

Carsphairn Heritage Group



Newsletter 104
Autumn 2013

2013 season

The Heritage Centre has now closed for the winter but already the 2014 exhibition about the Women of Carsphairn is being planned.

Our 2013 exhibition "Sheep and Shortbread" was very successful with a greater number of visitors looking round than in 2012. The July number of visitors was the highest since 2006. The Centre was filmed for a forthcoming programme, primarily about sheep dog trials, which will be shown in January 2014 on BBC Alba.

14 families were researched by either a visit, phone call or through the internet and we received extensive information on the McTurk and Jardine family as well as McAdam family trees from Australia and Canada.

Annual General Meeting

This will be held in Lagwyne Hall on Friday 6th December at 7.30 when our speaker will be Alison Campbell who is the Learning Manager at Holyrood Palace. Her talk will be entitled "From Titian to Tiaras: Stories from the Royal Collection."

Alison will look at the history of the Collection and discuss the places where it is displayed, from Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle to the Scottish Royal Residences of Holyrood and Balmoral.

Non-members, as well as members are very welcome.

Apology

In the Summer 2013 newsletter Page 4 second paragraph part of a sentence was omitted so it didn't make sense. The previous sentence is now included, followed by the full sentence and the following one so we hope you can read the context.

"It was secretly affixed to kirk doors and market crosses all around the south west. The government retaliated immediately by introducing the Abjuration Oath which people all over the south-west were required to take in addition **to the Test, thus renouncing completely the terms of Renwick's** Declaration. In the Test itself those taking it agreed to acknowledge the King's authority in all matters, ecclesiastical as well as civil, and to renounce the Presbyterian form of religion"

Our thanks to Dr David Bartholomew for pointing out the error and my apology to him for making it.

Anna Campbell

Walk to the Leadmines – 20 July 2013

Walkers in the Glenkens are always wary of the weather. Too often we set off under dark skies and at some stage have to contend with driving rain. What a change it was on July 20 for some of us to be wondering whether the afternoon would be too hot as we set out to follow the track from Brochloch to the Woodhead Leadmine and back via Garryhorn and Holm of Daltallochan.

We need not have worried. Our guide, Anna Campbell came with spare sun-hats and water bottles for the ill-prepared and set us a steady but undemanding pace with frequent stops timed to help us recover our breath while she pointed out interesting features of our route.

Our first pause was at Lamloch, the site of the Free Church built in 1844, now a ruin, which the miners had built following the Disruption within the Church of Scotland, so that they could worship according to their consciences instead of attending the service in Carsphairn church. The ruins reminded us that the church is all about the people and not the building, men who felt so strongly that they built the church in their precious free time while they and their families trudged across the exposed hillside every Sunday, however bleak the weather.

Soon we were pausing to take in the flora and fauna that studded our route. As one walker described it we saw

A forest of foxgloves

A garden of thistles

A carpet of thyme

Another described it as Nature's tapestry

One young walker was intrigued to find a quantity of dead toads on the track; he also noted a yellow and a black dragonfly and we all stood still as we caught sight of two red deer peacefully grazing ahead of us and then, having observed us, taking three elegant strides to make it into cover.

The landscape also retained evidence of the lead-mining industry long before we came to the mine itself. Anna pointed out the position of three reservoirs and lades which had been dug to service the mine but which now had been reclaimed by the coarse grass of the hillside.

Finally we had an extended break to fortify ourselves before we reached the site of the mine itself. It was difficult to realise that the ruined buildings and remains of mine shafts had once been a hive of industry with, at its

highest, over 300 living in the fifty houses built there.

We were a group made up of every age between sub-teens and post-pensioners, some of us new to it and others having to keep an eye on roaming dogs but we were all silent as we absorbed the stillness of the scene and contrasted it with the purposeful activity that must have prevailed when the mine was at its busiest in the late 1840s. Then, every building had a distinct purpose but now their ruined state gives little indication of what that was. Nonetheless in what remains we recognise the drive and enterprise of Colonel Mcadam Cathcart in establishing the mine and also the courage and indomitable spirit of the miners and their families who came to work there. The leadmines were closed in 1873 when they ceased to produce an economic tonnage and the miners moved on to other employment some braving the unknown by going to the New World.

It was time for us to move on but there was still a final point of interest. When we came to the house at Garryhorn Anna told us that this was where Grierson of Lag lodged himself and his troops when he had been sent to rout out the Covenanters during the Killing Times. She pointed out a small back window through which Grierson had seen the flashing of metal on the hillside. Recognising that this must have come from the weapon of a Covenanter in hiding he sent out his men who found the fugitive and killed him on the spot.

This chilling story, however, could not detract from the pleasure of walking in beautiful weather, chatting with friends and strangers and learning the secrets of the landscape under the considerate and knowledgeable leadership of Anna Campbell. All of us would echo the final question of one of our party

“When is the next walk?”

Sheila Mackenzie



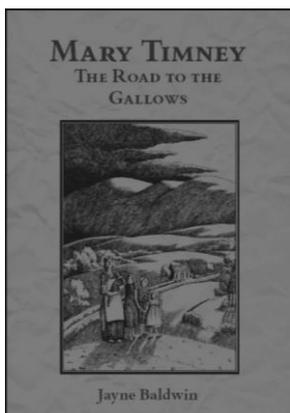
Catstrand Talk on 7th December 2013 at 2pm

Carsphairn Heritage Group will be hosting a talk by author Jayne Baldwin who will examine the circumstances and consequences of the once notorious, 'Glenkens Murder' in her new book *Mary Timney, Road to the Gallows*.

When Anne Hannah was discovered dying of horrific head injuries on the floor of her farmhouse kitchen, her friends and neighbours gathered at her bedside, including twenty seven year old Mary Timney. By the end of that January day in 1862 Anne Hannah was dead and Mary, a young mother of four, had been arrested for her murder. Many believed that Mary's brazen behaviour that day was typical of her; she was a woman with a reputation. Imprisoned at Kirkcudbright and separated from her children, Mary became desperate and resorted to blaming her own mother for the attack. With the tide of opinion against her she was tried in Dumfries, her own young daughters produced as prosecution witnesses, and sentenced to hang. As a more balanced picture of Mary's life came to light the community that had condemned her began to rally round her case and thousands petitioned for a reprieve. When the campaign failed a Dumfries crowd witnessed Mary's harrowing execution in what was to be the last public hanging of a woman in Scotland.

Last winter Jayne came to research the extensive records that we hold in the Heritage Centre regarding this murder which took place at Carsfad not far from the dam there. Some of you may be familiar with her lovely children's book "The Belties of Curleywee Farm".

Tickets are £5 which will include tea Further details will be available nearer the time but in the meantime do contact Anna Campbell on 01644 460208.



All the threes. Significant events in Carsphairn from 1723 to 2013

A timeline was made for our exhibition this year so it was thought it might be a good idea to try to note the anniversaries for this year

Date	Event/Record	Comments
1723	James McKay became first school master in Carsphairn John Reid presented a bell to the church	He was appointed by the Kirk Session at an annual salary of £100 merks Scots The bell is on permanent display inside the church
1733	Muirdrochwood	Then known as Miln of Mardrocket
1763	Disastrous fire at Lagwyne	John Louden McAdam, who later became the famous road maker was rescued from it. The house was not rebuilt
1803	Advertisement in Dumfries Standard for a school teacher	All candidates must be qualified to teach English, Latin, Writing, Arithmetic and Book Keeping
1843	School built at Woodhead leadmine	A liberal salary was paid by Colonel McAdam Cathcart to both the schoolmaster and the female teacher.
1853	Entries from the leadmines School in the Glenkens Society handwriting Competition.	The child, William Dobie's winning handwriting was the word "Clementina"
1883	At the 8 th annual Carsphairn Show the sheep classes were divided into Blackface and Cheviot breeds	Income from the Show was £33.16s.8d and expenditure was £24.16s 11d
1893	Exams took place in Carsphairn School for the Glenkens Society prizes The United Presbyterian Church opened in the village	The chairman of the School Board, Mr McMillan of Lamloch and Mr McNaughton, the parish minister supervised the exams. The church, built of whinstone quarried from the bed of the Deugh, seated 150

1903	A Paris bonspiel took place on January 22 nd at the village curling pond.	The remains of the pond can still be seen nowadays in the field behind the Telephone Exchange
1913	The Carsphairn Medical Insurance Scheme paid out £23.9s 6d to 37 of its members	Members subscriptions for the year were £17 19s 1d. This scheme seems to have started before 1874 and continued to 1940
1923	Unveiling of the war memorial by Col William Hew Clark Kennedy V.C. HMI Report on Carsphairn School included a piece about the difficulties of children from the area formerly served by Meadowhead School closed in 1917	The names of the 13 Carsphairn men who died were read out by Mr McNaughton “Four children are dependent on conveyance on a bus which runs daily from about the middle of June till the third week of September. These pupils with two others who travel by post gig from the opposite direction arrive about 11am”.
1933	Historic Church Ceremony at Carsphairn. Headline in Galloway News - 25 th March.	Reopening and rededication of the church. Miner’s gallery taken down, new porch built, new chancel and vestry built. Current organ installed
1943	Glenkens Society garden competition	Prizes in Carsphairn being awarded to Mr C E Stewart, Mrs Buchanan and Mrs Lawrence.
1953	Carsphairn celebrated the Coronation	The Union Jack was unfurled at 8am on the Preaching Knowe
1963	Talk given to Woman’s Guild about Austria and West Germany and the Berlin Wall	A vote of thanks was given to the speaker for “a most realistic account of the state of affairs in East Germany”.
1973	Woman’s Guild party cancelled	This was because of the energy crisis.
1983	July Communion Service	58 attended
1993	Woman’s Guild Senior Citizens party	This was held at Milton Park Hotel, Dalry. 39 Carsphairn Senior Citizens attended
2003	Galloway News headlines about the Show	Carsphairn Show had the Cream of the Crop. Hat trick for Knockreoch Blackie
2013	And what will be remembered in Carsphairn for 2013??	

1913 Carsphairn Show - extract from the Galloway News

The annual show under the auspices of the Carsphairn Pastoral and Horticultural Society was held in the Pavilion and adjoining field on Friday in dull cold weather. The attendance was not up to average. There is always a good show of sheep, and as usual, the exhibits from Barlae and Marbrack carried off the principal prizes. In the aged tup class, Mr Kennedy, Marbrack led with a Glenmoy-bred animal which was one of the second prize group at Lanark in 1911. Messrs W and R.P. Campbell, Brockloch were second with a sheep bred at Glencrosh. Mr W.A. McTurk, Barlae got the leading award in the top hogg class with a promising sheep got by his well known Crossflatt-bred tup which was champion here last year.

There was a large show of butter and considerable interest was taken in the industrial section. The pot plants were very creditable, especially the hydrangeas, cinerarias, fuchsias and geraniums and in the poultry classes some fine birds were exhibited.

World War 1 1914 - 1918

In 2014 the commemoration of the Great War begins. We are reminded of the sacrifice of the lives of so many young men, especially at this time of year in our Remembrance Day service in the church and afterwards at the War Memorial, unveiled 90 years ago.

On the Memorial are the names of thirteen men who lived in or had connections with Carsphairn parish. More will be written about them during the year of the centenary of their deaths.

But what was life like for those who remained in the area. Without the young men who did the manual work, how did the women cope and what social changes came about? We know from the United Free Church's Roll of honour plaque, now in Carsphairn Church that 21 members of that church went to war. Two did not return.

We have started to collect some reminiscences but need help from you. Can anyone tell us something about that time, whether it was a story of the war or what went on in the area. We'd like to build up a picture of those troubled and rapidly changing times.