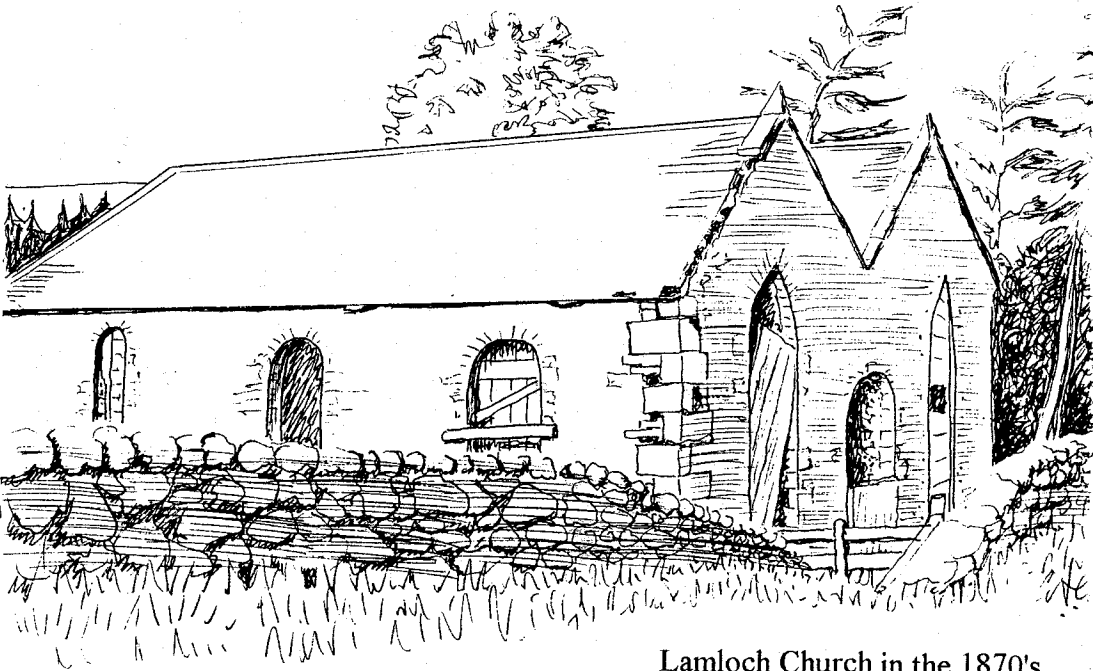


CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE GROUP

Newsletter No 32

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Lamloch Church in the 1870's
from a postcard

The Stewartry Museum's exhibition at the Heritage Centre that has just closed. 'Pictures from the Past', has generated great interest not only from local people, but from many who have travelled afar, particularly those who have connections with Carsphairn. A great deal of information about those featured in the pictures has been passed on to us and the exhibition has given pleasure to many who have seen their forbears in photographs and slides. All these contacts are logged in our Daybook at the Centre and the details will be added to our records.

Mr Proudlock came from Stranraer because he had seen his old home - his father was policeman here - one night on Border News. **Mr Bill Cunningham**, a shepherd at Moorbrock and the Lorg in the 1950's, saw the Centre featured in the Galloway News and he has lent us some very interesting photographs to copy. We now have contact with the families of two **former policemen**, two **postmen**, **Hyslops from the shop**, a **gamekeeper**, the **farming community** and others who have spent holidays here in the past.

Douglas Craig and **Dr Willie Craig** spent several holidays here in the late 1920's and early '30's. One summer they took Portmark as their base and thought nothing of having a night out at the dance in New Galloway. Loch Doon, over Coran of Portmark, to the Leadmines where they picked up their bicycles and rode down to the village. The next stage was a lift from Mrs Sievewright and after an energetic night's dancing the expedition was reversed in the early hours of the morning!

Mrs Cox from Ayr called in at the Centre with family items connected with Meadowhead School. **George Duncan**, her great, great grandfather was gamekeeper at Loch Muick Lodge. As well as family photographs she had a recipe book from the School, a sampler done by **L M Duncan**, Meadowhead School June 4th 1906 and a fascinating autograph book started in 1913 and spanning twenty years.

Looking ahead for future exhibitions we seek material for **Carsphairn Childhood**. Children's drawings, books, photographs and stories. Does anyone remember helping with clippings and dippings, peatcutting and harvest work? Please let us have your stories.

Picnics and outings, the games you played and the chores of the day. Also any children's drawings to copy and photographs etc. We hope to feature all the schools and how you travelled to school etc etc. We can delve into the records but only you can supply the personal memories that give our exhibitions their extra appeal.....

Hugie Adamson

THE 1995 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will take place at the Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn on
Friday 24 November starting at 7.30pm.

Break for tea followed by

GORDON RIDDELL

Principal of Culzean Country Park
will be showing slides and talking about

BIRDS AROUND CARSPHAIRN

following his Kestrel Watch and study of Barn Owls
in this area

Winners of the **Photographic Competition** will be announced
plus display of photos entered

FAMILY RECORDS

Our family tree section has grown considerably this summer, partly as a result of the exhibition. Information has been given on the **McFadzean** and **Hyslop** families by **Mr Jones** from Lincoln and **Mrs Dinan** from Exeter, who was passing through the village on her return from holiday has sent the **Milroy** and **Bell** family trees.

Other enquiries on family history have come from Australia and New Zealand. This, however, is a two way process. We often receive much more information on the family than we can give but we can often fill some gaps.

One American from Florida, **John T McCrea**, was so fascinated by his indirect ancestor **Marmaduke McCrae**, buried in Carsphairn Kirkyard, that he

has written a long essay about him, a copy of which is in the reference section at the Heritage Centre. In Mr McCrea's own words *"This little sketch - Duke the Shepherd - has been written from the writer's personal knowledge and research, and reflects his life-long fascination with the Canadian poet/soldier/physician, Lt Col John McCrae, who wrote 'In Flanders Fields'.*

A visit to his birthplace, now a museum, in Guelph, Canada, further stimulated that interest. He came upon the record of Marmaduke while doing genealogical research of the McCraes of Ayrshire, among whom are counted his own Grandfather and his earlier McCrae ancestors for generations past.

Having opportunity to travel through the beautiful countryside of southern Ayrshire, Kirkcudbright, and the rest of Galloway - he set out to capture something of the life and character of this faithful shepherd and his rather amazing family.

Many persons have contributed to the story, and many sources have been explored. Of primary assistance has been Anna Campbell, who has not only supplied much information, but has graciously hosted John Sr. and John Jr., upon their visit to that region - introducing them to some of the scenes of this story."

Mr McCrae also sent us this Peanuts cartoon



Another American **John B McMillan** called into the Centre with his wife. He'd been visiting McMillans this side of the Atlantic and left a copy of the **Clan MacMillan Society of North America Newsletter**, in it's 37th year of publication, which is now in the reference section at the Heritage Centre.

During the winter months while the Centre is closed the Reference Section, for those who wish to delve into it, lodges with Anna Campbell at Holm of Daltallochan.

RHINNS REVISITED The 1995 Annual Walk

I unearthed Newsletter no 8, gazed affectionately at the Kaffe und Kuchen stains and remembered reading of the first bold sponsored hill walk in 1989 at a safe distance from Mrs

Campbell's recruiting zeal. Six years later and back in the UK participation in these annual treks appears mandatory, maps spiriting themselves onto our doormat a week before the event.

On our departure from the village it was once bemoaned that "the Whalens were good for bulk". So, true to form, half of us turned up at the Forrest Lodge car park and made up 25% of the small but intrepid party trying to assess whether "reasonable conditions" for walking prevailed. In the midst of what was one of the most glorious summers, Saturday 12 August broke ingloriously grey and threatening. It was agreed that we should at least scale Meikle Millyea before finalising our judgement on the feasibility of continuing, and with that goal we set out; twelve of us from 12 years to a good few more and three four-legged companions. One of our number was limbering up for the Himalayas. That should have made me suspicious.

The climb was steep, and breakfast at the summit was much appreciated until I was firmly reminded that the day was yet young. Sheila left us here as she had planned, and the rest of us determined that the intermittent mist and rain did not merit cancellation. Fine glimpses of lochs and distant ranges of hills were afforded us. Wild goats and deer observed our progress as our little band pressed on; stretching out across the Rhinns with youth and excess of legs showing obvious advantage. Some of our canine friends, understanding the significance of the date, flushed some grouse, not caring if it doubled their mileage or exhausted their masters' whistling repertoires.

Luncheon was a brief and huddled affair, well-zipped into kagoules or swaddled in orange plastic bags, before the bald windswept summit of Corserine. Here Ronnie left us to make his own descent.

We trekked on towards that masterpiece of survival engineering which is Carlin's Cairn and, sheltering from the rain which was becoming more persistent, topped up the blood sugar once more. From then on it was them and us! Just as in 1989 the advance party, encouraged by the prospect of the Watret's party, led on apace, deviating neither to left or right. Meanwhile the Colonel and Doug chivalrously escorted me as I plodded on. At one point on spying a bright red anorak I thought my guardian angel had sent a stretcher party to carry me off in style, but that would have been absurd. It was, of course, one of Sandy's university colleagues whom we hadn't seen for almost twenty years despite annual resolutions in Christmas cards to renew our acquaintance.

For a mile or so on Portmark the fence was our only guide as the mist and wind assaulted us, but we did make a detour to survey the covenanter's grave. The final descent was on automatic pilot towards the warm welcome waiting for us in Hugie's kitchen at Lamloch. The delicious soup was eagerly consumed, and winches needed to prise the locked joints out of comfy chairs.

Once again thanks are due the marshals and organisers, Doug Lewis, Colin Burnie, Ronnie MacKenzie and the Colonel - for their efforts. It was wonderful to walk what had been the backdrop to our lives at Greenhead Mains, and the camaraderie compensated for the less than ideal conditions on this occasion. Next year, however, Anna should at least suffer with me!

Moira Whalen

CARSPHAIRN PARISH MAGAZINES

Anna Campbell has copies for 1907 and 1909 of the Parish Magazine, full of valuable information for family research. We are hoping to find other issues to photocopy. Please contact Anna if you have old copies of Carsphairn Parish Magazine at 01644 460208 or Holm of Daltallochan, Carsphain, Castle Douglas DG7 3TH

Lamloch Church

A postcard of Lamloch Free Church, sketched on the cover, has been recently donated by Mrs Katherine Porteous. It is the first time for years that anyone has seen what the one time very splendid building looked like and the design has taken us by surprise. The church is mentioned in the article on Woodhead Mine in the last Newsletter but here are some more facts:

Lifetime of Lamloch Free Church	-	23 years from 1844 to 1867
Cost of building	-	£310
Average number at communion	-	140
Total number church held	-	370

It is difficult to date the postcard precisely but it may well have been taken in the early 1870's before the deterioration of the building became so serious.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Bill Hough, who died at home on 8th August 1995. He was a quiet and kindly man, who was always willing to give a helping hand where needed. Apart from his years in the army, he had lived all his life in Carsphairn, employed by the Forestry Commission for 49 years until his retirement in 1989. He had many memories of people and events, and was an invaluable source of some of the information used in Heritage Group exhibitions. He was also a regular steward in the Heritage Centre.

He will be missed by his family, friends and acquaintances. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Margret.

George Ferrier Andrew MacNaughton 1855-1933

Minister of Carsphairn Parish Church 1900 - 1925

Mr MacNaughton became a much loved minister over the 35 years of his ministry. His leadership overcame many of the prejudices within the church and he was able to maintain a cordial relationship with the minister of the United Presbyterian Church known after 1900 as the United Free Church. There are several who can remember him as a man who commanded much respect.

Mr MacNaughton came to Carsphairn at a most difficult time in the Church's history. His predecessor, Peter Findlay, had been involved in a scandal which he vehemently denied. The matter was taken to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which confirmed the Synod's decision of not proven. Mr Findlay refused to demit office and whilst he continued with a tiny congregation the majority of the parishioners joined the United Presbyterian Church. The strength of their numbers became such that after some years of meeting in school a United Presbyterian Church was built further along the street in 1893.

There is not a great deal written about Mr MacNaughton's time here but there are two parish magazines, written by him in 1907 and 1909 that tell us much about the man who was able to heal a very deep chasm within the Church. Both these magazines are in the Heritage Group archives. The magazines not only give a summary of the Church's work during the preceding year but also, in Mr MacNaughton's words "*holding a conference with my people with my parish, with the congregation of the Parish Church and all those to whom I am called to minister*". He wrote on such diverse subjects as Statistics, the Meaning of Life, the Dangers of Being Parochial and in 1909 about Socialism, this being just three years after the first Labour MPs took their seats in Parliament. These essays, all at the beginning of the parish magazine are very readable and reflect the thoughts of a man who wished his congregation to understand God's word in their ordinary lives. They suggest that he felt that his congregation should not see themselves in isolation but in the context of the wider world.

Following other essays he turned to local church matters. He wrote fitting tributes to those who died each year. Moving tributes which must have been a great comfort to each bereaved family. He briefly mentioned his wife's death but could not bring himself to write of her except to thank the Parish for its kindness, sympathy and forbearance shown to him. He made reference to the flowers that the children planted around Mrs MacNaughton's grave in the kirkyard. He recorded the death of "Old Jamie Hunter" who was the post runner from Knowehead to Holm of Dalquhairn. The detail, given in the tribute gave a vivid picture of Jamie Hunter and his work as a rural letter carrier. Other tributes show his knowledge and love of all those who were part of his Parish.

By 1907 the roll of church members had crept back up to 157 but he had one disappointment - the "Christian Liberty" of the congregation had fallen to £78.0.9d as opposed to £83.0.6d in 1904. The Sunday School trip in 1906 was to Dunure to which the Sunday School pupils, the choir, the collectors and all church workers went. Each year he completed his report by mentioning the happy relations between himself and the United Free Church. In 1909 he wrote to the Christmas party (an event which is still organised by the Church today) *"the Annual Christmas treat for the children of the Parish was arranged and prepared for on 29 December (1908) but the sudden severe snowstorm and blocked roads prevented both the children and some of those engaged to entertain them from getting to Carsphairn at all. The tree was stripped after we had had some dances and games in the hall and the presents made up into parcels to be dispatched as soon as possible to those for whom they were intended"**

The overall feeling for Mr MacNaughton, who demitted office 70 years ago, has remained unchanged over the years. Feelings of warmth, respect, loyalty and love, all of which Mr MacNaughton felt for his congregation persist until today. The minute of the final kirk session that he attended ended with these words, "with concurrence of the Presbytery, the Moderator (Mr MacNaughton) would read from the pulpit the edict declaring the parish vacant and take farewell of his beloved congregation.

* There are numerous references to Mr MacNaughton in the Carsphairn School log book. He attended Prize Days and was also an examiner for the annual examinations. Occasionally services were conducted in school, always taken jointly by Mr MacNaughton and the minister of the U.F.church. On Christmas Day 1905 the school was dismissed early and each child received a gift of a Christmas pie from Mrs MacNaughton. On July 14th 1909 it was noted in the school log book that "at the close of school Reverend Mr MacNaughton entertained all the schoolchildren to tea in front of his manse. He has done this for several years now".

Anna Campbell

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

It is not too late to enter this.

Final date for entries is now Wednesday 15 November.

Entries will be displayed at the AGM.

see April Newsletter for details

OR look at the poster in the village shop.