the films you have ever seen about automation. Remember Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory? Here we were seeing it for ourselves, minus the chocolate.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Noble and his colleagues for their kind and warm welcome, not forgetting their hospitality. We were, indeed, very privileged to be given such an insight into Alloa's major industry – and its largest private employer.

We must also thank Susan Mills who established the contact and made all the arrangements with United Glass.

Incidentally, we were allowed to keep the baseball caps and hairnets. No doubt these will appear on the summer outings.

BRENDA JENKINSON

## A MEMORABLE OCCASION - ALLOA, 1831

With the kind permission of Mr. Robertson of Lylestone House, Dick Clark was able to take slides of the mural of the River Forth which is painted on the staircase. Wishing to have a photograph from the slide, I contacted Ken Mackay to do the needful. Wonders of wonders a balloon is depicted in the sky above the river. Ken, of course, always comes up trumps and as well as the photograph sent a print out from the Stirling Observer, dated Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1831 that gave information on the ascent of the balloon.



Lylestone House dates from 1815 and was the home of Robert Bald, the Mining Engineer. The question is – does the mural date from 1815 or was it painted in 1831 to commemorate this auspicious event? Where would one look for that information nowadays?

“Mr Green, the Aeronaut, respectfully intimates to the Nobility, Gentry, and inhabitants of Alloa, Stirling and their vicinities, that, by the kind permission of Mr Stein, his next ascent will take place from Grange Distillery Square.”

Imagine the scene – crowds descending on Alloa from all the airts, a steamer from Stirling Pier with 100 passengers on board, a variety of vehicles --- carriages, chaises, gigs, droskies and others of every description. The fields and every vantage point, even the distillery roof, covered by a multitude of spectators eager to witness the unusual event.

The gas balloon, requiring 23,000 cubic feet of gas, was inflated at Alloa Gasworks, in two stages. “At ten minutes before five the balloon, which

consisted of striped silk covered with a preparation of oil and Indian rubber, and was upwards of fifty feet high, rose gently and magnificently over the heads of the spectators who testified their delight by the most deafening cheers.”

The ascent on the Saturday was a trial run by Mr Green. The balloon, first of all, veered towards Stirling, but turned eastwards over Ben Cleuch to land eventually at Blackford.

An account of the flight on the 16<sup>th</sup> August was a first hand account of the experience by Major Callander of Craigforth. He writes that within the space of a minute the craft had attained an elevation of 1000`. To gain more height, 150 lbs of wet sand was ejected, as well as a lowering of the grappling iron. By then the crowds below began to dwindle into mere party coloured specks.

An elevation of 6000` was soon reached --- “we were exactly over the shipping of the quay --- looking straight down was indescribably grand and awful; the hulls of the largest vessels appearing much less than the smallest boats and their masts and rigging invisible altogether.”

Such a craft, of course, is dependent on air currents and thunder over Ben Cleuch caused a loss of height. Mr. Green hoping for a current of air at a lower height, allowed the balloon to descent to 1500 feet. They fell at 1000 feet per minute, and found themselves above the river, (must have been a frightening experience). Would the excursion into the heavens end in a soaking for the participants?

But, no, Mr Green was a capable man. Mr. Green produced his life jacket, but Major Callander had left his behind – he must have experienced some anxious moments! The remainder of their burdens were ejected, giving a little respite, but soon they found themselves over the river at a height of only 300 feet! Fortunately, a small current of air caused by the incoming tide allowed the craft to drift towards a large barley field. Reapers in the field immediately seized the grappling iron and within the space of a minute they landed safely – “with the lightness of a down pillow thrown from the hand to the floor”.

Luckily this adventure into the heavens was completed without mishap, though a shower of heavy rain meant that they did get a soaking!!

BETTY ROY.



The following two articles are published by courtesy of Dr. Mike Penman and Dr. James Smyth

**Reputations (Dept. of History, University of Stirling, Scotland) – 28 June 2003.**

**Paper 1 – Dr. James Smyth**

**Reputations and National Identity; or, what our heroes say about us**

There has been a growth of interest in biography and particularly in the notion of `reputation` and cultural significance in recent years. Much of this approach has been driven by literary studies. In historical terms, however, the coverage has been random or eclectic. Our intention is to take a national approach to reputations, to look at a variety of famous or heroic figures from Scottish history and to examine how reputations are made and lost, interpreted and reinterpreted over time. While we seek to cover both academic and popular treatments of the lives of such individuals, we are conscious that the popular



image or reputation can be remarkably impervious to academic revision. This paper is offered as an initial step in what is intended as a larger project.

We are interested in a series of inter-related questions. What are the ingredients which create a genuinely popular reputation? By what means can we research such a reputation? And, is there a national model of the popular historical figure? Scotland makes an interesting case study. As a `stateless nation` since 1707 it has no official Pantheon of officially recognised heroes, and it has been suggested that Scottish identity have been sustained more through cultural means than the directly political. However, with a recently devolved Parliament, the question of national identity is now more openly and explicitly discussed. As a means of exploring these issues and developments, this paper discusses the reputations of, and look at the memorials raised to, three Scottish figures, two giants of the nineteenth century – Thomas Chalmers and David Livingstone, and contemporary Scotland's first `First Minister`, the late Donald Dewar.

## **Paper 2 – Dr. Michael Penman**

### **Reputations in Scottish History – a case study: Robert Bruce (1274-1329)**

It has often been asserted that the national identity of Scotland as a political and cultural unit was born under duress in the period of the Wars of Independence against England c. 1286-1357. Robert Bruce, or King Robert I, was one of two national icons to play a leading role in that period, the other being William Wallace (of Braveheart fame). This paper examines the evolving reputation of Bruce both before and after death, to the present day, and considers the various processes – cultural, political and artistic – at work over time.

Beginning with a brief survey of the self-image and propaganda of Bruce himself and then the view of this figure portrayed in late-medieval and early-modern chronicles, histories and works of literature (especially Barbour's *The Bruce*), this paper then turns to focus mainly on the period after 1700. By examining Bruce's image in `modern` scholarly works, literature, poetry, drama and the visual arts it is possible to trace how successive generations of Scots filtered Bruce – and a specific tableaux of the events of his dramatic life – through their own changing cultural and political concerns. These were agendas affected by such themes as class-consciousness, electoral reform, religious division, social control and national self-determination.

But this study also reveals how Bruce's image as saviour of his realm was played down by those, like Sir Walter Scott, concerned to hide Bruce's anti-Englishness after the Union of 1707; and overshadowed by others more taken with the inspiring figure of the every-man, 'working-class' William Wallace as a focal point for campaigns for Scottish Home Rule and franchise expansion. As such, Scotland's unique history and development as a nation may have subdued the reputation of a king who in another land might have been a perennial colossus. Most especially there was a pre-occupation evident in almost all major works of history, literature and drama from c.1440 onwards to portray Bruce as a man inspired to join the patriotic cause, turned by his friend Wallace as the result of a conversation between the two after the battle of Falkirk at Carron Shore.

This is a trend not merely confined to political literature, the press, monumental statues and painting. Even in scholarly works there is strong evidence to suggest that historians attempting to portray the true factual Bruce, an aristocrat who died in his bed with a less than purely patriotic past, had to pander to popular perceptions of the figures of Wars. These commentators thus also contributed to the notion of Bruce as a man personally inspired by the greater martyred figure, Wallace: this was a collectively imagined and beloved motif dominant in those media arguably most potent in shaping the political, cultural and historical identity of Scots, namely penny or 'chap' books and popular or 'juvenile' literature.

### **Land measurement through the ages.**

Scotland has been surveyed many times from the first engraved maps of the 1560s to digital mapping today. In 1742 General Wade prepared a report on the conditions encountered when attempting to travel in the Highlands, a survey was presented to George I, which resulted in one of the great road and bridge contracts in Scotland. Most of the surveys were for military purposes, and in June 1791 the Ordnance Survey was formed to survey England and the first OS map was of Kent in 1801. In Scotland the surveys were carried out between 1842 and 1879. However in 1791 the Ordnance Survey were required to produce the maps at One Inch to One Mile.

In Scotland the linear measurement was in 'falls' and 'ells' and this form of measurement continued until it was abolished in 1878. To confuse the issue England also had measurements of falls and ells. A Scottish ell was approximately 37 inches while an English ell was approximately 45 inches.

The Scottish fall was 6 ells. The Scottish square measurement was 36 square ells to one square fall with 160 square falls to one square acre. These measurements still turn up today in Title Deeds, which were granted before 1878. The Industrial Revolution of the 19<sup>th</sup> century increased the movement towards unification and in 1878 this mode of measurement was abolished to fall into line with the English measurement known as Imperial Measurements.

The Imperial Measurements were based mainly on agriculture, with measurements being inches, feet, yards, chains, furlongs and miles. To have some type of standard measurement a `furrow` became a furlong, which is 220 yards (the distance a yoke of oxen could plough before requiring a rest). It is from the furlong that all the Imperial measurements evolve.

A furlong being 10 chains or 220 yards, and 8 furlongs being one mile or 1760 yards (a Scots mile was longer – 1984 yards). A chain was 22 yards or 66 feet and divided into 100 links, a link being approximately 8 inches – the width of a furrow. An acre was a square measurement, being 220 yards (a furlong) by 22 yards (a chain) which is 4840 square yards (one acre), approximately 100 furrows. Much of the land in England was divided into suitable `fields`, a field being one acre. Larger areas of land were bounded by the measurement of one furlong by one furlong being 48,400 square yards known as a `ten acre` meadow.

In 1963 discussions were taking place to bring Britain into line with Europe with the metric mode of measurement. In 1966 the preparation for the change to S.I. units (System International Units) was agreed and the term being understood as Metric.

France adopted the metric unit of measurement as far back as 1790 with a metre being the length of a simple pendulum with a swing of one second at sea level on latitude 45 degrees. The final recognition did not take place in France until 1840. The metre gradually became more constant and was defined eventually as a marked unit being one ten-millionth part of the earth Meridian quadrant with the international prototype metre being held at Sevres in France. However, in 1960 a mathematical formula using wavelengths meant that a metre can now be measured anywhere in the world. The changeover from Imperial to Metric commenced on January 1969.

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