

**Carsphairn  
Heritage  
Group**



This is not Holme of Dalcallachane, nor is it Holm Of Tantalochan,  
nor even Holm of Daltallochan the name known locally today.  
This is Shiel of Castelmaddie. How names change!

**Newsletter No 70  
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As last year's exhibition is being repeated the Group's committee members have had a relatively easy time this spring.

A Carsphairn Family - 300 Years at Knockgray proved so popular among both locals and our wider audience that we decided to have another look at those wonderful dresses and the memorabilia that has passed down through the family over the years.

A family Bible Box from the 17th century, General Alexander Clark Kennedy's campaign desk, taken with him on his military expeditions including Waterloo, a marble bust of the General as well as one of his son John who also distinguished himself militarily are all there for you to see plus even more items Colonel Clark Kennedy has added during the winter months.

We are indebted to The Colonel for his efforts and generosity in producing enough to mount an exhibition of this calibre.

## **Ownership of Carsphairn from 1509** How names change over the centuries

### **Bardennoch**

- 1608      Gilbert Grier in Bardanoch
- 1696      Margaret Ashennan, daughter of John Ashennan in  
            Barbuneoch
- 1702      William Gibson of Bardonnoch
- 1762      Catherine M'Millan, spouse of John M'Millan, late  
            in Knockreoch, now in Bardannoch
- 1764      John M'Millan in Bardennoch

### **Brockoch**

- 1504      Geillis Grierson, sometime spouse to John  
            M'Millane in Brokloch, par. of Kells
- 1606      John M'Millan in Brokloch
- 1701      Helen Crawford spouse to John M'Millan, younger,  
            of Brockloch
- 1732      John M'Millan of Brockloch
- 1756      John Calland of Brockloch, late in Largnean
- 1758      John M'Millan of Brockloch
- 1777      John Cubbison of Brockloch

**Brownhill**

1682 William M'Adam in Nether Brownhill

**Burnfoot**

1681 John M'Call

**Cadgerhole**

1715 George M'Adam in Cadgerholls

1729 William Hunter, sometime wright in  
Dalmellington, late in Cadgerholes

1732 William M'Millan in Cadgerholes and Euphan  
Crawford spouses

1789 William Muir in Cadgerholes

**Carminnow**

1570 John M'Adam in Karemanno

1590 Jonet M'Clellane, sometime spouse to John  
Grierson of Keremanoch in Kells

1604 John M'Adam in Kairmonnoch, par. of Kellis.

1711 Helen Grierson in Kermunno, par. of Carsphairn

**Carnivel**

1715 William M'Millan in Carnavell

1775 John M'Millan in Cornavel, afterwards in Little  
Woodhead

**Carsphairn**

1686 Peter Pearson, minister of Carsphairn

1754 Mr Andrew Reid, minister at Carsphairn

1772 Mr William Boyd, minister at Carsphairn

**Castlemaddy**

1601 Gilbert Grierson, of Castelmadie, par of Kells

1606 Andro Reid, in Castelmadie, par. of Kells

1676 Jean Heron, spouse to George Tait in the Foreside of  
Castlemaddie

1678 John M'Turk in Castlemaddie

1682 William Ireland in Castlemadie

1710 John M'Adam in Castlemadie

1732 John Rae in Castlemaddie of Carsphairn

1734 Helen Howatson, late spouse to Andrew Findlay in White  
Mochrum, and sister to John Howatson in  
Castlemaddie

## **Cullendoch**

- 1696 David Cubbison in Cullzenoch  
1714 David Cubbison in Cullindoch  
1732 John Rae in Cullindoch

## **Dalry**

- 1596 Mr James Hilton, parson and minister of Dalry, stew. of  
Kirkcudbright  
1774 Mr William Boyd, minister of Dalry

## **Furmiston**

- 1696 Jean Cannan of Furmistoune  
1697 Anna Cannan, of Furmistoune  
1743 John Cannan of Furmiston and Nathaniel Cannan his son  
1783 John M'Courtie of Furmieston

## **Halfmark**

- 1682 John Clark in Halfmerk

## **Holm of Daltallochan**

- 1591 George M'Millane in the house of Holme of Dalcallachane,  
par. of Kells  
1675 William M'Millan, in Holm of Tantalochan

## **Knockgray**

- 1601 Margaret M'Adam, sometime spouse to Robert Gordoun, in  
Knockgray, par. of Dalry  
1675 William Grierson in Over Knockgray  
1734 Mr John Kennedy of Knockgray  
1734 John Ranken, merchant in Straitoun, par. of Straiton, and  
William Rankin or M'Rankin of Knockgray, sometime  
in Milntoun, thereafter merchant in Ayr  
1765 Andrew Kennedy, commander of the ship St Andrew of  
Dumfries, and son to the deceased Mr John Kennedy of  
Knockgray in Galloway  
1787 Thomas Moffat, late in Knockgray, commonly designed of  
Moorbrock

Farms beginning with L to W will appear in a later edition of the Newsletter.

source unknown

## More from that Wise *Wo*-man

The CHG Newsletter is not normally the medium for the publication of scientific papers but I thought readers might be interested in the following. (Could be one of those thousand things you don't want to know about..)

### **The Bill Wiseman Theory of Aga-Rail-Towel-Drop**

Have you noticed that when you hang a damp towel on the rail of your Aga/Rayburn or whatever it remains in place for about 10 minutes then drops to the floor?

The reason is this : The side nearest to the stove dries before the other side thereby becoming lighter. The outer, still damp side is now heavier and unbalances the towel which slithers, heavy side first, to the floor.

A clothes peg in each side solves the problem.

Sue Wiseman

I too suffer from towel-on-AGA-rail-drop but, much as I respect science, I have a different theory. I reckon my wee dog is the culprit as she is usually curled up on the towel once it is on the floor!

editor

## **Identifying a mystery object**

Last summer Mr Jimmy McNae and Mr Alec Paterson were walking on the Meaul up on the Rhinns of Kells and found an object which they brought into the Heritage Centre.

To the undiscerning eye it looked like a piece of rusted iron 10 inches long and six inches at its widest point with a ridge down the middle. It was put on display and opinions were sought on its use. Various comments were made but it was finally decided that it was a draining spade and was probably over 100 years old. The definitive answer was given by a visitor who was putting on an exhibition of draining and tiles in Girvan.

Thanks to everyone who entered the Galloway words competition. Entries came from Scotland and Northern Ireland. Virtually all got very high marks and some included examples of the use of the word.

The winner is Mrs Nettie Cowan from County Antrim who will receive a copy of *Scotch and Scottish*, the most recent book by Adam Gray.

All answers were marked quite liberally as we were aware of slight variations in meanings across the country. A *Galloway Glossary* by Bruce Riach and the *Concise Scots Dictionary* were used as reference.

1.	anent	opposite, in front of
2.	bauchle	denounce, discredit, down-at-heel
3.	clinkit	thin
4.	dorty	saucy, bad tempered, easily offended
5.	empy	empty
6.	fleesom	frightening
7.	gorach	messy, muddy spot
8.	hunker	to squat, crouching position
9.	kirn	chirn, harvest home, end of harvest
10.	lowp	to jump
11.	moocher	a beggar, one who entreats goods or money
12.	praties	potatoes
13.	quait	quiet
14	rive	tear apart, to split

### **Heritage Centre Visits**

- On 24 May the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society are coming to see the Heritage Centre, Church and the Green Well.
- On 11 June Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society are coming to visit the Woodhead lead mine, the Church and the Heritage Centre. Members of the Heritage Group are very welcome to join this excursion. We meet at the Heritage Centre at 2.30pm. A cup of tea will be provided in Lagwyne Hall on our return from the lead mine.

On 12th June a Conventicle is being held at the Lorg at 3pm. Afterwards those attending will be given the opportunity to walk up to Whigs Hole.

Details in the Church Newsletter

## A Poetic Family History Search

Some years ago, when I was on Welcoming Duty at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh, the Cathcart family from Kircudbrightshire called into the church. They had been intrigued by a poem published in 'The Scotsman' '*Sleep Well, Miss Cathcart*' and were interested to discover who the lady was and if she was related to their family. They had searched various sources but had been unable to find a suitable candidate and now they wondered if we in Greyfriars could help them. At the time we had no information for them, but...

Sheila Young

### Sleep Well, Miss Cathcart

The loneliest gravestone I ever found  
Stands in Greyfriar's burying ground.  
A little plain tablet on the wall  
Read simply MISS CATHCART and that is all.  
All about her tower the stones  
That mark the aristocratic bones  
Of worldly and learned, earls and countesses,  
Grave law lords and W.S.'s,  
With armorial bearings and funeral urns,  
Inscriptions with eulogistic turns,  
But plain Miss Cathcart in Capital letters,  
Lies among - would she have called them her betters?  
Had she no father? Had she no mother:  
No brother or sister? Was there no other -  
No-one at all who could without blame  
Call Miss C by her Christian name?  
Was she one who nobody thought very much on  
Or was she a blot on somebody's scutcheon?  
Was she an orphan, coldly warded,  
Who died neglected and unregarded?

I think she was elderly, all passion spent,  
Made no new friends, and never unbent,

Outlived all her own generation.  
Outlived every last relation,  
Outlived by far the allotted span,  
Then, un beholden to women or man,  
Went and bought her burying-ground,  
A dignified lair with kerb around,  
Commissioned the stone, its words adequate,  
Not being prophetic could give no date,  
Gave orders to have it fixed to the wall,  
Then went home to await her Call.

Well, Miss Cathcart, who shall say,  
Which is the better-off today?  
Their armorial bearings are all askew,  
Their broken-nosed cherubs are crumbling too.  
Their Latin inscriptions are long un-read,  
Their pomp has perished, their glory fled,  
And where they came from, or where they've gone  
Alike are indifferent. You alone  
Rouse speculation and touch the heart,

Whoever your were, sleep well, Miss Cathcart



A M Oliver  
The Scotsman, 1950s?

A colleague of my late husband Charles had found the poem in an old 'The Scotsman' magazine and wondered if we were related. We met Sheila Young who eventually found evidence of a Helen Cathcart living in

Windsor Terrace, Portobello in Edinburgh, and who died in 1841 aged 60, daughter of John Cathcart of Greenock . The hunt goes on..

Carol Cathcart, editor