History in the making at Glasgow Prestwick International Airport.
Contributions for the Autumn 2006 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.

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AYRSHIRE NOTES
is published in Ayr by
AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
in association with
AYRSHIRE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

AYRSHIRE NOTES 31, 2006, ISSN 1474–3531

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**Cover illustration**

History in the making. The sign above the bar, showing a kilted Scotsman in a state of inebriation, was part of the recent rebranding of Glasgow Prestwick International Airport. Having initially been dismissive of complaints and said ‘it was just a bit of fun’, the management removed the sign – a few days after this picture was taken – when they realised that it might not play well with the licensing authorities.

*photo* Rob Close.
James McAdam: Waterhead to Whitefoord

James McAdam of Waterhead (c.1716-1770), father of John Loudon McAdam, built Lagwine (also ‘Lagwyne’) ‘castle’ at Carsphairn, resided for a time in Ayr – reputedly at the time of John Loudon’s birth – and died at Whitefoord House. This much is generally accepted. Through a study of window tax records [WTR], these movements have been traced and his periods in residence at his various houses identified within the limits of the six or twelve month taxation periods.

Window tax was first levied in Scotland under an Act of 1746 for taxation of ‘Houses, Windows or Lights’. The annual charge on a house with 10 to 14 windows was 6d for every window; with 15 to 10 windows it was 9d; and with more than 20 windows it was 1s. Thus for 14 windows the tax due was 14 x 6d or 7s; for 15 windows it was 15 x 9d or 11s 3d. Where there were fewer than 10 windows a house tax of 2s was payable, but houses in Scotland were exempt. In 1757 this exemption was restricted to houses with no more than 5 windows or lights, and house tax was reduced to 1s; houses with 6, 7, 8, or 9 windows were liable to house tax of 1s. However in 1761 window tax was extended to houses with 7, 8, or 9 windows: up to 5 windows no tax was payable. with 6 windows house tax of 1s was payable; and with 7 or more windows, window tax. An act of 1778 exempted houses worth less than £5 a year, or £10 in the case of farmhouses. The charging periods appear in some cases as Whitsunday (15th May) to Martinmas (11th November) and Martinmas to Whitsunday, in others as May to November and November to May. At other times a period of a year is recorded, Whitsunday to Whitsunday or May to May.

The tax was payable by occupiers rather than owners, and this is the particular advantage of the WTR. In May to November 1753, the first period for which complete WTR have survived, James McAdam occupied a house of 44 windows in the parish of Ochiltree, described in the WTR as ‘Lord Glencairn’s house’; such identification of an owner is uncommon. Ochiltree House, the mansion house of the estate, was by far the largest of the four houses in the parish liable for tax (the number of windows being taken as an index of size). It was jointly with Kirkmichael House the 24th largest in Ayrshire at the time. McAdam’s wife Susannah, as granddaughter of Sir John Cochrane of Ochiltree, had a strong family connection with the house. The first earl of Dundonald had given the estate of Ochiltree, comprising about three fifths of the parish, to his second son, also Sir John Cochrane. However in 1737, Charles Cochrane sold it to James Macrae, a former governor of Madras. Macrae, who had no family of his own, had become the benefactor of the family of a cousin who had married Hugh McGuire, and he settled the estate on their daughter Elizabeth on her marriage in 1744 to William, thirteenth earl of Glencairn.

By 1797-1798 Ochiltree House (NS 510 212) was apparently absent from the WTR, but the 14-windowed house occupied by the Rev. Thomson was probably the habitable portion of the larger edifice. He described it as ‘an old mansion house, situated at the east end of the village of Ochiltree, which is the present residence of the minister, the manse being entirely in ruins.’ By 1856 the house had been derelict for many years: ‘Ochiltree
House, the property of the dowager Lady Boswell, is a plain building, three storeys high, with crow-stepped gables and a slate roof. It is in bad repair and becoming ruinous. Attached to and occupying the E front of the mansion is a ruin, about 12ft high, divided into apartments. Its walls are about 6ft thick and part of an arched roof is still entire. It has the appearance of having been a castle of some strength. It must have been unoccupied for a long time as there are large trees growing within it.\(^8\) The house was brought back into habitation later. There are records of additions to the building in 1891, possibly for James Angus, coalmaster and elder brother of Robert Angus of Ladykirk.\(^9\) He was the occupier c.1900 and until his death in 1902.

Alexander Murdoch in 1921 called it the ‘Big House’, standing ‘in a delightful situation at the junction of the Lugar and the Burnoch’. He continued,

Though the building is tall and plain-looking, with narrow windows and pointed gables, its architectural defects are fully compensated for by the beauty of its situation at the meeting of the waters.

The present structure is over two hundred years old. It was erected on the site of a still more ancient edifice, whose foundation walls can even yet be traced. Within the recollection of some of the older people of the village, a wing of the former castle protruded at right angles from the south side of the present house, and with its massive, ivy-covered walls and attenuated, broad-arrow windows formed a characteristic relic of the troubled times when every house of any importance had to be built after the fashion of a fortress.\(^10\)

Ochiltree House was pulled down in 1952.\(^11\) It was reported in 1981 that the site had been completely cleared, and was occupied by a road and by a new ‘Ochiltree House’.\(^12\)

In November 1753 to May 1754, and May 1754 to May 1755 McAdam continued in Ochiltree parish, but in a house with 18 windows. Glencain’s house was ‘not inhabited’, and thus no tax was due on it. The last period for which McAdam is found in the Ochiltree WTR is Whitsunday to Martinmas 1755, for which his name appears as occupier against the house of 18 windows, but it was ‘not uninhabited’.

But what of Waterhead? McAdam’s barony of Waterhead was in the Kirkcudbrightshire parish of Carsphairn. There was no entry for a house of that name in the WTR for Whitsunday to Martinmas 1753, when three dwellings in the parish were taxed, nor in any subsequent period.\(^13\) This indicates a house of no more than 9 windows. Waterhead was a mean dwelling compared to McAdam’s Ochiltree homes. It was also very remote, lying about 3½ miles north of Carsphairn beside the Water of Deugh. McAdam’s new house of Lagwine (see photo page 3), just over half a mile from Carsphairn church and on the rutted unmade road from Dalmellington, appeared first in the WTR in Martinmas 1754 to Whitsunday 1755. It was recorded as having 13 windows and being ‘not finished’. In subsequent periods it was ‘not inhabited’. McAdam was not liable for tax there until Whitsunday to Martinmas 1757.

From May 1755, when he left Ochiltree, until Whitsunday 1757, when he occupied Lagwine, McAdam could have been residing at Waterhead, and not troubling the tax.

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records. He was, however, occupying a house of 17 windows in Ayr.\textsuperscript{14} He was there first in May 1755 to May 1756 and remained until May 1759 to Whitsunday 1760. John Loudon was born on 23rd September 1756, during McAdam’s time in Ayr and when Lagwine was ‘not inhabited’.

The house McAdam occupied in Ayr has been identified, possibly only by tradition, as ‘Lady Cathcart’s house’ in Sandgate, though there is ambiguity over the identity of the lady in question. According to the plaque on the building, the house was owned by Lord Elias Cathcart, and it is named after his widow.\textsuperscript{15} However, there was no ‘Lord Elias Cathcart’. Charles Schaw Cathcart (1721-1771) succeeded as ninth earl of Cathcart in 1740, and was the sole Lord Cathcart at that time. The earls of Cathcart were significant landowners in Ayrshire, their estates including Sundrum and Auchencruive. With the disposal of the latter to Richard Oswald in 1764, Schaw Park in Clackmannan became the family seat. In May 1755 Charles Cathcart was the owner of an uninhabited 18-windowed house in Ayr. Another 18-windowed house was occupied by Baillie Cathcart: i.e. Elias Cathcart, a tobacco and wine merchant, who was admitted a burgess and guild brother of the Royal Burgh in 1733, and served as provost in 1757-1759.\textsuperscript{16} James McAdam is listed separately as the occupier of a house with 17 windows. Thus he lived neither in the house then occupied by Elias Cathcart, nor in the uninhabited house belonging to Lord Charles Cathcart, though since the owner of the house he did occupy is not recorded, it could well have been the property of either of them, or, indeed, it could have belonged to someone else entirely.

As to ‘Lady Cathcart’, it may be noted that the widows of untitled landowners were frequently termed ‘Lady’. Georgina Keith McAdam, daughter of John Loudon McAdam, later recorded that ‘Great Grandmama was a very stately lady and never gave up her title of Lady Waterhead’, a dignity rather than title arising from the barony of Waterhead.\textsuperscript{17} The 1755 WTR show that Ladies Brownhill, Trochrige, Achenskeith, and Dunduff, none of them the widows of lords, baronets, or knights, were also then occupants of houses in Ayr. Elias Cathcart acquired a small estate in Alloway; this, and his important position in the burgh, appears to justify his widow’s courtesy title.

Lagwine proved to be a short-lived venture.\textsuperscript{18} For the year Whitsunday 1757 until Whitsunday 1758 he was liable for tax on 13 windows. In the following period, Whitsunday to Martinmas 1758, the record shows 8 windows and only house tax was levied. A window could be discounted for tax only if it were ‘stopped up’, which required it to be filled with stone or brick, or plaster or lath, or with the same materials as on the outside of the house. Just a year after entering his new ‘castle’ at Carsphairn, McAdam had taken steps to reduce its size or to stop up 5 of its windows. Until Whitsunday 1760 he was also paying tax on his house in Ayr. He continued paying house tax on Lagwine until Whitsunday 1763, following which it disappeared from the records, having been destroyed by fire in December 1762.

In September 1762, James Boswell visited Lagwine, being a cousin of James McAdam’s wife, and played with the children, one of them the six-year-old John Loudon. Three months later Boswell’s tutor, William McQuhae, wrote to advise him that

the house at Lagwine, which afforded you a hospitable retreat on your road to Galloway was burned to ashes about ten days ago. With great
difficulty the children’s lives were preserved by their leaping naked out of windows two storeys high. Not a single paper nor piece of furniture could be saved from the flames. It is a prodigious loss to the worthy gentleman, particularly as his bills and rights of his estate are all destroyed.\textsuperscript{19}

D.S. Ramsay, the nephew of General Sir John Shaw Kennedy, himself a nephew of John Loudon McAdam, recorded the fire in a memoir dated 1883, in which he makes John Loudon rather younger than his six years.\textsuperscript{20}

While still in the cradle, [John Loudon McAdam’s] father and mother, going on a visit to Edinburgh left him at their house of Lagwyne, parish of Carsphairn, in charge of his elder sisters and a nurse. During the parental absence the house took fire as evil chance would have it, in the middle of a winter night, the flames gaining so rapidly that the family had to seek refuge (some of them in their night-dresses), on the bleak hill side covered with snow. While from this unenviable position they stood helplessly gazing at their house enveloped in smoke and flame, it was observed with horror that the little one in the cradle had been forgotten. The nurse crying out “Am I going to add murder to arson” (it seemed her carelessness had been the cause of the fire), rushed back and at considerable risk to herself, saved her charge from the flames. To reach the nearest place of shelter, the party now homeless wanderers, carrying Loudon in their arms, had to make their way as best they could on foot, over half a mile of dreary upland rendered still more desolate by snow and darkness. After a weary tramp and much suffering they reached at last the manse of Carsphairn, where they were hospitably received by the good minister.

McAdam did not rebuild Lagwine, and his whereabouts for over a year until Whitsunday 1764 are not recorded. It is then that the WTR first show his occupation of the 35-windowed house in Straiton parish belonging to Sir John Whitefoord of Whitefoord. The house was named ‘Blaehane’ in the WTR for 1756, but was later given the name of Whitefoord, under which the estate is depicted on the Armstrongs’ 1775 Map of Ayrshire.\textsuperscript{21} There is an engraving belonging to the estate entitled ‘The Old Castle of Blairquhan – 1787’ (see illustration page 8); given that the date is 12 years before the sale, it is surprising that it is named ‘Blairquhan’ rather than ‘Whitefoord’. According to Davis, the castle ‘formed a complex of considerable size and magnificence’; it was much grander than McAdam’s circumstances warranted.\textsuperscript{22} Sir John sold the estate in 1798 to Sir David Hunter Blair, under whom it reverted to a form of its earlier name, Blairquhan. He had a new mansion erected in 1820-1824, in which only a few details of the former building have been retained.\textsuperscript{23}

James McAdam remained at Whitefoord until his death on 20th August 1770.\textsuperscript{24} A. Cochrane, the niece of his widow Susannah, wrote of the circumstances of his passing to her brother in December:

I was also at my Uncle McAdam’s sometime, who then resided at Whitefoord … [He] was very ill of the Gout, which ended in a Dropsy and at
last cut him off about three months ago. He was generally thought an Extravagant Man, and from that 'twas apprehended his circumstances might be embarrassed. But it turned out otherwise at his death, for fortunately for my Aunt & 5 [sic] daughters he has left unmarried he died worth about 6 or £7000 & to each of the girls he left £500 the rest to his only Son Loudon a promising boy yet at school.25

Whitefoord Castle (The Old Castle of Blairquhan, 1787) reproduced from the Blairquhan guidebook by permission of Patrick Hunter Blair.

It might have been speculated that the elimination of windows at Lagwine, thus reducing the tax liability, was an economy measure. His reputation however, and the grand houses he occupied in Ochiltree and Straiton, suggest that there may have been another cause.

During his decline McAdam sold his Waterhead estate to the earl of Stair.26 John McAdam of Craigengillan, a distant relation but a close associate, acted for him in the business. Craigengillan’s intentions may not have been honourable: a few years later he purchased the estate from the earl, a matter which gave rise to considerable resentment on the part of the Waterhead McAdams, who felt that they had been cheated out of their inheritance.

David McClure

1 20 Geo. II c.3, 1746, National debt.
2 31 Geo. II c.22, 1757, Pension duties.
3 2 Geo. III c.8, 1761, Window duties.
4 18 Geo. III c.26, 1778, House duty.

8 Ayrshire Notes 31, Spring 2006
5 National Archives of Scotland [NAS], Window Tax records for Ayrshire:
   E326/1/11, May 1753-May 1759
   E326/1/12, May 1759-May 1764 (May-November 1763 wanting)
   E326/1/13, May 1764-April 1773
   E326/1/14, April 1773-April 1782
   E326/1/15, April 1782-April 1789
   E326/1/16, April 1789-April 1798 (April 1795-April 1797 wanting).
8 Ordnance Survey Name Book, 1856.
9 Information from Rob Close: Building Industries, Vol 1, no 12, March 1891, and Vol 2, no.1, April 1891, also Ayr Advertiser 19 February 1891; also the notes on James Angus. Murdoch, Ochiltree, 47-48.
10 Information from Rob Close.
11 Information from RCAHMS database.
12 NAS, Window Tax records for Kirkcudbrightshire, E326/1/59-60.
13 NAS, Window Tax records for Ayr: E326/1/134, March 1748-September 1748, May 1760-April 1798 (May 1753-May 1760 see vols. 11 and 12; April 1784-April 1785 see vol. 217; April 1795-April 1797 wanting).
14 The full text of the plaque is: ‘Lady Cathcart’s House. One of the oldest secular buildings in the medieval Royal Burgh and now among the rarest in Scotland, it was remodelled in the 18th century, when it is said to have been owned by Lord Elias Cathcart after whose wife it is named. John Loudon Macadam [sic], the famous road engineer, was born here in 1756. For a few years in the 1850s it was the Ayr branch of the City of Glasgow Bank which failed in 1878. The building was purchased by the Bank of Scotland in the 1980s. In 1988, Kyle and Carrick Civic Society campaigned to save the building from demolition. The Bank of Scotland then generously donated Lady Cathcart’s house to the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust and extensive repairs, principally funded by Historic Scotland, Enterprise Ayrshire, South Ayrshire Council and the Civic Society were completed in 1996.’
15 Alistair Lindsay and Jean Kennedy, eds., The Burgesses and Guild Brethren of Ayr 1647-1846 (Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies, 2002), 126; John Strawhorn, The History of Ayr: Royal Burgh and County Town (Edinburgh, 1989), 115, 284.
16 Georgina Keith McAdam, ‘The History of the Waterhead McAdams and the McAdams of Craigengillan’. (unpublished manuscript, 1854). There is a transcription in the McAdam box in the Catheartston Centre in Dalmellington, though by whom it was made is not recorded. Robert Harry Spiro Jr., ‘John Loudon McAdam: Colossus of Roads’ (unpublished PhD thesis, Edinburgh U., 1950) in citing this work says that it was then in the possession of Mrs Katherine L. Scott, Hest Bank, Lancashire. Its present whereabouts are not known. Passages from the Georgina McAdam’s memoir quoted by Spiro and by Roy Devereux [Mrs Pember, a great great granddaughter of J.L. McAdam], John Loudon McAdam: Chapters in the History of Highways (London, 1936) are in concordance with the transcription.
18 This letter dated 27th December 1762 is cited in Frederick A. Pottle, ed., Boswell’s London Journal, 1762-1763 (Yale, 1950), editor’s note to entry for 14-15th September 1762.
The Baron of Buchlyvie

To the annoyance of the huge crowd of nearly 5000, Mr James Craig, the principal auctioneer of Ayr Cattle Market announced that there would be a ten minute delay before the day’s auction started. A train carrying prospective buyers, members of the press and people who were interested in the outcome of the sale was running slightly late. The reason for the auction on this December day in 1911 was the sale of the Baron of Buchlyvie. The Baron was the most famous Clydesdale stallion in the world at the time. When the sale ended twenty minutes later the horse had been sold for a world-record price of £9500 (about £400,000 at present-day values), three times the amount of the previous record. An extraordinary price for an extra-ordinary horse and the ownership of the animal had finally been settled.

Foaled in 1900, Baron of Buchlyvie was bred by William McKeich of Woodend Farm, Buchlyvie. McKeich was a well-known and respected breeder of heavy horses with the finest Clydesdale blood in his stock. Two men were to be involved with this horse and it would dominate their lives long after its death. Both were from Ayrshire, the men involved being James Kilpatrick from Craigie Mains, Symington and James Dunlop of Dunure Mains. These men were in turn friends, partners and eventually long-term enemies who engaged in a bitter and lengthy court case. From 1913 until 1935 they never spoke to one another and it took a mutual friend to arrange a meeting of reconciliation, which took place two years before the death of Dunlop.

James Kilpatrick was born in Dumfriesshire and moved to Symington to be raised by his grandfather and uncle. His parents had emigrated to Australia and James wasn’t interested in going with them. Craigie Mains was primarily known for breeding Ayrshire cattle, but on the death of his grandfather his uncle decided to start a Clydesdale stud. In the 1880s, when the Craigie Mains Stud was being established the horse was essential to the economy of the country. James quickly learned about the breeding, grooming and showing of these horses. Soon his horses were winning the top prizes at shows around the country. On the death of his uncle, James (then 31) took over the running of the stud. Time and again the Craigie Mains entries took first prize at these highly competitive shows and the
stud became the biggest prize-winner in the history of the Clydesdale Society. The horses from Craigie Mains were in demand not only in Scotland but also throughout the world.

At a show in 1901, James saw a yearling being exhibited by William McKeich. It didn’t impress too many people at the show but James, an expert in the field of Clydesdales, saw its potential. He tried to buy it there and then but McKeich, also an astute horse trader, refused Kilpatrick’s offer. An improved offer a few weeks later was also turned down. James was persistent and nearly a year later persuaded McKeich to sell him the horse. Named the Baron of Buchlyvie, the horse changed ownership for £700, this sum being well in excess of the normal price for a horse of that age at that time. The horse became the most famous Clydesdale of its time and one of the greatest breeding stallions. Despite his admiration for the Baron, Kilpatrick sold a half share of the horse to William Dunlop of Dunure Mains. Although rivals in the show ring the men were friendly and admired each other. The transaction was kept secret and everyone believed that Kilpatrick was the sole owner of the Baron. One reason given at the time was that Dunlop bought a stallion from Kilpatrick that had died shortly after purchase. Was the sale to protect the good name of the Craigie Mains Stud?¹

The Baron was kept at Symington and developed into a fine three-year-old. In 1903 the horse won the top prize at Ayr, Kilmarnock and Glasgow shows. It had filled out into the stallion that Kilpatrick had envisaged two years previously and now stood at stud at Craigie Mains. As a sire he had his finest hour at Inverness where his sons took the first four places in the show while a two-year-old filly by him also won in her class. During this period half the stud fees were being paid into Dunlop’s bank account.

Dunlop then approached Kilpatrick stating that he would like to be the sole owner of the Baron and would he consider selling his half of the horse. Initially Kilpatrick refused but eventually, to the surprise of those people close to him, agreed to sell. Like the first agreement about the horse, this deal was also conducted in secrecy. The verbal agreement between the two men was a mistake that was to lead to a series of lengthy and expensive court cases that only finished when the Lord Chancellor was involved.

The Baron in the meantime had been taken to Dunure Mains where he stood as a stud stallion. A fortnight later, on Ayr’s market day, the two men met in the Tam o’ Shanter Inn to finalise the plans for the horse’s ownership. James Kilpatrick said he would sell his half-share of the horse for £2000 while Dunlop insisted that £2000 was the full value of the horse. As neither side would budge the whole deal was called off and the men continued as joint owners of the stallion.

In 1904 Kilpatrick was paid £250 by Dunlop, a sum he took to be a half-share of the Baron’s stud fees for the season. Dunlop however stated that the money was for an unrelated matter. As sole owner of the stallion he was not obliged to pay a share of the fees. For three years Kilpatrick hadn’t received any money from Dunlop. Any record of a lump sum being made to Kilpatrick could not substantiate the sole ownership statement by Dunlop. Kilpatrick then informed Dunlop that legal proceedings were being instituted to sort out the legal ownership of the horse once and for all. When the trial did start, the case became famous in both legal and agricultural history.
In Edinburgh at the Court of Session, Lord Skerrington found in favour of James Kilpatrick and stated that half the stud fees from 1904 were to be paid to him. In his Lordship’s eyes Dunlop owned only half the stallion. Dunlop immediately appealed to the Inner House of the Court of Session. Lord Skerrington’s original decision was reversed and the Court ruled in favour of Dunlop. Kilpatrick was not finished in his quest for justice and took his case to the House of Lords. He was vindicated in that Lord Skerrington’s original decision was reinstated. The Lord Chancellor in his judgement stated: “I am seldom called upon to decide a case in which I had felt so strongly that on one side or the other there had been abominable wickedness.” As well as the outstanding stud fees the Lord Chancellor awarded costs of well over £2000 against Dunlop. This final judgement suited neither man, as the Baron was still deemed to be jointly owned.

After discussions with their lawyers it was agreed that the horse would be offered for sale by public auction. Both men would be entitled to bid and if successful, own the horse outright. As the case had attracted attention far beyond Ayrshire the public eagerly awaited the outcome of the auction. The ongoing publicity ensured the normally busy cattle market that day had crowds far beyond expectations. The sale ring was filled long before the time of the auction with hundreds of farmers, horse breeders and buyers, as well as ordinary members of the public assembled. An even greater number of people were outside the ring, which prompted auctioneer James Craig to suggest if the sale was held in the open more people could take part. Dunlop objected saying that the sale would go ahead as arranged.

The next hold-up was when it was realised that a special train carrying potential buyers, reporters and members of the public was running slightly late. The Baron of Buchlyvie was brought into the ring to the admiration and applause of the crowd. Mr Craig delayed the start of the sale for ten minutes to accommodate the late arrivals and the auction got under way at ten minutes past one.

“I am sorry the entertainment will likely be short, but I am quite sure it will be very interesting”, said Mr Craig in asking for an opening bid. “I don’t care where you start me - £10000 or £5000 - I will take your choice.” A Mr Alexander Rennie of Paisley offered a maiden bid of £3000; Mr Dunlop raised this by £100 and the bidding soon reached £4000. At this stage Mr Kilpatrick entered the bidding. Both Mr Rennie and Mr Dunlop retired, and an unknown bidder in the gallery and Mr Kilpatrick forced the bids up. When £5000 was reached there was a round of cheering from the crowd. This was repeated when Mr Kilpatrick put in a bid of £6000. With the price still rising in £100 bids it was Mr Kilpatrick who called £7000. The fight for ownership continued until the figure of £8600, bid by the stranger in the gallery, was reached and Mr Kilpatrick seemed disinclined to go any further. Twice the auctioneer asked him before he bid another £100. Mr Kilpatrick also made the bid that took the figure to £9000. A fresh spurt of bidding took the price to £9500, the final bid being placed by the stranger in the gallery. More cheering followed the final offer and the question being asked was, “Who is the new owner of the Baron?”

Mr Craig announced to the crowd that the horse had been bought for Mr Dunlop of Dunure Mains. It transpired that when Dunlop dropped out the mysterious stranger had been bidding for him. No-one could prove otherwise but it was strongly suspected that
when Kilpatrick stopped bidding he also had someone bidding on his behalf - if not to secure the horse but at least to raise the value of his half-share.

The price was by far the highest that had ever been paid for a Clydesdale stallion. The previous highest was £3000 paid in a private sale by a Sir John Gilmour. It was in a way a pyrrhic victory for Dunlop. He had retained the ownership of the Baron but owned Kilpatrick £4750 for his half-share of the sale. On the top of that there were the costs awarded by the Lord Chancellor plus half the stud fees for the previous six years. Kilpatrick, with his good name still intact, had much more reason to be satisfied over the episode than Dunlop.

For the Baron, the pawn on the whole affair, his career as the leading Clydesdale stallion was to continue for another two and a half years. In 1914 he received a kick from a mare that broke his nearside foreleg. The horse had to be destroyed and was buried in the rose garden at Dunure Mains. Even after his death he continued to attract attention, and four years after being buried his carcass was exhumed and the skeleton put on display at Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow.

James Kilpatrick continued to run Craigie Mains until his death in 1956 at the age of 91. During his long career with Clydesdales he won many of the highest awards in the show rings. His peers also honoured him on many occasions for his work with the breed.

William Dunlop disposed of his horses between 1917 and 1920 and retired from farming. He bought and ran a restaurant in Glasgow but this venture lasted only a short time. Dunlop however did retain an interest in Clydesdales and, because of his extensive knowledge of the breed, was a popular judge at shows throughout the country. He moved south to Rugby where he lived until his death in 1937.

The Clydesdale breed, once used throughout the world, was in danger of extinction in the 1960s. It was put on the Rare Breed Survival Trust’s List of Protected Animals. However, owing to the fine work of specialist studs throughout the country the future seems secure for these noble giants.

George Wade

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1 Could a more prosaic reason be that, in view of the high price, Kilpatrick had overstretched himself, and entered into some form of financial arrangement with Dunlop, intending to pay off (or buy out) Dunlop’s share as the horse recouped his investment through stud fees. (Ed)

2 William Campbell of Skerrington (1855-1927), of an Ayrshire family originally from Skerrington near Cumnock: in 1763 the family seat was moved to Little Cessnock near Galston, which was renamed Skerrington.

3 See also Jim Mair, ‘Ayrshire Stallion Leaders’, in Ayrshire Notes 28 (Autumn 2004), 4-10.
Social Mobility in Victorian Scotland

“Death of Ardrossan Headmaster – The death took place at his residence, 2 Melbourne Terrace, Saltcoats, on Thursday night, of Mr George G Turnbull, headmaster of Winton School, Ardrossan. For about thirty years he followed his profession in the Ardrossan district – as assistant at Ardrossan Academy, afterwards as headmaster of continuation classes, and later in Winton School. In addition to his scholastic activities, he interested himself in public affairs, being for eight years a member, and for a term chairman, of Ardrossan Parish Council.” This obituary appeared in the Scotsman newspaper on 28th April 1928. There was also a much lengthier obituary in the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald of 4th May 1928, which stated “He had a mind at once highly reflective and imaginative, richly stored with the best wisdom of the ages; and these gifts found expression in his poetry. He was a poet of no mean order, and various periodicals have had their pages enriched by his pen. His interests were manifold and diversified. Possessed as he was of sound literary judgement, allied to a keen sense of humour he was well-known and eagerly sought as a lecturer, and the members of Saltcoats Literary Society have good cause to remember him with gratitude.” He was also a member of the School Management Committee and a Justice of the Peace.

A well-educated, highly respected man, pillar of Ayrshire society, respectably middle-class. Yet his grandfather, also named George Turnbull, had been a poor agricultural labourer. In the space of two generations the Turnbulls had progressed socially and economically beyond what George senior could have hoped for. How had this been possible?

Victorian society was not the rigid, class-bound structure sometimes imagined nowadays. Social mobility was possible, in the right circumstances. Although not easy, it was probably no more difficult than it would be today. According to an article in Scotland Today dated 11th December 2005, researchers at Edinburgh University found that Scotland’s poor are now less likely than ever to leave their working class origins. There were three main factors that had a bearing on social advancement: education, marriage and choice of career.

The main route of advancement was through education. Here it was a definite advantage to have been Scottish. From the time of the Reformation there had been an emphasis on literacy. It was the intention to have a school in every parish, the idea being to teach people to read, so that they could read the Bible. Contrast this with England, where the idea was not to teach the common people to read, in case they read seditious pamphlets and rebelled against their betters. Presbyterianism, with its emphasis on reading the Word of God, rather than receiving the sacraments, was a major factor in creating the right conditions for intelligent men to better themselves. Listening to long sermons in church meant that they had the concentration to listen to university lectures.

When civil registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced in Scotland in 1855, the percentage of those who could sign their names on the certificates was 89 percent
for men and 77 percent for women. The comparable figures for England and Wales were 70 percent for men and 59 percent for women in the same year.

Scottish universities were open to any man with a little knowledge of Latin and mathematics, and bursaries were quite widely available. However the universities did not admit women until the 1890s, no matter how clever they might be. The session ran from late October to Easter – many students had to earn their own livings while studying. Scottish universities promoted social mobility: only about half the students had fathers who had been to university. If a boy showed promise, his relatives would often rally round to support his education. He would also have been given extra classes in Latin by the parish schoolmaster or the local minister. However it was rare for a farm labourer’s son to go on to higher education. The fathers of most working class students were skilled craftsmen.

At the time of the 1841 census, George Turnbull (born 1787) was described as an agricultural labourer, living with his wife Margaret, daughters Christian and Ann and son William at Crookhouse in the parish of Linton in Roxburghshire. George’s brothers were shepherds, just like their father and grandfather before them. Not the most promising start in life for his son William, born in 1824. However William must have been a bright boy, as he didn’t follow the rest of the family into working on the land. According to the kirk session records for Stoneykirk in Wigtownshire, he was appointed parish schoolmaster there on 7th September 1853. “Mr William Turnbull, elect schoolmaster of Stoneykirk, appeared and produced the minutes of his election, with a certificate of his having taken the necessary oath. Having been examined by the Presbytery on the branches generally taught in Parochial Schools, he was found possessed of high qualifications and scholarship. He signed the Formula and Confession of Faith in presence of the Presbytery who, thereupon, declared him qualified for the office of Schoolmaster of Stoneykirk.”

Exactly what qualifications he had and where he had gained them are still to be determined. There are few educational records available from that date. Teacher training colleges, known as Normal Colleges, had been founded in Edinburgh and Glasgow in the 1830. The pupil teacher system didn’t start until 1846, by which time William would have been 22, much too old to benefit from that.

He is not listed in the graduates of Edinburgh University. However in those days not every student graduated. At Edinburgh, average attendance was two years and only one student in every five or six actually graduated. Many parish schoolmasters were men who had not attended university long enough to qualify for the ministry. When the post of parish schoolmaster of Stoneykirk was advertised, they specified that Latin should be taught. According to a member of staff at the National Archives of Scotland, this meant that William had probably attended university.

Another means of social advancement was by marrying well. Again, William made a good choice when he married Jane Steven, the schoolmistress at nearby Drochduil School. Her family was from a higher social class, having been landowners in a small way since the early 1600s. Her father had been the miller at Eaglesham Mill and even although she had been orphaned at an early age, the extended family had looked after her and her sisters. She had studied at the Normal School in Glasgow and was a certified teacher, an educated woman at a time when this was not common. This meant that when William died suddenly
of pneumonia in 1868, she was able to support herself and her children by returning to teaching. Often a family could be plunged into poverty on the death of the main breadwinner, dependent on the charity of relatives or the parish.

Recent studies by researchers at Edinburgh University have shown that education alone does not necessarily promote social mobility. Middle class children enjoy advantages due to social skills, family networks and money. This was just as true in Victorian times as it is today. In 1873 Jane Turnbull became the schoolmistress at Millhouse, near Tighnabruaich, where her cousin’s family owned a hotel. It seems likely that family connections helped in this case too – Jane and her family stayed with her cousin at first when they moved to the area.

Education was made compulsory in 1872, but still had to be paid for. In 1876 the fees at Millhouse were one shilling per month for standards 1 and 2, rising to one and sixpence for standards 5 and 6. For infants the cost was nine pence per month. This was a substantial sum for poor families. It shows the importance placed on education that there were 76 pupils attending school in this small village.

It must have been an idyllic place for Jane’s two sons to spend their childhood, but to further their education, a move to Glasgow was necessary. Living in a tenement would have been quite a contrast to the beautiful scenery of Argyllshire. Elder son George attended the Normal School to train as a teacher as his mother had done, while younger son William attended the Athenaeum, which later became the Scottish College of Commerce, now part of Strathclyde University. This college taught not only commercial skills but also philosophy, literature, languages and music.

George Turnbull was appointed as an assistant at Ardrossan Academy in 1895. In 1903 he was listed as a teacher of shorthand, earning £30 a year. By 1904 he had been appointed headmaster of the continuation classes at a salary of £70 per year, increasing to £80 in 1906. The continuation classes were an early form of secondary education, before the introduction of secondary schools. In 1906, following a letter from the Scotch Education Department, the Continuation Class Committee recommended that “… Mr Turnbull be relieved from class teaching and devote his whole time to the work of supervision as Head Master.” This was another rise in status, but the greatest rise was in 1910, when he was appointed Headmaster of Winton School on 7th March at a salary of £250. In the space of seven years his salary had risen dramatically from £30 to £250. Strictly speaking, this was after the Victorian era, but the main steps upwards had been taken prior to 1901.

If it was possible to advance socially in Victorian times, the opposite also applied. Here is the case of a family from Irvine. David Clark was born in 1772. According to the 1820 Irvine census, he was a shoemaker, living with his wife and four sons, described as “apparently comfortable and decent people.” His three daughters all died in infancy. Three of his sons – David, Robert and James – became master mariners and prospered, all leaving significant sums in their wills. James, the youngest, lived in a large house in Miller Road in Ayr, which is there to this day (and certainly far beyond my budget!). Robert owned an eighth share of two schooners.

In contrast, John was a weaver at the time of his marriage in 1836 until 1843. From 1844 his occupation was given as painter at the baptisms of his younger children. At the
time of the 1861 census, John was living with his wife and two children in two rooms with windows. Compare this to his brother David, living with his family in six rooms with windows. John’s occupation is given as painter and glazier. Interestingly, his son David’s occupation is given as seaman. Maybe he saw how his uncles and cousins had prospered in their choice of career. This was not without its dangers – three of his cousins later died at sea.

To become a master mariner meant studying hard and passing exams, first as a mate, then as a master. Boys went to sea in their early teens and it was not an easy life. Why didn’t John go to sea like all his brothers? His decision certainly affected his later position in life. By 1871 he was living with his wife and daughter, plus two grandchildren, in one room with a window.

Presumably all four brothers would have had the same education and similar opportunities. It is possible that the other brothers made better marriages, but there is no evidence that any of their wives came from wealthy families. The main factor therefore seems to be their choice of occupation, with education as a secondary factor. Perhaps if John Clark had gone to sea and passed his master’s exams, he would have been as wealthy as his brothers.

In conclusion, education appears to be the most important factor in facilitating social mobility, the prime factor in the case of the Turnbulls and the secondary factor in the case of the Clarks.

Without education (and a lot of hard work) William Turnbull would not have been able to escape from a life as a farm worker and become a schoolmaster. He would not have been able to marry a schoolmistress, ensuring his family’s future prosperity. His son in turn would never have been able to become a headmaster and justice of the peace. In the end, it all depended on education.

(William Turnbull’s younger son, William, later married James Clark’s granddaughter. They were my great-grandparents.)

Sources:
Stoneykirk Kirk Session records (National Archives of Scotland).
Ardrossan Academy minutes (Ayrshire Archives).
Dundonald OPR (Carnegie Library, Ayr).
*Education and Opportunity in Victorian Scotland* by R D Anderson.
*Scots at School* by David Northcroft.
*Education and Social Mobility in Scotland in the Twentieth Century* by Christina Ianelli and Lindsay Paterson, University of Edinburgh.

June Wiggins
Sir - In your issue of October 9 I was deeply sorry to read of the death of Mr R A Reid, with whom I was associated in Scouting activities from the earliest days of the Boy Scout movement. In fairness to Dalrymple and its pioneer Scouts I think that I should point out that Mr Reid’s were not the first Scouts in Ayrshire, although they and the Kilmarnock Scouts were the second and third. The Dalrymple Scouts were formed in the early spring of 1908, within a month of Lord Baden-Powell’s book, “Scouting for Boys”, appearing on the railway bookstalls. Mr Reid formed his in the summer of that year, and although I am not quite certain of the relative precedent of Kilmarnock and Prestwick, I think that Kilmarnock was the third. Dalrymple was however run by a woman - myself - and as my father was very Victorian in his ideas, he was very anxious that no publicity of any sort should attach to what he called my “military activities”, a point with which Colonel Barnett, and, to a lesser degree, Mr Reid, were in full agreement.

The writer of the obituary is right in stating that Mr Reid almost at once realised the necessity for some sort of organisation, but it was not until the embryo Scout headquarters (in other words General Baden-Powell) asked that all Scout troops should be registered, that, to the best of my recollection, Colonel Barnett and Mr Reid put in the Ayr and Kilmarnock troops as number one and two respectively, and the Dalrymple Scouts certainly became the Third Ayrshire, although it was freely acknowledged that they had been formed earlier. Some years afterwards, the Dalrymple Scouts having fallen into temporary abeyance, the numbers were redistributed, and when the Dalrymple troop was reformed they received only the earliest number vacant at the time, to their great disappointment. Actually, I have always understood that the Dalrymple Scouts were the first Scots Scouts.

I should like to take this opportunity of paying all the tribute I can to the faithfulness and selflessness which Mr Reid, and also Colonel Barnett, showed all through the years to the Scout movement. I also wish that Mr Reid could have known that I beat him once again by a month or two, as the last Scout troop which I formed was in Hampshire in 1941. He, I know, would have been prompt in his good wishes to it, and glad that our pioneer Ayrshire flag was still flying.

Yours etc.,

Hilary Strain Wyllie, Ship Tyger Flat, Tower House, Old Portsmouth

[Ayr Advertiser, Thursday 23rd October 1952, 18c]
‘Some Entries in a Farmer’s Book about the Close of Last Century’

Accompt of the Expences going to Air fair, zier of God 1794.

At the first tole 6d pens; the hors at baloch, 1 sh; at mybole furst night for vittles and hors, 3 sh; on my way to Air for paieg for tole, 4 pns; in Air teusday’s morning for breakfast, 1 shlin; teusday for Dener, 15 pns; more super teusday’s night and for drink, 3s; more for breakfast wensday’s morning, and Drink, 1s; more for tols at the brig End of Air Coming and Going, ten pens; more for the 2 horses while in Air for Corn and hay, 3 sh and 10 pens; in my return bak to mybole for toles, 4d; 2 night in mybole in Wilam bon’s house for my self and tou horses, 3 sh; Thursday’s morning set of from Mybole to balloch, and it being An Excesef rain, being in company with penvalie, who Lived nire the water of stinchal, and hie taking the water, I went first in to the water, and the strength of the water over threw my mear, and I felt the Remarkable Good Kindness of Almighty God in preserving my Lif, in sending me Alexander Gordon in Lagbies, to bie the instrument to save my Lif, wherin at baloch I spent 3 shlings; more for toles, six pens.

We are indebted to Jean Aitchison for drawing our attention to the above, which is published in Gordon Fraser, Lowland Lore; Or The Wigtownshire of Long Ago, Wigtown, 1880, p.69. Despite the spelling, the sense is clear enough: while not expressly stated our anonymous farmer appears to have come to the fair at Ayr to buy a horse. In this he seems to have been successful, as he has two horses with him when he stays at William Bone’s inn in Maybole on the return journey.
Cyclists’ Touring Club ‘Danger Boards’

“ERECTION OF DANGER BOARDS. The danger boards have just been erected by the Cyclists’ Touring Club on the road above Nith Lodge, between Cumnock and Dalmellington, one on the Maneght Hill side, and one on the Meikle Hill side. The chief consul (Rev Hugh Callan, Catrine) hereby thanks all those in Dalmellington, Cumnock and New Cumnock who have helped towards the cost of erection. He will be very glad to receive subscriptions of one shilling from local cyclists and others towards erecting caution boards (secondary) on Logan, Boghead, Dalgain and Howford Braes. The Road Surveyor is equally desirous of having these boards erected, and it is hoped the necessary subscriptions will soon be forthcoming.”

_Troon Times_, Friday 1st October 1897, 5g.

Book Notes

In _The Brown Affair_, veteran author Bob Blane uses the scandal which surrounded the burgh surveyor of Maybole, Alexander Brown, who was accused of misusing council property and using council employees on his own projects, as the pivot around which he spins many a tale of the people and characters of Maybole in the years immediately after the Second World War. For anyone familiar with Maybole, the book is a must, and everyone will find something of interest in the vivid dissection of small-town politics.

For his _Smuggling in West Argyll and Lochaber Before 1745_, Oban author Charles Hunter has examined the little-known archives at Ardchattan Priory, near Oban, and has recorded details of a lively smuggling trade throughout Scotland, mainly in tobacco and wines, in the period before 1745. Stores at Oban and Loch Etive were used to hide goods landed or re-landed free of Customs duty by Glasgow, Clyde, Forth and Fort William merchants. This trade had the active support of local landowners both as partners and when acting alone. Tobacco mills were built on Loch Etive and at Oban in 1730 and 1735 respectively. Duty-free tobacco, leaf and roll, wines and spirits were shipped coastwise or carried to the Lowlands in convoys of pack-horses. Unusually for the times, the Argyll smugglers had little contact with the Isle of Man. Trans-Atlantic voyages were into the Clyde and Forth estuaries and direct to Fort William Custom House, notably by Captain Robert Arthur in the Diamond. In an able introduction, Chris Whatley has set the action in the Scottish context, there being many Ayrshire and Clydeside references. This book is available from the author at “Summit”, Pulpit Hill, _OBAN_ PA34 4LX, for £7.99, post free.
What the Postman Saw

(With Apologies to Picture Postcard Monthly)

The following is the message on the reverse of a postcard of the interior of St John’s R.C. Church, Stevenston, sent in March 1909 to a Miss K Lowe at an address in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire.

7/3/09. Douglas Cottage, Shore Road, Stevenston, Ayrshire. Dear Katie. Very likely this p.c. will come as a surprise, and I hope, as a pleasure to you. It is a long time now since I last saw you. I have passed through College since then, and am now teaching in Scotland. I have been here nearly two years and am getting on very well at school. I do not know when I shall get a place in England. It is very difficult to get places in schools now-a-days, as there are such a lot of teachers. Katie I often think of you & the good old times in Wigan. Do write me a long letter soon. I long to hear how the world is using you. Best love from your old friend, A Gilbert.

With thanks to Jill McColl at North Ayrshire Libraries.

Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies

The Federation invites all its members, and members of our associated societies, to join us at the following events.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies will be held on Sunday 21st May 2006 at 2 p.m., in the Community Centre, New Cumnock. All members are encouraged to attend. Besides the formal business of the AGM there will be the usual chance to discuss issues of mutual interest and to meet like minded people from all parts of the county. We hope also that there will be a chance to see something of the sites of historical and architectural interest in New Cumnock.

Troon Conference 2006.

As is now customary, the Federation intends to hold a Conference in Troon this year. The chosen subject is “Food and Drink” - which we hope will be a subject dear to the hearts of many of our members - and the date is Saturday 21st October 2006. The venue for this all-day conference will be the Walker Halls, Troon. Besides speakers, we also hope that there will be displays and demonstrations on the subjects of food and drink. More details will be available later, but we urge members to keep this date free. The conference fee has been pegged at £10, which we think offers very good value.
Swap Shop

Preliminary arrangements have been made to hold the annual Swap Shop on Sunday 5th November 2006. We plan to hold this in the Village Hall, Alloway. Further details will be given in the next edition of Ayrshire Notes, but we, again, urge members to keep this date free.

Diary

This edition of Ayrshire Notes contains diary dates for the final months of the various societies’ winter programmes. As always, we urge member societies to give details of the 2006-07 programme, as soon as it is available, to the editor, Rob Close, so that they can be included in the next editions of Ayrshire Notes. We would also urge all programme co-ordinators to send their programmes to the bimonthly glossy history magazine, History Scotland (Joy Arden, History Scotland, PO Box 28269, EDINBURGH EH9 1ZH), and to Scottish Local History (Doris Williamson, c/o Scottish History, School of History and Classics, University of Edinburgh, 17 Bucleuch Place, EDINBURGH EH 8 9LN), both of which carry regular diaries of what’s-on. They are also useful sources for ideas for speakers!

Diary of Meetings April to May 2006

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 Eglinton Inn, Beith at 8.00 p.m.
CSD Catrine Sorn & District History Society. Meetings in A M Brown Institute, Catrine, 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. In Carnegie Library, Ayr.
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 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.
## Ayrshire Notes

Meetings of various societies:

- **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 Amenity Society): Meetings in Community Centre, Corse Street, West Kilbride, at 7.30 p.m.

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### 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](http://www.aanhs.org.uk)

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