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Adam Brown Todd (1822-1915)

Contributions for the Autumn 2008 issue of *Ayrshire Notes*, including information about the activities of Member Societies, should be sent before the end of July to Rob Close, 1 Craigbrae Cottages, Drongan, Ayr KA6 7EN, tel. 01292 590273, (email: robclose@onetel.com).

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Cover illustration

Photo of Adam Brown Todd (1822-1915). See page 14.

(photo provided by: Dane Love)

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Headstone of Adam Brown Todd [photo: Dane Love]

‘Two Bottles of Guffs Fly and Scab Oil’: Some Nineteenth Century Letters from Demerara to Mauchline

Robert Rodmond Howie was born in Sorn Parish, Ayrshire, 14th October, 1832, the youngest son of John Howie and his wife, Elizabeth Jamieson. Robert went to British Guiana when recruited by Alexander of Ballochmyle to work as an overseer on the sugar plantation of Turkeyen, Demerara owned by the Alexanders. A list of plantations from 1860 shows Turkeyen to be on the easy coast of the Demerara river: the proprietor was Boyd Alexander, and the Attorney and Manager was George Lillie.* Since 1963 Turkeyen has been the site of a campus of the University of Guyana.

The fourteen letters which follow were all sent by Robert Rodmond Howie from Turkeyen to his father, John Howie, at Kingencleugh House, Mauchline. Some notes on the persons and places mentioned appear after the final letter.

Jean Stoddart

Letter No. 1

Plantation Turkeyen, Demerara. 24 September 1854

My dear father

I intended to have written you some two Packets ago but we have been making sugar under disadvantages arising from the alterations we have been making to our Buildings not being finished, consequent I had less time to devote to my own private interest but I hope you will excuse me.

I entertain serious doubts of our being able to make as much sugar as we would otherwise have done, had we got going on without obstructions, however we will make a desperate effort in behalf of our usual credit, hitherto we have made but comparatively little with what we ought to have made we have made already not quite half leaving only about three months for the remainder.

I expected a letter from you last Packet, but was disappointed. I have nothing very particular to say but I merely write a word or two to let you know that I am still in the land of the living. I would write somewhat more frequently but I feel so anxious about my work that I often only remember to write when it is too late. Sunday is the only day I have to write and even that day sometimes have to work all day, the work is a laborious one if you don't put your mind to it. I most certainly felt it rather much at first, but I get through it as easy now as if I had been at it all my days and I am happy to say that my Master treats as one that he can trust with anything and he may for if I should never sleep a wink I would never leave my work in a slovenly unfinishedlike manner and night or day as I may be called upon I have

always been found ready and willing. I have often promised to give you an account of sugar making but I till try and fulfil my promise by next packet but I must draw to a conclusion.

Since my last to you my health has been remarkably good hoping providence may continue it however unworthy he may know me to be. I hope this may reach you and your family all in good health. Give my Compliments to my Brother & Sister and my kind love to my Mother who I remember daily. Give all my old friends and acquaintances my respects. and forever Believe me to be

Your Loving and affectionate son Robert R. Howie

Letter No.2

Pln. Turkeyen 25 March 1855

My Dear Father

I at length remit you an order on Alexander Brothers & Co Glasgow for Forty Pounds Sterling, which amount you will receive on presenting the order at their office which will be very easy found by enquiring for "Alexander Brothers' office", he is to give you the exact amount without deducting anything.

I am sorry that I have kept you out of it so long but owing to our own 'front' dams failing in some places and the dams of the two neighbouring give way entirely, thereby almost swamping our estate with salt water, and although we managed to prevent any injury from salt water, the rain fell in such torrents as to put our Cultivation under fresh water which caused us to work the water Engine day and night to take it off.

I am happy to say since my last letter to you my health has been very good hoping it may continue. I have not had time to write you a longer note at this time but will simply mention a few things for myself and my fellows which you will send out at your own time and convenience.

For Myself :- (a suit of Clothes). A round about coat, vest and trousers which I could put on, any occasion and one round about coat rather coarser and three pairs coarser trousers as cheap as you possibly can, two pairs lacing shoes. 1 pair Blucher Boots plain, 1 pair Blucher Boots with tickets – my clothes to be all woollen as I am in the field.

For Mr George Lillie – three pairs lacing shoes, three pairs short Boots – I should like you to tell Mr McGaan to try and fit Mr Lillie as well as he can.

For Mr James Ross – Four pair Blucher Boots, 1 pair short Boots. I measured his foot which I send He says he wears no. 8.

The hurried way in which I have begun and finished this note will oblige me to write by the next Packet therefore excuse this hurried note. I forgot to say I should like to you to give James ten pounds and should I live I will sooner or later send you more. I would have done so now but asking for it some time before I got it I did not like to change my words - but should

you feel at all hard up let me know without delay, as I don't cherish the idea of having and you without – you had better go to Glasgow and take Mary with you. I hope my dear Mother is still retaining her wonted health. I should like to see her I often see her but in a dream which is the most deceitful thing in the world.

Dear father should you have it in your power don't let my brother feel ashamed on this occasion, and should you be at any loss apply to me at once, because he has been a faithful son. With the intention of writing per the next Packet I close my scrawled epistle hoping to find you and my Mother, Brother and Sister all in good health and I ever remain your loving and affectionate son

Robert Rodmond Howie

[P.S.] I may mention to you the way I have sent for all my clothes to be warm, ever since I came to the Colony the doctor has paid great attention to my health. He says I must wear warm clothes, as getting wet with white clothes and perhaps not suitable to change them at the moment seldom fails to produce sickness and ultimately fatal. I should like all to be of a dark colour, not black though. R. R. Howie

Letter No.3

Turkeyen 25th April 1856

My dear Father

I expected a letter from you by last Packet, but was disappointed but I was just as well satisfied for I know if there is anything extraordinary takes place you will not fail to let me know at your earliest convenience. I would have written to you some Packets ago but I have indeed been very busy – Mr King left this place by last Packet for Scotland he says he will call upon you when I hope you may not speak anything to offend him. He has left Mr Lillie in his place and I am happy to say he treats me like a brother though he is my Master – and I hope I may be enabled to serve him faithfully, honestly and justly. I am sorry to say that poor Wilson resigned his stage on this World last month about the beginning – he died of inflammation which shows his habits have been dissipated – we were three from Mauchline Parish and I alone am left – of the number. If you know any young men who are steady and well doing and are willing to come to Demerara let me know. There is no danger in this country more than in Scotland if they behave themselves. I think if I recollect rightly Mr Alexander explained the cause of so many young men losing their lives in Demerara viz intemperance and carelessness.

Since I have been in this colony I have been as healthy as I could have been at Home only it is well known that a person changing climate must change his health as well. Some time ago Mary asked me to say what kind of trees there were before the Managers door – the trees whose

branches resemble the feathers of Heaven are “Mountain Cabbage” and ones whose branches droop a little are cocoa nut trees. The weather is very dry here just now which is injuring the crops greatly. I neglected to say if you can get about three pairs of good strong trousers – only the Cloth sort to be made for our driver, and four good strong ready made striped shirts and send them out with the Boots, also about two Packages of Pencils. I am still very busy. I am very well to my health thank kind providence, hoping you are all quite well. With compliments to Brother Sister and Sister in law, kind respects to Aunts, Cousins and relations – and love to my Dear Mother hoping she is well.

I remain, Your loving & affect., Son, Robert Howie

Letter No.4

Plantation Turkeyen 25th August 1856

My dear Father,

I received yours by last Packet which I was very glad to see. My box is arrived though I have not got it from the ship yet. I am anxious to know from you if you could get about Twenty Barrels of Good Potatoes for me when they are full ripe, not before – if you think you could get them and ship them out here I could make a good deal of money by them for you, but you can say by next mail whether or not you could procure the best and I will send you instructions how to send them.

I am sorry to hear that my Mother has been ill – if circumstances require it you must without delay procure the best medical aid and I will pay the charges.

I have been rather unwell for the last two weeks myself with severe griping pains in my Bowels – however I am a little better now hoping for its continuance.

Hoping this may reach you all in good health – with compliments to all enquiring friends.

I remain, your affect. Son. Robert Howie

I will write next Packet.R.H.

Letter No.5

Turkeyen 10th May 1857

My dear Parents,

I am again favoured with the pleasure of writing you a note merely to let you know that I am still in the land of the Living and in the place of Hope.

Since I last wrote you, my health has been according to expectations, thank kind Providence for such a blessing.

We have just done making some alterations to our machinery which will facilitate the work of overseers very much, at least shorten their hours

considerably to what they had before. I am very happy here. Mr Lillie is quite a gentleman to what thousands, who might on being raised above the Commonality, would have been, though he was once my fellow overseer and now he is my Master, still he treats me as a friend, not as a stranger. I wrote you by last mail that I had some cattle he allowed me to keep on the Estate and he says I must buy a few head more which I intend to do when I have an opportunity.

I am as happy here as I would be at home. I wrote to you by last Packet of a Barrel of sugar I have sent for you, it is marked R.H. so when it comes to the Railway station you can claim it without any charges except the Railway fare, should time permit, I will write you next Packet.

With compliments to all Enquiring friends I ever remain, your Loving and affectionate Son.

Robert Howie

Excuse the scrawl.

Letter No.6

Turkeyen 25th July 1857

Dear Parents

I am in receipt of yours of the 20th ult by which I am happy to learn that you got your sugar in good order and I also hope you have got your money all right, at the same time praying that you may take great care of both as I only got them by working hard.

Should you get this in time I shall feel exceedingly glad if you could send me out Two Bottles of Guffs Fly and Scab Oil – which must be packed with the greatest care, first packing it with Bog hay in a small box by itself and then fastening it in a little corner of the big box. I am very anxious to get a bottle or two of it.

Since my last to you I have been very well, hoping it may continue. The weather here is very wet and the Cholera broken out again though I think it will not do so much harm as was anticipated.

I remain Dear Parents, Your Loving and Affectionate Son

Robert Rodmond Howie

Letter No.7

Turkeyen 9th November 1857

Dear Father and Mother

I received yours yesterday by which I am happy to see that my Box and Keg are coming by the 'Elizabeth Duncan'. I have some Jellies and some Cayenne Pepper which an old Woman who has been a good friend to me ever since I came here gave me to send to you in the first vessel from Demerara for Glasgow.

I received my shoemaker's bill, it is pretty heavy but they are as cheap as expected and the next time I send money I will send the Balance of his account.

I had a letter from James Howie in Wolverhampton, he looks to be a foppish fellow, according to his own account he is doing wonders in England, I wish him luck. I know as yet I have never got anything for nothing. Hoping this may find you all well as I am at present.

I remain, Your Loving and affectionate Son. R.R. Howie

[P.S.] Dear Father. I wish you would get a cart made for a mule which is very little smaller than a horse. New wheels axle, and a long body and a box – so that things can be changed when required, and get it made as neatly as possible. If Gilbert Anderson will do it he is the best hand I know. If he will do it, send and let me know how much it costs and I will send the money by the time it is finished.

Your Affect. Son. R.Howie

Letter No.8

Turkeyen, 9th February 1858

My Dear Parents

I received your letter this morning which I was very glad to see. The truth is it is now three months since I wrote you, for which time I have been confined to me bedroom in consequence of one of our coppers falling upon my foot which narrowly escaped making me lose my foot – but it has come off with simply the loss of two toes – the one next the big one and the one next the little one, it is now quite better thank kind Providence. The accident happened just three days after I received my box so as I had on a pair of the new shoes it saved my foot a great deal. I may say, and but for the strength of the shoes, my foot would have been dashed to pieces. It was indeed very painful at the time but the delay in taking off the toes was the cause of my being so long confined to bed. The Medical attendant, anxious if possible to let me have the use of the toes deferred the operation until it was really necessary to do so. I am still a little lame but eventually it will not affect my gait anything to speak of. The copper caught me on the instep breaking altogether four toes but the big toe bone and that of the middle one joined back but the fractures in the other two were such as to cause them to be taken off. I hope caution will prevent a like accident occurring. Mary writes me that Mr McQueen has at last walked the Turf, it has long been his desert. He has done many things beyond the Law of justice to complete his own wicked ends and to frustrate the designs of Industrious individuals, but everything has an end and some things two – every dog has its day and it appears that his day at Ballochmyle has come to a close. I received my box with every thing in excellent order and the cheese was most excellent.

The cart shellmons† must be complete all round. I am sorry to hear of the dullness of Trade but I hope it will soon be better. Let me know if you lost anything by the failure in the Banks. I will write next Packet. Hoping you are all well and in good spirits as this leaves me the same and I remain Dear Father and Mother,

Your ever Affectionate Son Robert R Howie.

Letter No.9

25th February, 1858

My Dear Parents

I received yours of the 28th Ult this morning in which I see that my Brother's Wife has given birth to a girl child which I hope will be her luck to raise. It is my wish that you do everything in your power for the sake of my brother – in time to come they will be two nice children if they be taken care of.

Your anxiety about my not writing will have been alleviated by the time you got my last letter announcing the loss of two of my toes by an accident in the active discharge of my duty and I am still more gratified to say that I am perfectly well again, only I have a little limp in my walk which I think in time to come will go away as the instep of the foot becomes stronger – however I am perfectly able to work.

The Cart you are getting for me you must send it to Mr Reid in Glasgow, telling him to ship it to me and I will pay Mr Lillie whatever the expenses may be. If you could get me a couple of riddles for riddling gravel and two small stone hammers and a pick and two short shovels and a hook for shearing grass or you may send two. By the 9th of April Packet. I will send you £25 – to pay McGaan, the cart and the other tools you will send out to me and in July I will send your own Annuity. I think that is all I remember but I will write next Packet.

Hoping you are quite well. I am dear Parents, Your Loving and Affectionate Son, Robert Howie

Letter No.10

Turkeyen 9th May 1858

My dear Parents

Yours has just arrived in time to allow me to write in reply. I would have answered your last but the Mail was behind her time and I was busy finishing up a shipment of Rum which prevented me. I also wished to send some money but the state of the merchants here just now is not in any way firm as there have been a large number of Bankruptcies and what adds to my disadvantages in sending home money is that I am never in Town – but as I faithfully promised to pay your annuity in June I will then send you it all but

should I meet anyone going near where you are I will send it in preference to getting a Bill – but I think the great panic about money is over now.

Since I wrote you last I have been perfectly well and I can now walk as well as I could ever do. You asked how comes it that Mr Lillie bought an Estate and I cannot. Mr Lillie has plenty of rich relations, moreover his Uncle made him Manager and Attorney – where I am a poor overseer and has no one to push me upwards except my own behaviour but I am contented as every honest man ought to be and will wait for the ‘good time that is coming’.

Mr Alexander is still the same as ever he was, if he get himself and his snug, he cares not for a poor overseer who has to work out his Constitution to nothing under a hot burning sun, but I am resolved never to say to him that his brother’s promise has never been fulfilled, the whole of it is he is no gentleman – my determination is to wait an offer from some one who is what he is not. I had two offers already but neither of them exactly suited me – but I am very comfortable as an overseer so I am in no hurry.

You expressed your desire to know what I am going to do with the road making tools, we have about a mile of Public Road to keep up so I merely send for the tools for it for the Estate and Mr Lillie says I must pay my Father something for his trouble in getting all these things for him and he will pay me – there’s no need for you to say this to any body as it is nobody’s business but our own. The cart I intended for my mule but if Mr Lillie, who now requires a good cart, will pay my father a handsome commission on it, he can have it. Time compels me to close this my short epistle. Hoping you are all quite well,

I remain dear parents, Your ever Loving & affectionate Son, Robt Rodm. Howie.

Letter No. 11

Turkeyen 9th August 1858

My Dear Parents,

On the arrival of the mail I was considerably disappointed at not getting a letter, this being the second by which I have not had any word, but I suppose Mary intends to pay me back with my own coin.

I sent you by last Packet an Order on Messrs John Reid Lmt. for £35 saying what was my wish you should do with it. I am glad to say to you that I have got a letter from Mr Reid with Charges on Boxes and Cart amounting to £4 13s 2d. I am rather busy just now but I will by next Packet be able to detail things more fully as by that time the vessel will be in – I hope your box of preserves was all right. I hope you will not delay in sending me an acknowledgement of the order of Mssrs. Reid & Co. as I shall feel uneasy till I hear from you concerning it.

I am quite well and hoping you are all quite well. I may say to Mary that she is getting somewhat Lazy in writing. I expect she writes some one more frequently than she write me – it strikes me forcibly that she corresponds with that foppish Cousin of hers in Wolverhampton – little monkey: he wrote me a very manish letter, little whelp, he appears to think a good deal of himself – hoping he is well and doing well.

I remain Dear Parents, Your Loving and Affectionate Son, R. Howie

Letter No.12

Turkeyen 23rd August 1858

My Dear Parents

The Mail though due today has not yet arrived but in case I should be busy when she does arrive I will say a few words in time. Since my last to you I have been quite well, only I am beginning to anticipate that such is not the same case with you as by the last Two Packets I got no letter, hoping however to be lucky enough this time to get one. By last Packet I had a letter from Reid asking me about the shipping of the cart and the other things – and I am happy to say that the Vessel arrived here yesterday – but I have not yet got the articles but they are all right as the ship is consigned to Mr Lillie but these fellows in Glasgow have charged a tremendous amount for bringing them out – but I dare say they are like all the rest – take a grab where they can get it. I have been very anxious to hear from you as Mary's long letter about my not writing often, thinking she would not infringe upon her own laws without a cause and which you might think judicious in keeping from me for a time. If it be her carelessness or that she missed the post she must take better care next time – hoping however that there may be nothing wrong. We are about commencing our crop and we will have a desperate push in the months of October, November and December to finish our crop with the year which I hope will help to soften Old Ballochmyle's heart if the canes turn out as is expected. Hoping you are all quite well.

I ever Remain, Your Loving and Affectionate Son. Robert Howie.

Letter No.13

Turkeyen 9th Sept 1858

My Dear Parents

I expected a letter this mail but I did not get one, but after I wrote my last I got two. Since my last to you I have been quite well, we are commenced making our Crop and I will be very busy till we finish it. I have not been able to get my Cart landed yet. I fully expected to have had word from you to say that you had got the money I sent some Mails ago. I wish you would tell Mr McGaan to make me six pairs of shoes telling him to make two of them for dressing with – I mean a little lighter than the ones

intended for wearing, but I will write a note to himself. I will in all probability write next mail. Hoping that this may find you all well.

I ever Remain, Your Loving and affectionate Son, Robert Howie

Letter No.14

Turkeyen 25th September 1858

My Dear Father,

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 24th Ult. I received that cart and boxes all right and 4 pairs socks for which I return my mother great thanks and may she be long spared to do so – I will between this and the New Year send her a barrel of sugar which will be of my own making. I still continue quite healthy – hoping you are all the same.

We are very busy just now, so I cannot write long letters

– and I ever Remain your Affect. Son R. Howie

Notes

Robert Rodmond Howie was born in Catrine in 1832. He was the younger son of John Howie (born in 1804 at Bridgend of Montgarswood, Sorn) and his wife, Elizabeth Jamieson (born in 1801 at Brocklie Farm, Craigie.) Robert had an elder brother, James, born in 1827 in Mauchline parish, and a younger sister, Mary, born in Catrine in 1836.

Robert's brother, James was born in 1827 in Mauchline Parish and his sister, Mary was born Catrine, 1836. James married Jane Nairn (of Grassyards, Mauchline) in June 1855, and they had a son, John, born in May 1856, and a daughter, Elizabeth, born in January 1858. Elizabeth, however, was posthumous, as her father had died in August 1857.

James Howie – the foppish cousin in Wolverhampton – was the son of Robert's father's brother, William Howie. James was a 'Scotch draper' and tailor in Wolverhampton. His correspondence with Mary, often alluded to by Robert, resulted in their marriage in 1859.

The estate of Ballochmyle was acquired by Claud Alexander in 1783. He died in 1809, and was succeeded in the estate by his eldest son, also Claud, who died without issue in 1845. The second son, William, then succeeded but died, unmarried, in 1853. He was succeeded by the third son, Boyd, who was in possession of the estate throughout the period covered by these letters. The Alexanders had made their money in India: investment in the Guyanan sugar plantations seems a natural venture for them.

James McGaan was a Boot & Shoemaker, in Earl Grey Street, Mauchline; Gilbert Anderson was a blacksmith at Greenside, Mauchline. David McQueen was the Ballochmyle estate factor, apparently dismissed ('walked the Turf'). Howie family tradition states that when Sir Claud Alexander was absent abroad on business, McQueen refused to renew the tenancy of James Howie's widow (Robert's sister-in-law). Sir Claud was furious when he returned, as the Howies had worked on the estate for generations, the tenancy was renewed, and McQueen dismissed as a result. It should however be noted that the proprietor was Boyd Alexander, and that, whatever the reasons for McQueen's departure, publicly the proprieties were observed. The *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald* of 15th May 1858 reported

that he was leaving at Whitsunday – a regular term date – and had been given a public dinner in the Loudoun Arms, Mauchline on the 6th May.

Mr James Ross may be one of the ‘three young men recruited from Mauchline’, while, unfortunately, George Lillie has not been further identified. It may be inferred from Letter No.10 that he was a cousin of Boyd Alexander. The estate he has acquired is probably La Bonne Mere, of which he is recorded as proprietor in 1860 in Sharon Anderson’s list, with a D.W. Lillie as manager.

* List provided by Sharon Anderson on rootsweb.com, accessed 16th January 2008.

† The *Concise Scots Dictionary* gives ‘shelmont’, ‘shelband’ &c, as variants of ‘shelving’, ‘parts of the sides of the cart, now usually moveable boards to allow the carrying of higher or bulkier loads.’

Adam Brown Todd (1822-1915)



Barrshouse [photo: Dane Love]

Adam Brown Todd was born at Craighall on 6th February 1822, the fourteenth child of a small tenant farmer. Craighall stood on the northern side of Glover’s Hill, between the farms of Barwheys and Boghead (of which it became part), in Mauchline parish. It no longer exists. Todd’s father, Matthew (1768-1850), had taken on the lease at Whitsunday 1795. He was a contemporary of Robert Burns, and knew him. His mother, Mary Gibb (1779-1861), was the daughter of James Gibb of Auchmillan. Young Todd moved to Barrshouse, south of Sorn at Whitsunday 1826. It was from Barrshouse that Todd attended the village school in Sorn, at that time located at the north end of the Auld Brig, adjacent to the kirkyard. In his *The Poetical Works with Autobiography*, he recalls the time when he

was sitting at his desk in the school, looking out into the kirkyard. The level of the ground in the kirkyard was higher than the floor level in the schoolroom, and he gazed up at Saunders MacGowan as he dug a hole for a burial. The earth was being piled up against the school, and Todd was given a considerable fright when Saunders threw up an old skull, which rolled down the earth and landed at the window. So frightened was Todd that he ran out of the school and all the way home! At Whitsunday 1831 the family moved to East Montgarswood farm, where he was engaged as farm manager, or foresman, to Henry Richmond. In 1834 the Todd family moved to Castlehill farm, in the parish of Kilmarnock. When he was old enough, Adam Todd found work on various local farms, and at Galston tileworks, where he was paid 6 shillings and sixpence per week for a 14-hour day in 1838. In 1844 he moved to Wellhill Tileworks, in the parish of New Cumnock, of which he became tacksman in 1851, and remained until 1861. It was during his time working at New Cumnock that he had his first success as a poet, when ‘The Storm’ was published in the *Ayr Advertiser*. He was encouraged to write more, and in 1846 his first book of poems, *The Hermit of Westmorland, The Covenanter’s Revenge, and other poems*, was published. From then on he contributed articles of various sorts to local newspapers, in particular the *Kilmarnock Journal*. Adam Todd took on a partnership in the Dalquharran Tileworks, which were located near Dailly in southern Ayrshire. He still lived in the Cumnock area, and travelled to and from the works on his mare, ‘Brenda’. In 1862 he rented Taiglim farm in Old Cumnock parish but in 1863 moved to Afton Bridgend.



Breezyhill [photo: Dane Love]

In 1864 he settled in Cumnock. He built for himself a new stone bungalow in Glaisnock Street, known as ‘Breezyhill’, which still stands. From that time on he wrote more extensively, for the *Ayrshire Post*, *Ayr Advertiser* and *The Cumnock Express*, of which he was to be appointed editor in 1863. This newspaper, which was a local edition of the *Ayr Observer*, ceased publication in 1909. In 1863 he married the great grand niece of Dr

Alexander Murray, Professor of Oriental Languages at Edinburgh University. A second volume of poems, *Poems, Lectures and Miscellanies*, appeared in 1876 and a third, *The Circling Year and other Poems*, in 1880. A. B. Todd, as he styled himself when writing, had a keen interest in the Covenanters, instilled in him from birth, for his father was descended of the Fenwick Covenanters. He wrote two books on the stories of the Covenanters, *Homes, Haunts and Battlefields of the Covenanters*, published in 1886 and 1888, and *Covenanting Pilgrimages and Studies*, published in 1911. His interest in Covenanters resulted in him playing an active part in having new memorials erected, and he was secretary of the Cumnock Peden Monument Committee, which was to have the white granite monument to Rev Alexander Peden erected in the Barrhill cemetery in 1891. It was unveiled in 1892 before a crowd of 3,500. Other memorials that he had an active part in having erected were those at Lochgoin at Fenwick, to the poet James Hyslop at Sanquhar, and to the Battle of Bothwell Bridge. Todd was also a noted Burnsian, and he presided at Cumnock Burns Club's annual dinner on a number of occasions. Adam Todd served on Cumnock Burgh Council for a time, and was noted for squabbling with James Keir Hardie, Todd being a Conservative in politics. Nevertheless, he was honoured with a public luncheon in Cumnock Town Hall on 3 October 1903 to celebrate his diamond jubilee as a journalist. At the event he was presented with an illuminated address and £168 15s. Todd died at his Cumnock home on Sunday 31 January 1915 aged 92. He was buried in Cumnock New Cemetery, where a tall sandstone headstone marks his grave. This has recently been dismantled as part of East Ayrshire Council's memorial testing scheme, whereby unsafe memorials are dismantled or laid down. It is hoped to have the gravestone re-erected in the near future. A number of Todd's relatives emigrated to New Zealand, and Rev Garfield Todd (1908-2002) went from there to become a missionary in Africa. He became involved in politics and eventually served as Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) from 1953-58. A liberal reformist, Todd was ousted by reactionaries in his own United Democratic Party, and in 1962 the hardline Rhodesia Front under Winston Field won the general election, opposed to increased black rights, especially the extension of the franchise. In 1964 Ian Smith (1919-2007, the son of an émigré farmer from Hamilton, Lanarkshire) replaced Field and embarked on the course which led to UDI. Todd was an outspoken opponent of Smith's regime, and spent periods in prison and under house arrest.

Dane Love

Peden, 'The Prophet of the Covenant's', Grave

High on a knoll above the town,
 Where mellowed comes the din;
 Up from the marts of trade, which drown
 All softer sounds within.
 Where balmy summer breezes play
 From out the glowing west,
 Or where the wintry tempests bray,
 Till spent, they sink to rest.
 Beneath two aged hallow'd thorns,

Sleeps Peden, good and brave,
Where, now, fit monument adorns
The grand old “prophet’s” grave.

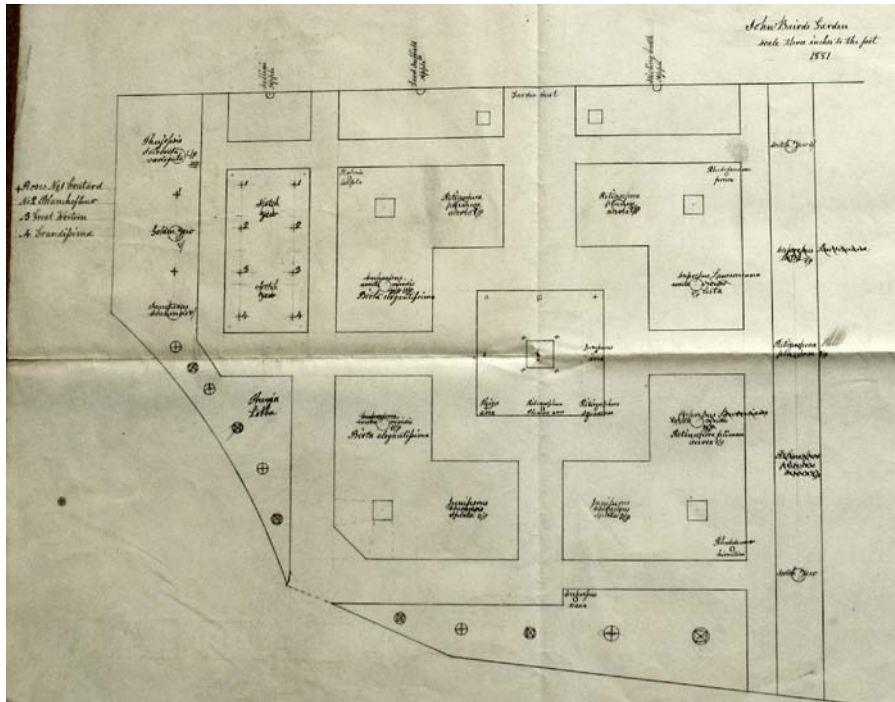
His second grave it is, for long
His persecutors prowled
O’er bleak moor and through lonesome glen
(Though Heaven in anger scowled),
To shed his blood with those who stood
For conscience and for right—
They searched the cave high o’er the flood,
With torches in the night.
They searched his brother’s dwelling through,
But God protection gave,
And willed that his dear saint should go
Down to a bloodless grave.

At early dawn, all silently,
In haste that grave was made,
Which had grown green at Auchinleck,
When it his foes invade,
And bore his corse with fiendish glee
Away to Cumnock town,
To hang it on the gallows tree,
Which there did grimly frown;
But woman’s pleading voice prevailed,
The indignity to save,
Though at that gallows foot was made
Old Peden’s second grave!

These evil times have passed away—
The war-trump and the drum,
The clash of arms, the battle-bray,
‘Mong Scotia’s hills are dumb.
And since not now our necks are bent
To tyrants and the sword,
We owe it all to those who stood
And battled for the Lord.
And long will patriots drop the tear,
Which pity aye will crave,
From those who come from far and near,
To visit Peden’s grave.

A. B. Todd

John Baird's Garden Plan of 1881



‘John Bairds Garden scale three inches to the foot 1881’
[plan in collection of Baird Institute, Cumnock; photo DCM.]

Introduction

At the Federation Swap-shop held at the Baird Institute, Cumnock, in October 2003, attention was drawn to a framed plan for ‘John Bairds Garden scale three inches to the foot 1881’ (sic) It showed a formal layout with 57 plants, 42 of which were clearly identified (24 different plant species). As a member of the horticulture staff at the Scottish Agricultural College, Auchincruive, I felt it might provide a rewarding research topic, particularly since many plants have undergone a name change since they were so carefully indicated in copperplate script in 1881.

The Auchincruive library proved a rewarding place to begin the search. *The New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening* (1999) is one of the most reliable sources for plant names. The current names of the plants were identified using this, in

conjunction with *Hillier's Manual of Trees and Shrubs* (1982) and *Manual of Cultivated Conifers* (1985) by Krüssmann. Maggie Tarbox at the Royal National Rose Society assisted with the history of rose cultivars.



John Baird's Garden [*photo in collection of Baird Institute, Cumnock*]

John Baird

John Baird (1812-1888) was born in Cumnock where his father was proprietor of the Tup Inn. John was sent to learn the joinery trade. He read extensively, particularly science and art and walked to Catrine for instruction from a draughtsman at the cotton mill. John was apprenticed to a draper in Ayr, and later opened his own draper's shop in Cumnock. John Baird was an avid collector of curios, photographer and wood carver. His own house stands next to the Baird Institute which he bequeathed in his will to provide a public building in Cumnock which would contain a museum, recreation and reading rooms. It was built on the land owned by him in Lugar Street, then known as Baird's Place, and was designed by Robert S. Ingram, and completed in 1891, 'a good substantial and elegant building in Scottish Baronial style' according to Close (1992).

The Garden Plan

The garden drawn is 39 feet by 34 feet, assuming that the scale is one inch to three feet (rather than 'three inches to the foot'). The plan shows a central bed 7 foot square, with four L-shaped beds separated by paths. There are perimeter beds beyond the path network.

The paths vary in width between 18 inches and 4 feet leading to the garden seat. The perimeter beds by the roadside contain 18 plants, only 7 of which are labelled. There is a total of 24 different named plant species. There are 2 rhododendrons, 3 apples, 4 roses and 15 evergreens, 14 of which are conifers. There are 42 plants identified. Considered by growth habit, 12 are columnar or conical trees plus 5 yew trees, 8 large bushes, 10 shrub roses, 4 small shrubs, plus the three apples. Analysed by colour 13 plants are yellow or golden-yellow, 3 grey-green, 4 dark green, 2 green, 2 blue, 1 blue-green, 1 green-and-white, plus 3 green shrubs, 10 roses and the three apples.

Two rhododendrons

The two rhododendrons on the plan include the first to be introduced to cultivation (1656) *Rhododendron hirsutum*, and the early flowering *R. x praecox* (1855). The former is a small twiggy shrub, with bristly shoots and bristle-fringed leaves, which comes from the Central European Alps and produces clusters of tubular rose-pink flowers in June. The latter is a small, early flowering shrub with rosy-purple flowers in February and March and was raised by Isaac Davies of Ormskirk.

Three apples

The three apples specified to be planted against a wall were ‘Cellini’, ‘Lord Suffield’ and ‘Stirling Castle.’ According to Taylor writing in *The Apples of England* (1946), ‘Cellini’ had the synonym ‘Norfolk Challenger’ and was a very useful apple, which originated with Mr Leonard Phillip of Vauxhall. It was a dual-purpose variety, which could be eaten from the tree and was ‘first quality’ for culinary use. The fruit was medium sized, very round and regular, with deep yellow skin, red spots on the shaded side and distinctly striped and mottled crimson when caught by the sun. The flesh was white, soft, very juicy, aromatic and distinctive. Its season was October-November. It was prone to canker.

‘Lord Suffield’ was raised in 1831 by Thomas Thorpe, a handloom weaver on Lord Suffield’s estate at Middleton near Manchester. It was oval to conical, with clear light yellow skin, devoid of russet and markings, though with an occasional faint tinge of red blush. Its flesh was very soft, an excellent cooker and ready from August. It was prone to scab.

‘Stirling Castle’ was introduced by Messrs Drummond & Son, nurserymen of Stirling. According to Robert Hogg’s *Fruit Manual* (1884), ‘it was raised by John Christie, at Causeyhead, on the road to Bridge of Allan, about 1830.’ It was round, flattish, regular and larger, with pea-green skin, changing to light yellow, occasionally with a slight blush, a few streaks, and grey-green russet markings. The flesh was quite white, very tender, juicy and acid. It was an excellent early culinary apple, season from August to October. It was prone to mildew.

Four roses

The four roses (10 plants) are ‘Blanchefleur’, ‘Coutard’ (shown as ‘Crutard’), ‘Grandissima’ and ‘Great Western.’ ‘Blanchefleur’ was a Cabbage Rose (*R x centifolia*) with flat, very double, sweetly scented flowers of white with occasional pink tints. Gault & Synge (1971) describe it as ‘slightly tidier than some other Centifolias but the weight of blooms sometimes gives the plant a lax open gait when in flower. Greyish-green foliage,

soft to the touch. 5' by 4', Vibert, France, 1835.¹ 'Coutard' was a China hybrid attributed to Laffay, France.² 'Coutard', 'Comte de Coutard' and 'Comtesse de Coutard' are now all extinct.

'Grandissima' is a Hybrid Gallica, mauve-crimson, launched by Hardy in 1824. It is also known as 'Louis Phillipe', but is no longer listed. Alexandre Hardy was chief horticulturalist at the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris, and between 1829 and 1847 he raised thousands of rose seedlings, of which the perfect white Damask 'Félicité Hardy' is the best known. He was number one in the list of nine 'important rose breeders.' (Phillips and Rix, 1993) 'Great Western' is a Bourbon Rose (*R* x *borboniana*) of unknown parentage. Once flowering, this rose has large, full, quartered flowers of maroon-purple. Its foliage is dark green and its shoots are well-endowed with thorns. It was introduced by Laffay on 1838, and is still available from Peter Beales Roses. The *Great Western* was a steam packet that held the record for crossing the Atlantic (Tarbox, *pers. comm.*, 2003).

Evergreen flowering shrub

The evergreen Calico Bush, *Kalmia latifolia*, was introduced in 1734 and has not changed its name! It is one of the best June-flowering shrubs, with clusters of bright pink flowers, set off by glossy green leaves. It comes from Eastern North America

Yews

Two yews, specified as 'Scotch Yew' and 'Golden Yew' may be *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata', which was introduced in 1780, and *T. b.* 'Fastigiata Aurea', awarded a certificate in 1855 by the Royal Horticultural Society [RHS]. Whilst the fastigiated form would have suited a small town garden, it is thought that they would have been labelled as 'Irish Yew'. The 'Scotch Yew' may, though, have been propagated from an old yew tree, such as one 4,000 years old growing at Fortingall, Perthshire, or 2,000 years old at Kelburn. An alternative suggestion for 'Scotch Yew' is *Juniperus communis* (Tarbox, *pers. comm.*, 2003).

Junipers

Juniperus chinensis was introduced to Great Britain by William Kerr in 1804, *J. c.* 'Aurea' was developed from 1855 at Maurice Young Nursery, Milford, and awarded a RHS certificate in 1871. What is shown as *J. c. spicata* could be Irish Juniper, *J. communis* 'Stricta', syn 'Hibernica' (RHS certificate 1838). All three are somewhat columnar. Two are greyish-green, the third yellow.

False Cypresses

The three *Retinospora plumosa*, *R. p.* 'Aurea' and *R. squarrosa* are now reclassified as *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Plumosa' (FCC 1866), *C. p.* 'Plumosa Aurea' and *C. p.* 'Squarrosa' (1843 van Siebold, FCC 1862) respectively. All three were introduced by Robert Fortune from Japan in 1861.³ They form large bushes or small trees, the first bright green and soft to the touch, the second bright yellow and the third with glaucous juvenile foliage. The two *Cupressus Lawsoniana lutea* (*sic*) and *C. nana* are now called *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Lutea' (1870, from G & W Rollisson Nursery, Tooting, FCC 1872) and *C. l.* 'Nana' (from France, RHS certificate 1861). The former forms a medium-

sized golden-yellow tree of columnar habit, the latter a small, dense, semi-globular bush, dark glaucous-green.

Arbor-vitae

Thuja Lobba, introduced by William Lobb⁴ in 1853, is now *Thuja plicata*, synonym *Thuja lobbii*. This is Western Red Cedar, which forms a large, fast-growing tree with light brown shredding bark and bright glossy green leaves, glaucous beneath. It makes a splendid hedge, withstanding clipping well. *Biota elegantissima* became *Platycladus orientalis*, which became *Thuja orientalis* 'Elegantissima' (RHS certificate 1858). *Thuja area* (sic) is now *T. occidentalis* 'Aurea' (RHS certificate 1857, recorded at Geneva, New York, 1873). The first is columnar and golden yellow, the second broadly conical and golden yellow. *Thujopsis dolobrata variegata* has been fine-tuned to *T. dolobrata* 'Variagata' (1859)! It forms a broadly conical tree, a strong growing clone with scattered patches of creamy-white foliage. It is not very stable and frequently reverts to the green type.



John Baird's Garden [photo in collection of Baird Institute, Cumnock]

Photographic Evidence

Two photographs showing John Baird's garden have come to light. One can clearly make out apple trees against a wall, several conifer trees, at least five urns and what looks to be colourful bedding plants in the beds and urns.

Discussion

In the 19th century it was the height of fashion to plant a collection of conifers. Vast collections were planted in arboreta and pineta, such as at Westonbirt, Gloucestershire (18,000 catalogued trees) and at Bedgebury National Pinetum in Kent. In the 1880s it was often a formal geometrical design that was used. Such an arrangement of small to medium-sized conifers suited a small town garden and this is what is shown here. It was also fashionable to plant to a formal design and to grow colourful bedding plants at the time. John Baird would seem to have been in vogue.

Unfortunately there is no indication on the plan to identify the designer. Nor is there any indication whether the paths were gravel or composed of slabs. Gravel is the more likely alternative. There are squares marked in seven beds, plinths for urns, shown in the contemporary photographs. It is not known who supplied the plants. What may be deduced is that the plants included some well-proven old favourites like the yews, the 17th century *Rhododendron hirsutum*, and the Calico Bush from the 18th Century. The remaining plants are of 19th Century origin. Two date from the first half of the 19th Century (*Juniperus chinensis* and *J. communis* 'Stricta'), as do the roses. Most plants were introductions from the second half of the 19th Century, indicating that Baird's supplier was in touch with the very latest developments in the nursery trade.

Towards the end of the 19th Century not everyone was complimentary about conifers! The Irishman William Robinson (1838-1935) wrote in *The English Flower Garden* (1896, 5th edition): 'One of the most baneful things in our gardens has been the introduction of distorted and ugly conifers. The true beauty of the pine comes from its form and dignity, as we see it in old Firs that clothe the hills of Scotland, California, Spain or Switzerland. Another most unfortunate tree in this way, as helping to fill our gardens with graceless things, is the western Arbor vitae (*Thuja occidentalis*). This, which is a very hardy tree but never a dignified one, even where it grows in the north about Lake Superior and through Canada, is, unhappily, also hardy in our gardens. There are plenty of beautiful things, new and old, worthy of the name, without filling our gardens with such monstrosities, many of which are variegated. Of all ugly things, nothing is worse than the variegated Conifer, which usually perishes as soon as the variegated parts die, the half-dead tree often seeming a bush full of wisps of hay.' In his dictionary section *Chamaecyparis* was still called *Retinospora* – and there was no mention of *Thuja* or *Thujopsis*. Perhaps fortunately John Baird had only one large growing *Thuja plicata* and only one variegated *Thujopsis dolabrata*!

An unusual and intriguing plan has come to light; it suggests that John Baird was a man of the present, up-to-date, about to plant a fashionable formal garden of evergreens featuring some of the latest conifers to be introduced, surrounded by summer bedding plants. The dominance of yellow in the structural planting would have brightened this corner of Cumnock, but the design included contrasts in green, grey-green, blue, blue-green and green-and-white with one variegated specimen. It must have looked splendid not only all summer long, but very striking in the dark winter months.

Michael Hitchon

Acknowledgements

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Endnotes

- ¹ Jean-Pierre Vibert was born in 1777 in Paris and began collecting roses in 1810. He fought under Napoleon in the Peninsular War but retired wounded to run a hardware store. In 1812 he sold his business to grow more roses. In 1815 he bought the stock and business of M. Descemet in St Denis, which had been sacked by the allies after the defeat at Waterloo. In 1827 he retired because of infestation by cockchafer grubs and retired. He moved and set up nursery again and retiring for the second time in 1851. Before he died in 1856, he told his grandson, 'I have loved only Napoleon and roses ... after all the evils from which I have suffered there remain to me only two objects of profound hatred, the English, who overthrew my idol, and the white worms that destroyed my roses.' Vibert was number six in the list of nine 'important rose breeders.' (Phillips & Rix, 1993).
- ² Jean Laffay was born in Paris in 1794. His main period of rose breeding was between 1837 and 1855, at Bellevue-Meudon. Besides 'Great Western', his 'Gloire des Mousseux', introduced in 1852, is also still widely grown. He stands at number four on Phillips & Rix's list of important breeders.
- ³ Robert Fortune (1812-1880) was born at Kelloe, Berwickshire, and rose to become superintendent of the hothouse department of the RHS garden at Chiswick. He was a member of the Society's plant collecting expeditions to China and, on his fifth trip, Japan.

- ⁴ William Lobb (1809-1864) was an important seed collector, often working for Veitch's Nursery in Exeter. According to Musgrave *et al.* (1998), 'The Veitch dynasty had been founded in 1808 when John Veitch (1752-1839), a Scot from Jedburgh who had moved south to work as a land steward for Sir Thomas Ackland at Killerton House, Devon, rented land at nearby Lower Budlake and established a nursery selling mainly trees and shrubs.' Based in Exeter after 1832, Veitch's Nursery sponsored at least two lengthy collecting trips by Lobb in North and South America: it is known that he spent the southern winter of 1841 in Brazil and around Buenos Aires, while in Chile he collected 3,000 monkey puzzle seeds, and by 1843 Veitch & Sons were offering monkey puzzle seedlings at 100 for £10.
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Civic Society Rescues Antiquarian Library Books

Kyle and Carrick Civic Society and some members have recently purchased a batch of antiquarian books from Ainslie Books, Girvan, because they illustrate the early origins of today's Ayr Carnegie Library collection. They are part of the cultural capital of Ayr. Two books are in original matching leather-spine bindings and each contains the inscription 'Presented by Messrs Longman & Co of London to the Ayrshire Horticultural Library.' This was an early subscription library for Ayrshire estate owners, nurserymen and gardeners to read the latest observations on cultivating plants.¹ *Ayrshire Magnet* reported in 1827 that the Ayrshire Horticultural Library 'consists of about 100 vols. of most expensive and valuable works, which are scarcely any where else to be found'. Ten men are known to have been subscribers for more than five years during the 1830s: John Cullen, Kilkerran; James Dodds, Bargany; Matthew Faulds, Sorn Castle; John Goudie, Ayr; Thomas Imrie, Ayr; William McMaster, Rozelle; James Rintoul, Coilsfield; John Smith, Ayr; Robert Welsh, Dumfries House; and Gilbert Porteous, Burns's Monument. Other subscribers came from Sundrum (Robert Arthur, John Niven); Culzean (Mr. Hipple, Hugh Stewart); Blairquhan (George Hunter); Auchincruive (Thomas Skinner, David Wilkinson, Hugh Ritchie) and Belleisle (Alexander Rose).

One of these books is *The different modes of cultivating the Pine-Apple from its first introduction to Europe to the late improvements of T. A. Knight, Esq.*, by a member of the Horticultural Society, published in 1822 by Messrs Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme & Brown. Thomas Andrew Knight (1759-1838) was President of the Horticultural Society (now Royal Horticultural Society) for 27 years from 1811, and bred new varieties of apples, pears, cherries and strawberries in Herefordshire. The 'member' was John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) who was a famous Scottish horticulturist, landscape gardener and prolific horticultural writer. His publications include *An Encyclopaedia of Gardening* (1822); *The Suburban Gardener* (1838) and the eight-volume *Arboretum et Fructicetum Britannicum*

(1838). In the Pine Apple book section headed 'Culture of the Pine Apple in Fifeshire' is the statement that 'Mr. Walter Nicol was from 1790 to 1800, the best grower of the Pine Apple in Scotland.' An Ayrshire reference is from Mr. James Dodds, gardener to Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bart., at Bargany, reporting improved success in growing pine apples after Mr. Dodds started heating the Pine-stoves with steam.

The Airshire Horticultural Society² founded in 1815 honoured Mr. Loudon with a dinner arranged at short notice on the occasion of his 'Gardening Tour, during July, August and part of September, in the present Year (1831), from Dumfries, by Kirkcudbright, Ayr, and Greenock, to Paisley.' The dinner was held on Monday, August 22nd and reported in the *Air Advertiser*, Thursday, August 25th, 1831: 'About thirty-five respectable persons sat down to a sumptuous dinner in the King's Arms Inn.'³ Mr. Skinner, Auchincruive, in the chair, supported on his right by Mr. Loudon and David Campbell, Esq., Mount-Hamilton – Convenor McIlwraith, Preses⁴ of the Horticultural Library, Croupier.'⁵ The Chairman paid tribute to Mr. Loudon, saying that he 'stands highly respected throughout Europe. The important subjects he has selected embrace our national and individual interests, and his works are justly considered an unspeakable benefit to the country. The lovers of horticulture and botany owe him a debt which they must transfer to future generations, and sure I am that so long as its professions exist the name of Mr. Loudon must remain imperishable. As a proof of Mr. Loudon's merits, I believe no periodical⁶ of the day has been so widely and extensively circulated as those he conducts.' There were over 16 toasts reported!

The second book from the Ayrshire Horticultural Library, *The Science of Horticulture: Comprising a practical system for the management and training of fruit-trees, exemplified by sketches from trees actually trained* (2nd edition, 1824, Messrs Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, Brown & Green) is by Joseph Hayward [see illustration, page 28]. It contains the latest advice regarding apricots, plums, cherries, vines, figs, currants, gooseberries, peaches, nectarines, apples and pears. Many were grown under glass in containers, and guidance in pruning and training for maximum production is given with comparisons from the leading authorities of the day. Ayrshire gardeners and growers clearly had access to the latest information.

Bearing the stamp of Newton Parish Library is a copy of *The rise and progress of the City of Glasgow, comprising an account of its public buildings, charities, and other concerns*, by James Cleland (1820) [see illustration, page 29]. Vincent Lunardi's balloon ascent of 1785 from St. Andrew's Square is mentioned, and that Glasgow Observatory 'is exceeded only by the Greenwich Observatory.' There is a detailed description of the Paddle Steam Ship *Savanah* by Captain Rodgers. We also read that 'Dung wheeled out from clossets and laid on the streets, must be removed before ten o'clock in the morning, during the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, and October; and before twelve o'clock noon, during the months of November, December, January, February and March.'

Ayr Mechanics' Institution ran a subscription library between 1825 and 1870. From their collection comes a very scarce copy of *The General Demands of the Reverend Doctors of Divinitie, and Ministers of the Gospell in Aberdene, concerning the Late Covenant in Scotland. Together, With the Answeres, Replies, and Duplyes that followed thereupon, in*

the Year, 1638. Reprinted in one Book, by order of Parliament. Aberdene, Printed for John Forbes, Anno Dom. 1663 [see illustration, page 30]. This 17th-century volume was presented to the Institution by Mr. James McQuaker.

A copy of *Naucrattia; or Naval Dominion*, a poem by the Poet Laureate Henry James Pye (1798, Bulmer & Co) is listed in the 1802 catalogue of Air Library founded in 1762, and two volumes of *Holland House*, an exemplary guide book to the house and garden, by Princess Marie Liechtenstein (1874, Macmillan & Co) in handsome gold-tooled, blue cloth bindings also came from Ayr Public Library. Leather-bound copies of *Harold* by Alfred Tennyson (1877, King & Co) and *Tiresias and other poems* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1885, Macmillan & Co) each bear the stamp of The Ferguson Bequest Fund.

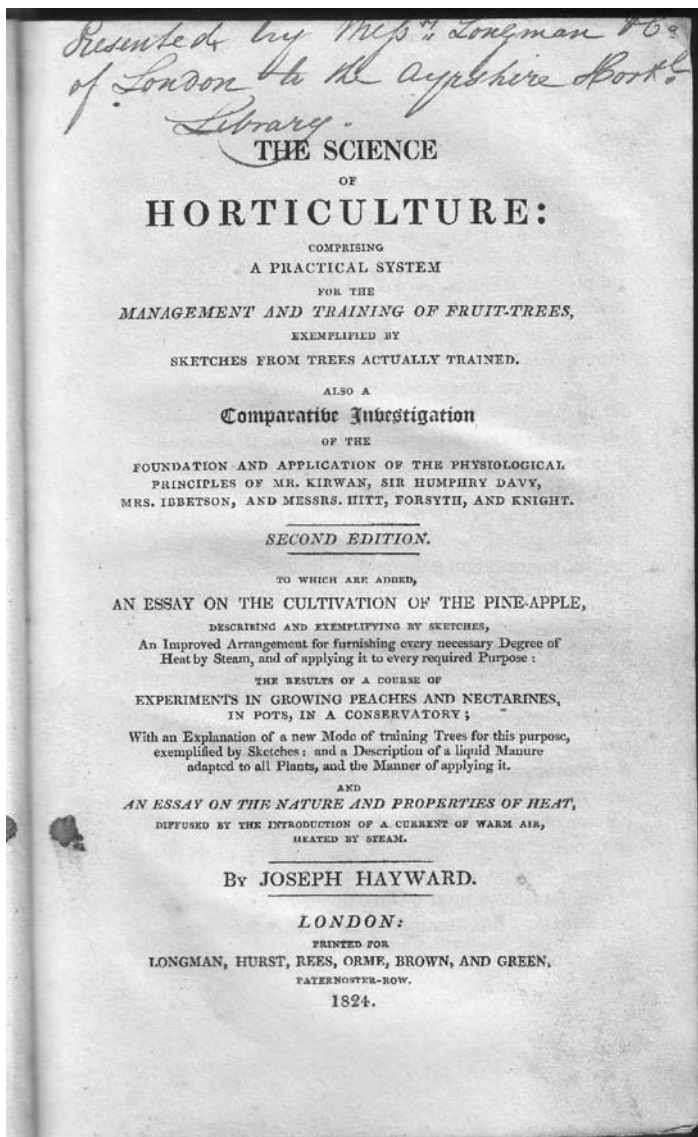
The British Imperial Calendar for 1811 by Benjamin P. Capper is an astonishing compendium of facts relating to the period, politicians, and numerous tables of data, bound with *The East-India Register and Directory* listing ‘the Company’s Servants, Casualties and Vessels’.

One would have expected the Ayr Carnegie Library to be proud to have not only early catalogues (1802, 1817, 1826) but also many actual examples of 17th, 18th and 19th-century books inherited from the earlier libraries that provided the foundation stock of Ayr Carnegie Library in 1893. Many other titles could have been rescued, including: Sir William Hamilton, 1772, *Observations on Mount Vesuvius, Mount Etna and other volcanoes* (£1,000) listed in the 1802 catalogue of Air Library, and relevant as Ailsa Craig and Arran are both volcanic; and Thomas Carlyle, 1846, *Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell* (3 volumes) listed in the 1893 catalogue of Ayr Public Library, and relevant as Oliver Cromwell built Ayr Citadel in 1654. Joseph Priestley’s *Experiments and Observations relating to various branches of Natural Philosophy; with a continuation of the Observations on Air*, (1779, Johnson, St. Paul’s Church-yard, London), is one of many 18th-century books that could have been read by Robert Burns. Examples from the Air, Newton and Wallacetown Library and from the Ayr Medico Chirurgical Library may turn up among the more than 200 antiquarian books sold for £450 in Summer 2007. There is no evidence that any of the horticultural books was then offered to Auchincruive Library or the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Library, or that titles known to be absent from the National Library of Scotland were offered to the NLS. The Civic Society suggested in February 2008 that South Ayrshire Council Book Disposal Policy should be revised with regard to the sale of antiquarian books to avoid another similar tragedy occurring. The Society wrote to Councillor Margaret Toner, Depute Leader of the Council, who is the appropriate Portfolio Carrier. She replied, ‘We will be looking at the Book Disposal Policy and I will keep you advised.’ The year 2008 is appropriately designated The Year of the Book.

Kyle and Carrick Civic Society

Acknowledgement

The authors acknowledge helpful information provided by members and friends of Kyle and Carrick Civic Society, South Ayrshire Council elected members and staff, and staff of The Mitchell Library, Glasgow.



Title page of *The Science of Horticulture* (1824) [photo: DCM]

THE
RISE AND PROGRESS
OF
THE CITY OF GLASGOW,
COMPRISING
AN ACCOUNT
OF ITS
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, CHARITIES,
AND
OTHER CONCERNS.
BY
JAMES CLELAND.

NEWTON PARISH
LIBRARY.

"It certainly is not necessary that a man should possess great power
or extensive talents, to be useful in his day and generation."

Retrospect.

GLASGOW:

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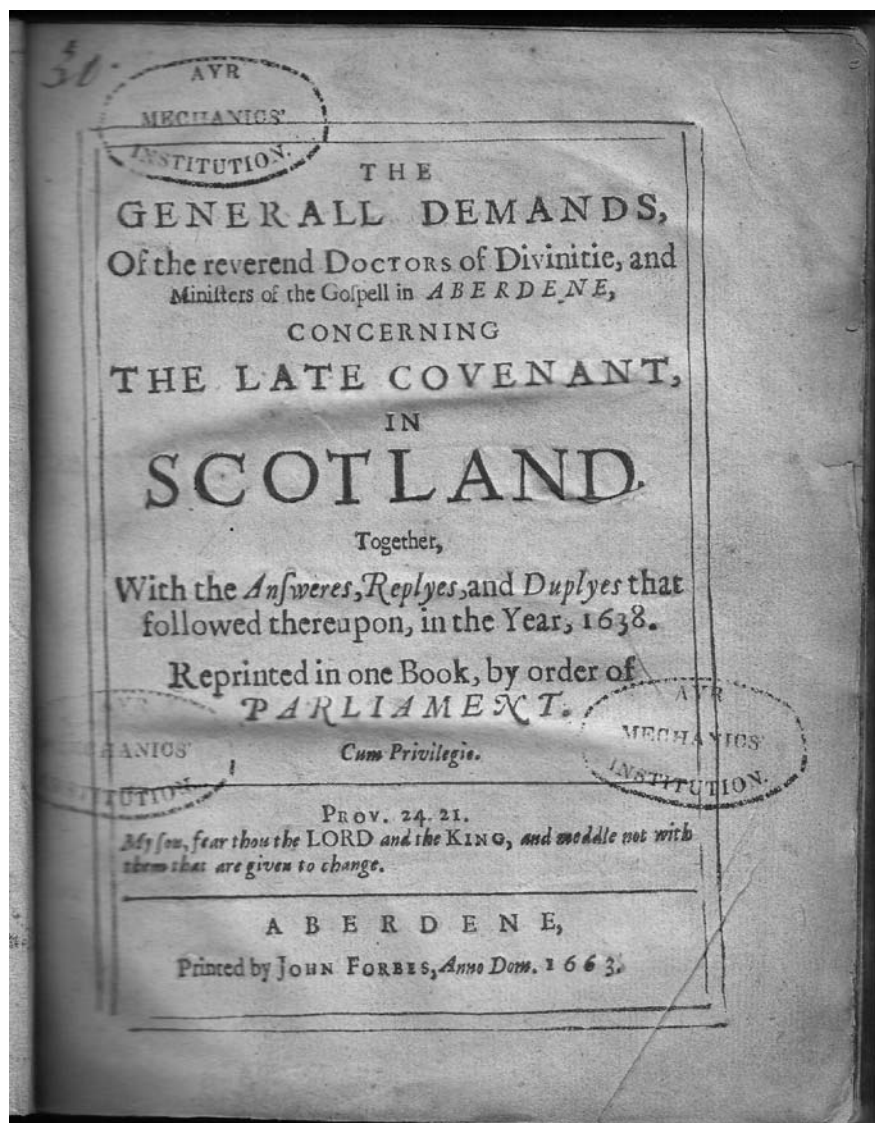
THOMAS OGILVIE, ANDREW & JOHN M. DUNCAN,

MAURICE OGLE, CHALMERS & COLLINS, &C.

1820.



Title page of *The City of Glasgow* (1820) [photo: DCM]



Title page of *The Late Covenant in Scotland* (1663) [photo: DCM]

Endnotes

- ¹ Meetings were held on the first Friday of February, May and August with the annual general meeting held on the first Tuesday of November. One month was allowed to read folio, quarto or octavo volumes and magazines, two weeks for duodecimo books.
- ² The Airshire Horticultural Society was established in Mrs Simpson's, Black Bull Inn, Old Bridge End, Ayr, on 27th January 1815 following a preliminary meeting held on 28th December 1814 (*Air Advertiser*, January 12th, 1815). Mr. Joseph Norman, Nurseryman, Ayr and Mr. James Smith, Nurseryman, Monkwood, Ayr, were founder members. 'Monkwood Botanic Garden was founded by the present proprietor Mr. James Smith, 2 acres with 2,000 hardy exotics, besides a very full collection of British, and over 500 sorts of green-house plants,' according to Loudon's *Encyclopaedia*, 4th edition, 1826.
- ³ The King's Arms Inn was at 14 High Street, Ayr. It was the town's premier inn.
- ⁴ 'preses' means president or chairman.
- ⁵ 'croupier' means master of ceremonies.
- ⁶ J. C. Loudon compiled and launched the first popular horticultural magazine, *The Gardener's Magazine*, issued quarterly from January 1826, and began *The Magazine of Natural History* in 1828. When he died in 1843, Mrs. Jane Loudon took charge, continuing her writing and publishing until she died in 1858. He was a devoted patriot. 'It becomes us to venerate the man, who, disinterestedly and fearlessly, strives to promote the amelioration of the condition of the industrious poor. Mr. Loudon would, if he could, furnish every peasant in Britain with his cottage and his cottage garden, and teach them to appreciate them and enjoy them,' said Thomas Skinner, Chairman at the dinner.

Audio Trail of Largs

The St Columba Experience, a group associated with St Columba's Parish Church, Largs, has produced in partnership with Largs and District Historical Society a hand-held guide for a walking tour around the town. The Audio Trail handset, not much bigger than a mobile phone, is controlled by the visitor as he or she proceeds at their own pace to 17 points of interest on a route which can be completed in an hour. However, optional additional material either walked or only listened to can extend to twice that and more.

Naturally the figures, events and places traditionally related to the town's history are covered – St Columba, the Battle of Largs, Skelmorlie Aisle, Curlinghall, Sir Thomas Brisbane of Australian and astronomical fame, and Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor extraordinary. A guided tour of St Columba's Parish Church is also available.

However the novel feature of this tour is its emphasis on the memories of living people. ATS Heritage who prepared it recorded a great deal of spoken material from long-time residents, and they tell us in their own words about Clyde steamers, summer visitors,

Nardini's Café, dancing at the Moorings and World War Two, with Commandos, Catalina aircraft and planning for D-Day. Living history indeed!

During a trial season last summer handsets were available from St Columba's Parish Church for a small charge and a returnable deposit. At the time of writing plans for 2008 had not been finalised, but up-to-date information should be available by springtime from either the Church (01475 686212) or Largs Tourist Information Bureau (01475 676182).

Douglas Easton, LDHS

[Highly recommended. Additionally, the postcards produced by St Columba's in connection with the trail are exemplary. Editor]

Call for Information: Lord Howard de Walden

A request has come to East Ayrshire Council's Museum Service from Mr. Thomas Seymour, the grandson of Thomas Evelyn Ellis, 8th Lord Howard de Walden. Mr. Seymour is the son of George Seymour and Rosemary, Lord and Lady Howard de Walden's youngest daughter. His sister is the celebrated author and journalist, Miranda Seymour. He has been nominated by members of his family including Hazel, Lady Howard de Walden (daughter of John 9th Baron, and granddaughter of Thomas 8th Baron) – to undertake a research project into his grandfather's life.

The driving force behind this request is due to an anniversary which is taking place in 2011 in Chirk Castle in North Wales. An exhibition is being planned with the family and The National Trust. Lord Howard de Walden took a lease of Chirk Castle from 1911 and the family lived there for 35 years as their main residence until moving to Dean Castle in 1945 following World War II.

Lord Howard de Walden came into his inheritance of Dean Castle and lands around the Kilmarnock area in 1899 due to the death of his father and grandmother in the same year. During this early part of the century, as many local people will know, he restored Dean Castle from a ruin and built up the wonderful collections of Arms and Armour. Sadly Lord Howard de Walden died in 1946 after having lived permanently at Dean Castle for a short time. However, during the restoration period Dean Castle was obviously a much loved place and the family spent many holidays in the town, celebrated family birthdays including their eldest children's 21st birthdays (twins, John and Bronwen) and held and attended many functions in places like the Grand Hall in Kilmarnock. The 8th Lord Howard de Walden supported many clubs around the area including bowling and quoining.

Lord Howard de Walden was a remarkable person. He wrote plays and dramas set to music (performed at Drury Lane and Covent Garden); he held an interest in and put on plays at the Haymarket Theatre in London; in terms of sport he was an Olympic-standard fencer, an outstanding yachtman, and an expert on falconry; he was a dedicated soldier (participating in the Boer War and the First World War (Gallipoli and France); a distinguished medievalist who wrote on heraldry, published the complete peerage; and an outstanding patron of the arts. His collection of Arms and Armour, collected over his

lifetime, is one of the most important collections in the country. This wonderful bequest was given, along with Dean Castle and land, from his son, John Osmael Scott Ellis, 9th Lord Howard de Walden to the people of the town in 1975.

If anyone in the town or area has any information, images, anecdotes or stories, no matter how small, I would appreciate if they would write, call or email and pass on their memories to me. This request for information is also going out to the people who live around Chirk Castle. The family own Marylebone Estate in London and information is being gathered from here too. Depending on what is unearthed, there may be a book in the offing. All of this will be collated by the museum service and passed directly to Mr. Seymour. We hope that this is the start of a fruitful, reciprocal relationship. Mr. Seymour has already passed useful information to the museum service.

I can be contacted as follows:-

Postal Address: Linda Fairlie, Museums Officer, The Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, KILMARNOCK, KA3 1BU

email address: linda.fairlie@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01563 554342

Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies

The Federation's **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Sunday 11th May 2008** at the **Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick**. It will be an afternoon event, with times arranged to suit the Sunday sailings of the boat from Ardrossan. Members will be formally notified, but please make sure this date is on your diary, **now**. At the AGM the **John Strawhorn Quaich** for 2008 will be awarded, and we now invite all members to make nominations for this. The Quaich is awarded annually to someone who, in the opinion of the Federation, has made a particularly important contribution to local or family history in Ayrshire. Further details can be obtained from the Federation's Secretary, Pamela McIntyre, and nominations – in writing – should be sent to her at the address on the inside front cover as soon as possible.

Also at the AGM, our long-serving chairman, Stuart Wilson, will demit office. The new chairman will be Kathryn Valentine from Largs. Stuart has done much to drive the Federation forward, and we know that Kathryn will continue his good work. Come to Rosaburn to demonstrate your support for them, and their work.

Later in the year, there will be the regular **Swap-shop**. This will be on **Sunday, 5th October**, and we are currently investigating holding it in the **Dundonald Castle Heritage Centre**, in Dundonald.

Before that, there will also be the Federation's biannual **Conference**. This year we are planning a joint conference with the Scottish Records Association [SRA] the subject is to be **Church History**, with, hopefully, an emphasis on the dissenting and non-conformist churches of Scotland. Because the SRA has a large professional membership, and to

encourage them to attend, the event is being held, experimentally, on a **Friday: 12th September**. The venue is, as has become customary, the **Walker Halls in Troon**.

Fuller details of both events will follow in due course but please put these dates in your diaries.

Diary of Meetings March to May 2008

AANHS	Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Meetings in Carnegie Library, Ayr, at 7.45 p.m.
ASA	Alloway & Southern Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Alloway Church Halls, Alloway, at 7.30 p.m.
BHS	Beith Historical Society. Meetings in lounge of the Eglinton Inn, Beith at 8.00 p.m.
DHS	Dundonald Historical Society. Meetings in Dundonald Castle Visitors Centre, Dundonald, at 7.30 p.m.
EAFHS	East Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock, at 7.30 p.m.
FHS Joint	Joint Meeting of Ayrshire Family History Societies. Troon, 7.30 p.m.
KCCS	Kyle and Carrick Civic Society. Meetings in Loudoun Hall, Ayr, at 7.30 p.m.
KDHG	Kilmarnock & District History Group. Meetings in Kilmarnock College at 7.30 p.m.
Largs HH	LDHS Hakon Hakonsson Lecture. In Vikingar!, Largs at 8 p.m.
Largs Jt	Joint meeting of LDHS and LNAFHS. In Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs at 7.30 p.m.
LDHS	Largs and District Historical Society. Meetings in Largs Museum at 7.30 p.m.
L(MS)	LDHS, Marine Section. Meetings in Largs Museum at 7.30 p.m.
LNAFHS	Largs & North Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Largs Library, Allanpark Street, Largs at 7.30 p.m.
MHS	Maybole Historical Society. Meetings in Maybole Castle, High Street, Maybole at 7.30 p.m.
PHG	Prestwick History Group. Meetings in 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick, at 7.30 p.m.
SHS	Stewarton Historical Society. Meetings in John Knox Church Hall, Stewarton, at 7.30 p.m.
TAFHS	Troon @ Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Portland Church Hall, South Beach, Troon, at 7.30 p.m.
WKAS	West Kilbride Amenitry Society. Meetings in Community Centre, Corse Street, West Kilbride, at 7.30 p.m.

March 2008

Mon 3 rd	SHS	A Cox	Rowallan Castle
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Mon 3 rd	KCCS	Susan Bradbury	Stained Glass
Mon 3 rd	L(MS)	tba	tba
Tue 4 th	KDHG	Emma Roodhouse	The Kitchen Goddess, from the 18 th Century to the Present Day
Thu 6 th	PHG		Pot Pourri
Tue 11 th	LNAFHS	Lesley Richmond	Threading the World - Coats and Family Research
Wed 12 th	DHS	Leslie Brown	Maid of the Loch
Thu 13 th	EAHFS	Tom Barclay	Troon, Loans and Dundonald: Smugglers of the 18 th Century
Thu 13 th	AANHS	Roland A Paxton	Thomas Telford - "Colossus of Roads"
Mon 17 th	LDHS	Alexander Broadie	The Enlightenment
Tue 18 th	KDHG	Chris Tabraham	Captured in Time: the French Prisoners in Edinburgh Castle
Tue 18 th	FHS Jt	Frances Wilkins	Smugglers of Kyle
Thu 27 th	BHS	Wallace Galbraith	Burns and his music
April 2008			
Thu 3 rd	PHG	"Two Intrepid Invest- igators"	Prestwick and the Holy Grail.
Mon 7 th	L(MS)	Leslie Brown	Saving the <i>Maid of the Loch</i>
Mon 7 th	SHS	Ms C Glenn	Burns National Heritage Park
Tue 8 th	LNAFHS	Sheena Harling	The Diary of Mary Woodrow - 18 th Century Cumbrae
Wed 9 th	DHS	George Herbert	Some Aspects of the Geology of Ayrshire
Thu 10 th	EAHFS	Stanley Sarsfield	Mauchline Ware
Mon 21 st	LDHS	Neil Stuart	Sir Thomas Brisbane
May 2008			
Thu 1 st	PHG	--	Blether of 2008
Mon 12 th	SHS	--	AGM, + speaker tbc

AANHS Publications

Publications of the Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society (AANHS) are available from Ronald W. Brash MA, Publications Distribution Manager, 10 Robsland Avenue, Ayr KA7 2RW. Further information about the AANHS and its publications will be found on the society's website: www.aanhs.org.uk

33 Dr John Taylor, Chartist: Ayrshire Revolutionary (Fraser) 112 pages	£4.00
32 Ayr and the Charter of William the Lion 1205 (Barrow) 20 pages	£1.00
31 Tattie Howkers: Irish Potato Workers in Ayrshire (Holmes) 192 pages	£4.50
30 The Early Transatlantic Trade of Ayr 1640-1730 (Barclay & Graham) 104 pp.	£4.50
29 Vernacular Building in Ayrshire (Hume) 80 pages	£4.50
28 Historic Prestwick and its surroundings, 64 pages	£2.50
27 Ayrshire in the Age of Improvement (McClure) 192 pages	£4.00
25 The Street Names of Ayr (Close) 128 pages	£5.00
24 Historic Alloway, Village and Countryside: A Guide for Visitors	£2.00
23 The Last Miller: The Cornmills of Ayrshire (Wilson)	£3.00
22 The Rise and Fall of Mining Communities in Central Ayrshire (Wark)	£1.00
21 A Community Rent Asunder: The Newmilns Laceweavers Strike of 1897 (Mair)	£2.00
20 Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors, 2nd ed.	£2.50
19 Robert Reid Cunninghame of Seabank House (Graham)	£1.00
18 Cessnock: An Ayrshire Estate in the Age of Improvement (Mair)	£2.00
15 The Port of Ayr 1727-1780 (Graham)	£2.00
14 Smuggling and the Ayrshire Economic Boom (Cullen)	£2.00
13 Tolls and Tacksman (McClure)	£1.50
12 The Cumnock Pottery (Quail)	£2.00
11 Robert Adam in Ayrshire (Sanderson)	£1.50
10 The Barony of Alloway (Hendry)	£1.50
9 Plant Life in Ayrshire (Kirkwood/Foulds)	£1.50
6 A Scottish Renaissance Household (MacKenzie)	£1.00
Antiquities of Ayrshire (Grose, ed. Strawhorn) (reprint)	£2.00
Mauchline Memories of Robert Burns (ed. Strawhorn) (reprint)	£2.00
Armstrong's Maps of Ayrshire (1775: reprint, 6 sheets)	£12.00