

# AYRSHIRE NOTES

HISTORY § ANTIQUITIES

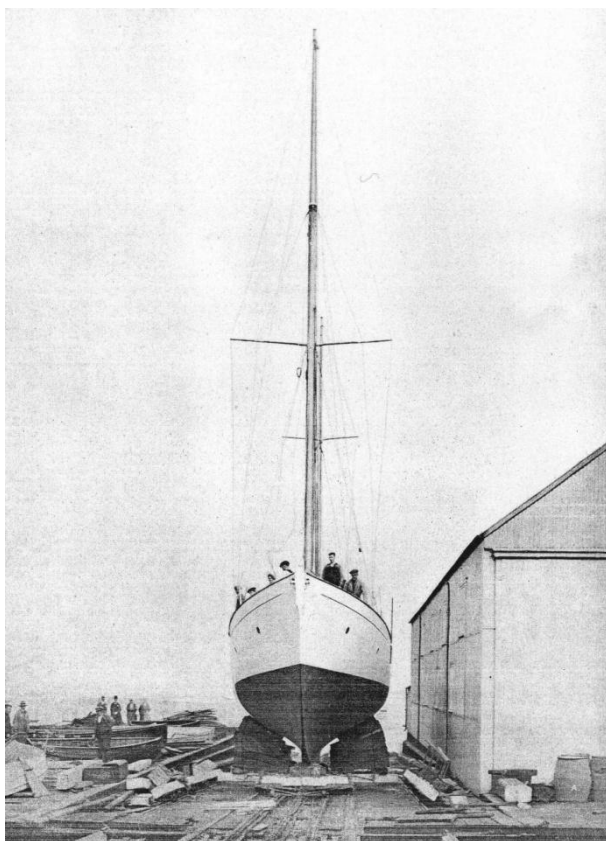
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*Southern Cross*

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***Cover illustration***

*Southern Cross* being launched into the Holy Loch at Robertson's Yard, Sandbank (near Dunoon), 18 August 1930. See the article by David Hutchison beginning on page 4.

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# Largs to Brisbane

## Tragic Voyage of the Southern Cross

by *David Hutchison*

### *Summary*

The story of this tragic voyage highlights the strong historical, family and scientific connections between Largs and Brisbane, Western Australia. Mr David Guthrie Dunn of Knock Castle, Largs was a very accomplished sailor who named all his yachts 'Southern Cross' due to his fascination with the southern seas. The young tobacco heir set sail from the Clyde in his new yacht *Southern Cross* to circumnavigate the globe in October 1930, and arrived in Brisbane a year later. He embarked on the return leg of the journey in June 1932, but was tragically lost at sea between Cape Town and St Helena. In his honour, the Dunn Memorial Hall was gifted to the congregation of St John's Church in Largs.

### *Dunn Family and Knock Castle*

Mr John Dunn was a tobacco merchant and partner in the prominent Glasgow tobacco manufacturing company F & J Smith. The firm was amalgamated with other companies and became part of Imperial Tobacco in 1901. The family home Knock Castle was built by the boat-building Steele family in 1851, and acquired by John Dunn in 1915.

David Guthrie Dunn, the younger son of John Dunn, was left a large inheritance by his father and with it he was able to indulge in his great passion for yachting. D Guthrie Dunn, as he was known, was an active member of four yacht clubs and became one of the most prominent young yachtsmen on the Clyde. While he was still a student at Cambridge University he developed a meticulous plan to build an ocean going cruising yacht and sail round the world. Just five months after graduating with a BA in May 1930, at the young age of 23, he set off on his grand adventure with two university friends, Mr James Shackleton from Yorkshire and Mr W G Penman from Dumfries.

### *Southern Cross*

Guthrie's new ocean-going yacht was the third to bear the name 'Southern Cross', after the constellation, the others were sleek racing yachts; a 6-Metre, and an 8-Metre. He also owned a large steam yacht named *Northern Lights* and a speed boat called *The Knock*, which was raced successfully in Scotland and at a London to Cowes event.

The *Southern Cross* was specially designed by the renowned Scottish naval architect G L Watson & Co for this challenging round the world voyage. The 51 ft auxiliary ketch was built at the boatyard of Alexander Robertson & Sons Ltd of Sandbank (Nr Dunoon), which was well known for the quality of its workmanship. She was soundly constructed of teak with a wide beam of 14.5ft, there were three comfortable cabins below, and she could be steered from a forward wheelhouse or the aft cockpit. Extra-large water and fuel tanks were fitted to allow the cruising range to be extended.

Some initial sea trials took place after the yacht was launched into the calm waters of the Holy Loch on 18 August 1930. A few days later she embarked on a cruise to Ireland to assess her ocean-going performance, before setting out on her long voyage to the South Seas (*see cover photo*).

## ***Brisbane***

The crew of *Southern Cross* headed for Brisbane, because there were strong family, historical and scientific links between the state capital of Queensland and Largs.

Thomas Brisbane, son of Sir Thomas Brisbane and Dame Eleanora Brisbane, was born at Brisbane House, Noddsdale near Largs in 1773. He received an extremely good general education at home and in London before taking up a commission in the army at the age of 17. He saw active service in both Europe and the West Indies. After one disastrous Atlantic crossing with his regiment in 1795 his ship ended up off the coast of Africa rather than the West Indies. As a result, Brisbane resolved to learn more about astronomy so he could navigate at sea. Whilst on temporary leave from the army between 1805 and 1811, he built an observatory at Brisbane House in 1808, which was only the second one in Scotland at the time. His interest in astronomy became a lifelong pursuit, and his subsequent observations and studies made a significant contribution to the advances in navigation which took place over the next hundred years.

At the end of the Napoleonic Wars he sought employment which would allow him to continue his interest in astronomy and navigation. The new Sir Thomas Brisbane became the 6th Governor of New South Wales in 1821, and he immediately set about establishing a private observatory in the grounds of Government house at Parranatta, using much of the equipment from his observatory at Largs. The town of Brisbane, the Brisbane River, and the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium were all named after him.

Brisbane left Australia in December 1825 and returned to Scotland. He settled down to the life of a country gentleman and took an interest in his estate, his regiment and astronomy. He built his third observatory at his wife's family estate at Makerstoun, near Kelso, and employed a team of scientists throughout the 1840s. After a very distinguished military/scientific career he died in 1860 and was buried in the Brisbane Vault, which is in the small graveyard next to Skelmorlie Aisle, Largs Old Kirk.

The name 'Brisbane' appears widely throughout Largs: Brisbane Glen; Brisbane Queen Festival, which started in 1936; Brisbane House Hotel; local businesses; a bridge; and street names.

## ***Round the World***

On 26 October 1930 *Southern Cross* set sail on her 20,000 mile voyage round the world with a crew of three young, but experienced yachtsmen. During the early part of the trip across the Bay of Biscay, they encountered severe storms for several days and had to seek sanctuary in Corcubión, in the north-west tip of Spain. They eventually set off across the Atlantic from Tenerife and made their way safely to Trinidad.

While visiting Jamaica, they had an interesting encounter and poignant reminder of their links back to their home waters on the Clyde. They came across the famous steam

yacht *SY Nahlin*, which was owned by the jute heiress Lady Yule of Glasgow, and built by John Brown & Co at Clydebank. This elegant 296 ft yacht, which required a crew of over 50, had the same designer as *Southern Cross* - G L Watson & Co of Glasgow. In addition, the owner's luxurious 30 ft motor launch, crew's launch, 2 lifeboats and two dinghies for the *SY Nahlin* were built by Alexander Robertson & Sons Ltd of Sandbank, that also built the *Southern Cross*.

After passing through the Panama Canal they made their way across the Pacific, stopping at several islands on their way. They arrived in Brisbane exactly one year after they set sail from the Holy Loch. Guthrie Dunn returned to the UK by steamer to attend to the estate of his father, during which time the *Southern Cross* was dry-docked and overhauled for the journey home. He returned to Brisbane in June 1932 to resume the adventurous voyage with his two friends.



**The three man crew of *Southern Cross* in the centre, Brisbane June 1932 - James Shackleton (navigator) on left, D Guthrie Dunn (owner/skipper) in the middle, W G Penman (engineer) to the right.**

The photo is part of the Campbell family collection held in the John Oxely Library by the State Library of Queensland. Apparently somebody in a local Campbell family took photos of many yachts in the harbour. The *Southern Cross* coming all the way from the birthplace of Sir Thomas Brisbane would have created quite an interest in those days.

Making their way past the Great Barrier Reef, they visited Mauritius and Madagascar before arriving in Cape Town. In February 1933 they set off for the challenging Southern Atlantic leg to St Helena. While on watch on the night of 8 March, during heavy seas, Guthrie Dunn was lost overboard. The yacht arrived in St Helena, with the remaining crew of two on 16 March, where an enquiry was held.

## ***Dunn Memorial Hall***

A memorial service took place at St John's Church Largs on 25 March, which was attended by close family, all sections of the local community, and many prominent Clyde yachting personalities, including: Mr W Smart, representative of G L Watson, designer of *Southern Cross*; Mr Alex Robertson and Mr George Robertson, Sandbank, builders of the boat. It is sad to note that Guthrie Dunn's elder brother John was also lost at sea, while rowing off Knock Castle in 1923, when he was just 18 yrs old.

Ownership of Knock Castle passed out of the Dunn family in 1934. Guthrie Dunn left a large estate of £1.2 million and in February 1935 it was announced to the congregation of St John's Church that a gift of £2030 was to be made for the erection of hall in memory of D Guthrie Dunn. The Dunn Memorial Hall was presented to the church and opened on 25 March 1936 by Mr Thomas Stark Brown, legal representative of the estate of the late Mr D Guthrie Dunn.



**Southern Cross Leaving Brisbane**  
(Courtesy John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland)

## ***Sailing on***

In April 1933 Captain William Ure from Largs set off on a steamship from London, with a replacement crew, to bring the yacht back from St Helena. A rather weather beaten *Southern Cross* finally arrived back at Robertson's boat yard on the Holy Loch on 8 July 1933, nearly three years after she was launched there.

The *Southern Cross* changed hands several times before she was bought by the Hull Fishing Vessel Owner's Association in the 1960s and used as a sail/navigation training vessel by them, and the local Nautical College. The yacht now under the name *Cailach* was sold and moved to the south coast of England. Around 1992 she left UK waters, and after an extensive renovation is now based in Mallorca.

It is my intention to continue researching the history of the *Southern Cross* and her voyage so any further information about the yacht or the Dunn family would be most welcome. [robyardsb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robyardsb@hotmail.co.uk)

## *Main References*

- 1     *The Yachtsman & Motor Boating* magazine, 21 March 1931 and 25 March 1933.
  - 2     Lloyd's Register of Yachts.
  - 3     Alexander Robertson & Sons Ltd Boatbuilders – Robertson family archives.
  - 4     Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales. 'Sir Thomas Brisbane – a man of scientific method' presented by Dr Carol Liston at the Symposium Commemorating Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane, National Trust, Observatory Hill, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011.
  - 5     Digital Collection, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.
  - 5     Newspapers articles, various: Scotsman; Glasgow Herald; Brisbane Courier; Central Queensland Herald; Sydney Morning Herald; Windsor & Richmond Gazette.
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## **Loch Doon Seaplane Base**

*The following appeared in the Oculeus column of the Ayrshire Post for Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1923 (page 8, column d):*

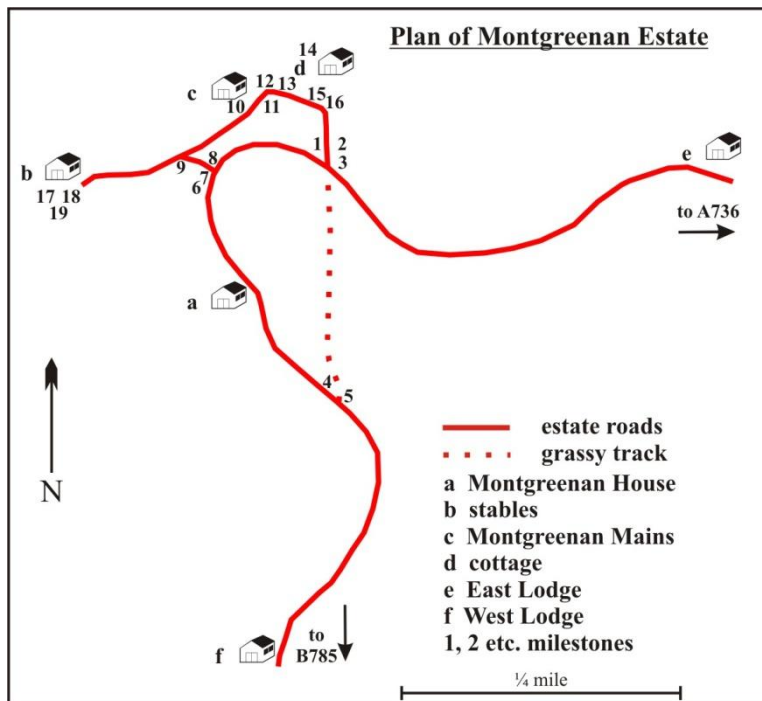
The residue of the Loch Doon aeroplane and seaplane depot and Dalmellington aerodrome have been disposed of for a mere song, and one of the grossest blunders ever perpetrated by any Government (not entirely in panic, as the substantial nature of all the work carried out there shows that the thing was done of set purpose). I suppose they expected the war to last for a matter of thirty years at least. The contractor was carrying out the plans faithfully, and without regard to expense. Yet, it was a rotten business from start to finish, and the millions which were sunk up there, and will remain sunk, will never be fully known. The ones who were responsible for the colossal waste should not escape punishment. It is said that it was - along with several other like schemes - created for the burying away of sons of men who could not afford to run the dangers of active service, and it is said that scions of noble houses were there seeing that jobs, which they knew nothing whatever about, were done well and properly. What a job!

Up there, by the side of Loch Doon, in after years, the story will be told, with variations no doubt, of this former generation, who during the great war, so lost its head that it projected a base and headquarters in the fastnesses of upland Ayrshire, in Scotland, for seaplanes, but nobody knows really what the tremendous scheme was for. They will wonder at the great cubes of concrete lying scattered about, each a monument of wasted energy and the depriving of the fighting force of the country of hundreds of hands when these hands were needed most in vanquishing the enemy. They will be amazed at the huge platform of concrete, might septic tanks, a strange castellated affair on the verge of the loch - a people gone "wud"!



# The Montgreenan Milestones

by David Courtney McClure



**Diagram 1: Plan of Montgreenan Estate showing milestones.**

When a group of ramblers from Kilmarnock visited Montgreenan in September 1922, they observed the milestones collected by the proprietor, Sir James Bell, which were placed “in twos and threes where the side-paths join the avenues”.<sup>1</sup> They have suffered further weathering and accidental depredations since then. With a view to preserving a record of them, the author surveyed the stones in March 2009, and in what follows endeavours to place them in their geographical and historical context.

Sir James Bell (1850-1929) was a Glasgow worthy. He held many offices, and served as Chairman of Glasgow Life Insurance Company, Deputy-Chairman of Glasgow and South-Western Railway, and Deputy-Chairman of the Clydesdale Bank. He was created a baronet in 1895, and subsequently purchased the Montgreenan estate.<sup>2</sup> The milestones noted by the ramblers were thus probably collected by Bell in the first two decades of the

twentieth century. However, as will be argued below, they may have been removed from the roads many years earlier.

Montgreenan lies in the Ayrshire parish of Kilwinning.<sup>3</sup> The mansion was built for Dr Robert Glasgow in 1810-17. It continued as a private house until 1982, following which it was run as a country house hotel for a number of years. This was closed at the time of the survey, reportedly with a view to reopening at an unspecified date. The wooded grounds are in multiple ownership, and some parts are fenced around as private gardens. The author found and photographed 19 milestones, and their locations are shown on Diagram 1 above. Three, 14, 15 and 16, had been resited in recent times. Though all the main avenues were explored it is not impossible that there are other stones not found during the survey.

Note: In the descriptions of the milestones below, where a distance digit is uncertain it is italicised. In instances where a digit cannot be deciphered '?' is used in its place.

*continued on page 12.*

### Milestone 1



LH face

Kilmarnock → 2½ miles 14 yards  
Dundonald ← 2 miles 7 furlongs 176 yards



RH face

Crosshouse → 1 ¼ miles 51 yards  
Kilmaurs 3 miles 3 furlongs 66 yards

**Milestone 2: LH face**



**RH face**



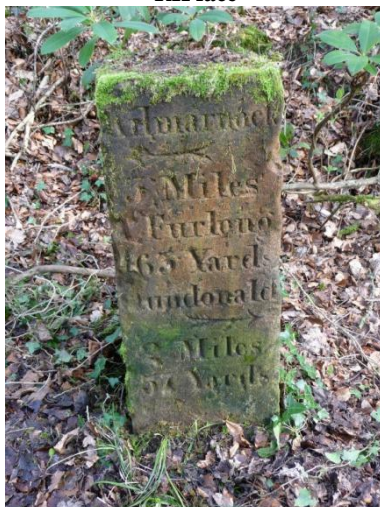
Kilmarnock →  
Troon ←

Tarbolton ←

**Milestone 3: LH face**



**RH face**



Symington ← 3 miles 1 furlong 66 yards, Ayr 10 miles 1 furlong 66 yards

Kilmarnock ← 3 miles 1 furlong 66 yards' Dundonald → 2 miles 57 yards

Although the provision of milestones was stipulated in the first Ayrshire Road Act in 1767 there is no evidence that the trustees treated this as a priority. In the extensive records of the trustees references to milestones are few and far between. In October 1778 the roads trustees at their general meeting in Ayr decided that roads should be measured and milestones erected.<sup>4</sup> However this is the only occasion when milestones are mentioned in the 18th century. The subject does not occur in any of the minute books concerning individual roads in the Act. In one set of minutes, those for the road from Kilmarnock, by Mauchline, to Old Cumnock, the secretary and treasurer Gavin Hamilton recorded his accounts. Items included payments to individual road-makers for making and repairing stretches of road, but not for the erection of milestones.

The next occurrence was in February 1808, when it was recorded that milestones were to be set up on the road from Irvine through Stewarton to the county boundary, and on the road up the coast from Irvine through Saltcoats and Largs, again as far as the county boundary, which in this case is at Kelly Bridge.<sup>5</sup> Note that milestones ‘were to be set up’; not repaired, not replaced, not added to, but set up, from which we may infer that there had been no previous erection of milestones on these roads. Yet these were two of the principal roads of the 24 in the first Act.

It is not until June of the following year that the minutes provide confirmation of the existence of milestones when it was decided that lettering on the milestones should be made more conspicuous: “The Earl of Eglinton observed that the letters on the milestones erected on the road from Irvine towards Greenock and the figures thereon were not conspicuous enough whereupon the trustees convened remitted to and authorised Col Hamilton to employ a proper person to get the letters and figures on the stones cut more deep and to get them made as conspicuous as possible and draw on the cashier for the expense.” This road passed through the earl’s property of Skelmorlie in the parish of Largs. The earl reverted to this subject in August that year, when he moved “That Col Hamilton may be wrote to to get the letters on the milestones lately erected on the road from Irvine by Largs towards Greenock made deeper and the word ‘Irvine’ and contraction ‘Grk’ for Greenock cut upon them that they may be distinctly understood by travellers. Also that handbills should be circulated offering a reward of 2 guineas for discovering the person or persons who have broken damaged or defaced or who shall hereafter break damage or deface any milestone erected on said road to be paid by the cashier on conviction of the offender, which was agreed to.”

From this we may be sure of the existence of milestones on at least one road in Ayrshire by the summer of 1809. However the earlier decision to erect milestones on the road from Irvine to Stewarton may not have been acted upon, because in July 1832, almost a quarter of a century later a further decision was made to *erect* milestones on that road and at the same time it was decided to re-site some of the milestones on the road from Irvine to Largs on account of what was described as the cut “from the bottom of Chapelton Brae by West Kilbride, to the junction of the main road at or near the south end of Kilrusken Wood.”

*Continued on page 14.*



**Milestone 4: LH face**



**RH face**



Dumfries Sanquhar New Cumnock ←  
Ayr Ochiltree Cumnock →

Dal?? → [Dalmellington?]  
C?? ← [Cumnock?]

**Milestone 5: LH face**



**RH face**



Kilmarnock 5¼

Troon 3¾

Note that in the case of the 4 in these fractions only the down stroke is deeply incised; with the deeply incised 1 above, the number may be easily misread.

In the terminology of the road acts each individual road constituted a district ('District of Roads'). However from the early 19th century, after the 1805 Act, the road committees coalesced into three principal districts: those meeting at Ayr, Kilmarnock and Irvine. The general meeting of road trustees for the county continued to be held at Ayr. As we have seen above, the earliest records of milestones relate to roads within the Irvine district.

In 1832 there is evidence that the Kilmarnock district had begun to pay attention to milestones.<sup>6</sup> On 5<sup>th</sup> January the trustees accepted the following "offer for erecting milestones and fingerposts".

	£.	s.	d.
37 Large Miles Stones	20	7	
24 Large Finger Posts	15		
54 less sized Mile Stones	24	6	
21 less sized Finger Posts	11		6
Putting up one Finger Post and Repairing Miles Stones on Irvine Road	2	2	6
	<u>72</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>

The last item shows than milestones had previously been erected on the road from Kilmarnock to Irvine. Since the Kilmarnock minutes before 1830 are not extant, we can deduce no more than that the date was before 1830.

It is traditional to convert such figures to present values. By the calculator on the Measuring Worth website, the total of £72 16s. is equivalent to £5280 in 2013 according to the Retail Prices Index (RPI), and £53100 according to average earnings.<sup>7</sup> The price offered for a single large milestone was 11 shillings. By the same calculation, this is equivalent to £45.00 in 2013 by the RPI, and to £401.00 by the index of average earnings. Finally the price of 12s. 6d. for a single large fingerpost is equivalent to £45.30 or £456.00. In each case it is probable that the higher figure would prove to be a considerable underestimate of the cost of providing and erecting a similar item today.

James Pearson Wilson (1872-1945) recalled old milestones being replaced in the Kilmarnock District about 1878. In the 1940s he wrote a series of newspaper articles on Ayrshire mills, and in a piece on Littlemill he wrote: 'The writer remembered the new granite mile stones [*sic*] being put up on this road. Mr Campbell, the retiring road surveyor, and Mr Allan Stevenson, the new surveyor, did the measuring about the year 1878 – some of them were removed in the 1940s. Previous to the granite, the mile stones were sandstone and very exact in the measurements, down to yards, and some of them were used to repairing [*sic*] the foundations of Stair bridge.'<sup>8</sup>

Neither the replacement of the old stones Wilson recalled in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century nor the later removal of some of them in the 1940s corresponds with Bell's supposed collection of the Montgreenan stones during his tenure at Montgreenan. Perhaps they had been abandoned in some yard when he came upon them. *continued on page 16.*

**Milestone 6: LH face**



**RH face**



Old Rome 1

**Milestone 7: LH face**



Riccarton 2 miles 5 furlongs

**RH face**



Gatehead 1

Symington 2 miles ? furlongs  
Ayr ? miles

## *Discussion of the original locations of the milestones*

Turnpike roads in Ayrshire appear in the various Turnpike Acts for the county. The author has numbered the turnpikes in order of their appearance in these Acts, T1, T2 etc. Those relevant to the Montgreenan milestones are listed below as they were described in the Acts (*see pages 30-33*).

Milestones are shown on the 6 inch sheets of the first Ordnance Survey (1<sup>st</sup> OS), conducted and published in the late 1850s and early 1860s. Sometimes only partial information is recorded, such as the two principal destinations named. Stones which show directions only and not distances are not recorded. For each milestone a search was made to see if a corresponding stone could be found on these maps.<sup>9</sup>

In determining the original locations of the stones it was found convenient to measure distances on Google Earth (GE), using the feature which allows a path to be drawn and measured, following the line of the roads as shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS maps. The corresponding National Grid Reference (NGR) can be found using an online coordinate converter.<sup>10</sup> The NGR in turn can be used to find the location on the 6 inch maps of the 1<sup>st</sup> OS on the National Library of Scotland website.

Many of the milestones come from roads within the Kilmarnock District, making Railton's 1856 map of the turnpikes in Kilmarnock District particularly useful.<sup>11</sup> The table of roads from this map is reproduced below (*page 29*). The turnpikes in this table are referred to in the text as R1, R2 etc.

By examining the sometimes incomplete information on the stones in conjunction with these sources it was possible to determine original locations for most of the stones with confidence.

This article is illustrated with the author's photographs of the Montgreenan milestones. Below each photograph is a transcription of the engraved legend.

The location of the stones at Montgreenan is shown in Diagram 1 (*page 9*). Many of the stones are clearly sandstone, and have suffered to some degree but others, such as milestone 10, are of granite or a similar hard stone. The original locations determined for the stones are summarised in a table (*page 18*) and the issues for each will be discussed briefly in the following.

*continued on page 18.*



**Milestone 8: LH face**



**RH face**



Dundonald 1 1/4, Troon 5

Kilmarnock 4

**Milestone 9: LH face**



**RH face**



Stewarton 2

[Destination indecipherable but could be Irvine] 3/4

### Montgreenan Milestones: summary table

ref	NGR	Latitude	Longitude	T	R	Parish	*
1	NS393365	55.595768	-4.550413	32, 33	6	Kilmaurs	S
2	NS396322	55.557293	-4.544181	24, 2	16	Symington	S
3	NS389356	55.588008	-4.556944	32, 119	6, 13	Dundonald	S
4	NS576183	55.5438022	-4.251432	9, 68	-	Old Cumnock	S
5	NS361334	55.566469	-4.601305	118	7	Dundonald	S
6	NS405356	55.588052	-4.531820	119	13	Riccarton	S
7	NS391351	55.582792	-4.553840	119	13	Dundonald	S
8	NS381355	55.586256	-4.569939	32	6	Dundonald	S
9	NS397437	55.660642	-4.549518	3	-	Dreghorn	S
10	NS333370	55.597543	-4.647685	24	16	Dundonald	G
11	NS361362	55.591391	-4.602030	24	16	Dundonald	G
12	NS395338	55.571861	-4.546546	119	13	Dundonald	S
13	NS398342	55.575567	-4.542200	119	13	Dundonald	S
14	NS365346	55.577901	-4.594541	24, 32	16, 6	Dundonald	S
15	One face unreadable, other buried.				-		S
16	NS344402	55.627803	-4.631673	3	-	Irvine	S
17	NS318399	55.623783	-4.672145	4	-	Irvine	G
18	NS349366	55.595030	-4.622475	24	16	Dundonald	G
19	NS376384	55.612306	-4.579744	5	9	Kilmaurs	G

Column 1: The Montgreenan milestones numbered in the order in which they were found.  
Columns 2-4: Where the stones were sited, as determined by the author, by National Grid Reference and by latitude and longitude.

Column 5: Turnpikes numbered by the author in the order in which they appeared in the Ayrshire Road Acts.

Column 6: Turnpikes numbered according to Railton's Map.

Column 7: Parishes in which the stones were sited.

Column 8: S = Sandstone or similar; G = Granite or similar.

One stone (15) cannot be placed due to its condition. The site of one of the stones (4) was in Ayr District and three (9, 16 and 17) were in Irvine District. The remaining 14 were all in Kilmarnock District, and 13 of these lay conveniently around Dundonald and Gatehead: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 18. They are shown on Diagram 2 on page 20. The remaining stone (19) was on the Irvine-Kilmarnock road.

Five of the stones were clearly of granite type: 10, 11, 17, 18, 19.

*Continued on page 22.*

**Milestone 10: LH face**



**RH face**



Dundonald 3 miles 4 furlongs 54 yards

Irvine 2

**Milestone 11: LH face**

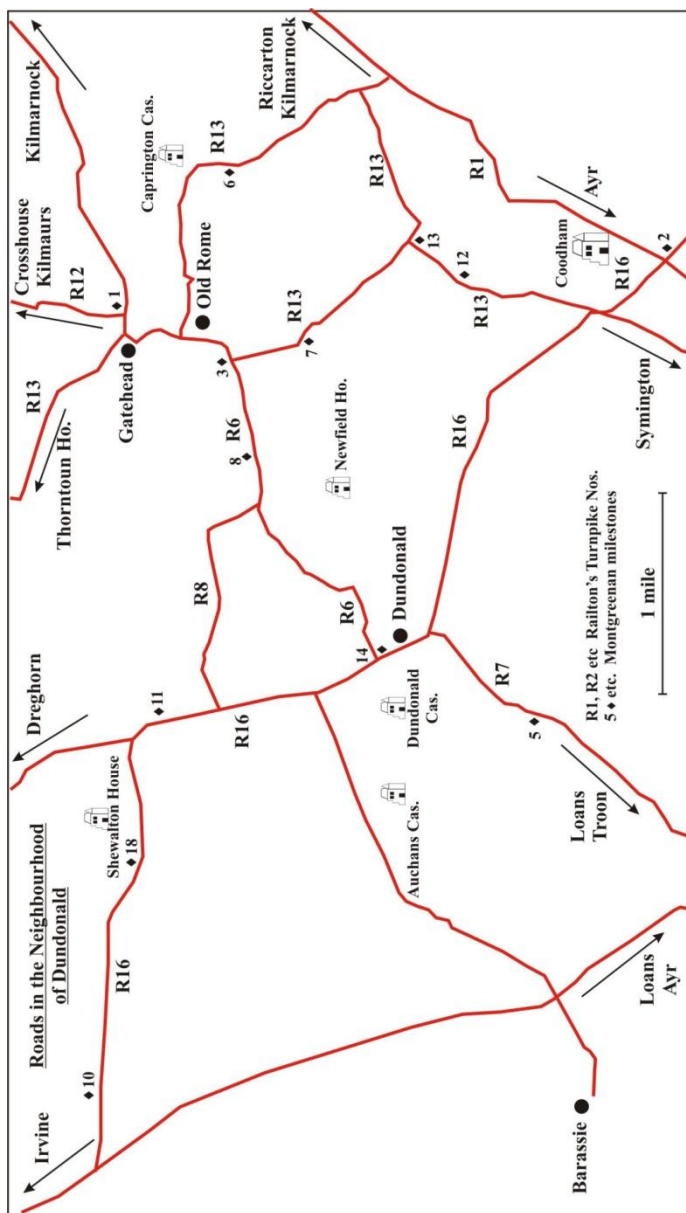


**RH face**



Dundonald 1 mile 1 furlong 54 yards

Irvine 4



**Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald**



**Milestone 12: single face**



Gatehead → 2  
 Symington ← 1 mile 6 furlongs  
 Ayr ? miles

**Milestone 13: LH face**



Riccarton ← 2 miles ? furlongs 19  
 yards

**RH face**



Symington → 2 miles ? yards  
 Gatehead 1 mile ? furlongs ? yards →

The discussion will be continued with the locations of individual stones.

### **Milestone 1** (*photos on page 10*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

From the place names, distances and arrows on the stone its location would be at the junction just outside Gatehead of the road to Crosshouse with the road to Kilmarnock. Distances were measured on Google Earth (GE) in decimal miles, then converted to miles, furlongs and yards.<sup>12</sup> In turnpike terms the location of milestone 1 is at the junction of R6/T32 with R12/T33 (the National Grid Reference is NS393365). In modern terms it is the junction of the A759 and B751.

According to the 1st OS 6 inch sheet the milestone here showed Troon 7 Dundonald 2½ and another at the junction immediately to the west with the minor road to Thornton (T32 with T119) showed Ayr 10 Kilmarnock 2½.

It is curious that this particular milestone is not the one which was in place at the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> OS in 1857, if we are to judge by the information on the stone and that recorded by the survey. If the Montgreenan stone is the earlier, it was removed before the survey, and about 40 years passed by before it was collected by Bell. Alternatively the stone in place at the time of the survey was replaced by the Montgreenan stone, and it in turn was removed later. Similar speculations arise with other stones below.

### **Milestone 2** (*photos on page 11*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

The original location was at the junction of R1/T2 and R16/T24; in modern terms this is on the B730 at the junction with the A77. According to the 1<sup>st</sup> OS there was a 'guidepost' at this junction, and this stone is a guide or direction stone with no distances. Bogend turnpike or toll was also located at this junction, which is still known as Bogend Toll. Apart from the effects of road-widening, the junction is in its historic position, but a major improvement scheme is now in hand. It was on this same road at Littlemill that the young James Pearson Wilson saw old worn milestones being replaced. In all five of the Montgreenan stones came from this road; in order from Irvine: 10, 18, 11, 14 and 2.

### **Milestone 3** (*photos on page 11*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

This was located at the junction of R6/T32 and R13/T119; that is where the road from Symington by way of Fortacres meets the road from Troon to Kilmarnock (B751/A759). There is a close correlation between the distances on the stone and on the ground. Thus 'Dundonald 2 miles 57 yards' is 2.03 miles, while the distance measured on GE is 2.02 miles; Symington 3.16 miles equivalent on the stone, and 3.09 by GE; and Kilmarnock 3.22 miles on the stone (if it reads 1 furlong) and 3.23 by GE. According to the 1<sup>st</sup> OS the milestone here bore the information: Troon 6½, Dundonald 2 and Kilmarnock ¾. Again that is not the Montgreenan milestone.

*continued on page 24.*

**Milestone 14 LH face**



**RH face**



Drybridge ←  
Irvine ← 1¾ miles 1 furlong

Kilmarnock 5 →  
Dundonald ¼ ←, Troon

**Milestone 15**



LH face: 2 [otherwise indecipherable]

#### **Milestone 4** (*photos on page 13*)

The destinations on the badly-worn right-hand face could be Dalmellington (to the right) and Cumnock (to the left). The milestone was located at the junction near Skerrington of T9 leading from Cumnock towards Sanquhar (the present A76) with T68, leading by way of Benston limework to join T39, the road from New Cumnock to Dalmellington (the present B741). No milestone or guide post is shown at the point on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS.

This junction has been much redesigned, being at the southern end of the Cumnock bypass, but it boasts an extant stone showing the direction to Benston.

#### **Milestone 5** (*photos on page 13*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

This was located on R7/T118, leading from Dundonald across the hill to Loans. The 1<sup>st</sup> OS shows a milestone on this road with the legend ‘Troon 3½’. Placing the Montgreenan stone ¼ further from Troon, leaves the distance to Kilmarnock almost 6 miles, rather than the 5¼ distinctly engraved.

#### **Milestone 6** (*photos on page 24*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

Because of the curiosity of the place name ‘Old Rome’, this particular milestone is the author’s favourite. In this context, the article about Old Rome by Paul Crankshaw and Neil Dickson in a previous *Ayrshire Notes* is worth reading.<sup>13</sup> The milestone was located on R13/T119, which leaves R6/T32 (A759) just south of the bridge over the River Ayr near Gatehead and passes eastward by the grounds of Caprington Castle. It was at the lane end of the former Todrigs Mill, near Earlston, from which it was 1 mile to Old Rome farmhouse and 2.57 miles (2m 4 f 123 yd) to Riccarton Church, which is almost exactly the distance on the stone. The 1<sup>st</sup> OS does not record any milestones on this road.

#### **Milestone 7** (*photos on page 15*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

This belongs on R13/T119, the road from R6/T32 (A759) south of Gatehead, which passes Fortacres Toll and continues to Symington. At NS391351 it was (by GE measurement) 1 mile from Gatehead and 2.06 miles from Symington Church. The milestone may have indicated 2 miles 1 furlong to Symington. This milestone is not shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS, which instead records a stone on this road near High Coodham with the distances Ayr 8, Irvine 7¾.

#### **Milestone 8** (*photos on page 17*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

This was on R6/T32 (A759) near Fairlie Mains. It is not on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS, which instead shows a stone at the nearby junction of R6/T32 and R8/T120 at the Newfield lane end, with the distances Dundonald 1 mile and Troon 5½ miles. The Fairlie Damdyke Tollhouse was located at this junction.

*continued on page 26 .*



**Milestone 16: LH face**



**RH face**



Stewarton 6

**Milestone 17: LH face**



Kilwinning, Saltcoats

Irvine 1¼

**RH face**



Irvine 1?, Kilmarnock ?, Ayr

### **Milestone 9** (*photos on page 17*)

This stone was on the Irvine-Stewarton road, T3 (B769). The 1<sup>st</sup> OS shows a milestone with Stewarton 2. The other direction, indecipherable on this stone, was Irvine 5¾. This is an instance of a Montgreenan stone corresponding to a stone recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS map.

### **Milestone 10** (*phoros on page 19*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

This was on R16/T24 near its junction with the Irvine-Ayr road. However it is not shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS, which instead has a stone at the junction with directions Irvine 1½, Dalmellington 25½, consistent with this being the Irvine-Dalmellington turnpike in the first Ayrshire Road Act. The original line of the road took it up the present dead end through Rankinston and over the hill to Dalmellington. This was later abandoned, and the line instead swung west at Littlemill to meet the Ayr-Dalmellington road near Polnessan. The milestones recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS could thus be the original stones on this road (see also the discussion of milestone 2, page 22).

### **Milestone 11** (*photos on page 19*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

This stone was on R16/T24 near Drybridge. However it is not shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS, which does show a stone half a mile nearer Irvine with the distances Irvine 3½ and Dalmellington 23½.

### **Milestone 12** (*photo on page 21*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

The location of this stone was between Fortacres Toll and Symington on R13/T119. The 1<sup>st</sup> OS shows a different milestone nearer High Coodham with the directions Ayr 6, Irvine 7.

### **Milestone 13** (*photos on page 21*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

This was located at the junction at Fortacres where the 1<sup>st</sup> OS shows 'Fortacres Bar' and an 'm.p.' without further information. Railton's map shows 'Forty Acres Toll. By GE Riccarton Church is 2.44 miles, Gatehead 1.67 and Symington 2.07. The arrows can be understood in terms of the angled junction with the stone on the acute corner where the tollhouse stood until a few years ago (*photo on page 30*). The road is R13 and T119.

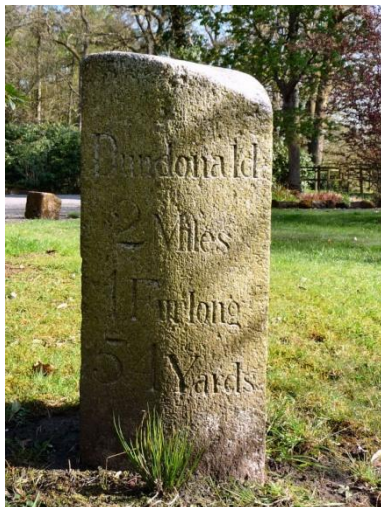
*continued on page 28.*

**Milestone 18: LH face**



Irvine 3

**RH face**



Dundonald 2 miles 1 furlong 51 yards

**Milestone 19 LH face**



Dreghorn → 1 mile 1 furlong 61 yards

**RH face**



Irvine ← 3½ miles 211 yards

### **Milestone 14** (*photos on page 23*)

See Diagram 2: Roads in the neighbourhood of Dundonald c. 1860 (*page 20*).

This was located in Dundonald where the Kilmarnock road (R6/T32) met the Irvine-Dalmellington Road (R16/T24). The 1<sup>st</sup> OS shows a milestone here with the distances Kilmarnock 5, Irvine 5.

### **Milestones 15** (*photo on page 23*)

Milestones 15 and 16 were resited by a resident to flank the driveway to a cottage. Both however were struck by vehicles and sheared at ground level. Number 15 is probably engraved on two faces but only the left-hand face can be seen, on which only the digit 2 is decipherable.

### **Milestone 16** (*photos on page 25*)

As with number 15 above, the upper part of this stone is recumbent, but in this case both engraved faces are visible. This was located on T3 (B769), the Irvine-Stewarton road (as also was milestone 9, above). The 1<sup>st</sup> OS does not show it, but it is in agreement with other milestones shown on this road at Irvine 2¾, Stewarton 5 and so on.

### **Milestone 17** (*photos on page 25*)

This was located on T4, leading from Irvine by Kilwinning and up the west coast in the direction of Greenock. The actual site is in Irvine, on Kilwinning Road at its junction with Carrick Drive. This same junction can be seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS, and it shows a milestone here with the same distance from Irvine, ½ mile, and Greenock 3¾. The two places on that milestone reflect the description of the turnpike. Perhaps the Montgreenan stone was a later one having more local places on it.

### **Milestone 18** (*photos on page 27*)

This is another milestone from the Irvine-Dalmellington road, R16/T24, located alongside the grounds of the former Shewalton House. The 1<sup>st</sup> OS records not this stone, but one ½ mile further from Irvine, with distances Irvine 3½, Dalmellington 23½.

### **Milestone 19** (*photos on page 27*)

The curious point is that Dreghorn is less than 3 miles from Irvine, yet according to this stone they are 4.8 miles apart. So a milestone with these distances could not be on the direct road, T5, between the two. But on what other road would Irvine and Dreghorn be in opposite directions? There is no such road. The conclusion is that the engraving should read Crosshouse rather than Dreghorn. The cross at Crosshouse lies 4.66 miles from Irvine according to GE, which ties in quite well with the 4.78 to 'Dreghorn' given by this stone. With this interpretation the location was between Springside and Crosshouse. It is not recorded by the 1<sup>st</sup> OS, which instead has Irvine 5, Kilmarnock 4 etc.

*continued on page 29.*

## *Kilmarnock District Roads 1856*

The following table is taken from: *Map of the Turnpike & Parish Roads in the District of Kilmarnock, prepared for the Trustees by William Railton, 1856.*

List of Turnpike Roads in the District of Kilmarnock					
No.	Description	Section		All	
		M	F	M	F
1	Kilmarnock to Flockbridge by Drumbowie	9	2		
	Including Branch by Kingswell & thence	2	3½	12	6½
	To County March towards Eaglesham	1	1		
2	Kilmarnock to Lochgate by Galston	11	0		
	Including Hurlford to Riccarton	1	6½	12	6½
3	Kilmarnock by Treeswoodhead			5	1
4	Kilmarnock by Craigie to Road No. 16			3	6
5	Kilmarnock to Ayr by Monkton			8	2½
6	Kilmarnock to Dundonald			5	1
7	Dundonald to Troon			4	5½
8	Road No. 6 at Damdyke to No. 16 at Plowland			1	2
9	Kilmarnock to Irvine			7	0
10	Kilmarnock to Stewarton by Kilmaurs and	5	5½		
	Kilmarnock to Stewarton by Shaws Bridge	3	6	9	3½
11	Fenwick to Kilmaurs			3	4
12	Kilmaurs to Gatehead by Crosshouse			3	3
13	Thornton to No. 6 at Gatehead from No. 6 at Fairlie Gate by Symington to No. 5 at Bowbridgehill	5	2		
	Including from Fortyacres to No. 5 at Backhill	1	0		
	and from Old Rome by Caprington to No. 5 at Backhill	1	7	8	1
14	Braehead to Road No. 15 at Grassyards	4	3		
	Including Branch by Silverwood to No. 15 at Moscow	3	1	7	4
15	Galston to Road No. 1 at Laighmuir			6	2
16	Irvine by Dundonald towards Little Mill			10	2
	Total			109	2½

M miles, F furlongs.





**Fortacres Tollhouse** (photo by the author, 1995)

## *Turnpikes as described in various Ayrshire Road Acts*

### **T1**

1767:<sup>14</sup> The road from Ayr to Kilmarnock.

1805:<sup>15</sup> The road from Ayr to Kilmarnock, passing through the parishes of Newton, St Evox, Monkton, Symington, Craigie, Dundonald and Riccarton, or such of them as may be necessary

1827:<sup>16</sup> The road from Ayr to Kilmarnock, passing through the parishes of Newton, Saint Evox, Monkton, Symington, Craigie, Dundonald, Riccarton, and Kilmarnock.

### **T3**

1767: The road leading from Irvine by Stewarton towards Pollocktoun, so far as that road is within the county of Ayr.

1805: The road from Irvine by Stewarton, towards Glasgow, till it joins the county of Renfrew, passing through the parishes of Irvine, Dreghorn and Stewarton.

1827: The road from the Girdle by Stewarton towards Glasgow, till it join the county of Renfrew, passing through the parishes of Irvine, Dreghorn, and Stewarton.

### **T4**

1767: The road from Irvine to Saltcoats.

1805: The road from Irvine by Saltcoats, Kilbride and Largs, to Kelly Bridge, with a cut [a] from Stevenson, by Crosscraigs to Ardrossan, passing through the parishes of Irvine, Kilwinning, Stevenson, Ardrossan, Kilbride and Largs.

1827: The road from Irvine, by Kilwinning, Stevenston, Saltcoats, Ardrossan, below Chapeltown Brae, with a cut [a] from Stevenston by Cross Craigs to the junction with the present road from Ardrossan to Kilbride; also a cut [b] from Saltcoats, passing between the church and manse of Ardrossan to the junction of the cut last mentioned, at the east corner of Ardrossan park wall; and another cut [c] from the bottom of Chapelton Brae by West Kilbride, to the junction of the main road at or near the south end of Kilrusken Wood, passing through the parishes of Irvine, Kilwinning, Stevenston, Ardrossan, West Kilbride, and Largs.

## **T5**

1767: The road from Irvine to Kilmarnock.

1805: The road from Irvine to Kilmarnock, passing through the parishes of Irvine, Dreghorn, Kilmaurs and Kilmarnock.

1827: The road from Irvine to Kilmarnock, passing through the parishes of Irvine, Dreghorn, Kilmaurs, and Kilmarnock.

## **T9**

1767: The road leading from Ayr by Ochiltree, Old and New Cumnock towards Sanquhar, so far as that road is within the said county of Ayr.

1805: The road through the parishes of Ayr, Coylton, Stair, Ochiltree, Old and New Cumnock, to the march of the county towards Dumfries.

1827: The road from Ayr, through the parishes of Ayr, Coylton, Stair, Ochiltree, Old and New Cumnock, to the march of the county towards Dumfries, with an alteration of the said line, at or near the village of Ochiltree, from the ten mile stone leading through the Lands of Laigh Tarbeg, Finlayston, Galillee parks, the property of David Limond esquire, of Dalblair, and through the feus of James Fisher, William Weir, and William Aird, and the heirs of the late Alexander Duncan, joining the present line near the Cross of Ochiltree, and all in the parish of Ochiltree.

## **T24**

1767: The road leading from Irvine, by Stair Bridge, to Dalmellington.

1805: The road from Irvine to Dalmellington, passing through the parishes of Dundonald, Symington, Craigie, Tarbolton, Stair, Coylton, Dalrymple and Dalmellington.

1827: The road from Irvine to Dalmellington, passing through the parishes of Dundonald, Symington, Craigie, Tarbolton, Stair, Coylton, Dalrymple and Dalmellington.

Railton No. 16: Irvine by Dundonald towards Little Mill.

## **T32**

1774: The road from Kilmarnock by Oldroomford through Dundonald, till it joins the Road from Ayr to Irvine near the Loans.

1805: The road from Kilmarnock by Romeford Bridge, till it joins the road from Irvine to Dalmellington at or near Dundonald, passing through the parishes of Kilmarnock, Kilmaurs and Dundonald.

1827: The road from Kilmarnock, by Romeford Bridge, till it join the road from Irvine to

Dalmellington, at or near Dundonald, passing through the parishes of Kilmarnock, Kilmaurs, and Dundonald.

### **T33**

1774: The road from Kilmaurs by Corsehouse Bridge and Oldroomford through Symington, till it joins the Road between Ayr and Kilmarnock.

1805: [Omitted].

1827: The road from Kilmaurs by Corsehouse Bridge and Old Romeford, through Symington, till it join the road between Ayr and Kilmarnock, that is, that part thereof which lies betwixt Kilmaurs and Little Gatehead, passing through the parish of Kilmaurs.

### **T39**

1774: The road from Dalmellington to New Cumnock.

1805: The road from Dalmellington to New Cumnock, passing through the parishes of Dalmellington and New Cumnock.

1827: The road from Ayr to New Cumnock, passing through the parishes of Dalmellington and New Cumnock.

### **T68**

1805: A road from the village of Old Cumnock, leading past Benston Limework, till it joins the road between Dalmellington and New Cumnock, passing through the parishes of Old and New Cumnock.

1827: [Omitted].

### **T118**

1827: The road from Dundonald to Troon over the Clevanshills, passing through the parish of Dundonald.

### **T119**

1827: The road from the turnpike road from Irvine to Kilmarnock, at Thornton Avenue, to Gatehead by Craig and Milnton, till it join the road from Kilmarnock to Dundonald near to Little Gatehead, and to be continued from nearly opposite Fairlie Gateway on the turnpike road from Kilmarnock to Dundonald, by Peatland, Templeton, Saint John's Brae, and Symington, to the turnpike road from Ayr to Kilmarnock, at Bowbridge Hill toll bar, passing through the parishes of Kilmaurs, Dundonald, and Symington, with a branch [a] leading from the above line at Fortacres, called the Backhill Road, into the said turnpike road near to the farm of Lorennny, passing through the parishes of Dundonald and Riccarton, with power to take this branch in a direct line, past the smith's house on Sir William Cunningham of Caprington's estate, and to join the Ayr road at or near Treesbanks gateway, together with another branch [b] from Old Romeford Bridge by Arrathill passing Caprington west gate, till it join the Backhill road from Fortacres above described, passing through the parishes of Dundonald and Riccarton.



1827: The road leading from Fairlie's dam dyke by Harperland till it join the Irvine and Dalmellington road near Plowland, passing through the parish of Dundonald.

### *Postscript*

There is much that is unresolved about the history of these milestones. For instance, the Old Rome stone, no. 6, does not appear on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS. If it was not in its place in 1857, rather than being overlooked by the surveyors, what had happened to it, and how did it come to be collected by Bell after he had acquired Montgreenan at the end of the nineteenth century? This applies to many of the stones which were not found on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS. Were the Glenfield Ramblers mistaken when they credited the stones they saw at Montgreenan to the then owner, Bell? The stones could have been collected by his predecessors, the Robertson Glasgows who possessed the estate through three generations from 1829. The alternative is to suppose that the stones had been put aside in some yard until Bell came across them after an interval of perhaps forty or more years.

James Pearson Wilson's account is unreliable too, though since it is based on his recollection as a child of 5 or 6, that is understandable. It was not just with the earliest milestones that some were to be found with very precise distances. There are a number of granite milestones still to be found at Ayrshire roadsides today that have distances in miles, furlongs, and yards.

However the two objectives of the present exercise have been met. A record has been made of the milestones at Montgreenan, and their original locations on Ayrshire turnpikes have been determined.

- <sup>1</sup> *Annals of the (Kilmarnock) Glenfield Ramblers*, vol. 10, 1930, 85. Information supplied by Rob Close.
- <sup>2</sup> From George Eyre Todd, *Who's Who in Glasgow in 1909: a biographical dictionary of nearly five hundred living citizens and of notable citizens who have died since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1907*, 1909. The biography of Sir James Bell was accessed on the Glasgow Digital Library website at <http://gdl.cdli.strath.ac.uk/eyrwho/eyrwho0314.htm> on 8th June 2012.
- <sup>3</sup> For a description of the house see Rob Close, *Ayrshire & Arran, an illustrated architectural guide*, 1992, 87-88; and the recently published 12<sup>th</sup> volume in the *Buildings of Scotland* series, Rob Close and Anne Riches, *Ayrshire and Arran*, 2012, 545-546.
- <sup>4</sup> Ayrshire Archives [AA], CO3/4/1, minutes of the Ayrshire Roads Trustees 14<sup>th</sup> July 1767 to 7<sup>th</sup> January 1805.
- <sup>5</sup> AA, CO3/5/24, minute book of the road trustees for the district of Irvine, 15<sup>th</sup> October 1806 to 8<sup>th</sup> November 1808.
- <sup>6</sup> AA, CO3/5/32, minutes of trustees of roads in the District of Kilmarnock 5<sup>th</sup> July 1830 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 1835.
- <sup>7</sup> [www.measuringworth.com](http://www.measuringworth.com)

- 8 From James Pearson Wilson (compiled by Wilson and Smith), *The Last Miller: The Cornmills of Ayrshire*, (2000, AANHS), 13.
- 9 The map section of the National Library of Scotland website was a valuable resource in the researching of this article. A simple search for 'NLS maps' will locate it.
- 10 For instance at [www.nearby.org.uk](http://www.nearby.org.uk).
- 11 *Map of the Turnpike & Parish Roads in the District of Kilmarnock, prepared for the Trustees by William Railton, 1856.*
- 12 1 mile = 8 furlongs or 1760 yards. 1 furlong = 220 yards.
- 13 'Old Rome: Hiding Burns to Hidden Hamlet', Paul Crankshaw and Neil Dickson in *Ayrshire Notes* 37, 2009, 4-15. This can be found on the Ayrshire History website, at [www.ayrshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.ayrshirehistory.org.uk). Search here for 'Old Rome'.
- 14 7 Geo. III c.106.
- 15 45 Geo. III c.28.
- 16 7-8 Geo. IV c.cix.

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## Notes and Queries

**Sir Alexander Wiseman (Sandy) Macara** (1932 - 2012) was an obdurate and vocal supporter of the National Health Service, clashing with both Conservative and Labour governments in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He was born in Irvine, the son of Alexander Macara (1900 - 1992), the long serving minister of Irvine Old Parish Church, and his first wife, Bethia Prentice. Macara's grandfather, yet another Alexander (1872 - 1944), had also been a minister in the Church of Scotland, firstly at Kirriemuir South, and from 1904 to 1943 at Denny.

Sandy was educated at Irvine Royal Academy and Glasgow University, before continuing his studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He was a Medical Officer of Health in Bristol, and lecturer at the University there, and it was there in 1967 that he first attended a British Medical Association conference. Immediately captivated by what he described as "the barely-controlled chaos of the meeting", Sandy threw himself into the organisation, rising to be chairman of its medical ethics committee (1982-89) and chairman of council (1993-98), using these positions to argue with government on many medical and health issues. "The softness of his Ayrshire burr and the manners, always, of a perfect gentleman disguised a crusading steel when it came to fighting for what he believed."<sup>1</sup>

**Michael Henry (Mike) Denness** (1940 - 2013) is remembered as an elegant batsman for Kent and England, and as the first Scot to captain England<sup>2</sup>. Although not a son of Ayr (he was born in Bellshill<sup>3</sup>; his father, William Gardner Denness (1908 - 1969) was a sales manager for W.D. & H.O. Wills), the family moved to Shanter Way, Alloway, in 1947, and he developed his sporting prowess at Ayr Academy. He was a fine all-round

athlete, and, as either centre or fly half, a member of the school's rugby First XV in 1957-58, alongside future Scottish internationals at rugby (Ian McLauchlan) and football (Ian Ure). But it was at cricket that he truly excelled, with Ayr Cricket Club, where he learnt much from the club coach, the former Sussex all-rounder Charlie Oakes (1912-2007). He earned his first cap for Scotland while still a schoolboy, the first to do so since the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Denness's potential was made known to E.W. Swanton when he attended the club's centenary celebrations in 1959, but it was a former Kent player, James Moffat (Jim) Allan (1932-2005)<sup>4</sup> with whom he played for Scotland against Warwickshire, who recommended him to his former county. He played professionally between 1962 and 1980, and 28 times for England, between 1969 and 1975. He captained the test team on 19 occasions, firstly on the 1973-4 tour to the West Indies (being preferred to Geoffrey Boycott, a snub - as he saw it - that the Yorkshireman never forgave), and most memorably on the 1974-5 Ashes tour to Australia, where England were battered to defeat by Denis Lillee and Jeff Thomson<sup>5</sup>.

The *Ayrshire Post* of 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 featured a story about **Andrew Smith**, born in Dalrymple, who founded the first veterinary college in Ontario. Elizabeth Stone, Dean of Ontario Veterinary School (since 1964, part of the University of Guelph) presented a plaque to Dalrymple Primary School. Smith (1834 - 1910), the son of James Smith and his wife, Agnes McNider<sup>6</sup>, was born on the family's farm at Burnton; the family later moved to a bigger farm, Torr, in Kirkmichael. He then studied veterinary science at the Dick College, Edinburgh, 1859-61. William Dick, the principal, recommended Smith to the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada. He commenced classes in Toronto in 1862; 1866 saw the first graduations from the Upper Canada Veterinary College, and the (self)-appointment of Smith as Principal. He sold the college to the state government in 1908. It moved to new premises at Guelph in 1922<sup>7</sup>.

**Alex Eadie**, the Labour M.P. for Midlothian from 1966 until 1992, and an energy minister under Wilson and Callaghan, died in January 2012. A miner's son, born in Bridgeton, but growing up in Buckhaven, Fife, Eadie himself worked as a mining engineer, before becoming miners' agent for Clackmannanshire. Before successfully entering Parliament in 1966, he had cut his electioneering teeth by standing against George Younger in Ayr at both the elections of 1964.<sup>8</sup>

In the late 1970s **Alistair Campsie** (1929 - 2013) and his wife Robina (Anderson) owned the Kings Arms in Barr. Born in Inverness, and brought up in Lanark, Campsie studied at Auchincruive (West of Scotland Agricultural College) before working on various projects in Africa for the post-war Colonial Service. While in Africa, he founded and edited the *East African Farmer and Planter*, the first journal published in English and Swahili. He is, however, best known as a piping controversialist; his book, *The MacCrimmon Legend: the Madness of Angus MacKay* (1980), argued that the legend of the MacCrimmons, hereditary pipers and the founders of piobaireachd, was largely a hoax. This seems to have earned him the lasting enmity of much of the piping community. After his death, the

website of the College of Piping said that “like similar anti-establishment snipers”, Campsie was “seldom seen at any gathering or competition, preferring his own narrow, visceral polemic to opinion formed through social discourse and reasoned argument with fellow pipers. ... Still”, it added, “piping needs people like Alistair Campsie.”<sup>9</sup>

According to the theatre critic Michael Coveney, **Lizbeth Webb** (1926 - 2013) was “one of the great forgotten stars of British musical theatre in the 1940s and 1950s.”<sup>10</sup> She is perhaps best known for singing ‘This is my Lovely Day’ from Ellis & Herbert’s ‘Bless the Bride’, which opened in 1947. She was also Sally Brown in the London premiere of ‘Guys and Dolls’ Born in Reading, she made her first broadcast for the BBC from Ayr in 1942, under her real name of Elizabeth Holton.

<sup>1</sup> Nicholas Timmins, ‘Sir Sandy Macara’, *Guardian*, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Douglas Jardine, captain on the infamous bodyline tour to Australia, was born in India, to Scots parents, and is said to have regarded himself as a Scot.

<sup>3</sup> At his grandfather’s house: the family home was ‘Strathallan’, Uddingston.

<sup>4</sup> Allen spent two seasons with Kent, 1955 and 1956.

<sup>5</sup> Mike Selvey, ‘Mike Denness’, *Guardian*, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013; Edwin Lawrence, ‘Mike was our hero’, *Ayrshire Post*, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Additional information from [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk) and [cricket.sportingmemories.org/memory/1121-mike-denness-obe/](http://cricket.sportingmemories.org/memory/1121-mike-denness-obe/), both accessed 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

<sup>6</sup> James (c.1797 - 1875) and Agnes (c.1801 - 1888) both died in Toronto, having presumably retired and gone to live with their only son.

<sup>7</sup> ‘Andrew blazed a trail’, *Ayrshire Post*, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013; additional information from Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online, accessed 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

<sup>8</sup> Brian Wilson, ‘Alex Eadie’, *Guardian*, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012.

<sup>9</sup> Anon, ‘Alistair Campsie’, *Daily Telegraph*, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Michael Coveney, ‘Lizbeth Webb’, *Guardian*, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

# Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies

The Federation's Annual General Meeting for 2103 was held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at Craufurdland Castle, where we were warmly welcomed by the owner, Simon Craufurd. Nearly 50 members were able to enjoy conducted tours of the house and gardens, to hear something of Simon's plans for the castle and for ensuring its future financially, and to chat cheerfully amongst themselves over tea and cakes. The business side of the meeting was uneventful, with the committee and office bearers being re-elected en bloc. Nonetheless, we remain on the look-out for new committee members.

At the A.G.M. the John Strawhorn Quaich was awarded to Margaret Sanderson who, although now living in Linlithgow and having spent her working life at the Scottish Record Office, is a native of Ayrshire. She has published widely on many aspects of Ayrshire history, especially with regard to her own specialism - the years of the Reformation in Scotland - but also on other subjects, such as the architecture of Robert Adam in Ayrshire. Margaret, although retired, continues to work as a volunteer amongst the records in Edinburgh, with further books planned. She is a very worthy recipient of the Quaich.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June we held a very successful conference at the new Riverside Building, Ayr, of the University of the West of Scotland, in association with the Association for Scottish Literary Studies. The conference, Representing Ayrshire, looked at various aspects of the literary history of Ayrshire, especially the work of John Galt, and the development of fiction writing subsequent to Galt's time. The conference was attended by about 60 people, most of whom had not previously been to an AFHS event, and was well-received by all who were there.

The Swap Shop for 2013 will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, at 2 p.m., at the RAFA Club, Ardayre Road, Prestwick. Further details, and booking forms, will be circulated to members shortly. The RAFA Club has a small museum of artefacts related to the RAF; the Polish memorial which used to stand near Monkton has been re-erected within its grounds. We look forward to a good attendance.

## Rob's Book Club

*We Will Not Forget*, by Valerie Campbell, is, as the cover states, 'a fascinating personal view of the Brisbane family'. Valerie, who lives and farms at Brisbane Mains, has grown fascinated with the stories of the house and family of Brisbane, their influence on Largs, and the connections between north Ayrshire and Brisbane, Queensland. This attractively produced A5 book, is well illustrated. Many of the illustrations are unfamiliar, and I particularly enjoyed the interior views of Brisbane House, taken in 1913 for *Scottish Field*. Unsurprisingly, much of the text is devoted to Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, the colonial administrator and astronomer who is the pivot around which the stories revolve. Hector Monro's recollections of flying Catalinas from Largs add a little more to the, as yet, unwritten history of the Clyde during the Second World War. The book is available from the St Columba Heritage Centre, Largs.

*The Allan Family: They left the world a better place*, by Maureen Borland, is an account of the Ayrshire family who during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and much of the last century were one of the dominant names in world shipping. Borland traces the family from their roots at Old Rome, Dundonald, through the formation of the Allan Line, and the establishment of a substantial mercantile presence in Canada, and closes with the death, aged 100, in 1968 of Janie Allan, the militant suffragette. This is a fascinating family, and the story is well told, though, oddly, there is no family tree, merely a list, on pages 289-291, of male family members. This is a small quibble: with its hard cover, dust jacket and exemplary printing standards, *The Allan Family* demonstrates the quality that can be achieved in self-publishing. Maureen Borland is to be congratulated: copies, priced £15, can be obtained from her at 4 Shanter Place, Kilmarnock, KA3 7JB

# The Allan Family

they left the world a better place

Maureen Borland

# Diary of Meetings of Historical Societies

AA	Arran Antiquarians. Meetings in Brodick Public Hall, Brodick, at 2 p.m.
AANHS	Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. <a href="http://www.aanhs.org.uk">www.aanhs.org.uk</a> Meetings in Town Hall, Ayr, at 7.45 p.m.
AMC	National Trust for Scotland, Ayrshire Members Centre. Meetings in Education Pavilion, Burns Cottage, Alloway at 7.30 p.m.
ASA	Alloway & Southern Ayrshire Family History Society. <a href="http://www.asafhs.co.uk">www.asafhs.co.uk</a> Meetings in Alloway Church Halls, Alloway, at 7.45 p.m.
BHS	Beith Historical Society. Meetings in Our Lady's Hall, Crummock Street, Beith at 8.00 p.m.
CHS	Cumbrae Historical Society. Meetings in Newton Lounge, Newton Bar, Millport at 7 p.m.
DHS	Dundonald Historical Society. Meetings in Dundonald Castle Visitors Centre, Dundonald, at 7.30 p.m.
EAFHS	East Ayrshire Family History Society. <a href="http://www.eastayrshirefhs.org.uk">www.eastayrshirefhs.org.uk</a> Meetings in Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock, at 7.30 p.m.
FBC	Friends of Brodick Castle. Meetings at Brodick Castle, Brodick, at 2.30 p.m.
FHS	Fullarton Historical Society. Meetings in
FHS Joint	Joint Meeting of Ayrshire Family History Societies. Alloway Church Hall, Alloway, at 7.45 p.m.
KCCS	Kyle and Carrick Civic Society. Meetings in Loudoun Hall, Ayr, at 7.30 p.m.
KDHG	Kilmarnock & District History Group. <a href="http://www.kilmarnockhistory.co.uk">www.kilmarnockhistory.co.uk</a> 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 St Columba's Session House, Largs at 7.30 p.m.
LDHS	Largs and District Historical Society. <a href="http://www.largsmuseum.org.uk">www.largsmuseum.org.uk</a> 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. <a href="http://www.largsnafhs.org.uk">www.largsnafhs.org.uk</a> Meetings in Largs Library, Allanpark Street, Largs at 7.30 p.m.
PHG	Prestwick History Group. Meetings in 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick KA9 1JN, at 7.30 p.m.
SHS	Stewarton & District Historical Society. <a href="http://www.stewarton.org">www.stewarton.org</a> Meetings in John Knox Church Hall, Stewarton, at 7.30 p.m.
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust: Ayrshire Members' Centre. Meetings in The Horizon Hotel, Esplanade, Ayr KA7 1DT, at 7.30 p.m.
TAFHS	Troon @ Ayrshire Family History Society. <a href="http://www.troonayrshirefhs.org.uk">www.troonayrshirefhs.org.uk</a> Meetings in Portland Church Hall, South Beach, Troon, at 7.30 p.m.
WKCS	West Kilbride Civic Society. Meetings in Community Centre, Corse Street, West Kilbride, at 7.30 p.m.



## September 2013

Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SHS	--	Scotland on Film
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	LNAFH S	Jill McColl	Scotland's People and its use
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	EAFHS	Frank Beattie	<i>to be confirmed</i>
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	ASA	Tom Breckney	Dumfries House and Estate
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	SWT	Anton Watson	Deer in and around Towns
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	TAFHS	June Wiggins	My Ancestor was a Shopkeeper
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	WKCS	--	A.G.M.
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>	BHS	Alistair Dinsmore	City of Glasgow Police - 175 Years of History

## October 2013

Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	KDHG	Jim O'Neil	The Fenwick Weavers
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	PHG	Jean Edmondston	Valleys of Rivers Ayr and Doon
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	SHS	Dane Love	Legendary Ayrshire
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	LNAFH S	Gerry Hearn	An Archaeological Approach to St. Kilda
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	AANHS	Ronan Toolis	The Excavation of Trusty's Hill and the Discovery of a lost Dark Age Kingdom in South West Scotland
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	EAFHS	Helen Matthews and Jeni Park	The Abbey Green
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	ASA	Ruth Fisher	History of the RNLI
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	June Neilson	Roman0-Celtic Religious Deities of Northern Britain
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	SWT	Canan Alexander	Carrifran Wildwood, Half-a-million Trees further on
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	TAFHS	members	Question Time
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	Barbara Graham	Spies of the Elizabethan Era
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	WKCS	G. Smith	Theatre Royal from Hope Street to Hollywood
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup>	BHS	Irene Hopkins	Belgian refugees, 1914 - 1919
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup>	AANHS	Alastair Robertson	The Discovery of a Lost Farming History at Duncanziemere, Cumnock

## November 2013

Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	SHS	Dina Ward	Fabulous Tapestries
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	PHG	Allan Dunlop	Flintlocks from the Age of Horse and Musket
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	Caroline Wilkinson	Depicting the Dead
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	EAFHS	Susan Liqourish	Fairlie Five Lums
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	AANHS	Ted Cowan	Robert Bruce in Ayrshire and Galloway: The Forgotten Civil War
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	Largs Jt	Chris Paton	Genealogy and Newspapers

Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	ASA	Chris Paton	Genealogy and Newspapers
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	SWT	Andrew Binnie	Shore Rebels: COAST's fight for a healthier Clyde marine environment
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	Dane Love	The Covenanters and Ayrshire
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	WKCS	Allan Richardson	Beithcraft
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	AANHS	Colleen Batey	The Vikings in Lowland Scotland
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	BHS	Adrian Cox	Archaeological Overview of Crossraguel Abbey

### **December 2013**

Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SHS	members	Stewarton Night
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	LNAFHS	Tom Barclay	The Franco-Scottish Wine Trade and Ayrshire Involvement
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	PHG	Bill McGregor	Around the World in Forty Buses Again
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	Tom Barclay	1263 and All That: The War with Norway and the Battle of Largs
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	TAFHS	members	Quiz Night

### **January 2014**

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	SHS	Charles Dudgeon	Kilwinning Abbey
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	Allan Richardson	Beith Furniture
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	EAFHS	Heather Dunlop	Old Crosshouse
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	LNAFHS	Tom Rees	The Community Archaeology Project
	S		
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	AANHS	Rebecca Jones	Roman Camps in Scotland
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	TAFHS	Irene Hopkins	The Grandfather Clock Connection
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	KDHG	John Burnett	Robert Burns, John Wilson and the 'Kilmarnock' Edition
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	ASA	Tom Barclay	The Great Burns Festival of 1844
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	SWT	Bruce Philp	A Fondness for Beetles
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	WKCS	Mark Mitchell	Birds of West Kilbride and Lochwinnoch
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	AANHS	Bernard Zonfrillo	Wildlife Conservation in Ailsa Craig

### **February 2014**

Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SHS	Mark Gibson	Craigengillan
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	Frank Donnelly	Sir Alexander Fleming
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	PHG	John Hope	Prestwick in the 1950s
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	LNAFHS	Robin Nicolson	Mapping In and About Largs
	S		
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	AANHS	Natasha Ferguson	Treasure Trove
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	Tony Mulholland	Lewis Fry Richardson
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	ASA	Dane Love	Legendary Ayrshire
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	SWT	Heinz Traut	Conserving Red Squirrels - How You can make a Difference
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	TAFHS	John Stevenson	Old Ayrshire Farming

Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	WKCS	Scott Greer	Loganair
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	AANHS	Geoffrey Stell	Defences of the Clyde, 1914 - 1945
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	BHS	Ian Matheson	The Home Front in the Great War
<b>March 2014</b>			
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SHS	Elaine McFarland	John Boyd Orr
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	Jim Boyle	The History of the Royal College
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	PHG	members	Pot Pouri
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	LNAFH S	Val Reilly	A Women's Work is Never Done
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	AANHS	Catriona MacDonald	What makes a Scottish Hero - Literary Depictions of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Marquis of Montrose
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	EAFHS	Andrew Dick	Ayrshire Mining
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	FHS Joint	Frank Brown	The Tall Ship at Riverside, Glasgow
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	SWT	Simon Jones	Beaver update
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	KDHG	members	Kilmarnock in the 1960s and 1970s
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	WKCS	Isabel Garrett	The Hunterston Brooch
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	BHS	Kitty Walker	Britannia Panopticon
<b>April 2014</b>			
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	PHG	Alisdair Cochrane and David Rowan	Now for Something Completely Different
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	SHS	Allan Richardson	QE2
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	LNAFH S	Pat Emslie	Greenock Cut
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	EAFHS	Peter Cameron	Church of Latter Day Saints Presentation
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	TAFHS	members	Open Forum
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	BHS	Alasdair Wham	Ayrshire's Railway Heritage
<b>May 2014</b>			
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup>	PHG	members	Blether of 2014
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	SHS	Guard Archaeology [tbc]	Flodden Battlefield
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	TAFHS	Tom Cunningham	Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Scotland

## AANHS Publications

Publications of the Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society (AANHS) are available from Sheena Andrew, Secretary, 17 Bellrock Avenue, Prestwick KA9 1SO. Further information about the AANHS and its publications will be found on the society's website: **[www.aanhs.org.uk](http://www.aanhs.org.uk)**

39 The Church Buildings of Ayrshire (Hume) 94 pages	£7.50
38 Excavations in Ayr 1984-1987 (Perry), 140 pages (A4)	£9.99
37 Historic Troon and its surroundings, 40 pages	£3.00
36 Burns & the Sugar Plantocracy of Ayrshire (Graham) 124 pages	£6.00
35 The Masters of Ballantrae (Hunter) 30 pages	£4.00
33 Dr John Taylor, Chartist: Ayrshire Revolutionary (Fraser) 112 pages	£4.00
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
28 Historic Prestwick and its surroundings, 64 pages	£2.50
24 Historic Alloway, Village and Countryside: A Guide for Visitors	£2.00
20 Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors, 2nd ed.	£2.50
15 The Port of Ayr 1727–1780 (Graham)	£2.00
13 Tolls and Tacksman (McClure)	£1.50
11 Robert Adam in Ayrshire (Sanderson, revised 2010)	£4.00
Antiquities of Ayrshire (Grose, ed. Strawhornm revised 2010)	£4.00
Armstrong's Maps of Ayrshire (1775: reprint, 6 sheets)	£12.00