



# Two Estates Project



## Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society

in partnership with

## The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative

# The Vanished Settlements of the Three Fields of Clackmannan



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



(Version 05/09/2016)

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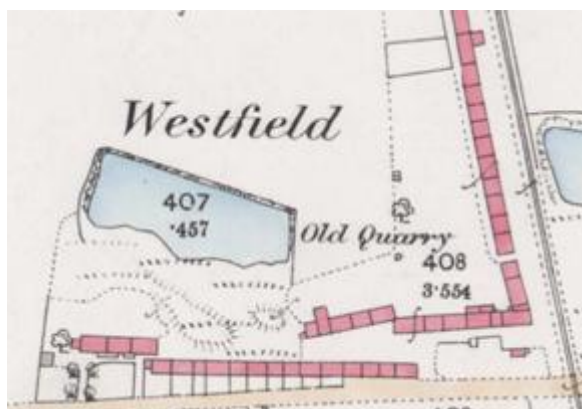
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## Introduction

The Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society obtained a National Lottery grant through the Heritage Lottery Fund in partnership with the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative to undertake a four year research project on aspects of the development of the Two Estates of Alloa and Clackmannan, with particular emphasis on the 18th and 19th centuries. The grant enabled local volunteers to be trained and supported to research a number of topics.

During the desk-based research for our first project, Clackmannanshire Colliery Waggonways, we came across evidence of the small mining village of Westfield. The village is shown as a substantial settlement of forty three dwellings on the Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition, 25 Inch Map, which was surveyed in 1861.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1. Westfield Village, 1861**



© National Library of Scotland, 2015

Having collected a considerable amount of material on this village and the surrounding area, we came to realise that the village of Westfield represented the culmination of several centuries of settlement in the wider area and that all of the settlements here had disappeared over time. This report summarises the development and decline of these settlements.

Fourteen local volunteers were involved in undertaking the desk and field- based research into this topic from May 2014 to October 2015.

We were intrigued to discover during our field research that this village had completely disappeared. The photograph below was taken from a location at the bottom right hand corner of the map.

**Figure 2. Site of Westfield Village, 2016**



## Acknowledgements

- The volunteers who undertook the desk-based and field-based survey work argued the case for competing theories and supported the project: Jack Archibald, Sadie Archibald, Murray Dickie, Margaret Epp, Fiona Graham, Irene Hamilton, Janette McArthur, William McLaren, Jean McLaren, Bill Middleton, Kate Middleton, Marilyn Scott, David Seaton, Eddie Stewart, Jenni Stewart and staff and pupils of Clackmannan Primary School.
- The Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society Executive and Members for proposing and supporting the project;
- The Clackmannanshire Development Trust who provided encouragement, accommodation and supported research and training;
- The National Lottery, through the Heritage Lottery Fund, for their funding;
- The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative for management and training support;
- Local landowners and residents who have supported our survey work and provided us with local information;
- Ordnance Survey Open Data whose easily accessible maps provided us with a base set of locations for rivers, streams and the boundaries of modern urban areas;
- The National Library of Scotland whose on-line and library-based Ordnance Survey and geological maps provided the bulk of our locational data; their on-line tools, which hugely simplified measurement and location and their staff, who were always knowledgeable and helpful;
- The National Records of Scotland whose amazing collection of family papers, plans and maps, on-line catalogue and supportive staff made our task so much easier and the many families (particularly the Erskine and Zetland families), organisations and individuals who had safeguarded and made this material available;
- ScotlandsPeople and ScotlandsPlaces for their support and access to census and other related information;
- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland for their support with the Scotland's Rural Past project and their easily accessible and helpful databases;
- The University of St Andrews whose work on the Acts of the Scottish Parliament has made the documents easily accessible;
- The Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow who have made the Statistical Accounts of the Parishes of Scotland available online in an easily used format;

- Google and Google Books who have made so much previously hard to access material freely available on the internet;
- Google Earth for their satellite imagery and powerful tools;
- British Newspaper Archive for a source of articles and adverts;
- Microsoft for the satellite imagery;
- Inkscape for their freely available, professional quality vector graphics software which was used to create maps and illustrations;

Special thanks are due to Kate Middleton, Bill Middleton, Dave Seaton and Eddie Stewart for their work on the project and to Kate for liaison work with the school.



## The Three Fields

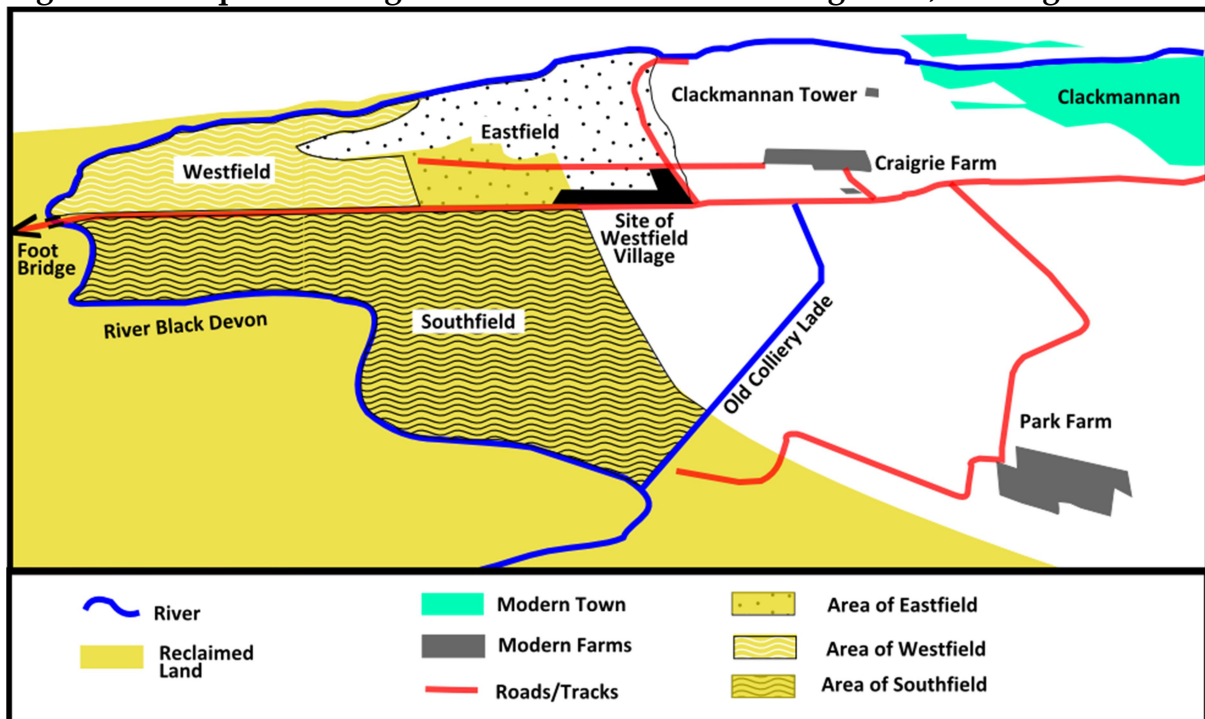
Research into old maps <sup>2</sup> & <sup>3</sup> has revealed that the area was once divided into three “fields”; Eastfield, Westfield and Southfield. The area lies on the Carse lands of the River Forth mostly on land reclaimed from the sea. It is located in a loop of the River Black Devon, bounded to the east by the Kings Seat Hill and the line of an old colliery lade.

Figure 3. Oblique View of the Fields from the Old Landing Place, looking North.



© Google Earth, 2016

Figure 4. Oblique Drawing viewed from the Old Landing Place, looking North.



Based on Google Earth, 2016

(Version 05/09/2016)

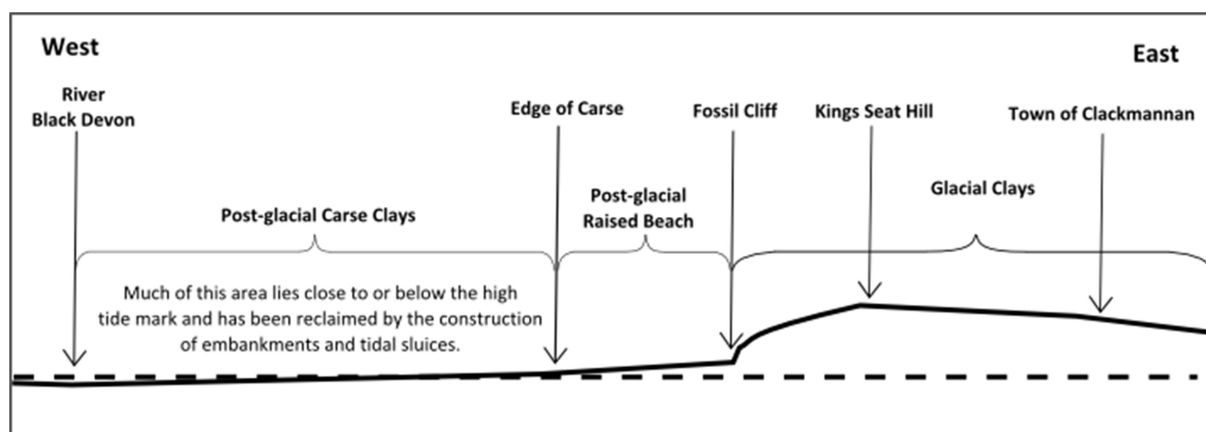
## Landscape Elements

The three fields of Clackmannan lay in a low lying area of the Carse of the river Forth. This area is bounded by glacial clays and underlain by post-glacial deposits, mainly estuarine clays. <sup>4</sup> To the east lies a glacial clay mound, which was laid down and moulded into a ridge running west to east by the last ice sheet to cover this area. <sup>5</sup> The ridge is called Kings Seat Hill and Clackmannan Tower sits on its summit. The church and medieval town of Clackmannan are sited lower down on the spine of the ridge. The weight of the ice sheet pushed down the land surface by about 40 metres. When the ice finally melted, some 10,000 years ago, the sea flooded into this depression, drowning much of the area of the Inner Forth. <sup>6</sup> As the land surface slowly rose back up again, a series of raised beaches and cliff lines were created. <sup>7</sup>

The base of the Kings Seat hill has a cliff line around it, carved after the last ice age ended, when the sea was still at a slightly higher level than today. <sup>8</sup> This higher sea level deposited a raised beach at the base of the cliff line. As the land rose up further, the cliff line and beach were left as fossil remains.

Stretching westwards from these raised beach sediments, the Carse clays were deposited when the post glacial sea still covered much of area of the inner Forth. These deposits take the form of dense, fine clays. <sup>9</sup>

**Figure 5. A cross section through the Three Fields and Kings Seat Hill.**



The river Black Devon comes down through the raised beach deposits and then meanders across the clays of the Carse to join the River Forth. Over time, the river Black Devon has changed its course many times. <sup>10, 11 and 12</sup>



Figure 6. The Physical Landscape.

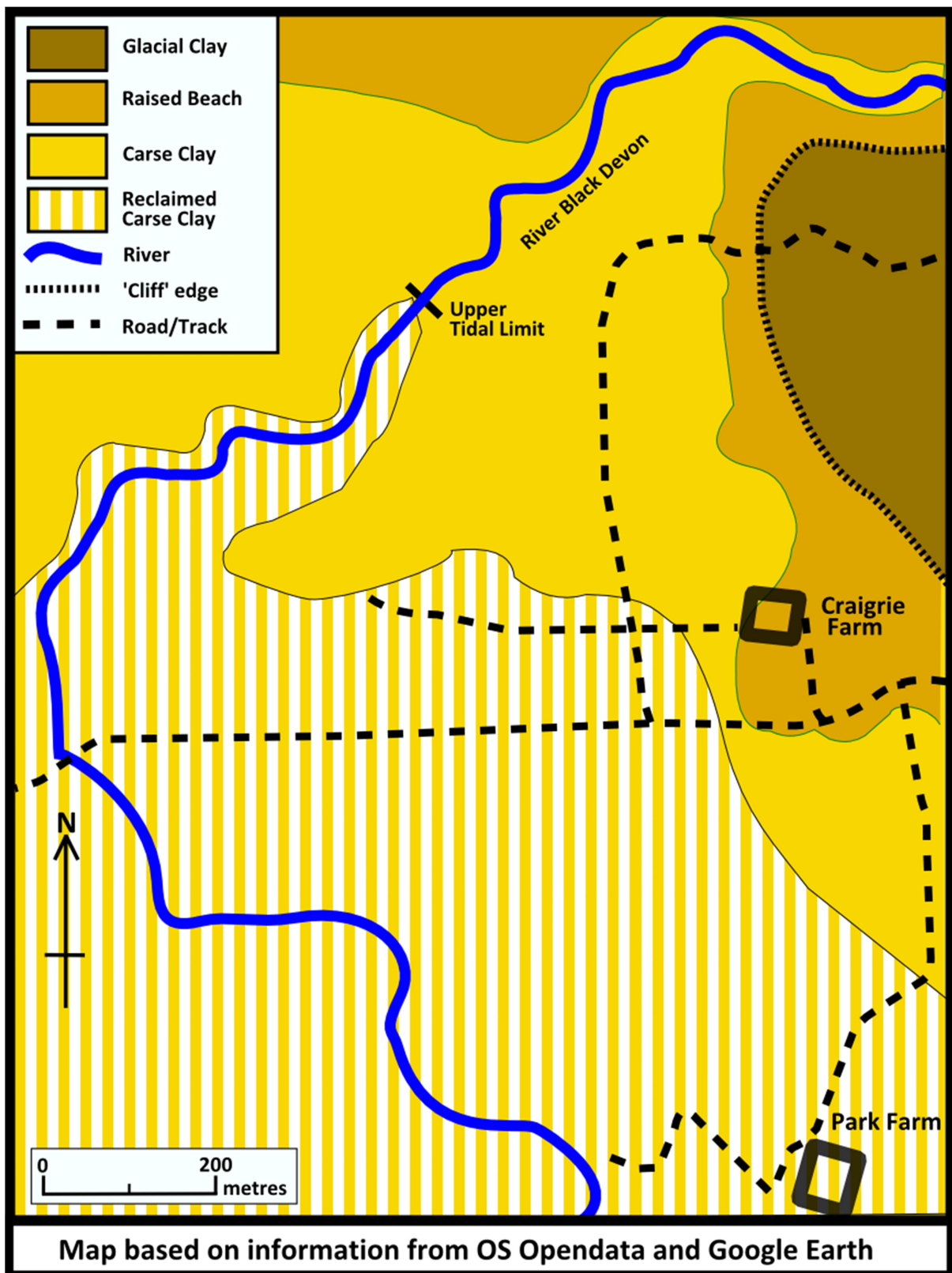
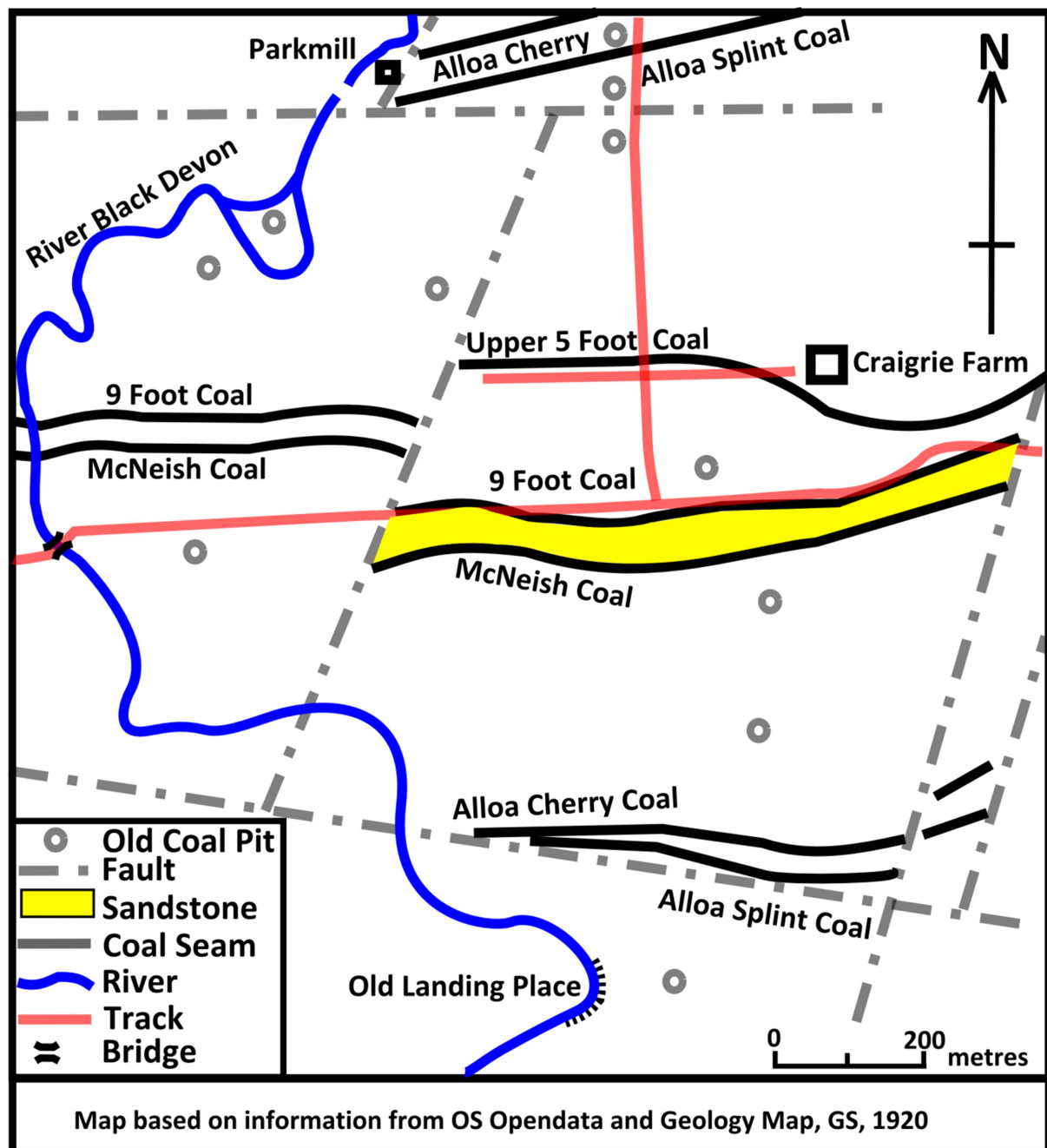


Figure 7. Geology.



The area is underlain by rocks formed during the Carboniferous period and there are many seams of workable coal and iron stone <sup>13</sup> and a band of high quality sandstone. <sup>14</sup> The rocks are broken up by a number of fault lines into small blocks. Once a pit had worked out the coal seam in a block it would be abandoned and another pit opened in the next block. Older pits were often re-opened at a later date to work a deeper seam.

## Mudflats and Saltmarsh

**Figure 8. Mudflats on the Black Devon:**



As the rise of the flooded land slowed, much of it still lay between low and high tide. The rivers are rich in silts, constantly depositing new layers of mud. The rise and fall of the tides created mud flats at the edge of the river and salt marshes slightly further inland. This view of the River Black Devon at low tide shows the mudflats and the edge of saltmarsh on each bank.

At the landward edge of the mudflats the land is out of the water long enough for salt tolerant vegetation to grow. The salt marshes are regularly flooded and networks of small channels have developed where the waters flow out at low tide. From the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century several embankments have been built to reclaim extensive areas of the saltmarsh and some of the mudflats. <sup>15, 16 and 17</sup>

**Figure 9. Area of Saltmarsh.**



**Figure 10. Fossil Channel Networks**



Even areas which have been reclaimed for a long time still show very clear evidence of these networks of run-off channels. This photograph shows a field in Southfield to the west of Powside. The embankment along the east bank of the Black Devon is seen in the left centre.

## The Clackmannan Estate

In 1147, King David II granted the church of Clackmannan, its chapels and forty acres of land, to the Abbey of Cambuskenneth. King Malcolm gave the Mill and lands to this monastery, excepting the multures of the King, which he might require when visiting. In 1231, Clackmannan was the residence of King William the Lion as a charter was signed there. King Robert the Bruce issued many of his charters from the Tower.<sup>18</sup> The present Tower was started by Sir Robert Bruce shortly after he was granted the barony of Clackmannan in 1359. This grant was made by his kinsman, David II, son of King Robert Bruce. There had evidently been a royal castle on the site and the prominent hill on which the tower stands is known as King's Seat Hill. Subsequently the Bruce family of Clackmannan altered and added to their ancestor's tower. In the 1600s they built a new mansion to the West<sup>19</sup>

The Bruce family of Clackmannan had been mining coal from the 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>20</sup> and exporting it from a landing place at Clackmannan Pow,<sup>21</sup> which is located about a kilometre up the river Black Devon from its junction with the River Forth.<sup>22</sup> There was also a salt panning industry along the north shore of the river Forth, with pans at Kennetpans, Clackmannan and Alloa<sup>23</sup> providing a local market for coal.<sup>24</sup>

In the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century Sir Henry Bruce supported Charles I and suffered following his defeat. Although his titles and estates were later restored by Charles II, Sir Henry had accumulated large debts. When David Bruce inherited the estate from his father in 1673 he acquired 3,500 chalders (5,250 tons) of coal and £8,000 free money and a great deal of accumulated debt.<sup>25</sup> He spent a considerable amount of money improving his collieries in Clackmannan and Sauchie.<sup>26</sup> In 1693 he applied to Parliament for a trust deed on behalf of his creditors<sup>27</sup> and in 1704 he applied again to Parliament for protection from his creditors.<sup>28</sup> William Dalrymple and Alexander Inglis purchased all of the debts of the estate, becoming the principal creditors.<sup>29</sup> and<sup>30</sup> They originally intended to sell the estate by public roup, with Sir John Schaw of Greenock as purchaser.<sup>31</sup> The roup cannot have been successful as William Dalrymple managed the estate and developed the coal mines until his death in 1744.

The nature and date of the transfer of the ownership of estate to the Dundas family is unknown, but may have come through marriage or by land grant. In 1738 Sir Lawrence Dundas of Kerse married Margaret Bruce, daughter of Alexander Bruce of Kennet<sup>32</sup> and received several grants during the 1760s and 1770s including Clackmannan in 1763.<sup>33</sup> The Zetland family continued to manage the Clackmannan Estate into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## The Three Fields in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

The earliest embankment in the Clackmannan estate was constructed in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century by the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Mar to reclaim lands around his farm of Ferryton. The line of this embankment is shown on Roy's map of 1745-47. <sup>34</sup> The embankment was not substantial and was regularly swamped by the highest tides. <sup>35</sup> As the River Forth is very silty, this flooding built up the level of the land behind the embankment.

This process was described in 1829, where it was used deliberately to raise the level of land in inter-tidal areas of the Humber estuary. <sup>36</sup> It was reported that an increase in the height of land of one to three feet (0.31 to 0.93 metres) could be obtained in a single season, using all tides. In the case of the embankment constructed by the Earl of Mar, the flooding by only some tides each year would have meant that this increase in height would have been spread over many years.

There is a small section of partially reclaimed land still lying in a bend of the river Black Devon (NS 899907). On the 1898 Ordnance Survey maps it was still designated as "saltings". <sup>37</sup>

**Figure 12. Embankment and drains.**



**Figure 11. Saltings in 1898**



**OS 2nd Edition 6" Map, 1898 © NLS 2016**

It was once kept free of flooding by all but the highest tides by means of a low embankment, a network of two drains and a wooden tidal sluice.

The drains were a simple network of two channels with a layer of brushwood in the base to encourage drainage. A brushwood filling would be very effective and long lasting as the wood would not perish in permanently wet conditions. <sup>38</sup> The drainage channel would be backfilled with soil. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century such saltings provided a summer meadow for pasture. <sup>39</sup>

**Figure 13. Saltings in 2013.**



This aerial view shows the small area of saltings enclosed by a low embankment. The embankment has been breached in several places, so is now flooded by most tides.

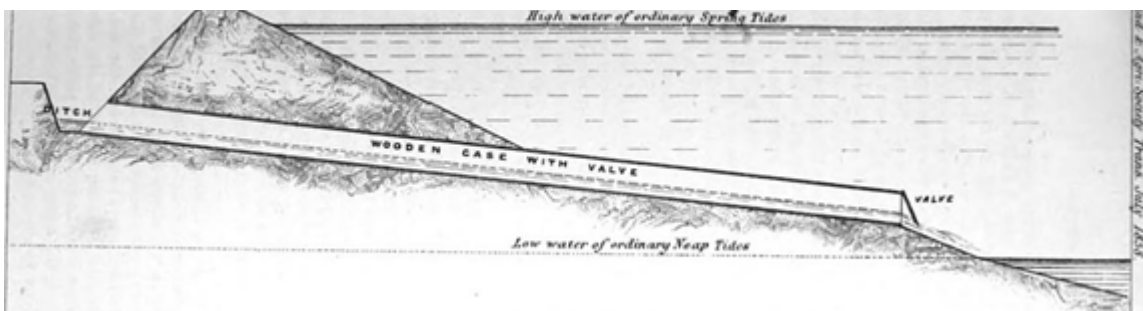
The two drainage channels form a Y-shape. The right hand channel follows the line of the hedgerow bordering the main embankment on the right hand side of the photograph while the left hand one runs inside the edge of the embankment along the river Black Devon. The two drainage channels lead to a tidal sluice (NS 8996390610).

© Google Earth 2016

This was a simple wooden box buried under the embankment. The landward end connected to the drainage channel and the seaward end emptied into the river. A wooden flap valve on the seaward end allowed drainage water to flow into the river at low tide and prevented water from the river flowing back into the drainage channel when the tide came in.<sup>40</sup>

The illustration below shows a typical tidal drain in use in the Carse area of the Inner Forth in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>41</sup> Such a system would allow water to drain out of the inner field ditch for about two hours at low tide.

**Figure 14. Illustration of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Tidal Drainage System.**



© Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society, 1859 (By Google)



The landward end of the sluice box was protected by a number of small wooden stakes.

**Figure 16. Sluice box under mudflat.**



The wooden box was buried under the embankment and part of the mud flats. The seaward end of the box was protected by two sets of vertical stakes driven into the mudflats. The lower set protected it from the river flow and the outgoing tide and the higher from the incoming tide.

**Figure 15. Landward end of sluice box.**



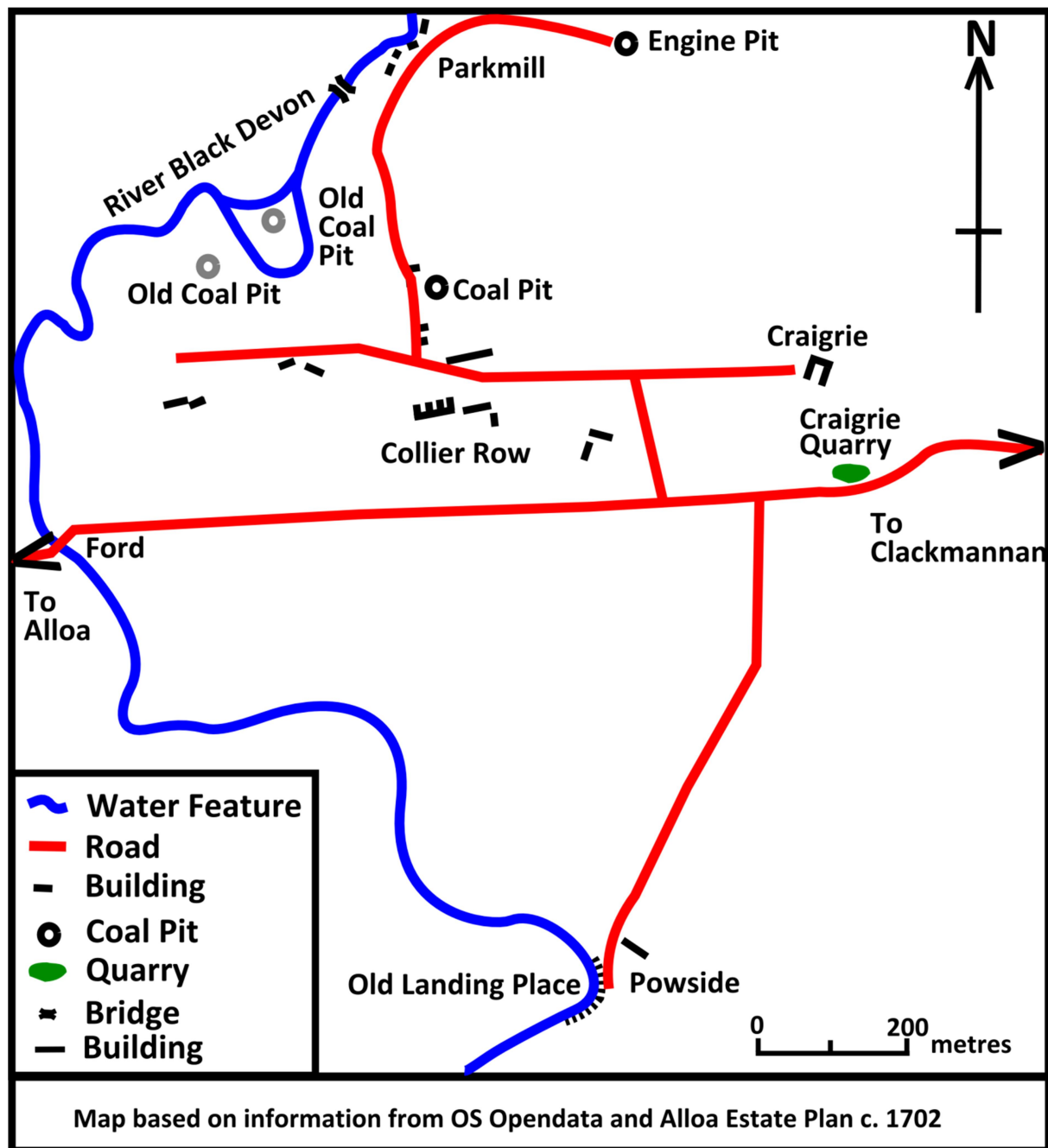
**Figure 17. Seaward end of sluice box.**



This type of box was in common use on the East Coast of Scotland, as illustrated in a report on the Ythan River in Aberdeenshire.<sup>42</sup> The Ferryton embankment would have had an impact on the three fields, allowing at least some areas of pasture if not cultivation. It would also have allowed access to parts of the Eastfield and the Westfield to work the coal seams under them. The Bruce family of Clackmannan were working coal at Clackmannan as early as 1599.<sup>43</sup>

An estate map drawn for the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Mar c.1702 shows a mix of farm buildings, cottages and "Colliers' Rows" on Eastfield and the Westfield.<sup>44</sup> It also shows two abandoned coal pits on the Westfield and an active coal pit and water powered "Engine Pit" on the Eastfield. There are references to the Craigrie Quarry in the Erskine family papers of 1711, where the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Mar noted that he has agreed access to stone from the Craigrie quarry for improvements to his estate.<sup>45</sup> Apart from Powside, there are no settlements known at his time in the Southfield.

Figure 18. The Three Fields c. 1702.



Some parts of the road network shown are still in use and some are visible as crop marks on aerial photographs.<sup>46</sup>

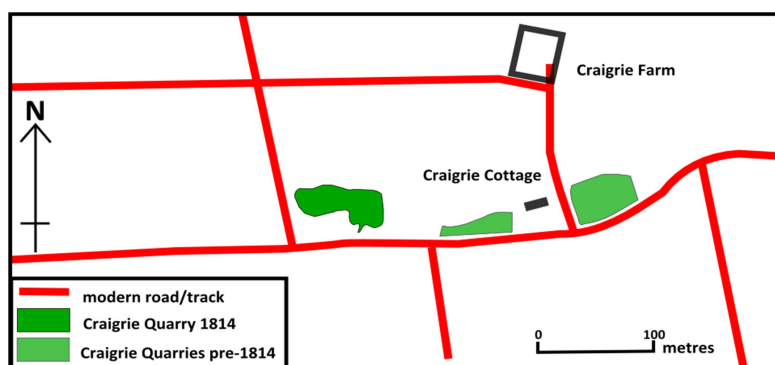
## The Three Fields in the Second Half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

Roy's map of 1745-47 shows the Eastfield and the Westfield as areas of cultivation with some saltmarsh and the Southfield as mainly saltmarsh. <sup>47</sup> By this time the mines in the Westfield had been abandoned <sup>48</sup> and in 1765 the Alloa Cherry and Alloa Splint coals in Southfield were being worked to the East. <sup>49</sup> In 1776 a horse drawn wooden waggonway connected the pits to the landing place at Powside and two new piers further down the Black Devon. <sup>50</sup> The waggonway took advantage of a new embankment which had been constructed to help reclaim land on the Park farm. <sup>51</sup>

By this time the first, long, L-shaped row at what was to become Westfield village had been built. The Ordnance Survey Name Book of 1861 notes that this row had originally been built to house workers at Craigrie quarry. When the quarry closed, it had been taken over as housing for colliers. <sup>52</sup> By 1796 it was reported that 7,000 tons of coal were being exported to Leith, Dunbar, Perth, Montrose and other places. These were taken to the harbour in waggons of a ton and a half, the mean distance from the pits being about three quarters of a mile. <sup>53</sup> During this period more houses were built at the colliers' row next to the Craigrie Quarry, forming a small village of 43 houses in three rows, now named Westfield. <sup>54</sup> In 1800, the Zetland Estate leased the coal and ironstone pits, the colliery waggonway and harbour facilities to the newly formed Clackmannan Coal Company. <sup>55</sup>

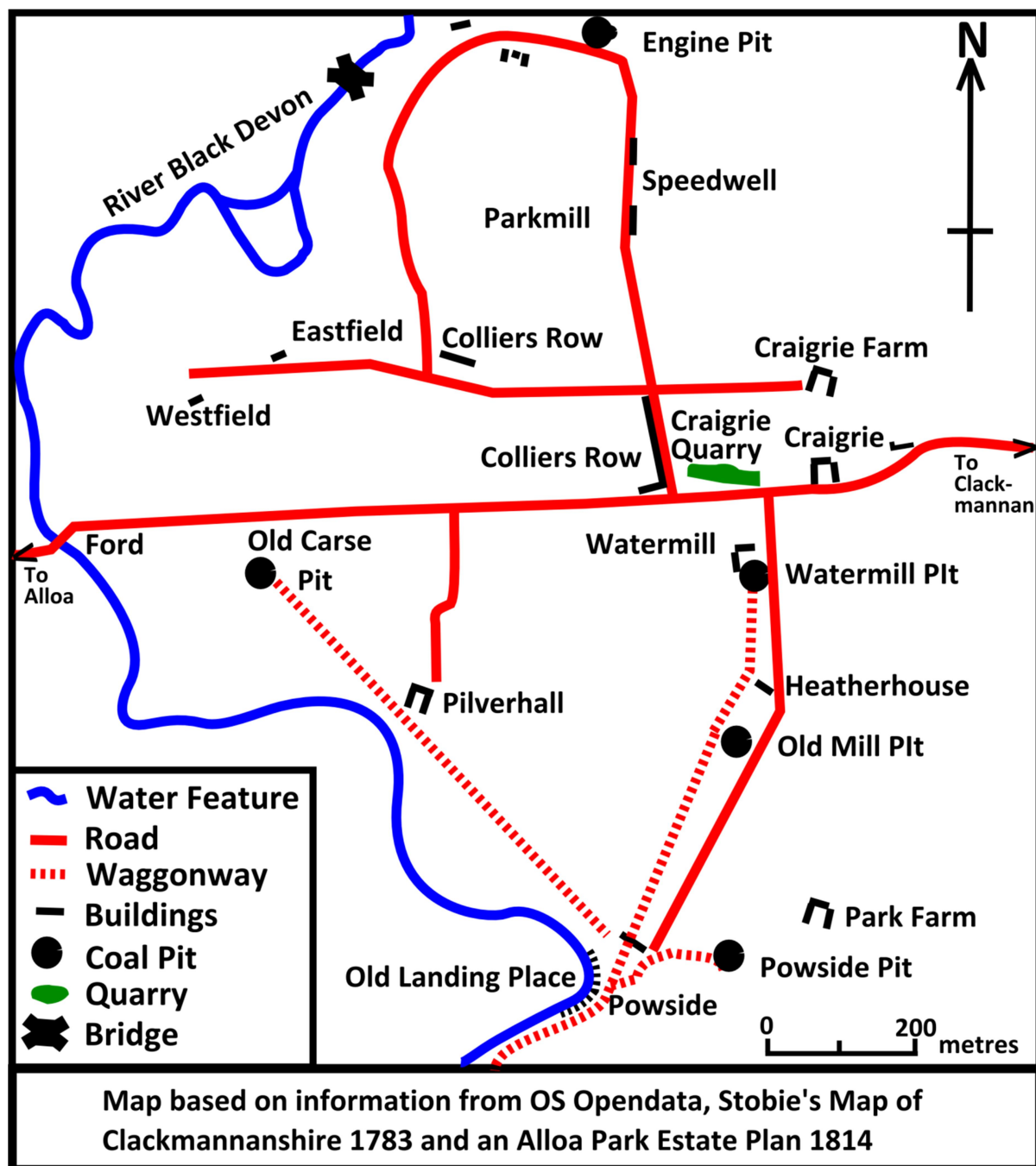
By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the number of buildings on the three fields had decreased. There were small farm settlements at Eastfield and Westfield and four colliers' rows; one at Eastfield, one next to the Craigrie quarry and two at Speedwell. Three farms are shown; Craigrie, Pilverhall and Park together with small settlements at Craigrie, Watermill, Heatherhouse and Powside. There were now several pits on the South field.

**Figure 19. The Craigrie Quarries.**



In 1800 there was an active quarry at the Craigrie. <sup>56</sup> There are traces of two older quarries to the East of the main quarry on later Ordnance Survey maps. <sup>57</sup>

Figure 20. The Three Fields, 1783-1814:



By the end of this period, changes in the pattern of farming meant that the older method of communal working of open land by a scattering of small “fairm toons” (farm towns) was being replaced by a much smaller number of large farms surrounded by enclosed fields.<sup>58</sup> Similarly, the pattern of mining had changed, with extended water-powered drainage permitting deeper workings. These changes had major consequences for the distribution of population in the three fields. The Craigrie quarry had worked intermittently, eventually being extended to the West.

## Westfield Village in the 19th Century:

Mining continued to develop in the first 40 years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By 1831 the Clackmannan waggonway had been extended northwards, at least as far as Hillend pit.<sup>59</sup> In 1832 the Clackmannan waggonway had been extended southwards again along another new embankment to the banks of the river Forth where a substantial pier had been built to accommodate larger ships.<sup>60</sup> In 1793 the Devon Iron Works had been established near the present village of Fishcross,<sup>61</sup> creating a considerable demand for coal and ironstone.<sup>62</sup> By 1839 the Clackmannan waggonway had been connected to a private waggonway built by the Devon Iron Company to link their iron works to the Clackmannan coal and ironstone pits and the harbour at Clackmannan Pier.<sup>63</sup>

The 1841 census return for the village of Westfield shows that there were 43 houses, all occupied, accommodating 213 people.<sup>64</sup> There were 119 adults and 74 children, under 13 years of age. Forty five people were shown as being in employment, only one of whom was a woman (a farm labourer). Of the 44 men, 35 worked in the coal pits, five worked in the stone quarry, two were general labourers, and there was a stock dealer, a schoolmaster and a man of independent means (which might indicate that he had some form of pension). Of the 63 adult women, only one was shown as being in employment.

The Second Statistical Account of Clackmannan<sup>65</sup> in 1841 notes that the population of the parish had increased substantially in the period 1755 -1841 (1755 = 1,913, 1791 = 2,528, 1831 = 4266 and 1841 = 5,159) and that most of the increase has been due to the extension of coal working. By then more than three fourths of the population in the parish derived a living from the collieries and industries associated with them. Coal was the fuel used by all classes of people, priced at about 6s (£0.30) per ton and collier families had a free supply. The Account noted that "*There is an extensive quarry about half a mile south west of the village of Clackmannan, owned by the Earl of Zetland producing light-coloured, hard and durable sandstone*".<sup>66</sup> A map of 1845 shows two quarries; one at Craigrie and one at Westfield, both abandoned and water-filled.<sup>67</sup>

A map of 1848<sup>68</sup> shows the village of Westfield now dominating the area of the three fields, with only Parkmill, Speedwell and Powside still being occupied. All of the other settlements in Eastfield and Westfield had been abandoned. The map also shows small settlements at Craigrie, Watermill, Heatherhouse and Powside and large farms at Craigrie and Park. Pilverhall farm in the South field is no longer shown.



Figure 21. Westfield 1848:

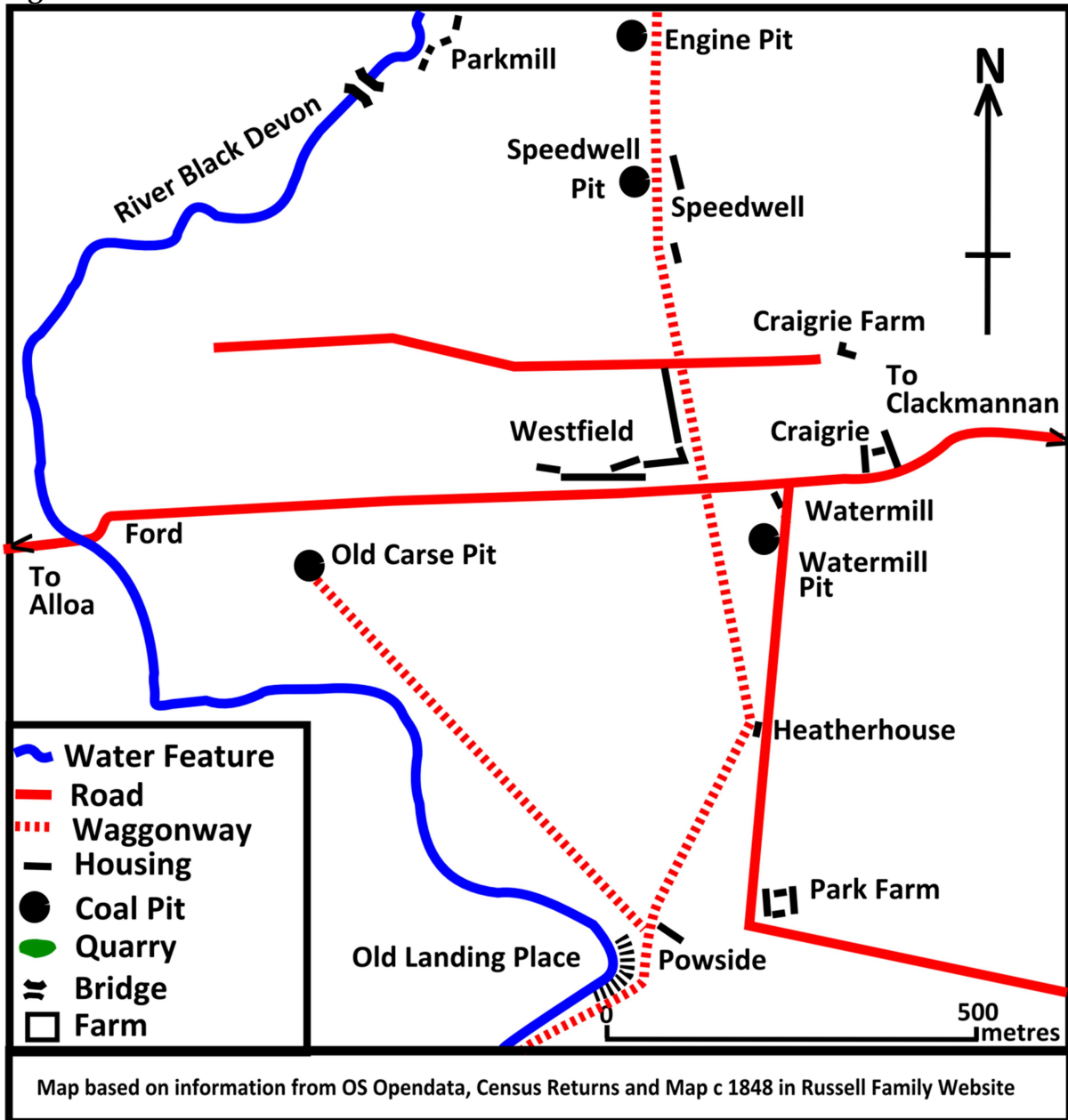
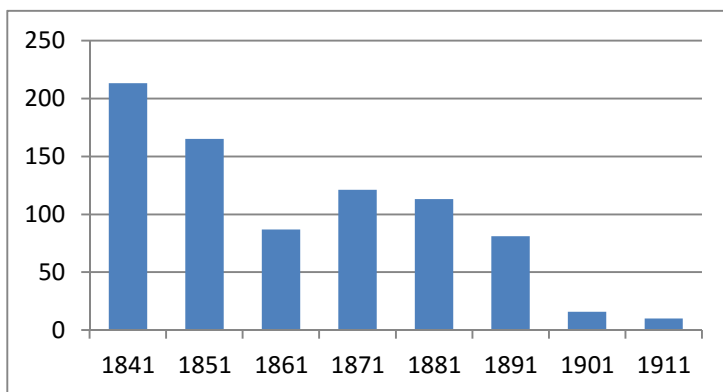


Figure 22. Population of Westfield, 1841-1911

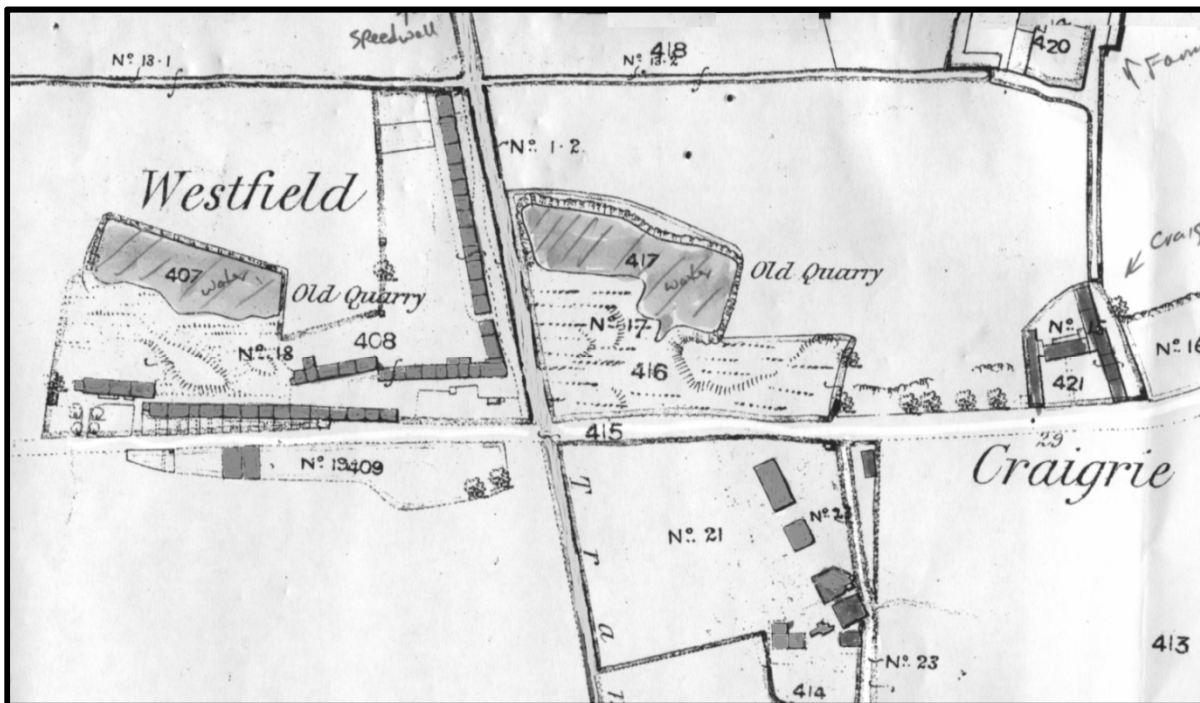


The census returns for the area show that the only houses occupied in the three fields were at Parkmill, Westfield, Speedwell and Powside. The village of Westfield was at its height in 1841 and then declined, with a small recovery in 1871.



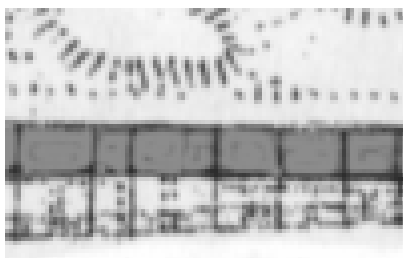
We are fortunate to have a very detailed map of Westfield in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. The first is from the website of the Russell Family. <sup>69</sup> This map is unfortunately not attributed as to its authorship, but appears to be an earlier and more detailed version of the first edition of the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of the area. It shows the village at its maximum development with 43 houses in several rows or “tenements”. From a description in a report on housing in the Glasgow Herald, in 1875, it would appear that these were in three main groups, known as the Long Row (nearest Clackmannan village and the first to be built), the Middle Row and the Low Row (last to be built). The map shows both the Craigrie quarry and the later Westfield quarry as being disused and filled with water.

**Figure 23. The Village of Westfield, c. 1845:**



© Unattributed Source, Russell Family Website, 2003.

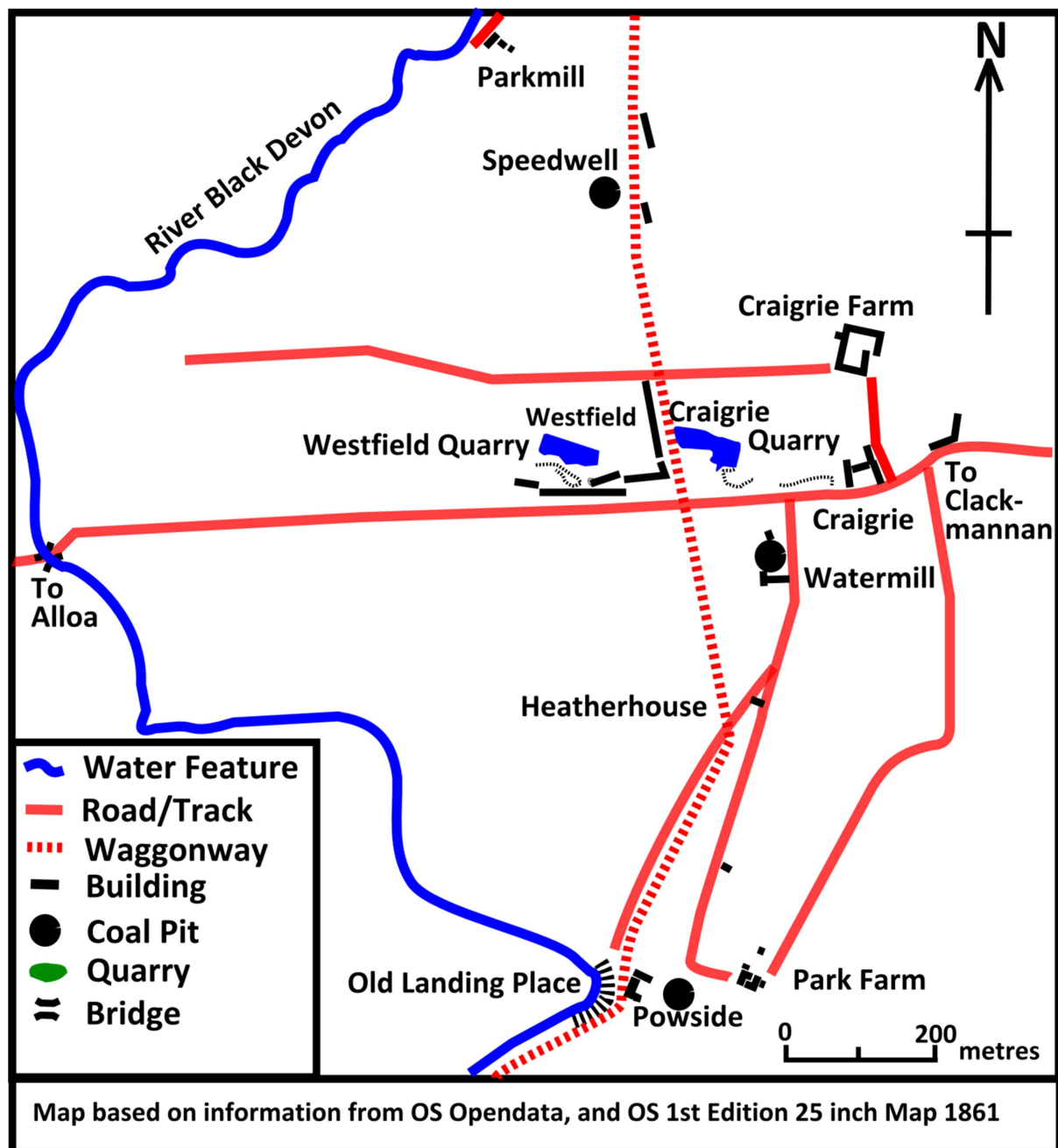
**Figure 24. Westfield 1848:**



The map shows these houses in considerable detail, indicating that some of the houses in the Low Row had front gardens and paths, unlike all of the other houses in Westfield.

© Unattributed Source, Russell Family Website, 2003.

Figure 25. Westfield 1861:



The period 1840 to 1900 is one of the best documented times. As well as very detailed maps from the Ordnance Survey, there were census returns for each decade, the Second Statistical Account, reports from Commissions on working conditions, housing, education and health as well as numerous references from national and local papers.

## Living Conditions.

Coal miners and salters (workers in the saltpans) in Scotland had for centuries been slave labour. In 1606 the Scottish parliament passed an Act which bound them to their owners. It also enabled owners to claim anyone who was declared a “*vagabond or sturdy beggar*” (not gainfully employed but fit to work) <sup>70</sup> A further Act of 1641 extended servitude to include other workers in the mines and forced the colliers to work six days a week. Even the 1701 “Habeas Corpus Act “of Scotland <sup>71</sup> was not extended to them. Servitude was eased in 1775 <sup>72</sup> when Parliament passed an act to offer some freedom to colliers, coal bearers and salters (those under 21 immediately, those aged between 21 and 34 after 10 years, those aged between 35 and 45 after 7 years and those over 45 after 3 years). However, it was not until 1799 that this servitude was finally ended. <sup>73</sup> Even after that date, colliers and their families were often tied by contract to a particular pit. As a result, mining families were often bound to a particular mine owner and lived in tied housing. The colliers were provided with a supply of coal. The importance of this for heating and cooking is underlined by a letter which was sent to a mine manager close to Clackmannan: Saturday 30th May, 1840 - “*Sir, all my three children is working in the work, and a have no fire to mak their meat, and, Sir, you must give me some Fire Coal to mak their meat or else a must stel them, but this is to let you know before a doso.*” <sup>74</sup>

Colliers’ houses were located close to the pits where they worked as, until 1841, men and women and young children all worked together underground in the pit. These houses were meant to be temporary and were very basic, single room dwellings, usually in a row. The rows were built directly on top of the soil and sometimes, below the level of it. The primitive housing had no damp course and the houses were always damp, as the account below records. <sup>75</sup>

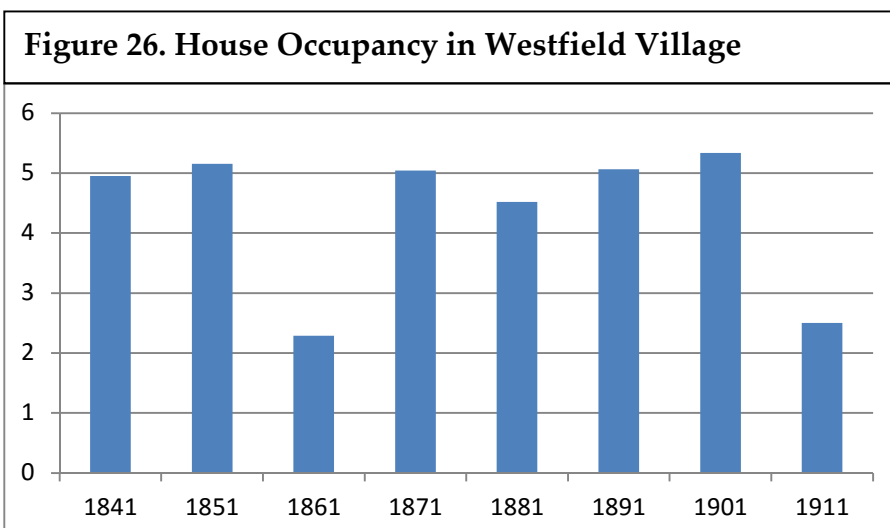
*“Leaving the Pottery, I proceeded next to Westfield, where there are three rows – the Long Row, the Middle Row, and the Low Row, consisting of between thirty and forty in all. Taking them in this order, we go into the first house in the Long Row, a room and kitchen. Fires are lighted in both apartments, and on the hearth-stone of the room the woman of the house has placed two trunks with the lids thrown open in order to dry the clothes which they contain. This she requires to do every other day; and the contents of the boxes are often quite moist. The room beds are placed against the back walls, and as the ground outside is above the level of the floor it is not surprising that the sleeping places are damp. In the next house the kitchen is very damp, and the room altogether deserted. The neighbours have pretty much the same story to tell, and at the end of the row several of the tenements are unoccupied.*

The middle row houses are a shade better than those we have left. They are on a better level and therefore less liable to damp. The low row is, however, the worst of the three, the houses being all unhealthy during wet weather, and more or less so even when the sky is bright. In one of them the tenant found it necessary to remove her room furniture to prevent it from being destroyed, and in another a piece of sacking laid in front of the room fire is quite black with damp. Here there are no fewer than ten persons living in a small room and kitchen.

There is no regular water supply for the village, but Mr Allan, a neighbouring farmer, kindly allows the people to help themselves from his well. In summer this permission is often necessarily withdrawn, and then the villagers go to Wellmyre, fully half a mile away, where good spring water is obtained."

Given the difficulty of obtaining fresh water, residents of Westfield often went to great lengths to obtain a supply, sometimes with awful results. "Thursday 05 May 1870 - On Sunday afternoon a little girl named Fife living at Westfield Clackmannan, was drowned in a quarry hole there. She had gone to the place to get a pitcher of water and fell in, and no one being at hand to help her, she perished".<sup>76</sup> The lack of fresh water and any form of proper sanitation was a major problem and there were many outbreaks of disease associated with it. In May 1832 there was an extremely serious outbreak of cholera in Clackmannan Parish, with 43 individuals affected, of whom 14 died. The number of people affected in Clackmannan Parish accounted for some 40% of the total cases in Scotland at that time.<sup>77</sup> In February of 1849 there was another outbreak of cholera in Clackmannanshire and five deaths in Clackmannan and Westfield.<sup>78</sup>

The miner's single room cottages were generally overcrowded. Average occupancy over the period 1841 to 1911 was consistently at the 5 mark, other than 1861 where the availability of more empty houses reduced this.<sup>79</sup>



Poverty and excessive drinking often went hand in hand. *“Saturday 24 May 1862, Shameful Conduct - On Monday last a woman from Westfield, who had been deputed to receive the respective weekly allowances from the Inspector of the Poor, of a number of the paupers living in that locality, having receive the money, amounting to some 22 shillings, went and made herself drunk and lost or squandered the whole of it.”*<sup>80</sup> Relationships were sometimes strained. *“Wednesday 23 January, Breach of the Peace – Marjory Hunter or Love and Mary Penman or Johnston, both residing at Westfield, Clackmannan, were charged with having, late on the 24<sup>th</sup> or early on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> April, committed a breach of the peace at Westfield, by cursing, swearing and using abusive language...”*<sup>81</sup>

Agricultural workers were not bound by the same legislative process as colliers, coal bearers and salters. However, the agricultural improvements which transformed the farming landscape in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries impacted on them. There were forty fewer farms in the Parish of Clackmannan in 1794 than there had been twenty years previously.<sup>82</sup> The replacement of small scattered farms by larger farms displaced many families from their homes.

### **Working Conditions:**

Working conditions in a coal mine in Scotland have never been easy, but in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, they could only be described as dire. In the Inner Forth coal pits, coal was cut as “Great or Sea Coal” into large slabs for export.<sup>83</sup> Mining families worked as a team. Men and older boys worked as “coal hewers”, cutting the coal at the working face. Younger boys worked as drawers, moving the slabs of coal from the face to a roadway going to the shaft bottom. Young girls and boys worked as “putters”, dragging wooden sledges and later, hutches, with several slabs of coal to the bottom of the shaft. When wheeled hutches were introduced they were easier to move and the task of hauling them was given to even younger children than had moved the sledges. As the seams in the Clackmannan coalfield slope at a gradient of one in six<sup>84</sup> and access shafts were usually at the highest part of the seam, hauling coals in sledges or in a hutch was a very arduous task. Women bearers were responsible for carrying the coal to the surface.<sup>85</sup> In addition, many of the seams were less than five feet in height, making working conditions cramped.<sup>86</sup>

In 1815 Robert Bald, a mining engineer who campaigned for the emancipation of women and children, described the work of colliers and the bearers still employed in carrying coals in the Alloa Colliery. He stated that the colliers (men and older boys) would leave home at 11.00 pm and start hewing coal into large pieces (great or sea coal) weighing about 2 cwts (102 kg). Women and younger children would leave

about three hours later. The coals were carried up shafts to the surface by women bearers. Two men would help place a basket on their backs and then they would climb a series of six foot ladders up to the surface, carry the coal to the coal hill and stack it there. At that time colliers worked five days a week and 10 – 12 hours a day.<sup>87</sup> A Commission of Enquiry was set up in 1842 in response to concerns about working conditions in the coal mines.<sup>88</sup> Below are some of the statements from employees of the Devon Iron Company, who worked the Clackmannan pits in partnership with the Clackmannan Coal Company.<sup>89</sup>

*No. 307 - Joseph Sharp, 12 years old, hewer:- Wrought three years in the mines; usual hours three in morning till two and three in the day; works with one brother and sister; all work on father's account; he is a reddsman [road-maker]; brother Adam is 16 years old and wrought eight years below; sister Agnes is 18 past and been more than eight years in the pit; we take 30s. in the 11 days for our own work; can all read and father gives us a lesson at the writing when we home early. [Reads well and can shape a few letters; scarcely write his own name.]*

*No. 308 - Robert Hunter, 17 years old, hewer:- Been five years below; works 12 hours daily, sometimes less; is wrought on father's account; has done nothing at school since down; can read. [Reads, cannot write; dull.]*

*No. 309 - Mary Patterson Blackwood, 17 years old, putter:- I have wrought eight years and a half below; the work is very great sore, as there is a great deal of water in the pit; few girls like the work but when taken down early are fit for no other; we cease to gang below so soon as we get married; I can read - [reads well]; never did any at the writing but do the stockings [knits] and do them below while I am waiting my turn for the coals to be drawn; many lassies do so but very few sew any. [Intelligent girl and good knowledge of Scripture.]*

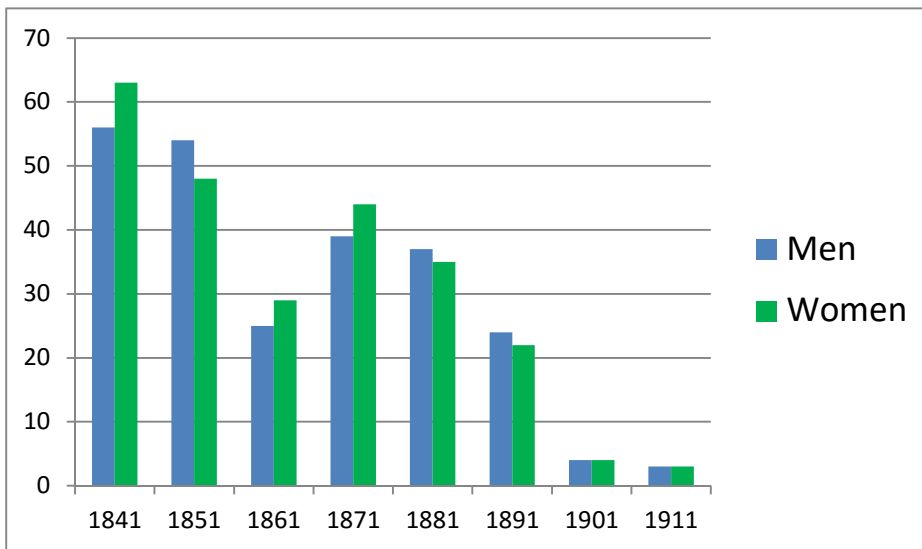
*No. 310 - Ann P. Francis, 14 years old, putter:- Began to work when eight and a half years of age; not been to school much since; can only read. as have never been wrought at the writing; I wheel the carts, which hold 7cwt. to 8cwt. coal it is very ill sort of work, as we have to put four pins in the wheels, to lessen the rapidity of the movement, as the brae is very steep and the carts often peel my legs [take the skin off]; never very long laid idle. [Reads very well; knows the English Catechism well; attends the Episcopal Church, Alloa, regularly.]*

*No. 311 - Mary Hunter, 12 years old, putter:- Worked four years in the coal-mine; works 10 hours, six morning till four and five at night; knits and can read; makes stockings for brothers and granny; does not go to any school but granny teaches me when home.*

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Life for a collier's family was extremely hard. The 1841 census of Westfield shows that of a working population of 146 (11 years and over), only 3 men and 4 women were over 50 years of age. In 1851 and 1861 there was only one person over the age of 50. In 1841, just before the Commission into the employment of women and children in the mine was reporting, the population figures from the census<sup>90</sup> reveal a very large proportion of the population of the village of Westfield was very young.



Forty percent was under the age of 11. This type of population curve suggests a very big attrition of numbers at an early age. Young people did not survive to grow old.

The Mines and Collieries Bill was hastily passed by Parliament in 1842.<sup>91</sup> The Act prohibited all underground work for women and girls, and for boys under 10. In the Clackmannan Coal Companies mines the law was regularly ignored by the colliery manager and workers.

A trial was heard in Alloa Sherriff Court where the Sherriff stated that *“Trial under Lord Ashley’s Act - In the coal mines of Clackmannanshire, the women wrought as wheelers to the workmen, who, it appears, both employed and paid them, and the defendant in this case was charged with having employed a female in the month of June last, underground, and in violation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Section of the Act....”*. The manager of the Clackmannan Coal Company had been charged previously under the Act, but successfully argued that it was the workmen who employed the women and he did not know about it. The collier was found guilty, and sentenced to pay £5 with £3.2s costs or be imprisoned for a calendar month.<sup>92</sup>

The removal of women and children from underground working was not without its difficulties. There was debate in Parliament regarding petitions to amend the Mine and Colliery Act, which was passed in 1842 with 1<sup>st</sup> March 1843 (8 months later) to allow proprietors time to make alternative arrangements for drawing coals and women to find alternative employment. "There has been in Scotland another class of proprietors who, on the passing of the Act formed themselves into a confederacy to obstruct its operation in every possible way".<sup>93</sup>

It was reported in the press that the sum of £100 was donated by a lady in England for the relief of women in Scotland who were still suffering from being excluded from working in the pits. Lord Ashley added money of his own and it was disbursed to four parishes in Scotland, one of which was Clackmannan. It was noted that "*The minister of the fourth parish, Clackmannan, very properly retaining the sum sent, until he is satisfied that the females for whom it is meant have ceased to work below ground*".<sup>94</sup>

At the same time there was a growing unrest regarding the earnings of colliers. Dunfermline, Thursday 18 August 1842 - "*Everything is in a state of quietness in the town, indeed the strong military force which is now stationed with us will effectually prevent further outbreak. There was an immense meeting of colliers (2,000) yesterday at a neighbouring village, at which they resolved to work for fourteen days at the present wages, but unless they then got an advance, there would be a strike over the whole of Scotland. The meeting was composed of colliers from all the collieries in this quarter, and from Clackmannan, Stirling and the neighbouring counties. Everything was done quietly and there was no breach of the peace.*"<sup>95</sup>

Alloa, August 17 1842 - "*The greater portion of the colliers in Clackmannan have struck work. Some of the masters of these works resolved on making an example of the supposed ringleaders of the strike, and, accordingly, several police and other officers were sent last night (Wednesday) to apprehend the; but whenever they made their appearance, and their purpose seen into, they were set upon by a mob, mostly women and boys, who gave the officers a most severe handling. One officer is lying dangerously wounded about the head, another got three of his ribs driven from the backbone. Report says that military have been sent for.*"<sup>96</sup>

Coalsnaughton, Saturday 07 October 1843 - "*Miners of Clackmannanshire met in the Working men's Hall in Coalsnaughton and agreed to join the Miners Association of Great Britain and Ireland and send a delegate to the national meeting.*"<sup>97</sup>

Clackmannan miners refused to join a national strike although severe conditions were being proposed. In terms of tonnage – owners were looking for a volume of coal, for which they paid as a "ton". This could be from 25% to 50% on top of the weight, so miners were being paid a ton rate for mining 24 cwts up to 30 cwts.

Miners were to be charged 9d a day for offtakes – purchasing goods from the colliery owner. A 4 ½ day week was to be imposed and wages would be about 18s a week which represented a reduction of about 20%.<sup>98</sup>

The Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1860 improved safety rules and raised the age limit for boys working underground to age 12.<sup>99</sup> Even after safety had been slightly improved, there were still many serious and fatal accidents in the collieries at Clackmannan. The most common accidents were caused by workers falling into shafts or being caught up in machinery or equipment, flooding from old workings and roof falls.

27 November 1820: *“On Friday last week a boy aged 12 years of age, while handing in pit wood into the bucket at the mouth of one of the above pits, lost his balance, and fell down the put, a depth of 23 fathoms, The unfortunate young man was found quite lifeless, with his neck dislocated and his body shockingly mangled.”*<sup>100</sup>

Thursday 10 February 1842: *“Daniell McAinsh, who was employed in one of the coal pits in the neighbourhood, was assisting some of the workmen at the engine when he was struck by a wheel which precipitated him against a wall. He had his skull fractured and other parts of his body so mangled that he died instantaneously.”*<sup>101</sup>

Thursday 22 April 1852: *“An accident occurred at one of the pits of the Craigrie colliery, by which a man named Thomas King, a miner near Clackmannan, lost his life. The pit in which the accident happened is newly sunk and for the last week or two the deceased, along with two other men, had been engaged in driving a mine from the pit bottom. A large quantity of water burst in upon the men from, as is supposed, an old waste which was not known, and the pit was immediately filled to a depth of six or seven fathoms. The three men, however, after considerable struggling in the water, managed to lay hold of a bell rope suspended from the top of the pit for the purpose of giving signals. The noise of rushing water being heard at the pit head, a bucket was immediately sent down. The bucket struck King on the head, and he lost his hold on the rope. He was never seen alive again.”* Amazingly, despite the bucket plunging to the bottom of the shaft, the other two men managed to climb into the bucket as it was raised and were rescued. Thomas is listed in the 1851 census of Westfield, living with his wife Jean and daughter, Elizabeth.<sup>102</sup>

12th January 1876: *“Francis Love, 17 years of age, killed in a Clackmannan Pit when a stone weighing 30 cwts fell on top of him.”*<sup>103</sup>

## Migration:

The first detailed indication of where people living in Westfield village had been born comes with the census records in 1841. In that year there were 213 people living in Westfield of whom all but 5 indicated that they had been born in Clackmannanshire. The records for subsequent census returns are more detailed. Comparing the records for 1851 and 1871, they are remarkably similar, with about 25 per cent of the residents having been born outside of Clackmannan or Westfield, a considerable increase from 1841.

**Figure 28. Percentage Birth Places for Westfield.**

	1851	1871
Clackmannan	50	58
Westfield	24	19
Other Parishes in Clackmannanshire	7	7
<u>Outside Clackmannanshire</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>

Despite the ability of colliers to move about since the 1799 Act, most of the families living in Westfield village were born very locally. In 1851 and 1871 less than one in four in had been born outside Clackmannanshire. This is reflected in the prevalence in the census returns of names such as Hunter, Russell, Sharpe, White and Fife.

## Emigration:

Many collier families emigrated from Westfield in the mid-19th century. Some went to Canada. Jane Hunter was born and brought up in Westfield and married William Drummond Gordon, from Saline.<sup>104</sup> William became a grocer, coal griever and finally harbour master at Clackmannan Pow.<sup>105</sup> Their children, Thomas Drummond Gordon, Helen Sharp Gordon, Margaret Hunter, Drummond Gordon and William Drummond Gordon all went to British Columbia.<sup>106</sup>

**Figure 29. Jane Hunter**



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A letter sent from Canada in 1821 was printed in the Stirling Observer and the editor observed that *“None, it will be seen, need leave this country to better their situation, unless they are prepared to labour diligently, and to combat hardships and difficulties.”*<sup>107</sup> In the opinion of the writer and the newspaper editor, emigrating was a means to self-improvement, but not an easy option. (See Appendix 1).

However, by far the largest number of emigrants from Westfield moved to America, mainly Salt Lake City. This movement was associated with missions sent from there by the Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS), known as Mormons in 1839. The arrival of LDS missionaries caused great consternation amongst Scottish churchgoers. In 1842 a Clackmannan mob burned an effigy of LSD founder Joseph Smith Jr.<sup>108</sup> The Mormon Missionary, Elder William Gibson, came to Clackmannan in 1848 and learned that *“the Town Crier had gone through the town with a proclamation to the people telling them to burn the tracts they had got from the Latter-day Saints, for they contained Soul ruining heresy.”*<sup>109</sup>

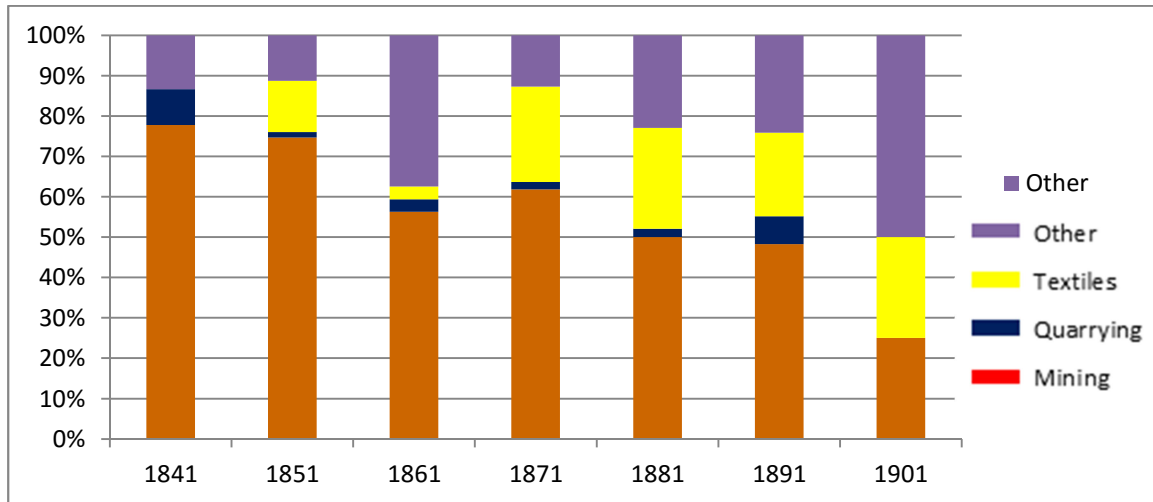
Howard Bennion who visited Clackmannan in 1919 stated that although the great majority of those who joined the Mormon Church in Scotland were the lowly esteemed colliers, the anger of the clergy was stirred and mob action aroused. A Parish Clerk (in Clackmannan) told him this story, *“This is the verra hoose where the Mormons were holdin’ a meetin’ when the mob came and rapped on the door and demanded entrance.”* He went to say that *“Thomas Condie held them talking while the Mormons slid out the back windows and through the fields to Sauchie.”*<sup>110</sup>

The descendants of several families who emigrated to Salt Lake City in Utah have placed details of their journeys and later life on the internet. Abridged details of the journeys of several families are given in Appendix 2.

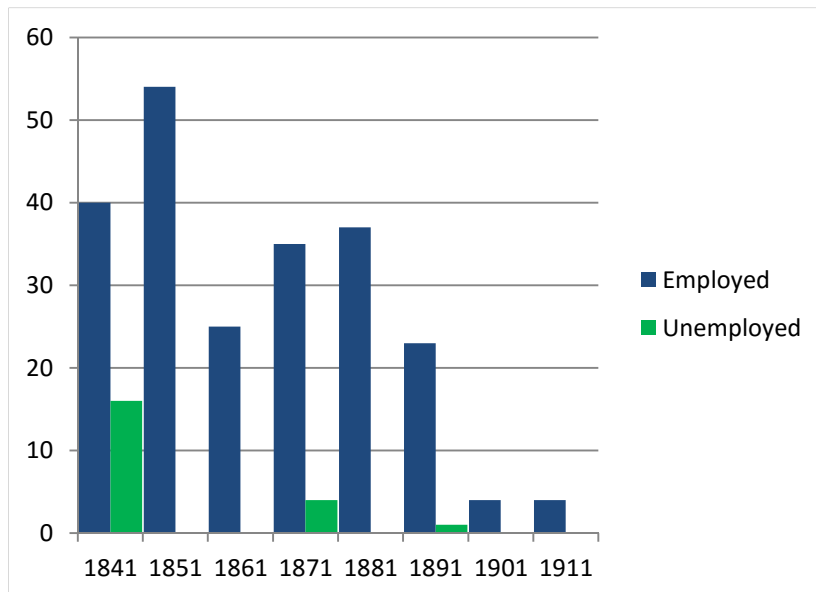
## Occupations:

The census records of Westfield provide an insight into the employment patterns in the village. <sup>111</sup> They show a slow change in occupations over time. The chart below shows the percentage of people employed in mining, quarrying, textiles and other industries from 1841 to 1901 (There were too few people in 1911 to be significant).

**Figure 30. Percentage Employment at Westfield Village, 1841 to 1901.**



**Figure 31. Number of Males Employed at Westfield Village, 1841 to 1901.**



The chart reveals the slow decline of mining, apart from a brief resurgence in 1871; the intermittent employment in quarrying, the growth of textiles and the percentage of “other” reflecting the availability of employment in place of quarrying, mining and textiles.

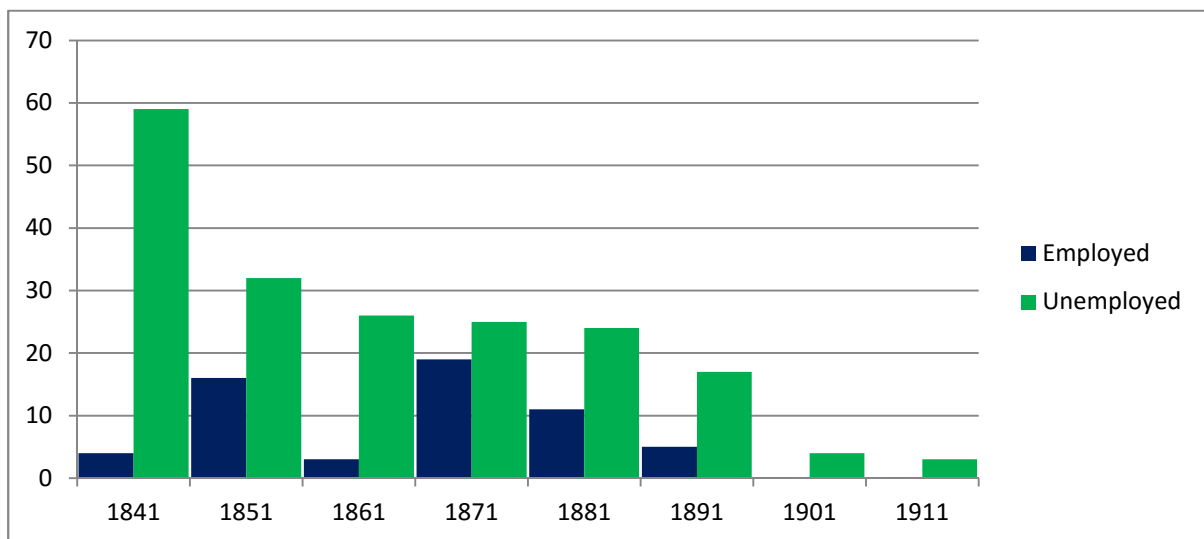
The statistics on male employment and

unemployment during the period 1841 to 1911 show that, with the exception of 1841 the vast majority or all males of working age in Westfield village were in employment during this period.



The blip of male unemployment in 1841 may reflect the closure of a number of coal seams in 1831, when the Five Feet, Nine Feet, Alloa Cherry and Alloa Splint coals were abandoned at Westfield. <sup>112</sup> The slight upsurge in mining jobs in 1851 could reflect the new contract agreed between the Zetland estates and the Clackmannan Coal Company and the Devon Iron Company to mine coal and ironstone in the Clackmannan coalfield. <sup>113</sup> Similarly, the dip in employment in the mines between 1851 and 1861 may be related to the closure of the Devon Iron Works in 1858. <sup>114</sup>

**Figure 32. Number of Females Employed at Westfield Village, 1841 to 1901.**



This picture of male employment contrasts starkly with that of women, where the numbers of women who were unemployed always exceeds that of those in employment. It is likely that after 1841 this is related to the Act banning the employment of women underground in 1842. The fact that only one woman indicated that she was working in 1841 may be related to an unwillingness to admit to working underground in the pits.

The range of occupations of residents at Westfield village from 1841 to 1901 shows a predominant dependence on employment in mining, textile working and quarrying. Although quarrying and mason work is at a very low level, up to 1900 there was always at least one present in every census. There are a scattering of other employments, almost on a random basis.

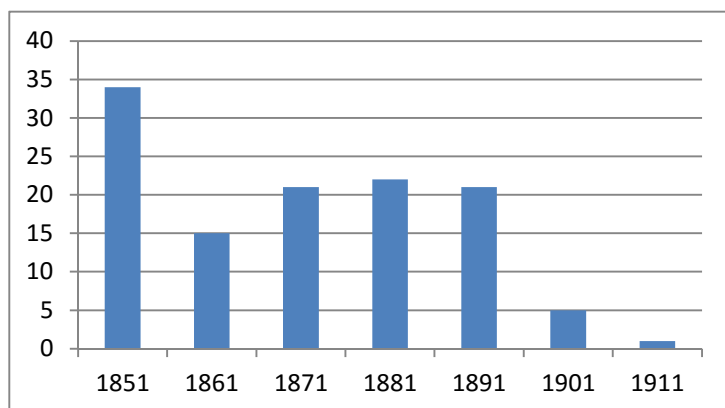
<b>Figure 33. Occupations at Westfield village through the period 1841 to 1901</b>								
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>1891</b>	<b>1901</b>	<b>Total</b>
Coal Worker	33	52	19	32	22	9	1	168
Woollen Factory Worker		9	1	14	12	6	1	43
Quarryman/Mason	4	1	1	1	1	2		10
Engine Keeper	1			2	3	1		7
House Servant		4	2			1		7
Waggoner			1			4		5
Labourer					4			4
Carter			1	1	1			3
Iron Moulder/Turner					2	1		3
Seamstress		2				1		3
Chemical Worker				2				2
Farm Servant	1				1			2
Pottery Worker							2	2
Tailor				1	1			2
Teacher	1	1						2
Baker					1			1
Blacksmith			1					1
Bottle Blower				1				1
Carpenter			1					1
Coal Merchant	1							1
Cooper						1		1
Maltman				1				1
Mercantile Clerk						1		1
Ploughman					1			1
Road Worker				1				1
Stock Dealer	1							1

The availability of work in the woollen mill definitely helped to overcome the decline of work in the pits, especially as it afforded employment to women. Many of the other employments would have required people to travel some distance to their place of work.

## Education:

In 1841 the village of Westfield had a school and schoolmaster's house. The school master's house, garden and coal and the pupils' school fees were guaranteed by the proprietor <sup>115</sup> and the schoolmaster and his family lived in the village. <sup>116</sup> Another teacher is recorded as living in Westfield village in 1851. <sup>117</sup>

**Figure 34. Number of Scholars living at Westfield Village, 1851 to 1911.**



The number of scholars follows a similar pattern to that of the general population. Throughout the period covered by the census returns all young people of 12 and under were listed as scholars. Recently, a note was uncovered in the 19th century Dawson Family Records of

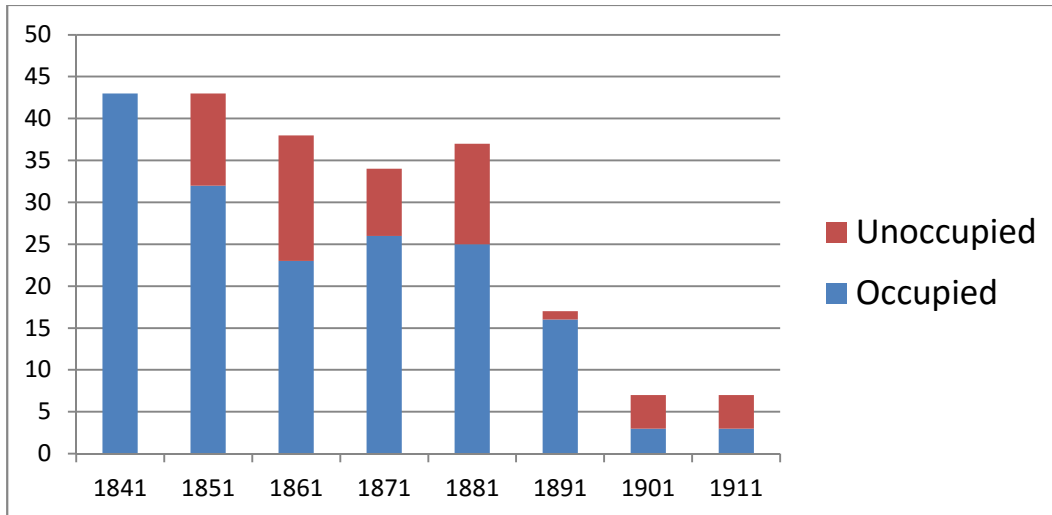
Clackmannan Coal Company of a transaction "*To land Sales, Colliery School*" on the 19th of November, 1863 for £0.16.03p. <sup>118</sup> It is not known when the Westfield colliery school finally closed.

Substantial schools had been built in the town of Clackmannan. In 1823 there was a parochial school in the town of Clackmannan. <sup>119</sup> In 1859 it was reported that "*Clackmannan Examination of Schools - On Wednesday forenoon last, committee of the Presbytery of Stirling, consisting of Messrs Balfour, Brown, Irvine, Smith, and Murray, examined the Parochial School there, taught by Mr Smeaton.*" <sup>120</sup> Also in 1859, it was noted that "*A few years ago, a female school was opened in this village, chiefly through the exertions and instrumentality of the Rev. P. Balfour, minister of the parish, who not only contributed from his own substance, but, by his own money ... September 15, 1859*" <sup>121</sup> In 1877 it was recorded that "*The Female School is taught by Miss Leask, and is supported by Lady Zetland, who gives an annual salary of £20, with the Government grant and the fees. This is a most useful school, and is attended by from 90 to 100 pupils, who, in addition to the ordinary branches are taught sewing, knitting, &c. The Clackmannan and Zetland Schools have now been amalgamated under the joint mastership of Messrs Munro and Masterton.*" <sup>122</sup> By this time it is likely that pupils from Westfield were attending the parochial or 'Zetland' school.

## Decline:

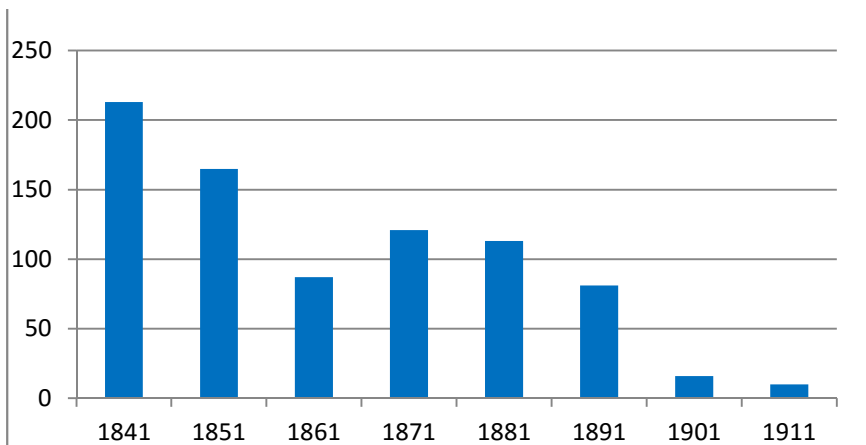
The number of houses in Westfield peaked at 43 in 1841 and then steadily reduced until 1911. <sup>123</sup> The RAF aerial photographs of 1947 show only two small remnants of the Front Row left. <sup>124</sup>

**Figure 35. Number of Houses in Westfield, 1841 to 1911.**



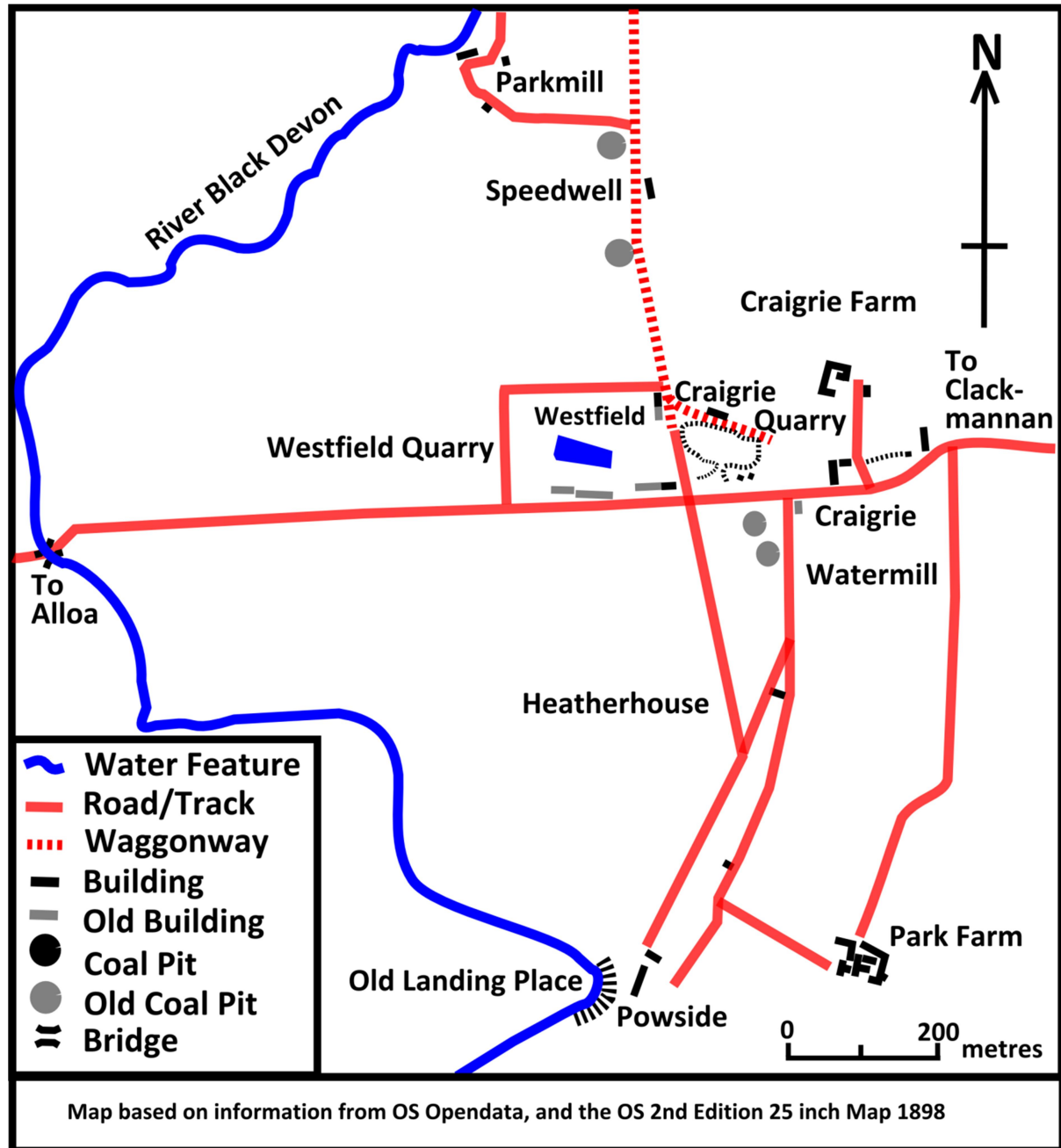
The number of inhabitants shows a similar pattern. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were only one or two families living there. By the early 1960's the last of the houses had been demolished and the last traces of habitation on the Three Fields had gone.

**Figure 36. Number of People in Westfield, 1841 to 1911.**



The following series of maps have been drawn from map and aerial sources to illustrate the changes from 1898 until the present day.

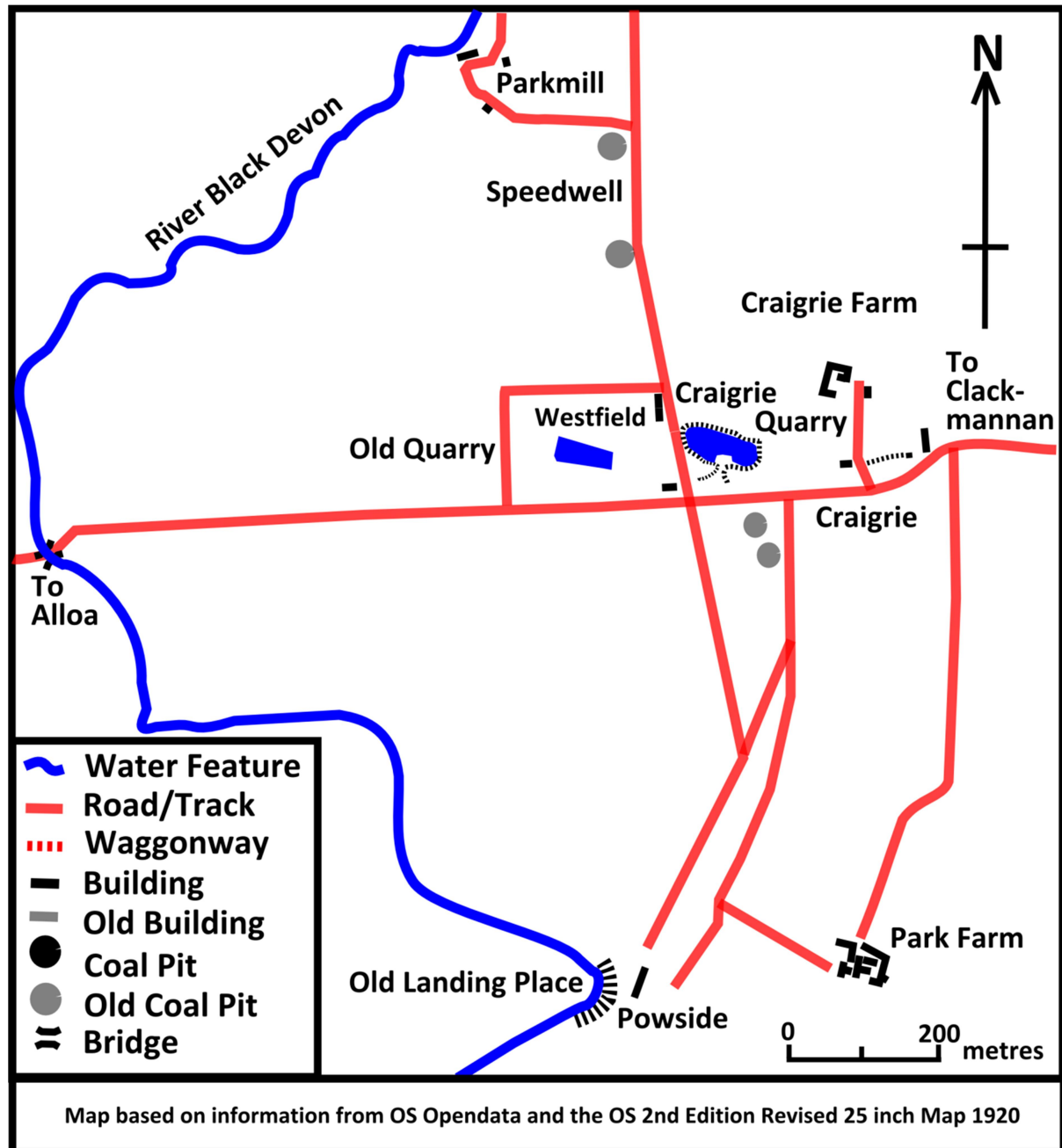
Figure 37. Westfield 1898.



The re-use of part of the old Clackmannan wagonway as a mineral line connecting a re-opened Craigrie Quarry kept the Craigrie quarry and a few houses going. There was still one family living in one of the Speedwell cottages and occupied buildings on the Parkmill site.

It is likely that the Clackmannan waggonway was finally abandoned c 1900 following a series of Boards of Enquiry when ships loading coal at Clackmannan harbour foundered at sea <sup>125</sup> and <sup>126</sup> and several Clackmannan pits were abandoned. <sup>127</sup>

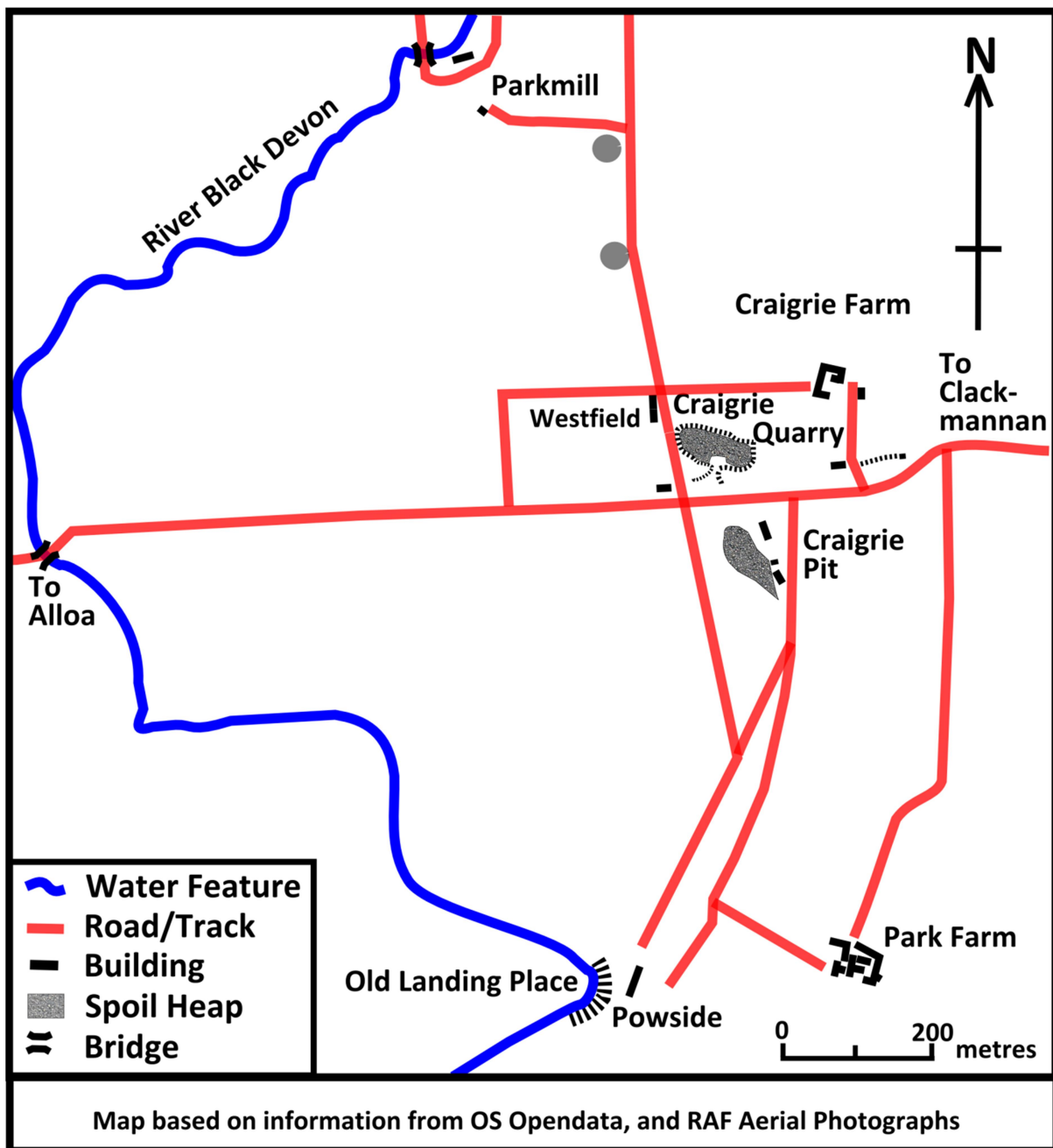
Figure 38. Westfield 1920.



The two quarries of Westfield and Craigrie had been abandoned and are shown as being filled with water. Speedwell cottages had gone but there are still buildings on the Parkmill and Powside sites.

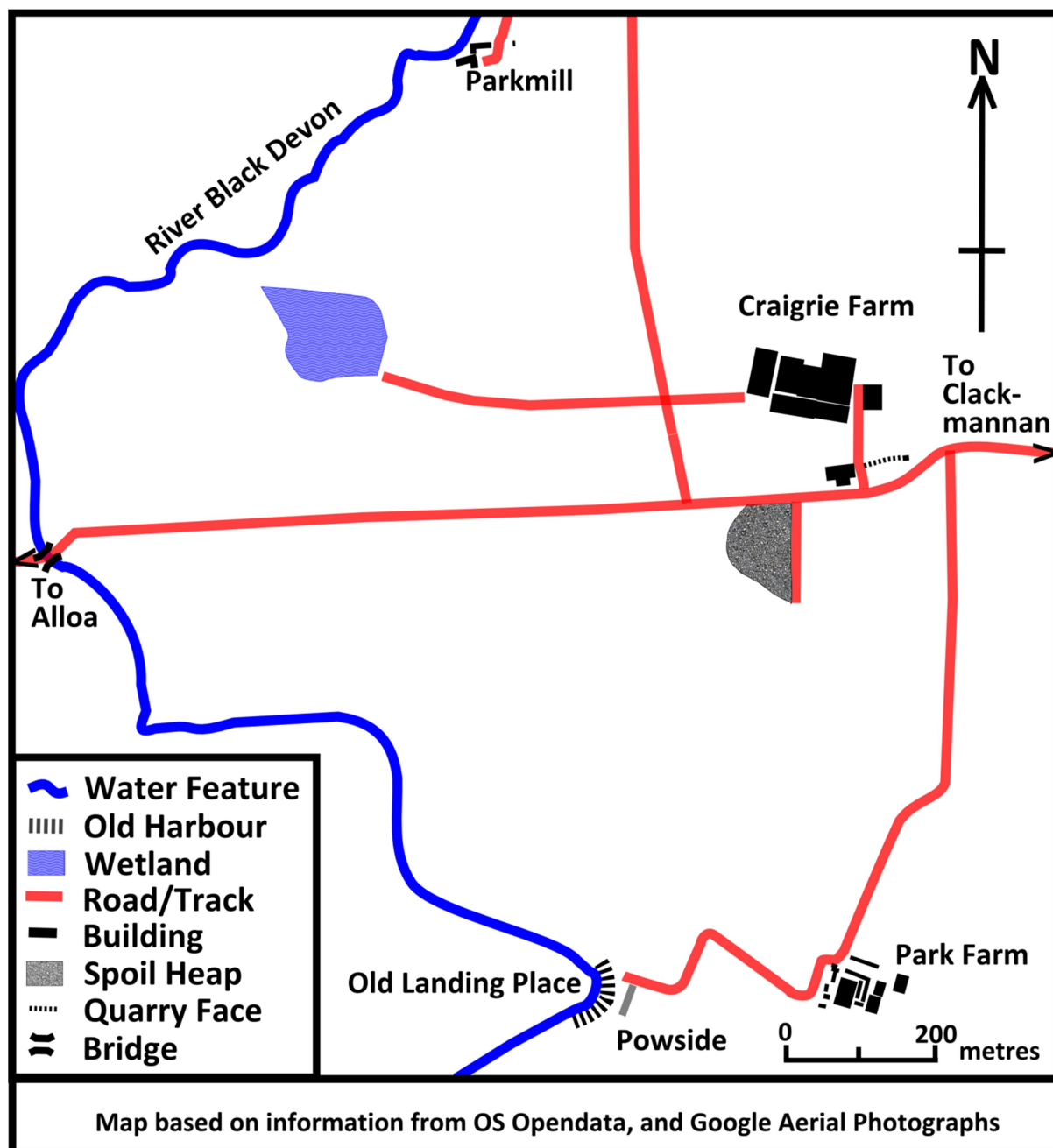


Figure 38. Westfield 1945.



By now, Westfield quarry had been filled in and the Craigie quarry is shown as abandoned, but still an open hole. The Craigie pit is still working, with a large spoil heap being developed. There are still two buildings at Westfield and buildings at Parkmill and Powside.

Figure 39. Westfield 2004.



Today, there is hardly any trace of the former human habitation of the three fields. The only buildings left are the settlement of Parkmill, Craigrie Cottage and the ruined cottages at Powside. All of the land is now worked by the two farms of Craigrie and Park. The Craigrie Quarry was finally filled in with domestic rubbish from the town and surrounding area after the Second World War.<sup>128</sup> Ploughing and land clearance has removed all trace of the other settlements and many of the waggonways and tracks which once crossed the fields have disappeared.

## **Conclusion:**

The Three Fields of Clackmannan; the Eastfield, Westfield and Southfield, have had a long, complex and fascinating history of development, redevelopment and decline. Much of the area was tidal saltings and wetlands in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and it was not until the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century that the first land reclamation project began to release much of the Eastfield and some of the Westfield for agricultural and industrial activity. Small communal farming communities developed across the two fields, one of which was entitled Eastfield and another, Westfield. Small coal pits were sunk and abandoned when seams were worked out. Historical records suggest that the quarry workings at the Craigrie were already established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that the smaller quarry face still visible to the East of the present Craigrie Cottage is the oldest working.

Further land reclamation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century released most of the Southfield for agriculture and the construction of the present line of embankment released the rest of it. Changing agricultural techniques and the development of larger farms saw the smaller scatter of settlements slowly disappear and three large peripheral farms replace them; Craigrie, Park and Pilverhall. Changing mining techniques saw the move of mining into the whole area, again with pits opening, being abandoned and re-opened as old seams were worked out and new ones accessed. The construction of a series of new embankments for land reclamation enabled piers to be placed ever closer to the River Forth and this, together with horse-drawn waggonway which connected the harbour to the coal pits, encouraged coal mining and the development of associated industries.

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the emergence of OS maps, census returns, reports of Commissions of Enquiry and local and national newspapers provide much detailed information about the people who lived and worked in Westfield village. At the same time, many families were encouraged to emigrate to Australia, Canada and, especially, to the United States of America. The genealogical records of their descendants have provided a great insight into the life and times of these intrepid emigrants. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the advent of railways and larger, deeper coalmines in other parts of the parish was prompting families engaged in mining and working in the local woollen mill to move away. The developing facilities in the town of Clackmannan, particularly the provision of a town water supply and drainage system <sup>129</sup> which did not include Westfield, encouraged this trend.

By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the abandonment of pits, settlements, waggonways and tracks, together with modern ploughing, began to take their toll on the human landscape. Today, you could easily walk through the Three Fields without realising that anyone had ever lived there. Hopefully, this project report will encourage local people and visitors to see the Fields with fresh eyes.

## **Appendix 1: Family from Clackmannan Emigrating to Canada.**

**Thomas Drummond Gordon:** (Son of William Drummond Gordon and Jane Hunter who were married on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1860, Westfield, Clackmannan) emigrated to Canada.

Born: Saline, Fife on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1861.

Married: Vancouver, British Columbia on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1891

Died: Ladysmith, on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1919.

The following is an extract from the letter of a person who left Clackmannanshire about 16 months ago, for Upper Canada. As the writer seems to give an impartial view of the real situation of emigrants on their landing, as well as other information, important to such as may have intentions of emigrating, we readily comply with the request to give it a place. None, it will be seen, need leave this country to better their situation, unless they are prepared to labour diligently, and to combat hardships and difficulties.

### **The Stirling Journal & Advertiser, 4th October, 1821:**

*Lanark Upper Canada July 8th 1821*

*My dear friend, as to myself and family, there is no doubt but we have come through many hardships and privations, both by the way and after we came to this place. I have now 115 acres of land, or rather more, and some of it is equal to any in Canada. Other parts of it is bad, but I have plenty of good land. I have got 10 acres cut on my farm, and 7.5 acres under crops of wheat, oats, barley, Indian corn and potatoes. I intend to put turnips in half an acre, and fall wheat in the other 2 acres. My town acre is in potatoes, Indian corn, cucumber, melons and other garden stuffs. If we be spared to get in our crop in safety, I hope we will be pretty comfortable, and we all think that we never could have been so comfortable at home. We have a pair of oxen and a good cow. For myself, I think it is a kind of Providence that brought me and my family to this place. We have had some work every day since we came here,- but what of that?- the work is wholesome, we will take our breakfast by 4 or 5am as heartily, and more so, then ever we did before 8am.*

*I would not wish to advise any person to come here, as the hardships are great, both by the way and for some time after they have arrived, until they get a house built, and some return of a crop, but some persons have entertained such fine notions of the ease and comfort that is to be found here, that when the first hardships overtake them, their spirits sink, and some at the smallest cross have said "I wish I had never heard of America". But if any person resolves*

*to come to this place, he must resolve to work hard, and to meet with hardships that he could never meet at home. All the difficulties we have met with, both on the way and since we came here, I count as nothing. We are now, in a great measure, beyond the reach of want, if Providence bless us with an ordinary crop. I have no fear of being put on the church funds, should I live to be very old. No- people here who wish to have no more troubles with the world, let out their land, their cows, oxen and all their stock, and for rent, they receive one half of the produce, so they spend the latter part of their days without toil, or fear of want.*

*I am much afraid I shall not be able to satisfy you in all the queries you have made, but I will do my best. As to the first, the expense of conveying your family from Quebec to this place, I cannot exactly say. It cost me, for the steam boat from Quebec to Montreal, one dollar and a half for every family member, besides having to find ourselves in food, then £1 5s from Montreal to La-chair, for carts to carry our luggage to that place, from La-chair to Brookville 4s 6d per cwt of luggage, which amounted to £6 10s, from Brookville to Perth £5, and all this without one particle of food. I cannot say what it cost me from Perth to this place but you will be able to judge from the above what it might cost you.*

*As the second query- "What would be the lowest amount necessary to support your family until a crop came off the ground?" Of this you and Mr H will be better judges than I am, when I inform you that the barrel of flour, of 96 lbs, is 7.5 dollars, pork is 8d per pound, tea from 6s 6d to 7s 6d per do, sugar from 10d to 1s per do, butter 1s per do, eggs 1s per dozen, milk 3d per chopin.*

*Query 3rd "If you run short of cash, could employment be found?" If you have as much cash as get a cow or two and some hens, a new settler cannot run short of cash, as in exchange for milk, butter and eggs, you will get flour, Indian corn meal, tea sugar, rum, whisky or whatever else you may want. I have had one man at 12 dollars a month, he was a man that could do all the work. I have one just now at 10 dollars a month, and they may be had so low as 6 or 7 dollars.*

*Query 4 " What may be the average of trees on an acre?" I never yet have counted them, but some of them are pretty thick, and from as small as seedlings to upwards of 4 feet in diameter. To clear and fence an acre generally costs £5, although I have heard of it so low as £4.*

*Query 5 "What is the average produce per acre, mentioning the different kinds of grain?" What an acre produces I cannot yet say, but wheat, Indian corn, oats, barley and rye are the common crops.*

*Query 6 "What kind of market have we for farm produce?" You may judge of our markets when I inform you, that we have to get the greater part of our flour, pork, butter, cheese and*

*many other necessities from America and even our cows, horses, hogs and oxen come from the same place. The price of a good cow is from 24 to 30 dollars. There are but few horses kept. A pair of good oxen cost from 70 to 100 dollars. If you do come, bring all your hoes, grapes, hay forks, scyths and sickles, and also your scythe stones, you know what things are used here to work with. A shoemakers rag stone, which you may purchase in Alloa for 2d will cost 1s 3d here. Bring all your cooking things along with you, and you cannot carry with you too much clothing, as this is, the best part in the world to get them worn and torn. Bring garden seeds. Leeks are not reared, but all other kinds may be bought. You may also bring a firloot or two of the best potatoes- oats and a like quantity of the best barley, both of which will be extremely serviceable to yourself, and can be procured at home far better than what you get here.*

*As to query 7 "How have I passed a Canadian winter?" I may briefly state, that although the winter was reckoned a very severe one by the old settlers, yet the winter before I left home was colder than the one we have past here. We were all well and hearty, and kept "Hansel Monday" with several of our Scots neighbours. We have not yet got a place of worship built, but it is intended to build one this summer. We have a meeting, however, every Sabbath day. The winter here is always the same, without any splashing thaws, and as for what I have seen of summer, I have known it as warm at home for two or three days, but this is warm both night and day. On the whole, I know no difference but for the better. I have no rheumatic pains nor headaches racking me, as I used to have, and health and strength makes hard work a pleasure.*

*If you do come, bring us a bottle of good Highland whisky.*

*Yours etc. J. H.*

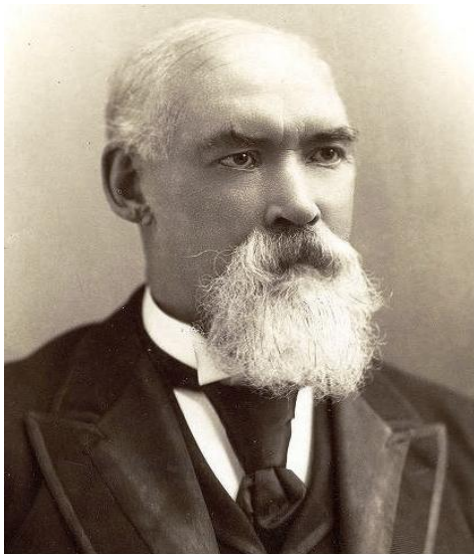


## Appendix 2: Families from Westfield Emigrating to Salt Lake City.

A number of families from Westfield and Clackmannan converted to the Mormon faith in the late 1840's and emigrated to America. These following accounts draw upon their descendants' genealogy entries in various websites.

### The Sharp Family:

#### John Sharp, Mormon Pioneer



© Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Sharps were one of the most notable families to emigrate to Salt Lake City from Westfield. John Sharp, his wife Jane Patterson and their son James; John's brother, Adam Sharp with his wife Janet Cook Sharp; his youngest brother Joseph Sharp; his sister Agnes Sharp Patterson with her husband Robert Patterson and his parents John Sharp senior and his wife Mary Hunter Sharp. The family histories "The Sharp Family Immigrates to America" <sup>130</sup> and "John Sharp and Mary Hunter" <sup>131</sup> relate their journey and John Sharp's subsequent career. Abridged details are given below:

John Sharp's family made their way to Liverpool in 1848 and took passage on board the "Erin's Queen" that arrived in New Orleans later that year. From New Orleans they made their way to Saint Louis by Steam Boat like many of the converts to the Mormon Church. There they went to work for a year in the Coal Mines of Gravois Diggins or Grave Diggins to accumulate money to buy and outfit wagons for the journey to Utah. During the winter of 1849 a Cholera epidemic broke out in Saint Louis killing nearly twenty percent of the population. Later that year there was a serious fire in New Orleans, which damaged many properties.

In the spring of 1850 the John Sharp Company with about 15 to 20 wagons set out for Salt Lake City along the old Mormon trail which was on the southern bank of the Platt River opposite the Oregon Trail on the North bank. The Company led their family and some sixty other Mormon converts on the 400 mile journey. They spread out for many miles along the trail. It took about thirty-six days to cover this distance making the average distance approximately eleven miles per day

Upon arriving to the Salt Lake Valley late in the autumn, the Sharp family came down immigration canyon and instead of going directly into Salt Lake City they skirted the foothills around to what is known as Red Butte Canyon. There they found an outcrop of sandstone and quarried out a square section where they put the wagon boxes over the top and built a stone wall in the entrance to wait out the coming winter.

That spring John Sharp befriended Brigham Young, leader of the American Church of the Latter Day Saints and founder of Salt Lake City. John and his brothers began quarry stone for the Tabernacle, the Tithing House and many of the brown stone buildings from the time period. Soon the Sharp brothers were teaching many of the newly arrived converts the methods of stone quarrying along with many of their neighbours from Clackmannanshire and Fife. John Sharp next became the superintendent of the Church quarry where the huge blocks of granite were cut for the Salt Lake Temple and the massive wall around Temple Square, along with other structures on the grounds.

In 1854 he was ordained by Brigham Young as the first bishop of the Salt Lake Twentieth Ward. Ten years later he was appointed as assistant superintendent of public works and then the acting superintendent. Bishop Sharp was a member of the council of fifty made up of the most prominent business men of Salt Lake City, a member of the council of Enoch, Salt Lake City's police chief for many years and was on the board of Zions' Co-operative Mercantile Institution, and Zion's bank for thirty years.

He became a chief subcontractor on the Union Pacific contract, particularly to be in charge of the bridge and tunnel work. He played a key role in the construction of the Utah Central Railroad in 1869-70, and became the company's superintendent in 1871 and its president in 1873. He was also named vice-president of the Utah Southern Railroad Company when that company was formed in 1870. He was named a UP (Union Pacific) director, which position he retained until he died late in December the 23rd of 1891 at his home in Salt Lake City.

The White Family: Helen (Sharp) White and her husband Adam White, their family and many neighbours joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the autumn of 1848. Helen and her family set out for New Orleans in the summer of 1849, spending two years in St Louis before travelling with the John Sharp pioneer wagon train to Salt Lake City in 1851 <sup>132</sup>

## The Condie Family:

**Gibson Condie**



© Thomas A Condie

Gibson Condie and his wife Helen Sharp Condie with her two daughters, Joyce and Mary, together with William Hunter and family and a few more families from Clackmannan travelled together.<sup>133</sup>

**Helen Condie**



© Thomas A Condie

The ship "Zetland" was chartered for the voyage from Liverpool and after a delay of three weeks waiting for the ship to be ready, over 400 converts from Scotland and England set sail for New Orleans on January 29, 1849. A steamer came along then and pulled the vessel out of the docks into the Irish Channel. The sea was rough and people than began to be sick and dizzy. They could not sit up nor eat anything. Seasickness generally lasted three days and sometimes longer. Health generally was very good. The provisions were varied, of good quality and enough to share.

On arriving at Jamaica Island the natives in their canoes came along and brought different kinds of fruit to sell. Other islands were passed day after day, the largest being Cuba. A few days later the Zetland sailed into the Gulf of Mexico and across the dividing line between the Atlantic sea/salt and the Gulf fresh water. As far as the eye could see it looked like a solid wall.

After waiting a day, for a steamer to tug towed the ship up the river to New Orleans. There was another vessel from Africa with a load of slaves (Negroes) to sell waiting in the Gulf. A steamer came along and took both ships, one on each side. Passengers would go over to the other ship and see the negroes; how they were fed on cornbread. Having travelled 5,000 miles from Liverpool and 100 miles upriver to the Zetland arrived safely in New Orleans. The slaves (negroes) were sold there, commanding high prices at auction, the same as they do selling horses. The party left New Orleans by river steamer, travelling 1,278 miles up the Mississippi, occasionally landing at places to get cut cord wood for the engine.

Arriving at St Louis the Condie family met up with the Sharps, Fifes, Wilsons and others who had left in 1849. On their advice the Condie family went to Grove Diggins, seven miles from St. Louis. Pork could be bought at one cent per pound, browned sugar was 20 pounds for a dollar, good whiskey was 20 cents per gallon

and other things were very cheap. Coal miners and, labourers were making good wages and people lived well. Cholera raged in St Louis, Grove Diggins and all along the river. There were many thousand attacked and hundreds died. Able bodied men were infected and would not live many hours. Whole families were infected and only one left alive to tell the tale.

Gibson and Ceclia Condie and their family decided to start in the spring for Salt Lake City. They bought wagons and oxen in St. Louis and travelled with the Sharp party. The other half of the family travelled by steamer to St. Joseph and continued by oxen wagon for Kaneshville, Council Bluffs. The roads were very muddy in March and the journey was hard, not making many miles in a day. All around Council Bluffs were Mormons who had been driven from Missouri and Illinois and came make some money and then continue on to Salt Lake City. The family found someone who wanted to sell out and farmed in Council Bluffs two years and three months. It was a fine place to live in, with rich soils giving good crops and the family lived well. They travelled on to Salt Lake City in Captain Howell's Company. He had charge of 100 wagons, divided into fifties and tens and Brother McCulloch was the captain of the ten in which the family travelled.

The company was split up as feed and water for the animals was scarce. The Condies hauled five, rocky miles up the Big Mountain and could view part of Salt Lake Valley. Descending down the other side and then one and a half miles up Little Mountain, having to double up teams until reaching the top, about one mile and half in length. Locking both wheels the waggons descended until Emigration Canyon. Continuing on through the valley, the company of 13 waggons arrived in Salt Lake Valley September 2nd, 1852. The rest of the company were five days behind.

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In addition, a considerable number of family websites and genealogical sites were used to provide details of individuals, families and their activities. Thanks are due to the many individuals and groups who have built up this tremendous resource over many years.

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