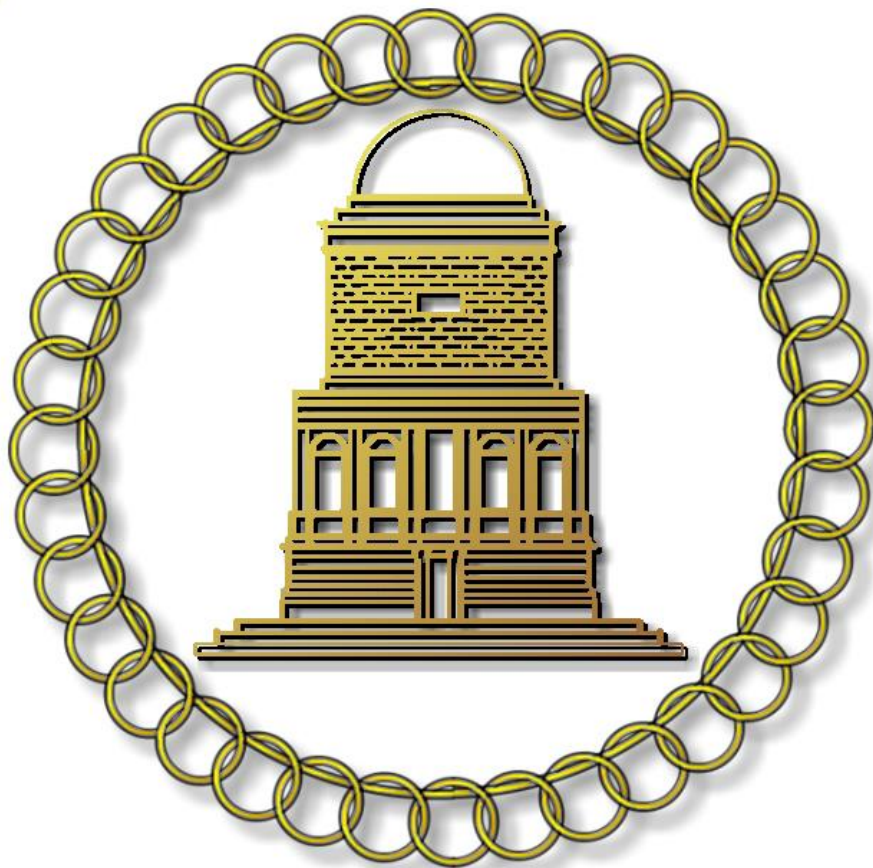


Lanarkshire Family History Society



Journal No 90
October 2025

Society Aim

To encourage interest in family history and to provide the means whereby knowledge and information may be freely exchanged.

Research Centre

122-124 Merry Street Motherwell ML1 NA (No Mail to this address)

The Centre is across the road from the Woodcutter Pub. Entry is from the car park at the rear of the building (off Dalziel Street)

Winter Opening Hours

The centre is open for research on

Monday - Wednesday - Saturday from 12:00 till 15:00

Any other time is strictly by appointment.

appointments.lanarkshirefhs@gmail.com

Our team of volunteers is here to help with any queries you may have.

Contacting Us

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Welcome to Journal No 90

It seems no time since the last one with long sunny days and bright sunshine. Now we have lovely red and yellow leaves and cooler days. I hope you enjoy reading the articles.

If you have solved a tricky bit of research or uncovered a family tale, then please consider sharing it with the other members via the Journal.

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Christmas is on the horizon.

So why not make a start on that present list.

You've heard friends say,

I wish I could do that - that being their "Family Tree".

Why not give them a present of a Society Membership. *One item off the Santa list.*

Membership Membership with 3 E-Journals per year is £12.00 Gbp
A second person in the same household is £6. 00 Gbp

Our team of volunteers is here to help with any queries you may have.

"How to Start Your Research" Session

The Session is scheduled for **Saturday 6th December** in the **Research Centre**. Starting at **10:00 am** until **12:00pm**. (*Limited spaces*) The cost is £15.00. It is aimed mainly at beginners both members and non-members doing their family research.

The Centre will be open until 3:00pm if you wished to stay on and use the Centre's research facilities. *Bring your own sandwich, there is a kettle to make yourself a cup of tea or coffee.*

To book E-mail: - appointments.lanarkshirefhs@gmail.com

Chairperson's Remarks

Welcome to the Autumn Journal No 90 which we hope you enjoy.

The warm sunny days have turned into Autumn. The days are cooler and misty. The leaves and plants have donned their lovely yellow, orange and red mantle.

Over the summer we have had quite a few visitors from New Zealand, Australia, USA, Greece and South Africa.

We organised a "Local History Fair" at Summerlee Museum Coatbridge, Also attending were Renfrewshire FHS, Central Scotland FHS and West Lothian FHS, The Lanarkshire Police Historical Society, Airdrie Writers Group, Monklands Poets Corner, The Heraldry Society of Scotland and "Bothwellhaugh Mining Village". Our friends at North Lanarkshire Heritage and Archives also attended.

We also travelled to East Kilbride Library to attend the "ByGone.com" which was run by S. L. Libraries themselves.

While both events were quieter than normal, it was nice to catch up with our friends from all the other Societies and Groups.

Of course there was a lot of banter and laughs.

Anne Marie McKenna Chairperson

Who is he?

Before my grandmother died she told me she was the youngest of 13. Her parents were John Gillick and Catherine Conway and they were married in St Mary's in Hamilton on 15/5/1867.

As I knew the names of some of the children it was going to be easy to find the records for them or so I thought. I didn't take into account all the misspellings of the surname.

Peter Gillick or Gulloch 1868 - 1924 Drowned in the river Clyde near Bothwell Bridge. Batchelor

Ellen or Helen Gillick 1870 -1920 Married James Quigley

Owen Gillick 1872 - 1872 No death certificate found.

Owen Gillick 1873 - 1891 Killed in mining accident age 18

James Gullock 1877 -1958 Died Cambuslang. Batchelor.

Isabella Gillick 1880 - 1953 Married George Finlay. Emigrated to Australia 1926

Catherine or Kate Gillick 1882 – 1960 Died Hamilton Married Michael McVeigh

Hugh Gillick 1884 – 1952 Died Cambuslang. Batchelor

Roseann Gillick 1887 – 1893 Died Hamilton of Measles

Sarah Gillick 1890 – 1960 Died Cambuslang of Cancer. Spinster

Mary Ann Gillick 1893 – 1990 Died Glasgow. My Grandmother.

This only makes 11 children so where to find the other 2.

At this stage I didn't think much about it and carried on doing the side lines for each of the married children.

After a time I picked up the research again and started looking at census records on "ScotlandsPeople". I traced each census from the marriage date i.e. from 1870 to 1921. On the 1901 and 1911 census there was a grandson John dob 1897. As I had already done the side lines I couldn't think who the parents were.

As with most research when you hit a problem you give up and put the paperwork in the cupboard. A few years later on a trip to Scotland's People in Edinburgh I decided to have another go at finding John Dob 1897.

Typed the name and birth date into the computer and nothing came up. I tried variations of the surname – nothing. Frustration. Carried on with other research. Then the light dawned on me. Can I just type in John and the birth date. There were 9 pages of "John's" I quickly started scanning down the pages for anything that would give me a clue. On page 5 there was a John Gulloch surname Finlay. No Mother's maiden name shown.

Excitedly I opened the record and found he was illegitimate. His mother was Agnes Finlay - Washerwoman. In the margin was something about parents then I noticed there was a corrected entry dated 25/1/1898. The

Sherriff Substitute of Lanarkshire at Hamilton found that the said child was the illegitimate child of Agnes Finlay and Peter Gullit or Gullich. I had finally

found this birth. The Finlay surname had been dropped on the census returns probably to cover up the fact he was illegitimate.

The Mother Agnes doesn't appear on the census anywhere. Later I found that Agnes had another child Agnes Gillick Finlay Dob 25/5/1900. Again she isn't on the census. Where were they on census night? Still don't know. As a few more years passed and as I couldn't find a death or marriage for John the research went back into the cupboard.

Last year I was asked if I could help with checking the military work that the Society are doing for the Fallen of Lanarkshire website. This was done alphabetically and having looked at the soldiers whose surname began with "F" I didn't find anything. I moved onto "G" and there was an entry John Gillox. Could this be another variation of our surname. Looked up the soldier number on Ancestry and among the records that came up was the address – Bothwell Road Hamilton with next of kin as Catherine. Correct address at the time of WW1 and Peter's mother was listed as next of kin. John joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and then transferred to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He lost his life on 9/9/1916 in France and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 4D and 5B. May he Rest in Peace.

In the bottom of an old wardrobe there was a tin box with small mementos and among them was a photo in a frame. I have this photo now and am glad to be able to put a name to the person in the uniform . It is like a mourning necklace. No one in the family today would have known who he was.

To end the story I have now found all 13 children that my grandmother said were her siblings. She wouldn't have known the background of John and Agnes and if she did she wouldn't have told me in order to keep their secret.

This funny popped up on my Facebook feed



 Fredrick Smith, Registrar

Online Death Certificate Request

Step 1: Who is on the Death Certificate?

The person listed on the Death Certificate is:

A Forgotten Family Heirloom

Imagine stumbling upon a forgotten piece of history in a corner of your attic - a battered World War II Scottish military trunk, for sale in an online advert. For Edward Boyle, a passionate historian, this was more than a curiosity. It was the start of an unexpected journey to uncover the story of its owner, Lt. Alexander G Shearer of Motherwell, and to reunite the trunk with its rightful family.

Ed had a contact in Holland, Hans Houterman (www.unithistories.com), who was an expert on all British Officers who served during WW2. He found some details on him and added him to his nominal roll of RNVF (Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve) Officers. Apparently, the officer was the captain of a Motor Gunboat (MGB) and served on the D-Day landings and had survived the War and died in 1994 in Glasgow, and his widow had died in 2004 in Glasgow.

Tracing Family via Facebook: When Hans' research list recorded a daughter, this brought Ed to Lanarkshire FHS and Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS Facebook groups, looking for suggestions on how to find the daughter.

G&WSFHS was able to find information on the daughter. LFHS took these details to do some further research and found a possible granddaughter of the said Alexander Shearer.

First, this information led to an Ancestry search, undertaken in the hope that either the granddaughter was a member or someone else had uploaded the Shearer Family Tree. The search proved fruitful, it confirmed that the granddaughter was an Ancestry subscriber, and her small tree included the same family names that had been supplied by Hans.

After finding the granddaughter on Ancestry, I sent a message to the granddaughter outlining briefly about her grandfather's handmade trunk surfacing and asked her to get in touch in order to try to return the trunk to the rightful owners.

One of Alexander Shearer's daughters contacted LFHS, saying that neither she nor her sister was aware of the existence of the trunk and had come as a complete surprise to them, considering her father had passed 30 years ago and neither of her parents had ever mentioned the 'lost' trunk, making her think that over the years it must have been forgotten about.

Sadly since the return of the trunk to Lt. Alexander Shearer's daughter Sandra, she has since passed and we believe the trunk has been passed on to her son.

Although the power of the internet can be scary, it can also be wonderful. Without the powers of the World Wide Web, we would never have been able to track down and return such precious memorabilia.

If anyone has an interest in Cambuslang, Ed has a dedicated website containing historic photos and information about Cambuslang. He began building his website about 30 years ago, and it is well worth a visit; a fantastic amount of information and work has been put into this site.

www.edwardboyle.com/EB/Cambuslang/Cambuslang.html

Heather Hemmings

Rediscovering Airdrie

In 1949 The Government body, the Bureau of Current Affairs initiated The *Airdrie Experiment*. A project in 'community self-examination and portrayal'. The project culminated in October 1950 with the *Discovering Airdrie* exhibition at Airdrie Town Hall and the publication of *The Book of Airdrie* in 1953. Seventy years later in 2023 the *Rediscovering Airdrie Project* was initiated.

My name is John-Paul Sumner and N. L. Council employed me in 2024 to support a National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland application to renovate the town centre, 'Rediscovering Airdrie'. I had three main missions: To describe the heritage of the town; to find out the views of the people of Airdrie; and to develop a programme of events to improve understanding of the rich history of the area.

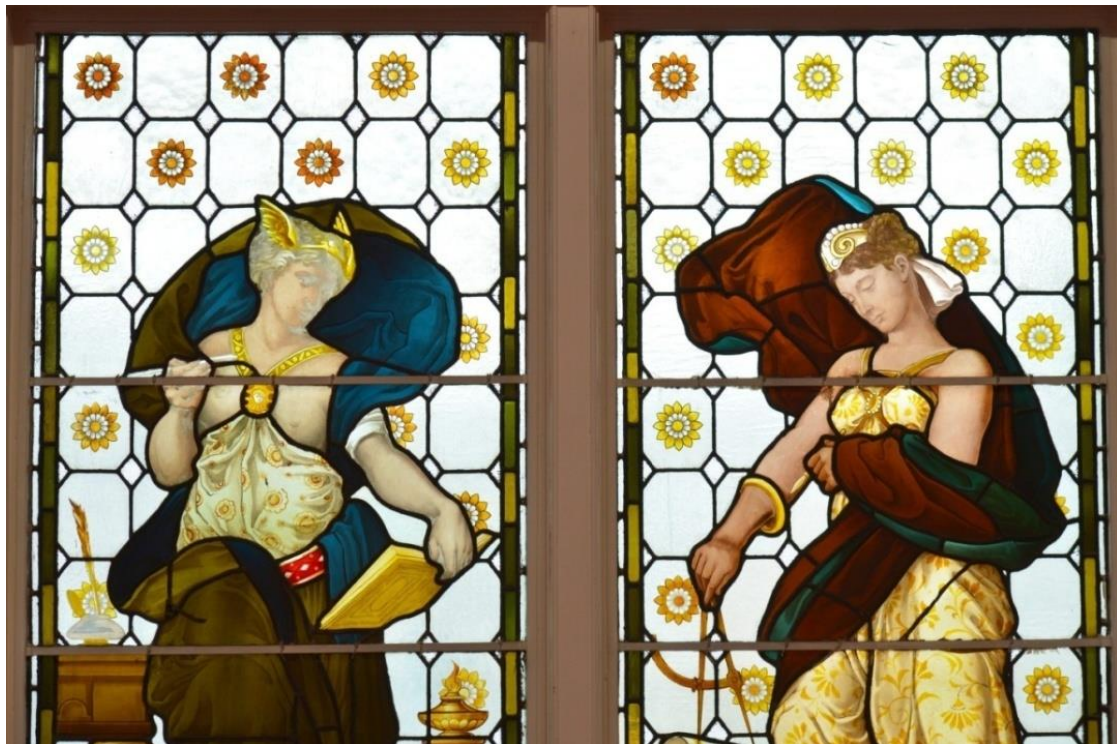
Airdrie was established as a market town in 1695 and expanded as a result of the successful hand loom weaving industry. By the 1830's the Monkland Canal facilitated transportation of the coal being mined locally and iron and steel production grew. In 1853 Airdrie had the first lending library in Scotland and the current building on Wellwynd is unique in that it houses a bespoke and bijoux Astronomical Observatory. Landmark buildings which contribute to the distinctive character of the area include: New Wellwynd Parish Church, Sir John Wilson Town Hall and Airdrie New Cross Corner.

We asked people to complete a survey; this revealed the pride that people feel about the town. We also asked people to contribute three positive words that describe Airdrie. The most frequent words suggested were: historic, friendly, community, home and pride.

To help talk about heritage we organised some events in the town. We had a traditional folklore event in Airdrie Public Library, a telescope session with Airdrie Astronomical Association. we made a film and did some tours of the town.

We hope that in the future the rich history and heritage of the town can be used to celebrate the town and will encourage positive use of the town centre for Airdrieonians and visitors alike.

One piece of public art that became synonymous with the project is the large stained glass memorial window to James Thomson Rankin, Provost of Airdrie, from 1848 to 1856. JT Rankin was a proponent of the adoption of the Free Libraries Scotland Act 1853. Airdrie was the first town in Scotland to adopt the Act. This memorial window to JT Rankin was commissioned and funded by his sons-in-law James Mitchell and John Alston.



Airdrie Public Library stained-glass window.

Image © North Lanarkshire Council

‘Rediscovering Airdrie’ you can see all our activities if you type <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building/heritage/rediscovering-airdie>

Article by John Paul Sumner

Brick Wall or Blindness

Sometimes we can hit a brick wall that turns out to be of our own making. I have been generally successful in researching my maternal ancestors back to my great great grandfather. I was not overly interested in following the stems of his family other than my direct line, but recently I

decided to complete his own details and began to search for his death certificate.

The census took me to 1871 in West Calder, then the trail ran cold. Naturally I tried all the variants in name I could think of but Alexander Robertson is not a name that is likely to generate variants and is such a common name that every search threw up loads of potential suspects. Fortunately the solution to intractable problems, that is John Kennedy came to the rescue.

John started helping me to search public family trees on Find My Past and lo and behold we found GGP in Ontario Canada along with his wife and family.

I have now been able to develop that branch a little more with shipping records and am slowly building a picture of my unknown Canadian ancestors.

Why is that relevant to the title of this piece?

Because I had several Smart Matches from My Heritage suggesting a match for Alexander in Canada! Naturally I took these suggestions with a pinch of salt because as we all know it is dangerous to accept these at face value and also because I have never heard any mention by my mother, uncles or cousins of a Canadian link.

Obviously this must be coincidental! How many Alexander Robertson born sometime between 1916 and 1821 might have emigrated to Canada?

That sentence was the foundation of my self-build brick wall!

The lesson is even, with the proverbial pinch of salt, at least make some check on suggestions from other family trees.

This new information moved my research forward but now I have to move back. I haven't yet found a birth record for Alexander. I also have issues with OPR marriage records.

Alexander married twice and his first wife could have been Ann Hane but that record is also questionable as it gives Alexander's name as Robinson. Also later certificates might record Ann's name as Flinn or Flynn. As the result of "joined up" writing I was taught at Primary school means Fl and H look awfully similar and capable of confusion.

All of this means I am becoming slightly obsessed with ancestors who were once only of passing interest.

William

Tales from Dalziel Parish

My Ferguson Family

The Fergusons lived in the Windmillhill area of Motherwell, as far back as the middle of the 18th Century. Windmillhill is one of the oldest parts of Motherwell and it originated as a hamlet of weavers living round the church and the parish pump or draw-well. Power to pump the water was

provided by a windmill which gave the area its name. My 4th great grandfather, John Ferguson was a weaver, and he and his wife, Margaret Hodge, had their first child, Archibald, in Windmillhill, in 1766.

Dalziel Parish Church

In 1789, the old Gothic church was taken down and the stones were used for an extension to the manse and to build the Mausoleum for the Hamiltons. A new Parish Church was built at the south end of the village of Windmillhill. In 1797, the minister, Robert Clason, persuaded two of his parishioners, "*Robert Yates, weaver, in Motherwell Muir and Archibald Ferguson, weaver and feuar in Windmillhill,*" to become elders and form the first Kirk Session - extract from "***Motherwell Seventy Years Ago - and Now***" **J A King 1910**

Education in Dalziel

According to the Dalziel Parish Church Minute Books, from around 1673, the Kirk Session made provision for a school and schoolmaster. In 1698, William Flint was the schoolmaster. He came from Carluke and his salary was twenty pounds Scots (£1.66) per annum. This was augmented by payments for baptisms, marriages and burials from his other duties as Session Clerk, Precentor and Church Officer. He also had a free house and the odd "boll or two of meal", making the schoolmaster a fairly prosperous member of the community.

My 3rd great grandfather, John Ferguson, was Archibald Ferguson's younger brother, born in 1773. On the same Dalziel Parish Register, there is a birth entry for 1774 for Mary Paterson who was the daughter of Alexander Paterson, Schoolmaster. Alexander succeeded his father, William Paterson, as the Schoolmaster and Session Clerk in Dalziel in 1756, and served for 46 years, until his death in 1802. He was also the Precentor in the Parish Church during that time. In 1802, the tiny parish school at Knowetop was rebuilt.

The Dalziel Curling Club

Inaugurated in 1820, Dalziel Curling Club claimed to be one of the oldest in Scotland. Archibald Ferguson's son Daniel, born in 1798, was a stonemason and very keen curler in the Dalziel Curling Club. He played lead in the Mason's rink or team. The first curling pond which the club used was at Shieldmuir, courtesy of Lord Belhaven, who gave them the ground rent free. However, when he died, the Club had to look for new ground. The Duke of Hamilton came to the rescue and gave the Club ground in the Meadow free of rent. The pond had to be made, and a building to house the curling stones. This all cost £230, and money was raised by "*handsome subscriptions from Lord Hamilton, Sir John Watson, Thomas King, James Davidson, David Hamilton, **Daniel Ferguson** and*

James Russell. *The pond was opened on 6 December 1871* - extract from ***Motherwell Times* 1st April 1904.**

Daniel Ferguson or “**Forgie**” was my 2nd great uncle and I was fortunate to find two stories about him, in the “***Motherwell Seventy Years Ago – And Now***” 1910. J A King.

Daniel was such a keen curler that he did not tolerate anything which prevented him from curling or his team from winning. The first story about him concerns a cat. One ideal morning for curling, Daniel spotted the cat in the kitchen washing behind her ears. According to superstition, a cat washing “over the lugs” is a portent of rain, so Daniel promptly lifted the poor cat and tossed her out of the house.

The second story concerns the time the Masons’ rink (Daniel’s team) lost to the Drumclog team. Daniel was irate at the defeat and was intent on revenge. By studying the strategy of the Drumclog team, the next time the Masons’ team played them, Daniel’s team were victorious and honour was satisfied.

Christine Ferguson Member number 2247

Curling in Scotland

The origin of curling in Scotland is uncertain, but the first curling match was probably played at Paisley Abbey in 1540. From 1838 onwards, the game exploded in popularity, until by the last decades of the nineteenth century, every county had at least one club affiliated with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (RCCC), and almost every parish in Scotland had its own custom-made curling pond. Matches often pitted trades or parishes against each other.

The RCCC promoted the game by providing medals for member club matches and by the introduction of Grand Matches involving the North of Scotland playing the South.

Extract from the **Falkirk Herald Thursday 2nd January 1851**

“**Curling** – The curling campaign may be expected to commence shortly. For all our friends of the “broom and the tee”, we note the “*bonspiels*” to be played within our immediate neighbourhood, for which district medals have been awarded by the Grand Club (RCCC).

These are: – **Clubs Umpires**

Shotts against Stonehouse	Dalziel
Douglas St Bride’s against Old Monkland	Dalserf
Whitevale against Dalziel	Hamilton
Carbeth against Kilsyth	Campsie Glen

Kilsyth Curling Club

In 1716, the Kilsyth Curling Club was formally constituted, making it one of the oldest clubs in Scotland. Kilsyth also claims to have the oldest purpose-built curling pond in the world, in the form of a low dam creating a shallow pool some 100 x 250 metres in size. The curling pond is situated on the Colzium Estate in Kilsyth.

Dalziel Curling Club

The Curling Club in Dalziel was inaugurated in 1820. The Club's curling ponds were on various sites, mainly thanks to the benevolence and patronage of landowners such as the Duke of Hamilton. The first pond was situated at Shieldmuir and the last one at Fir Park, close to the present Motherwell Football Stadium.

The Curlers at Rawyards

New Monklands Curling Club was founded in the 1840's and they used Rawyards Loch, on the outskirts of Airdrie, for their curling matches. *In Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life in Coatbridge, a large painting of 1857 by John Levack, named "The Curlers at Rawyards", features a curling match where some prominent men appear. One of the curlers was James Rankin, Provost of Airdrie and Justice of the Peace for Lanarkshire. James Rankin also appears in the "Rankin Family Portrait", painted in 1853 by John Levack and which now hangs in Bannockburn House, near Stirling.*

John Frame

Every figure featured in the "The Curlers at Rawyards" painting has a name plaque under the image. At the left-hand side of the painting, a group of three figures includes John Frame who appeared in the 1851 Census, living at 122 Graham Street, Airdrie. Occupation - Curling stone maker. (This may explain why he was in the Club and in the painting). Kay's of Mauchline, Ayrshire, founded in 1851, make curling stones used in the Olympic Games. They also have the exclusive rights to take granite from the island of Ailsa Craig in the Firth of Clyde.

James Waddell

In the North Lanarkshire Archives, a letter in the Kay collection relates an incident on Rawyards Loch, which involved James Waddell of Whinhall, a prominent member of the New Monkland Club.

One day in 1872, the newly appointed Sheriff Substitute for Airdrie, John McKie Lees, was skating on Rawyards Loch. At the same time, a New Monklands Curling Club match was taking place. Sheriff Lees was unaware that skating over the curling rink was strictly forbidden. James Waddell stopped the Sheriff by whacking him with a broom, sending him sprawling on the ice. The letter about the incident concludes – "After language of the most ornamental nature from everybody, a halt was

called, explanations offered, tempers calmed, apologies accepted from everybody and the social atmosphere became lovely”.

Patrons and Players

In January 1854, the Glasgow Sentinel reported on a curling match, played on Strathaven Town Loch, between the Lesmahagow Club and the Avondale Club. The Duke of Hamilton at that time was patron of the Avondale Club. He was also a keen player, participating in matches with fellow players from all walks of life.

C. Ferguson August 2025

Cholera in Scotland 1848 - 1849

Origins of Cholera

Modern medicine recognises that cholera is a bacterial infection primarily spread through contaminated water and food. It can lead to severe diarrhoea, dehydration and even death if untreated. Preventive measures include ensuring access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation.

In the 19th Century, medical knowledge about infectious disease was limited, as the following article demonstrates.

“Report on Cholera in Scotland” Monthly Journal of Medical Science 1849

Dr Grieve, Physician in Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary wrote: *“If Cholera spreads by contagion at all, it is unusual and exceptional under circumstances which science has as yet failed to recognize. I believe the choleraic virus is diffused through the medium of the atmosphere, but under what peculiar circumstances this malaria is generated I am at a loss to determine; certainly, it appears to be independent of, and unconnected with effluvia arising from the decomposition of vegetable and animal matters.”*

Cholera Outbreak of 1848 - 1849

Severe outbreaks of cholera in the 1840's affected many areas in Scotland, including Glasgow and Dumfries. One of the worst affected areas was Larkhall in Lanarkshire, prompting a local doctor to write: -

“In a certain part of the village, of a lower situation than the rest, the houses are very damp and unwholesome, the drainage very bad, and the dunghills close to the walls; this part likewise is inhabited by a worse class of people, accustomed to indulge freely in spiritous liquors; it was hereto the greater extent, I may almost say wholly, that the cholera has prevailed.”

Even people who lived in better circumstances were affected by the cholera outbreak. In Dalziel parish, the schoolmaster at Knowetop, Thomas Breckenridge, died of cholera in 1849.

In the 1850's, Glenmavis, Lanarkshire, had its own "Cholera cart". It took till the 1890's for the village to be provided with a public water supply, despite a Public Health (Scotland) Act of 1867. The Public Health (England) Act of 1875, did not affect Scotland directly, but prompted improvements, in the form of advancements in sanitation, disease control and the establishment of local authorities in Scotland.

Census Information about Public Health

The 1861 and subsequent Scottish Censuses, included a question about the number of rooms with one or more windows. The information was used to assess housing conditions, and had nothing to do with the Window Tax, which was introduced in 1696, and abolished in 1851 after pressure from doctors who argued that lack of light was a source of ill-health.

Medical Breakthrough

In 1854, John Snow, a physician working in the Soho district of London during a cholera epidemic, identified contaminated water as the means of transmission of the disease. Snow laid the groundwork for modern epidemiology and his findings led to eventual improvements in urban sanitation and water supply systems, which reduced the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhus.

C. Ferguson August 2025

Childhood Memories

Mrs Mary Murray (Nee Stewart)

The Stewart family, 6 children, the Jarvie family, Bill and Nan, 4 children, Between the two families, we nearly had a birthday tea each month!

Our Aunt Hilda made a beautiful "dumpling" full of fruit and spices which my dad John would supply from the bakery. Grandpa Thomas had taught Mum to make a dumpling for New Year and thereafter, Mum made them. She managed to have a silver sixpence wrapped in greaseproof paper in each portion of cake so no one was disappointed.

Also on the table, homemade jam sandwiches, or cheese sandwiches, various cakes (rock cakes, pineapple cakes, French fancies, coconut kisses) jelly and fruit, small butterfly cake with candles and dumplings. A feast we never tired of. Presents were usually books or games – Snakes and Ladders, Ludo or Jigsaws which we loved.

Chants, rhymes and singing games

I remember the usual nursery rhymes.

1. Old McDonald had a Farm, e-i-e-i-o.
2. Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush.
3. One, two, three, four, five, Once I Caught a Fish Alive.
4. Sing a Song of Sixpence.
5. "Hokey Cokey" *was always a favourite at parties.*
6. Hot Cross Buns, One a Penny, Two a Penny, Hot Cross Buns.
7. See-Saw, Margery Daw, Jack Shall Have a New Master. *We sat on the floor facing each other and moved back and forward.*
8. Hey Diddle Diddle, Cat and the Fiddle, *was a favourite.*
9. Mary, Mary Quite Contrary.
10. Little Miss Muffet.
11. Humpty Dumpty Sat on a Wall.
12. Wee Willie Winkie.

Holidays My first holiday, I was 1st of 6 children and used to picnics down the woods. Birthday teas. Gala day celebrations.

My first holiday was to Auchencairn on the bay at the Solway Firth. I had a case packed and a packed lunch and joined other girls and teachers from Machanhill Primary School, Larkhall. Possibly I would be age 10 or 11 years. The bus took us to a school, empty for the holidays with rooms set out as dormitories with beds and blankets in rows. Our days were organised and this was the third time I saw the sea. The other two times I went to Ayr and Troon with a Sunday School day trip. The weather was kind and I came home healthy and happy. I was amazed that some of the girls were upset at night-time, crying for their mummies. I just loved the freedom.

1952 aged 8 years I took myself and my brothers Duncan and Ian (aged 6 and 5 years) to the Picture House, The Empire in King Street, Larkhall, for a matinee 1 o'clock to 3 o'clock. We had to cross at a "Belisha Beacon", popular in our young days on a busy main road, but as we approached the edge of the pavement, we only had to ask an adult passing and they would take us to the other side no problem. I think the family were well known and well liked. Both dad (a baker) and Grandpa (a miner, retired) always lived in Larkhall. One day, a Saturday, we returned home to find a strange lady, a Miss Ford, a Midwife, waiting at the front door. She let us in and asked if we wanted to see our new baby brother, Maxwell, laying in his cot. "No way said I, "not if it's another brother!"

Tin pram with hood and apron, doll without hair but hand-made items for pram; covers and pillowslip on Singer treadle machine. Mum also knitted clothes for doll in pink and lilac coloured wool in a popular pattern.

I had an accident aged 5 years and spent 5 months in Law Hospital. I broke my leg in a fall but then caught an infection which impeded my recovery. I wore a calliper for 6 months.

Games At school in the playground (5 - 12 years) I remember playing "Tig", tapping each other on shoulder. "Statues" no movement otherwise out. Skipping ropes single and in groups. "Beds" drawn out with chalk, "Peevers" – aim for a target area.

At school sports I remember the: - Three-legged Race, Sack Race, Egg and Spoon Race, Running, Long Jump, High Jump, Obstacle Race.

School Projects Picking Rose Hips (used for rose hip syrup). Mam got rose hip syrup, orange juice, cod liver oil and baby formula milk from clinic in Muir Street, Larkhall when the children were young. Children were given three-pence a bag of the Rose Hips. Brother Ian was a champion picker. He was a big boy for his age. We went to the field at the "Buffy" meadow hill to find chestnuts (conkers) to thread on a string. Brother Ian again was a champion at this.

Siblings Ian was the middle brother, fair haired, tall for his age, very strong and fearless. He was always getting into scrapes, fighting etc. Ian worked with Dad John in his pigeon hut at 69 Coronation Crescent. The hut and birds were inherited from Miller Street (Grandpa's house) when the family left. Dad had some good birds and they would be transported in the bird basket left at platform at Larkhall train station, Caledonian Road. The train would take them to port and off to France. The pigeons would be released and fly back to Scotland and their owners. Dad never lost any pigeons he sent to France. Dad couldn't afford his own pigeon clocks and had to rush over to use Mr Love's clock (a neighbour) when his bird returned. Each bird had a ring on its leg with a number unique to it. The ring was removed and punched into the clock and registered. Many years later I learnt we had had pigeon pie, which at the time I thought it had been chicken pie.

Maxwell was the youngest brother. Mr Steel, a neighbour who lived in Miller Street (our first home) had four daughters: Rennie, Ada, Janette and Janice. Rennie and Ada would baby sit us for Mam. Mr Steel had a stamp collection and when his eyesight was failing, passed it on to Maxwell. Maxwell took it with him when he left home and emigrated to New Zealand and Australia in 1972.

Maxwell's interests included being a member of a Cycling club, a Farriers club out of YMCA, Caledonian Road. Also Snooker and Pool (many clubs in Larkhall). Maxwell died in 2004 in Australia, of lung disease.

Caroline was the youngest sister and the last in the family, very fair hair, a "smiler", but quite a temper. She was diagnosed as dyslexic in later years when she emigrated to Australia in 1976.

Caroline struggled at school with reading, but she was good at maths. Hockey at school, played tennis for 2 years then it became too expensive. She was an excellent swimmer having learnt at Larkhall Baths which opened in the 1960s. She was in a club, winning medals in diving and held a life saving certificate.

Caroline worked in Daks Simpson's Clothing Factory, 5 minutes from the house in Coronation Crescent, beautiful sewing, dress making, cutter. She was a fare lady and earned excellent wages. Caroline died from a brain haemorrhage in Australia in 2007.

Jean was the second youngest girl, born 1954. She was dark haired and very intelligent. She was good with numbers and became a comptometer operator and then into computers. She liked jigsaws, word search and crosswords. She worked as a waitress in pubs and clubs in Larkhall and could serve 8 tables at a time, remembering everyone's drink preferences and prices. She was popular at school, a good pupil. She went to Tap F Dancing at Bette Clark School of Dance, played badminton and played hockey for Craigbank School and Larkhall Academy.

Jean married Andrew Thomson, a soldier in 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards. They had 1 daughter and 1 son. She now lives in Devon.

Play Places Our house at 24 Miller Street had a very large garden with hedges on both sides and a wall at the bottom with space to squeeze through into Mr Steel's plot and he had hens and a cockerel that chased after Ian after he rattled the fence to annoy it. Ian had a sore bottom for days and got no sympathy from Mum and a telling off from Grandpa. There was a drying green and weather permitting the washing was out every day. Grandpa had a great vegetable garden with every veg, soft fruits and a pear tree. He kept the pears wrapped in news paper in a chest drawer in his room. He had a tool shed, a hut in which Dad repaired the family's and neighbours shoes. At some point he was going to be a cobbler. Whatever happened, he became a baker and started work at Vic Co-op Bakery, Drygate Street aged 14. Grandpa also had dahlias and chrysanthemums. Brother Ian grows these two flowers for "Show" where he lived in Leeds. He had also won prizes.

Duncan was the eldest brother, dark and small for his age. His interests included Snooker and Pool at clubs, he was an excellent card player and also played cricket at Academy School.

He follows cricket on TV, India and Pakistan one day plays a favourite. He is very knowledgeable about teams, plus English players. He was an excellent dancer and although he was short, had no trouble getting a partner at dances. He excelled at speed ice skating and travelled to Crossmalloof in Paisley most weekends for a few years. He played football at Duke Street Park for his school academy.

Collections Brothers Duncan and Ian had an egg collection. This was legal in the '50s and '60s. Dad taught them both. They had a shallow wooden box with straw and cotton wool inside. Eggs were laid inside. Yolks removed by piercing with sharp needles and blowing out yellow inside. Neither brother would "harrie" a nest. A blackbird would lay 5 to 6 eggs. You must leave 4. A thrush would lay 4-5 eggs. You must leave 3. Ian found a cuckoo egg in a nest once. The chick had thrown out the other chicks by the time he returned it to the nest. He knew where a great

spotted woodpecker nested. They were rare, I think.

Play Outdoors

We had a tent on the grass when the washing was brought in dry before we came home from school. The three boys had a bicycle between them and took turns (or were supposed to).

Duncan and Ian went fishing with Grandpa and Dad. We loved the water and could swim fairly early, except Duncan. Dad tossed him into the River Clyde (not deep) but Duncan panicked and swallowed water and even now won't go into water or the sea, except to paddle.

We had picnics and caught minnows and tadpoles in jam jars with a string around neck. Mum would get a bunch of wild flowers and dandelions.

Mrs Mary Murray

Editor Comment: - Mary has been a member of the society since 1994.

Airdrie WW1 Names C - D

Cairney Duncan - Private 14752 - Scottish Rifles 3rd Battalion.

Duncan, born about 1889 in Longriggend, Airdrie, son of Hugh and Agnes, brother of Jeanie, Mary, Hugh, John, James, Peter, and Agnes, resided at Gemmel's Rows, West Longrigg, Longriggend, according to the 1891 Scottish Census. Ten years later, in 1901, the family resided at 49/50 West Longrigg. Duncan was employed as a miner at the local colliery.

In May 1913, Duncan Cairney appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court, Glasgow, charged with placing a large quantity of gelignite about a local public-house in Longriggend. On the 19th of April 1913, the accused stole 2lbs. of explosive and a fuse wire when he was leaving the pit, which he left at the house of a friend. He went to the public house in the evening, and after having some drink he went away, and obtaining possession of the gelignite, returned to the pub and set light to a portion of the explosive. The explosive was not well covered, yet it managed to smash 22 panes of glass, but was lucky not to injure the nine people in the pub. He was sentenced to 60 days behind bars.

Private Cairney enlisted with the Scottish Rifles at the outbreak of war. He was part of the 77th Brigade, 26th Division, and arrived in Boulogne, France, on the 20th of September 1915. Duncan served in France and Salonika, Greece, and was invalided home with malaria. He visited Longriggend but moved to Parkhead, Glasgow, where he took up lodgings with Mr. Edward Bennett and his wife. Edward worked as a munition's worker at a local munitions factory. The friendship between Duncan and his landlady developed into love, and the soldier, perfectly happy in his new and congenial surroundings, lost all taste of the army, and deliberately

absented himself. Mr. & Mrs. Bennett had three children who resided with her mother in Dublin.

He and Mrs. Bennett decided to elope together and provide themselves with ample funds, called in the service of a broker, and sold off the best of the furniture and furnishings in the house and cleared out. Mr. Bennett returned home from work later that evening and was shocked to find the house deserted and denuded. He immediately lodged a report with the police.

Duncan donned one of his landlord's suits, and armed with Mr. Bennett's exemption certificate, the bold soldier, accompanied by Mrs. Bennett, by use of the illegally possessed certificate, was successful in finding work at Auchenlea Coal Coy, Cleland. They resided at Fernieshaw Cottage, Cleland, for a time, but fearing that the police were on their trail, they moved to Corbiehall, Bo'ness, where they resided as Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bennett.

Duncan was arrested whilst working at a distillery in Bo'ness and taken to the police station. The husband arrived from Glasgow, but when confronted by him at the police station, the wife refused to have anything to do with him, offering instead to marry the ex-soldier.

He was taken to Motherwell police station, where he was charged with impersonating Mr. Bennett, various acts of fraud, and using Mr. Bennett's exemption certificate in contravention of the Defence of the Realm Act. In court, the accused stated in reply to the Sheriff that he had no explanation to make and was sent to prison for 30 days.

Private Cairney returned to the army, and after a period of training, he was drafted for overseas service. On the 2nd of December 1917, he boarded the steamer Aragon at Southampton, England. The Aragon was a former Royal Mail ship that had been converted to act as a troop carrier. She was bringing reinforcements to the army operating in Palestine under General Allenby. The ship was full, having no less than 2,700 people on board, of which number about 2,350 were troops.

They were bound for the port of Alexandria on the coast of Egypt. For two weeks, the ship lay at anchor in the shelter of the harbour at Marseilles, awaiting sailing orders each day, until at last they came and the ship sailed, in company with another Transport Ship, the "Nile", and an escort of destroyers. On board were some 160 Nursing Sisters, 150 Military Officers, 2200 troops, and the ship's own officers and crew, numbering in all a total of 2700 souls. Besides this, the ship was laden with the whole of the Egyptian Xmas mail, comprising some 2500 bags. From Marseilles, they proceeded to Malta, in safety, and with but little excitement. For a part of the voyage, the sea was heavy, and many were sick. The ship arrived at "Windy Bay", Malta, on the 23rd December, where it remained for four days, thus spending Christmas in safety. On the fourth day, the ship again put out to sea, in company with the "Nile" and a fresh escort of destroyers, three in number, two of which were Japanese, the

other British. Everything went well until the moment of actual torpedoing.

On Sunday morning, the 30th December 1917, the port of Alexandria was just becoming distinctly visible to the naked eye on the horizon. Everybody was eagerly gazing at the sight from every place of vantage and looking forward to being soon landed safely. Indeed, many had packed all their luggage and were already attired for disembarkation. One heard many congratulating themselves on the safe passage. The ship, with the British destroyer "*Attack*," was just entering the Channel, which leads into the Port, and had passed inside of the first "buoy" which indicated the entrance to the Channel, when a wireless message was intercepted from Trawlers in the Channel, stating the presence of mines therein. The "*Attack*" immediately signaled to Aragon to follow it, at the same time turning seawards. One of the Trawlers was also observed to be flying the same signal, indicating that by an order of an earlier period, it had been sent to direct the ship through the Channel. The destroyer's signal was at once obeyed, that being the senior ship, and the "A" maneuvered to follow it. In doing so, she had to keep well away from the "buoy".

Meanwhile, the German submarine was lurking at the "buoy" and had been unable to fire its torpedo as the ship entered the Channel, because of the close range, but immediately she turned to follow the "*Attack*" she presented a perfect target for the enemy, who took full advantage of the situation. The officers on duty on the bridge saw the periscope of the submarine, and at the next instant, the wake of the torpedo, which was coming straight for the ship.

An endeavour was made to turn the ship and avoid the torpedo, but it was of no avail, as the ship was going very slowly. The explosion was a dull crashing blast, and the ship shuddered like a reed. The first great duty to every man was the rescue of every nursing sister, and they were all mustered in their respective boats and lowered to the water before any other order was given. This operation took but a few minutes and was carried out without a hitch, the boats being the best in the ship, and in a position to afford the greatest possible facility for getting off. By the time the nursing sisters' boats had got clear, the ship had taken a heavy list to starboard and had sunk deep astern. For a few minutes, she seemed to remain thus, and during this time the destroyer had run up alongside. The troops were ordered to "***get off***," and they managed to do so by attaching ropes from the ship to the destroyer. On other parts of the ship, troops were ordered to "***take the water***," and rafts were let loose. In a few minutes, the sea was full of struggling men. The ship was sinking fast, and the list was rendering it impossible to stand upon the deck. About fifteen minutes had elapsed from the time of the explosion when the Commander gave the order – "***Every man for himself***".

The sea was a mass of struggling humanity. Men were desperately trying to board the destroyer that had come to their aid. The destroyer was

crammed with men: some wounded and bleeding, others stripped of clothing, many were laid out unconscious and dying. The Aragon was disappearing rapidly amid a roar of rushing water and the smashing of internal fittings. Scores of poor fellows still clung to the decks, and now at the last moment were attempting to throw themselves into the sea, rather than be “sucked under”, but from the great height to which the bow had raised, they were being killed outright as they touched the water. It was an awful moment! With one great surge, a roar of inrushing water, and the explosion of the ship’s boilers, she went beneath the surface.

The spot over which she sank seemed enormous, and all around were struggling men and wreckage, upturned boats and rafts, to which they were clinging. One lot of Scotch lads were standing shoulder to shoulder on a raft, knee deep in water, and singing “Loch Lomond”. It was pathetic! On the destroyer, all hands were busy helping unfortunate ones and preparing to clear a way for her to move ahead, when a shot rang out and next instant there was a terrific explosion. The middle of the destroyer had been smashed, and men blown into the air. Oil, fumes, splinters of wood and steel flew in every direction, and she broke in halves and commenced to sink at once: the two ends, bow and stern, rising into the air and the middle sinking rapidly, where the torpedo had hit.

A total of 610 soldiers and crew from Aragon were lost, Duncan being one of them.

Duncan has no known grave, he is commemorated on Chatby Memorial, Egypt.

Railways of Mid-Lanarkshire

This article is not a complete history of the railway system of Lanarkshire, that would take a book in its own right. Instead, it attempts to provide an insight into how the railway system developed, declined and is beginning to show signs of restoration.

Looking at today’s railway map of Lanarkshire, you might be forgiven for thinking that there’s not much to write about! All you will find is the main line from Glasgow through Motherwell to Carlisle, a link from Carstairs to Edinburgh and a few suburban lines.

However, prior to 1965 a very different picture existed. The movement of goods and Travel was difficult. Indeed, Robertson, (Origins of the Scottish Railway System) quotes... “Travelers on the road from Strathaven to Muirkirk require the services of a guide though the road was “even then very dangerous and altogether impassable for any carriage.”

In the 1820s, proposers for the Monklands railways were drawn from

coalowners, ironmasters, landowners, canal proprietors (Forth and Clyde Canal), and merchants who had in common the desire to break the monopoly of the Monklands canal. The Monkland and Kirkintilloch was opened in 1826 between Cairnhill colliery and Kirkintilloch canal basin, engineered by Thomas Grainger.

In 1829 the Wishaw and Coltness was authorized and finally opened in 1841 after fresh injections of capital to cover grossly underestimated costs.

In 1831 the Garnkirk and Glasgow opened to attack the Monklands canal and the Forth and Clyde canal by allowing the movement of goods right into Glasgow. The Wishaw and Coltness and Garnkirk and Glasgow eventually joined the Caledonian Railway, with the other Monklands lines joining the North British in the 1860s.

Widespread development of conventional railways began about 1840 with the authorisation of such projects as the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway (1838). This line was modelled on the earlier Liverpool and Manchester Railway as an example of early Inter-City travel. This line was opened in 1842 to its terminus at Haymarket.

In order to understand the development of railways in Britain, it is essential to realise that the lines which were built were promoted by private rather than public funds. Very often, as the names of the companies suggest, the interest was purely local in nature. By 1845, railway mania in Scotland had followed the lead established by trends south of the border. This was the period of rapid development of the railway system led by that redoubtable character, George Hudson, the Railway King.

To illustrate the railway fever in Scotland, in 1845 the following new companies were formed –

- Glasgow and Lesmahagow Railway.
- Lanark, Dumfries, Ayr and Galloway Junction Railway.
- Sanquhar, Muirkirk and Glasgow Railway.
- Lesmahagow, Dalserf and Coatbridge Mineral Junction Railway.
- Edinburgh and Hamilton Direct Railway.
- Carnwath and West Linton Railway.
- Hamilton and Strathaven Railway.

Altogether there were about 140 independent railway companies in Scotland, which were ultimately merged to become the Highland; Great North of Scotland (GNoS); Glasgow and South Western (GSWR); North British (NB), and Caledonian (CR) railways.

1848 was an important year in railway circles, marking the opening of both the Glasgow – Carlisle route by the Caledonian Railway and the GSWR lines as far as Muirkirk.

The CR line also included the Carstairs – Edinburgh line, which allowed the CR to operate their own Inter-City services. At about the same time the NB began their own line between Edinburgh and Glasgow via Bathgate and Coatbridge which was completed in 1870. The CR, in an attempt to shorten their Inter-City route, opened the line via Cleland and Midcalder, joining the original route at Midcalder Junction.

In 1848, the GSWR line to Muirkirk was opened. Public pressure tried, unsuccessfully, to get the line extended to Lanark, but that had to wait for the CR in 1874. This extension started in 1855 when the CR built a branch from the main line at Cleghorn as far as Lanark. This was extended firstly to Douglas (opened 1st April 1864) and then to Muirkirk, opening 1st January 1873 (freight) and 1st June 1874 (passenger).

The CR had hopes that this line would form the basis of a through route from Ayr to Berwick on Tweed via Biggar, Symington, Peebles and the Borders. Lack of finance prevented this, but one section which was built was the Symington, Biggar and Broughton Railway which reached Peebles in 1864. A significant feature of this line was the meat traffic from Broughton to London, often hauled by express passenger locomotives. The branch closed to passengers on 5th June 1959 and to freight on 4th April 1966.

A main driving force for the development of the railway system was the exploitation of minerals, especially coal. The Lesmahagow Railway was jointly promoted by them and the CR to run from Motherwell to Coalburn. The goal was rich seams of Cannel coal, used extensively by the gas industry. These reserves were estimated at about 63 million tons around Auchenheath alone. A mineral line was opened on 1st December 1856 to Lesmahagow (later renamed Brockettsbrae) with a passenger service starting 1st January 1868. The line was worked by the CR until it was fully absorbed in 1860. The service was extended to Coalburn in 1891. Additionally, lines from Fernigair to Blackwood and Stonehouse were opened in 1866.

A line was planned to link Coalburn with Muirkirk but this was only partially built. Called the Galawhistle railway locally it was only used to store wagons. A link was built between Alton Heights Junction and Poneil Junction on the Lanark-Douglas line.

Until 1876 the Hamilton circle line stopped at Hamilton. This was completed with a branch from Ross Junction to Hamilton in 1876. In 1896 work started on the Stonehouse – Blackwood line and the Hamilton – Strathaven via Quarter line. These were completed in 1905.

It could not last forever and closures began as early as 1939 with the Strathaven-Darvel and Strathaven – Blantyre lines in 1945. The mid 1960s saw closure to passengers of much of Lanarkshire's rail network.

- Muirkirk – Lanark all closed by 15/1/68.
- Mid Lanark lines in various stages between 1950 and 1968.
- Brocketsbrae 1951.
- Strathaven – Hamilton completely closed by 1960.
- Strathaven – Stonehouse in 1965.
- Hamilton – Larkhall, Stonehouse, Strathaven, Lesmahagow, Coalburn in 1965.
- Auchlochan colliery closed in 1968.



Trackbed of the Blackwood - Tillietudlum line, now a footpath and nature reserve.

Whilst much of the system has been lost to development since closure, the Hamilton – Stonehouse – Blackwood section was reserved for reinstatement as part of the Stonehouse New Town development in the 1970s. One part of this line has seen a rebirth is the line from Haughead Junction on the Hamilton circle to Larkhall. This reopened in 2001 and has been a resounding success, prompting demands for the reopening of the line to Stonehouse and Strathaven. Who knows!

Alan Walters

Killed by a Teacup

It was during a conversation about family history that a friend of mine told me that a relation of his killed her husband with a teacup .He said he was quite young when this happened and was unsure if it was family folklore or did it indeed happen. He asked if I was able to help.

Elizabeth O'Brien, born in 1917, a divorcee, married John O'Brien in 1965. Mr. O'Brien had been married twice previously. They resided in Brandon Court, Motherwell.

On the evening of 27th December 1971, neighbours heard a disturbance in the O'Brien's home which lasted from 6p.m. until 11p.m. and included "fierce banging and loud noises"

Mr. O'Brien's body was discovered the following morning, in a pool of blood, in the toilet of the couple's 5th floor flat. Brandon Court Caretaker, Mr. James Milward, had to break down the door to gain access to the flat.

A Lanarkshire housewife appeared in private at Hamilton Sherriff Court on Thursday 6th January 1972 charged with murdering her husband. No plea or declaration was made and Elizabeth Murphy or McCartan or O'Brien (54) of 28 Brandon Court, Motherwell was remanded in custody at Gateside Prison, Greenock to await trial at the High Court in Glasgow.

She was charged with murdering her John, on 27th December 1971 by punching, kicking him, striking him with a knife, scissors, bottles and a cup.

Mr. O'Brien's wife was examined by a psychiatrist and was found to be sane and fit to plead. When charged she said "I was in a bad temper and hit him with a cup". Her solicitor said that his client had lived a life of misery because of her husband's drunkenness. When he had a drink, he would become violent and frequently beat her. On December 27th Mrs. O'Brien found that her husband had taken about £17 from her purse. Mrs. O'Brien stated that the money belonged to her brother.

When Mr. O'Brien returned home, having taken drink, there was a quarrel and Mr O'Brien, who was 6ft 2in tall and weighed more than 13 stone, began to assault his wife. She tried to punch him back and hit him with a teacup but could not remember doing anything more to him.

Mrs. O'Brien left the house and when she returned her husband was in the bathroom and she could not get in. She thought he was sleeping off the effects of the drink and left him.

Judge, Lord Milligan, told Mrs. O'Brien "There are many mitigating circumstances attached to your case. If it were not for that I would have to impose a very long sentence of imprisonment, because people must not take the law into their own hands".

Elizabeth was jailed for 4 years in the High Court in Glasgow for killing her husband after an argument about money. She admitted previously showing malice and ill will towards Mr. O'Brien, her second husband.

The following 2 articles are taken from Journal No 30 Dec. 2005
(*We still have a full set of Lanarkshire OPRs and
Census microfilms in the Research Centre*).

Extracted from the Old Parochial Registers,
microfilm held by L.F.H.S.

WANDALL & LAMINGTON 659.

The last book on the reel, 659/4 has births marriages & deaths entered at random and end at 1856. Here is an example of a death entry.

December 10th 1833. Died this morning aged 66. **Mary Carmichael** a pauper in the village, widow of **James Murdoch** weaver in Lamington. She was a martyr to rheumatism upwards of 20 years & was much deformed in consequence of her troubles. Buried in Lamington on Thursday 12th.

Extracted from the Birth Entries for Old Monkland Parish.

Baptism 5th July 1754. At Braidisholm, **James Grosset Muirhead** esq. had a son born 9th June and baptised 1st July named **John Grosset Muirhead** The following entry was made in the baptism book immediately after this.

“as I am determined and resolved to fix any residence to that of my posterity in this Parish upon the Estates of Bredesholm, taking the names and arms of the family as nephew of **John Muirhead** esq. and legal purchaser of the forsaied estates. I have though fit to make the following entry and declaration in this Session book and signed by me and my wife, **D(onna) Leanor De Miranda**, a legitimate descendant of the family of **Miranda** of Cordona in the Kingdom of Spain, who was born 23rd June 1717. My eldest daughter now living, called **Helen** was born 21st May 1751. My second daughter called **Lillias** was born 18th March 1753 and my only son born and baptised as above under the date of the 5th July last. Declared to be all my legal children now alive. In testimony of the (truth) of which I have writ and signed the entry with my own hand in the presence of Mr **Robert Park**, minister of the gospel in this Parish. Also **John Muirhead** of Bredesholm esq. my uncle and **John Yuill** Session Clerk of the same Parish. At Bredesholm this 27th day of August 1754.

Signed **James Grosset Muirhead. Robert Park. Leanor Muirhead. John Muirhead. John Yuill.** Witnesses.

Also From Old Monkland Births

Baptism 27th June 1703. **Marrion**, daughter of **Alexander Baird** in Bellshill of Bothwell, presented by her Grandfather **Alexander Baird** because of his son not being absolved from the scandal of fornication.

(**No Mothers' names given in Old Monkland baptism entries until about 1790.**

THE CHURCH & PARISH OF CADDER

The records of the nation of Scotland carry the story of Cadder Church and Parish back to the middle of the 12th century. The Scots King David I instituted great reforms in Church and State before his death in 1153. His grandson and successor, Malcolm IV made a grant of the lands of “Conclud, Cader and Badermonoc” to the Bishopric of Glasgow. This was confirmed by his successor, William the Lion. So there might have been a church before that, built near the old ruins of the Roman Camp on the Antonine Wall. But there was a church building, and people worshipping there at Cadder, about the year 1150 A.D. Over 850 years ago!



The Kirkyard

The Minute Books of the Kirk Session of Cadder date from 1688 and the many volumes are fairly complete. The originals are lodged in The National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh, but the church is fortunate enough to have complete photocopies for their own local use.

At least three churches have been built on or near the present site of Cadder, and the area round about is likely to have been used for Christian burial for over 800 years.

“It was the practice of the respectable families in the parish,” says the Rev. Thomas Lockerby in the Second Statistical Account (1836), “to bury in the aisle or middle passage of the church, and some of them below their own seats.” Other graves outside, over many centuries, remained unmarked. The earliest dated gravestones now are from 1636.

When the present church was built in 1825 (tower 1829) it was the period of the “Resurrectionists”. The years roughly between 1810 and 1830

were the boom years for these body snatchers who robbed recent graves and sold the bodies to the doctor surgeons in the growing medical schools of Edinburgh and Glasgow for anatomical dissection. Eventually a series of murders committed by Burke and Hare in Edinburgh, to provide the surgeons with yet more bodies, led to public outrage and the Government passed an Act in 1833 regulating by licence the Schools of Anatomy.



This is the background to the building of the little "Watch House" and the existence of the "Mort Safe" in the Kirkyard of Cadder, as in many churchyards of the same period in Scotland. The Mort Safe was placed over a newly interred coffin, filled with large stones and left for several days then removed for re-use.

Because of the weight it would have required several people to empty and lift. While after the funeral a small group of relatives and church office-bearers would mount a guard for several nights in the watch house, often armed with an ancient blunderbuss to strengthen their courage.

*A Mort Safe
in Cadder
Churchyard*



Bob Stewart member No. 840.

~ ~ ~

New members since the June Journal

A very big Scottish welcome to each and every one of you.

		Forename Names	Surname	Country
2620	MR	JOHN	MCCULLOCH	AUSTRALIA
2621	MS	MARYLEE	CAVAIOLI	USA
2622	MS	ANN	ALLEN	CANADA
2623	MRS	MICHELLE MCNULTY	PASCOE	SCOTLAND
2624	MR	ROBERT	MCNULTY	SCOTLAND
2625	MS	MARTA	KURAK	USA
2626	MRS	IRENE	MCGREGOR	SCOTLAND
2627	MS	PATRICIA	WEIR	CANADA
2628	MS	AILSA	CORLETT	AUSTRALIA
2629	MR	WAYNE	SMITH	USA
2630	MR	SHIRLEY ANNE	KENNEDY	ENGLAND
2631	MR	COLIN	MACGREGOR	SCOTLAND
2632	MRS	CHRISTINA	SMITH	USA
2633	MR	DARRELL	DUNN	ENGLAND
2634	MR	IAN	MCARTHUR	ENGLAND
2635	MR	ROBERT	SMITH	SCOTLAND
2636	MR	JACK	HENEKS	USA

Thanks to the members who rallied round to assemble this issue of the Journal.

We still need a new Editor in place, hopefully before the February issue of the Journal.

Also, If you have any short articles that you wish to share with your fellow members, please E-Mail it to: –
editor-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk

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