

Farms and Farming in Campsie Parish



Dairymaids at Benclouch Farm

Credit EDC Archives

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Introduction

The lands of Campsie have always lent themselves to farming and have probably been cultivated since Neolithic times when humans first settled in the area.

The land along the plain at the foot of the hills is particularly fertile and careful husbandry has helped to retain that fertility across the generations. The importance of looking after the land was highlighted by the conditions imposed by landowners on their tenant farmers and these were carefully recorded in that farmer's lease.

The foothills and higher slopes of the hills lend themselves to sheep who thrive on poor quality pasture. Where the farms were located on the fertile flatter areas farmers were banned from keeping sheep and this too was written into the leases.

Many families passed the farm from father to son over many generations giving a stability to the area. On some occasions we met with the heartbreak involved when there was no son to take over and the entire contents of the farm had to be sold off.

The ownership of the land changed over time and this was particularly notable in the mid-1920s when the Kincaid-Lennox family, the main landowner in the area, decided to sell off the major part of their holdings. This gave the opportunity to the tenant farmer to purchase the ground their family had farmed for generations.

Over time, as farming became more mechanised, many farms joined together to form larger single units which could be farmed more productively.

In 1855 there were some 80 farms in the parish but by 1940 there were closer to 40.

Some farmland has been built on to provide much needed housing, but farming is still alive and well across Campsie.

When reviewing the valuation rolls there were several blanks where no entries had been made. Some of these could be explained by the death of the previous owner or tenant and the resulting legal documents required to transfer ownership or tenancy delaying the process, but others yielded no explanation for the omission at all.

Farm labourers came from all over Scotland and occasionally Ireland. This may have been initially due to the short-term employment with workers hired at fairs or Feeing Days. McGuire (1988:74) states that while farmers preferred to hire for the year, farm servants preferred a half yearly arrangement. Contracts would run from Martinmas to Whitsunday and Whitsunday to Martinmas. Campsie Parish agricultural wages were higher than the average paid in Stirlingshire because of the competition from industry so that may have put Campsie on the map for agricultural workers from afar and may explain why they tended to stay. The Feeing days were frowned upon and in later times adverts for dairymaids or ploughmen appeared in newspapers for individual farms. It was also evident across censuses that while fathers remained as ploughmen or farm servants their children were more likely to seek employment in the printworks.

Farm Buildings and Enclosures.—The class of tenantry in this district being what is styled working farmers, the size of the farms and the capital employed in them moderate, and the competition in consequence of the dense population and ready markets considerable, extreme personal activity is indispensable, and the farmer is contented with moderate accommodation. The dwelling-houses commonly contain only the kitchen and two small rooms, each having fixed beds, and these often so placed as not to be easily kept free from damp. There are a few instances of a better and more comfortable description.

Statistical Accounts of Scotland (1845)

Farms in Campsie 1855 Valuation Roll

Name of farm	Proprietor	Tenant
Alton and Wattry Burn	JLK Lennox	William Stevenson
Balcorrach	JLK Lennox	Gavin Jack
Balglass and Baldow	JLK Lennox	William Craig
Balgrochan	JLK Lennox	William Black
Balgrochan Mill	James Ferrie	James Ferrie
Banks and Hunterston	JLK Lennox	James Dickson
Bencloich Mains		Robert Kincaid
Bencloich Mill		Walter Weir
Birdston	JLK Lennox	Mark Stevenson
Cappieston and Hole	JLK Lennox	William Cunningham
Craigbarnet Home	JLK Lennox	William Buchanan
Craigend	JLK Lennox	
Craiginden	JLK Lennox	William Anderson
Drummarling		Thomas Watson
Ashenwell		James McNab
Barrhill	Maj Gen AF Macintosh	John Hosie
Dyke Hill	Mrs Johanna Macinnes or Gordon	William Graham
Dyke Foot	Mrs Johanna Macinnes or Gordon	Betty Marshall
East Baldoran		Andrew Fauld
Easter and Mid Muckcroft	Maj Gen AF Macintosh	George Brown
Finnescroft and Tarfin	Maj Gen AF Macintosh	Robert Hosie
Gastmone		Donald Campbell
Keirhill	Mrs Johanna Macinnes or Gordon	Thomas Stark
Knowehead	John Harden Macfarlane	David Foyer
Mains of Auchenreoch	Mrs Johanna Macinnes or Gordon	John Sinclair
Middle Baldoman		John Moir
Muirhead	Maj Gen AF Macintosh	John Hamilton
New Mill		James Horn
Spouthead		John Gilmour
West Baldoran		Andrew Faulds
West of Glorat		Robert Brown
Wester Muckcroft	Maj Gen AF Macintosh	William Macfarlane
Fleuch Mill	JLK Lennox	Alexander Roy

Glenwynd	JLK Lennox	John Buchanan
Inchbellie Bridgend	JLK Lennox	John Marshall
Inchbellie	JLK Lennox	John Morton
Kinkell	JLK Lennox	William Anderson
Langshot and Burnbrae	JLK Lennox	James Liddle
Leitch Bank	John Buchanan	John Macgilchrist
Muirhead	JLK Lennox	Robert Hosie
Redmoss and Temple	JLK Lennox	William Henderson
Shields	JLK Lennox	
South Birbiston	JLK Lennox	David Reid
South Craigend	JLK Lennox	Andrew Buchanan
Slatefield	JLK Lennox	Rev John Gillon
Sterriqua	JLK Lennox	John Gray
Waterhead	JLK Lennox	John Dobbie

Farms in Campsie 1940 Valuation Roll

Farm	Proprietor	Tenant/Occupier
BALCORRACH AND BALGROCHAN HILL CAMPSIE GLEN	CAPTAIN WILLIAM MANDEVILLE PEARETH KINCAID LENNOX	
BALGROCHAN TORRANCE	REBECCA STEWART FERRIE	REBECCA STEWART FERRIE
BALGROCHAN LENNOXTOWN	CAPTAIN WILLIAM MANDEVILLE PEARETH KINCAID LENNOX	THOMAS BUCHANAN
BARRHILL AND WEST MUCKCROFT	ROBERT BUCHANAN KING	ANDREW JAMIESON
BIRBISTON AND BALGLASS LENNOXTOWN	ELIZABETH GILCHRIST	MARGARET MURDOCH
BIRDSTON BANK	ANDREW DICKSON	
BIRDSTON	MRS ELIZABETH REID OR JOHNSTON	THOMAS REID
BLAIRTUMMOCK CAMPSIE GLEN	CAROLINE FRANCES MILLER STIRLING	
CARLESTON		GEORGE HADDOW
CRAIGBARNET CAMPSIE GLEN	CAROLINE FRANCES MILLER STIRLING	
CRAIGEND CAMPSIE GLEN		
CROSSHOUSE BY HAUGHHEAD	COL PETER CHARLES MACFARLANE	COL PETER CHARLES MACFARLANE
DRUMBAIN AND WESTER FOREBARS BALGROCHAN TORRANCE (PART)	AGNES HANNAH	AGNES ROY
DRUMBAIN AND WESTER FOREBARS BALGROCHAN TORRANCE (PART)	AGNES HANNAH	WILLIAM YOUNG
DYKE MILTON OF CAMPSIE	ANDREW JACKSON	ANDREW JACKSON
FRENCH MILL MILTON OF CAMPSIE	JOANNA MCPHAIL	JOANNA MCPHAIL
GARMORE MILTON OF CAMPSIE	SIR GEORGE MURRAY HOME STIRLING	JAMES RALSTON

GLENSIDE AND LUKESTON	CAPTAIN WILLIAM MANDEVILLE PEARETH KINCAID LENNOX	GEORGE WILSON
GLENWYND LANGSHOT AND BURNBRAE TORRANCE		
HILL OF BLENCLOICH MILTON OF CAMPSIE	SIR GEORGE MURRAY HOME STIRLING	JAMES RALSTON
HOLE AND CAPIESTON LENNOXTOWN	ROBERT WILSON	JOHNSTONE WILSON
KILWINNET CAMPSIE GLEN	CAPTAIN WILLIAM MANDEVILLE PEARETH KINCAID LENNOX	GEORGE WILSON
KINKELL AND CRAIGENGLLEN	JAMES HOSIE	JAMES HOSIE
KNOWEHEAD CAMPSIE GLEN	CAPTAIN WILLIAM MANDEVILLE PEARETH KINCAID LENNOX	WILLIAM ADAM
LENNOXLEA LENNOXTOWN	WILLIAM SEMPLE	JOHN PIRIE
LENNOXMILL LENNOXTOWN		AGNES MACCLELLAND
LOCHMILL ETC MILTON OF CAMPSIE		JAMES MORTON
MAINS OF BALQUHARRAGE LENNOXTOWN		ROBERT R MORTON
MAINS OF DRUMILLAN AND BENCLOICH LENNOXTOWN	SIR GEORGE MURRAY HOME STIRLING	JOHN DOBBIE
MEADOWBANK TORRANCE		
MUIRHEAD LENNOXTOWN	ROBERT BUCHANAN KING	WILLIAM MACKERROW
NEW MILL MILTON OF CAMPSIE	SIR GEORGE MURRAY HOME STIRLING	ROBERT C BROWN
SPOUTHEAD MILTON OF CAMPSIE	SIR GEORGE MURRAY HOME STIRLING	WILLIAM RALSTON
WALTRYBURN AND ALTON BY MILTON OF CAMPSIE	CHRISTINE MORTON	DAVID FM MORTON
WESTER CARLESTON TORRANCE OF CAMPSIE (PART)	JOHN LEITCH	DAVID IMRIE

WESTER CARLESTON TORRANCE OF CAMPSIE (PART)	JOHN LEITCH	JOHN LEITCH
RED MOSS LENNOXTOWN	DAVID REID	DAVID REID
SHIELDS BY MILTON OF CAMPSIE		ANDREW MORTON
TORPHIN AND FINNIESCROFT LENNOXTOWN	ROBERT BUCHANAN KING	HUGH ORR
UPPER CARLESTON TORRANCE OF CAMPSIE	MARY HOPKIN	FRANK G HOPKIN
WATSHOD BROADLEES SANDYFAULDS ETC LENNOXTOWN		WILLIAM MACKIE
WESTFIELD		JAMES KYLE

Balcorrach Farm



12th century - 1967

Ruth Howat

Balcorrach Farm is found to the north of the road from Clachan of Campsie to Lennoxtown. It is a place of some historical interest and a gathering place for community events.



Ordnance Survey 1865

In the 12th century, the Earl of the Levenachs owned large amounts of land in the local area. Among the properties was Camsi Castle which was later called Balcorrach Castle. This Castle was inhabited by a vassal who was responsible for maintaining the castle and cultivation of the land surrounding it.

In 1420, Earl Duncan granted a charter to his son, Donald, of various lands in Campsie including Balcorrach. On 14 October 1454, Donald was succeeded by his son John. John, the Laird of Balcorrach, came to live in the area and repaired the castle. In 1520, the third Laird of Balcorrach died and was succeeded by his eldest son John. The fifth Laird, Duncan Lennox, died without being married. His brother John had been managing the property for some time and in 1579 a charter was granted to him for the land.

In 1630, James Lennox was declared heir of the property. By 1660 it is recorded that 10 tenants were present in Balcorrach.

By the early 18th century, it had become common for agricultural leases of 19 years to be used on the estate. Between 1721 and 1723, five leases of 19 years each were granted for Balcorrach. It was clear at this time that families were acquiring simultaneous leases within the estate which were close together. In Balcorrach in this period there are a number of leases granted to George Brown, William Graham, Archibald Brown, his son Malcolm, and Archibald Graham. This meant that the tenants could use the produce from one holding to support their families and that of the second holding for market.

Balcorrach had become consolidated into two farms, Upper Balcorrach and Lower Balcorrach. In 1809, Malcolm Brown acquired the lease of Upper Balcorrach and in 1813 he acquired the lease for Lower Balcorrach. As part of the lease, the owner was required to provide materials to build a stone dyke with the tenant being responsible for the building work. Balcorrach also had a threshing machine and in 1820, when the tenant carried out improvements on the threshing machine, the owner paid £35 towards the expense. At this time, Balcorrach was a dairy farm, and the lease forbade the tenant from having sheep due to concerns that they would cause damage.

The 1841 census shows that the Brown family were still farming at Balcorrach with the farmer being the 20-year-old Andrew Brown with his wife, one son and six servants or agricultural labourers. By 1851, the tenant was Gavin Jack, who lived there with his wife, eight children, two servants and a shepherd. This suggests that the prohibition on keeping sheep has been relaxed in this period.

In 1860, the farm was one of several owned by the Right Honourable Viscountess Strangford which were advertised to be let. This lease included Balcarrach which was described as 126 acres of excellent quality arable land which included a threshing mill and waterwheel belonging to the proprietor. Upper Balcarrach was described as 615 acres of superior hill pasture.

The new tenant was James Slimmon, originally from Sanquhar. The 1871 census records Mr Slimmon living there with his wife, seven children aged between 2 and 16 years and four farm servants.

James Slimmon was well regarded in the local area and served as the Secretary of the Campsie, Strathblane and Baldernock Agricultural Society where he was credited with turning around the society's fortune. He also provided his fields for free annually for the cattle show to be held there. He is described as a man of independent thought and conviction which was amply demonstrated by his taking his landlord, the Honourable C. Hanbury Kincaid-Lennox to court in a dispute over the right to trap rabbits on the farm. The lease specified that the tenant could not shoot rabbits, but Mr Slimmon successfully argued that this did not prevent him from trapping them.

CAMPSIE, STRATHBLANE, AND BALDER-
NOCK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The ANNUAL CATTLE SHOW will be held at
CLACHAN of CAMPSIE (foot of Campsie Glen), on
TUESDAY, 1ST JUNE NEXT, at 11 o'clock forenoon.

Three Prizes will be given for the Best Leaping Horses
—First, £1 10s ; Second, £1 ; Third, 10s (Open) ; and Three
Prizes for the Best Trotting Horses—First, £4 ; Second,
£2 10s ; Third, £1 (Confined).

Train from Glasgow (Dundas Street) to Campsie Glen
at 10 o'clock A.M.

JAMES SLIMMON, Secretary.
Balcarrach, 18th May 1875.

26/5/1875 North British Agriculturist

In 1875, the farm was involved in a mystery when clothes were found in the local area which were smeared in blood. It was established that the clothes belonged to a farm servant named John Watson who had not been seen for three months. He had previously worked at the farm and Mr Slimmon identified the clothes as his. He said Mr Watson had come to work with him the previous year having informed him he was 17 years old. During his employment, he had not impressed Mr Slimmon with his abilities and had moved on to a job in Helensburgh. An attempt to trace him through an aunt living in Chryston was made, but no trace of her could be found.

They did eventually find a woman who had washed for Mr Watson and who recognised his clothes. She said that she didn't believe he was more than 15 years old. The police eventually came to the conclusion that John Watson was actually a woman who had passed herself off as a man to earn the higher wage men received. They believed that the clothes were abandoned when she changed into woman's clothes and that she was now working on an unknown farm as a woman.

In 1880, the Slimmon family left the Campsie area and moved to a farm near St Albans in the south of England. The farm was again advertised, however on this occasion, no distinction was made between Upper and Lower Balcarrach, the farm being advertised as one. It is described as 110 acres of fine arable land, 70 acres of good brae pasture and 550 acres of hill pasture.

The new tenant was William Brechin. Mr Brechin continued to allow the Campsie Cattle Show to be held on the farm and in 1885, he won second place for a bull aged three years or above.

In 1886, there was a serious incident on the farm where two miners were convicted for a serious assault on a gamekeeper on the farm. William was unmarried and is recorded as living on the farm with four servants in the 1891 census.

This was not the only violent incident to occur during Mr Brechin's tenancy. He was arrested for breach of the peace in 1889 after an altercation with the minister's wife after his sheep strayed onto the Glebe. He was found not guilty on this occasion but in 1894, he was convicted of assaulting his neighbour with a graip after another dispute relating to wandering sheep. He was back at the court three years later and was convicted of assaulting one of his servants. He died in 1902 while living in Baldernock.

STIRLINGSHIRE.
LENNOX CASTLE ESTATES.

TO LET, together or separately, from Martinmas, 1900, as to the Arable Lands, and Whitsunday, 1901, as to the Houses and Grass.

I. The FARM of BALCORRACH, presently occupied by William Brechin, and extending to about 101 Acres Arable; and

II. The FARM of UPPER BALCORRACH, presently occupied by Mr Brechin, and Balgrochan Hill, extending together to about 834 Acres, of which 19 are Arable and 815 Hill Pasture.

The Farms are situated close to Campsie Glen Station, and about One Mile from Lennoxtown. The Arable Land is of good quality, and is suitable for a Dairy Stock; and the Hill Pasture is suitable for grazing Young Cattle or Sheep. The present tenant is leaving the farms. Mr James King, West Lodge, Campsie Glen, will arrange for the boundaries being pointed out.

Apply to Messrs Dundas & Wilson, C.S., 16 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, who will receive Offers up to Monday, 27th August, 1900.

13/8/1900 Glasgow Herald

The farm was advertised again in 1900, this time with the division of Upper Balcarrach and Balcarrach returning. The new tenant was Matthew McKeich, and his family were to work the farm until they gave up the tenancy in 1967. The McKeich family moved to Balcarrach from Drymen. The 1911 census records that they lived on the farm with nine children, a boarder and one servant. Mr McKeich died in 1915, however, his wife, Jessie, continued to run the farm until her death in 1947. By 1921, Ms McKeich is recorded as a farmer living there with four children, a grandchild, a cousin, two nieces and a nephew. There is also a visitor and a servant listed.

In 1942, the family was given a licence to operate a dairy which they did until it was sold in 1960. This was not always easy and in 1955 the company's tuberculin testing licence was put on hold for three months. It was argued that the issues were due to it being the worst summer in memory which had resulted in the ground being so wet that it was difficult to keep cows clean. The farm also kept sheep and prizes were won in 1955 and 1956 for best fleeced sheep.

During the McKeich's time at the farm, events for the local community continued to be hosted there including the Boys Brigade Sports Day in 1930 and a gymkhana and dance to raise money

for the Welcome Home Fund in the summer of 1945. The farm also hosted local Sunday school picnics and the Campsie, Strathblane and Baldernock Agricultural Society held its annual show there.

The McKeichs continued at the farm until 1967 when they retired after 67 years as tenants of Balcarrach. The respect in which the family were held locally is demonstrated by a committee being formed to observe this occasion.

Campsie Glen family retire from farming

ABOUT three months ago, when it became known that the members of the McKeich family of Balcarrach Farm, Campsie Glen, intended to retire from farming and give up the tenancy, a committee was at once formed to recognise the event.

On Thursday last a deputation of the many friends of the McKeich family called at the farm to present them with three Parker Knoll chairs, and Elliot-triking and chiming clock suitably inscribed and a beautiful handbag for Miss Kate McKeich, sister of Messrs. Walter and John McKeich.

The presentation was made by Mr W. R. Patterson, J.P., who had been the McKeich's factor for forty years, and who retired two years ago.

In the course of his remarks, Mr Patterson spoke of the great popularity enjoyed by the McKeich family in the Campsie Glen district.

The McKeichs, it is understood are to reside in the Airdrie district.

At the same function the McKeichs were presented with an oil filled electric radiator by the

Campsie, Strathblane and Baldernock Agricultural Society, and the presentation was made on behalf of the Society by the chairman of Directors, Mr. John Ralston, Torrance.

EXTENDED

The parents of the McKeichs came to Balcarrach Farm on a 19 year lease in 1900. This was extended for a further 48 years.

They take with them the good wishes from their farming friends and other neighbours, and from many others outwith the farming community, who had expressed a wish to be associated with the testimonial presentation.

Messrs. McKeich and Miss McKeich acknowledged the kind thoughts behind the testimonial, and said that the family's years at Balcarrach had been in the main very happy ones.

The visitors were thereafter entertained most hospitably

Bencloich Farm



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1350-present

Cecilia Park

What is now known as Bencloich Farm sits on what was part of The Bencloich Estate and was a combination of existing farms.

Bencloich Estate, according to published historian Denis Rixson in his Land Assessment blog, has likely been around at least since 1350. John Cameron in his book *The Parish of Campsie* (1892) mentions Bencloich in a historical context on several occasions including that it was part of the Barony of Campsie during Charles the 2nd's reign (1649-1651). It is shown on both Pont (32) map (late 1500s) and the Blaeu (Lennox) Atlas of Scotland (1654).

We can therefore assume that the area has included farms at least for subsistence for many centuries.

The name "Bencloich" according to John H McIntyre, *Peeps into the Past- Some `unwritten history of Campsie* (1938), could be a mixture of Gaelic, French and Latin literally meaning Something which does not exist i.e. a mountain of stone. Or he believed original name to be "Balnacloich" which means dwellings or village of stone. This could well reflect the hill part of the farm which is very rocky (stated that there was likely houses there made of stone, which was unusual at a time when most buildings were made from timber). McIntyre believed that if the Celts were in Campsie they would have used stones available to make cairns intended for storing food.

A judicial sale of valuable estates in Stirlingshire to be sold by public roup within the Parliament of Court Session Edinburgh was advertised in *The Scotsman* 16 August 1834

*.. all or sub lots 1Carrou and Forebrae
Drumellan, Bencloich Mill , Mains
Greenhead and Downy*

On 19th November 1834 2 - 4 pm "under the authority of the Lords of Council and Session in carrying into effect an Act of Parliament" seems to give the farm great importance.

JUDICIAL SALE OF VALUABLE ESTATES IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

To be Sold by public roup, within the Parliament or Court of Session House, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 19th day of November 1834, between the hours of two and four afternoon, under the authority of the Lords of Council and Session in carrying into effect an Act of Parliament,

THE following LANDS and HERITAGES, lying in the parishes of Campsie and Kilsyth, and shire of Stirling, in the several lots or sub-lots, and order, and at the upset prices respectively after specified, viz. :—

Lot I. The LANDS and BARONY of CAMP-SIE, or BENCLOICH, with the ALUM WORKS and other MINES and MINERALS. Proven Rental as constituted by the Leases and Feu Rights L.1846 16s. 6d. Whereof *Land Rent* deducting Public Burdens L.945 12s. 5d., which, valued at twenty-five years' purchase, is L.23,640 10 5

Add value of Growing Wood 65 14 2

Rent of Minerals, L.610, which, valued at thirteen one-third years' purchase, is 8,133 6 8

Feu Duties, L.266 3s. 10d., which, with fines or casualties, valued at twenty years' purchase, is 5,323 16 8

Upset price of Lot I. L.37,163 7 11

In the event of the Estate of Campsie not selling *in cumulo*, it will be exposed in the following Sub-Lots :—

1. CARROUR and FOREBRAEMAINS, DRUM-ELLAN, BENCLOICH MILL, part of GREEN-HEAD, and DOWNIE'S FEU-DUTY. Proven Rental L.358 14s. 11d. Whereof Free *Land Rent* L.343 7s., which, at twenty-five years' purchase, is L.8583 15 0

Feu-duty, L.6 8s. Which, at twenty years' purchase, is 128 0 0

Add value of Growing Wood 4 5 8

Upset price of Sub-Lot 1. L.8716 0 8

2. Part of GREENHEAD, MIDDLE MUCK-CROFT, WESTER MUCKCROFT, and BAR-HILL EAST MUCKCROFT and MUIRHEAD, FINNIE'S CROFT and TORPHIN, Minerals and Feu-duties. Proven Rental, L.1488 1s. 7d. Whereof *Land Rent*, deducting proportion of public burdens, L.602 5s. 5d. which, at twenty-five years' purchase, is L.15,065 15 5

Rent of Minerals, L.610, which, va-lued as above 8,133 6 8

Feu-duties, L.259 15s. 10d. which, with fines or casualties, valued at twenty years' purchase, is 5,195 16 8

Add value of Growing Wood 61 8 6

Upset price of Sub-Lot 2. L.28,447 7 3

Lot II. The LANDS of CONEYPARK and TOMPHIN, parts of EAST BARONY of KIL-SYTH. Proven Rental, as constituted by the leases, deducting proportion of public burdens, L.445 7s. 3d., which, valued at twenty-five and a half years' purchase, is L.11,356 14 10½

Add value of Growing Wood 257 13 3

Upset price of Lot II. L.11,614 8 1½

Lot III. The LANDS of GATESIDE, part of said East Barony. Proven Rental as per lease, deducting proportion of public burdens, L.106 18s. 2d., which, at twenty-six years' purchase, is L.2770 12 4

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Caledonian Mercury Edinburgh August 16, 1834

The estate was purchased from Sir A. Edmonstone in 1834 by William MacFarlane whose trustees are proprietors on valuation roles in 1855. There is indication that some of the properties were purchased in partnership with Charles McIntosh who was the proprietor of many assets in Campsie including the alum works (on what was originally Bencloich Estate land)

William McFarlane, the son of John McFarlane and Catharine Grahame. was baptised in Port of Menteith on the 24th of April 1787 and raised on Borland farm. He joined the army and fought in India and had an army pension at the time of his death in 1851. He invested in the East India Company and other ventures earning wealth which allowed him to buy land and property. Brought up on a farm, he maintained an interest in agriculture and was admitted to The Highland Agricultural Society in 1832 (prior to his joint purchase of Bencloich).

There was a focus at this time on better shared information for farmers with aims of improving the breeding of cattle and standard of ploughing for example, via membership of Agricultural Societies.

As well as agriculture the estate included various mining works which added to the money from tenant rents. William MacFarlane also owned land and property with his brother in Kirkintilloch and lived in Luggiebank House. He was involved in local politics and was Baillie of Kirkintilloch. On his death, Bencloich was left to his extended family of heirs as he had no children. They later sold Bencloich to Charles Stirling of Glorat

There have been several individual farms in the area - Bencloich Hill / Mill, Bencloich Mains, Drummailing (several spellings) and Clousey (or Clouss farm).

John Cameron in Parish of Campsie mentions Clousey Farm on Bencloich Estate, and Clouss Farm appears on John Thomson map below, but no results were found from a search for Clouss or Clousey on valuation rolls or newspapers.



National Library of Scotland, Mapmaker John Thomson for Atlas of Scotland 1820

Information from valuation records 1855 - 1940 give an indication of people owning or working the farms but it is not always clear who is working what farm or which house they live in, nor is it clear when the farms amalgamated. It is difficult to be precise about who was on what farm from information on valuation roles and census.

	Bencloich Mains	Drumelling	Bencloich Mill/Hill
Record used	Proprietor(P) Tenant (T)	Proprietor Tenant	Proprietor Tenant
1855 valuation	P Trustees of William McFarlane T Robert Kincaid	P Trustees of William McFarlane T Thos Watson	P Trustees of William McFarlane T Walter Weir
Census 1861	T Robert Kincaid	T Thomas Watson	not found
1865 valuation	P Trustees of William McFarlane T Robert Kincaid	P Trustees of William McFarlane T Thos Watson	P Trustees of William McFarlane
Census 1871	T Gilbert Filshie	T James Hill	T Colin Faulds Baker*
1875 valuation	no record found	no record found	no record found
Census 1881	T Gilbert Filshie	no record found	no record found
1885 valuation	P Sir Charles Elphinstone Fleming Stirling T Gilbert Filshie	P Sir Charles Elphinstone Fleming Stirling T James Filshie	
Census 1891	T Alexander Connel		
1895 valuation	P Baronet Sir Chars E F Stirling T Alexander Connel	P Baronet Sir Charles E Stirling T Alexander Connel	Hill of Bencloich P Baronet Sir Charles E Stirling T Wm Ralston
Census 1901			
1905 Valuation	P Baronet Sir Charles E Stirling T Alexander Connel	P Baronet Sir Charles E Stirling T Alexander Connel	P Baronet Sir Charles E Stirling T William Ralston
Census 1911			
1915 Valuation	P Major Sir George Murray Home Stirling T Alexander Morton	P Major Sir George Murray Home Stirling T Alexander Morton	P Major Sir George Murray Home Stirling T Not found

	Bencloich Mains	Drumelling	Bencloich Mill/Hill
Record used	Proprietor(P) Tenant (T)	Proprietor Tenant	Proprietor Tenant
1920 Valuation	P Major Sir George Murray Home Stirling T Allan Anderson Morton Occupied by Margaret Phee	P Major Sir George Murray Home Stirling T Allan Anderson Morton	
Census 1921	Alexander Morton	George Reid Ploughman	William K Gamekeeper
1925 Valuation	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T Allan Anderson Morton	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T AA Morton Ploughman James Hutchison in house	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T representatives of William Ralston
1930 Valuation	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T Allan Anderson Morton	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T Allan Anderson Morton Ploughman Charles McCreddie in house	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T James Ralston
1935 Valuation	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T John Dobie	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T John Dobie Ploughman Patrick Duffy house	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T James Ralston
1940 Valuation	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T John Dobie	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T John Dobie James Kennedy Byreman in house	P Col Sir George Murray Home Stirling T John Dobie

Using census records from 1851, Robert Kincaid was a 60 year old widower, born in Campsie, who lived with his 3 sons - Robert 24, William and James both 15. He farmed 62 acres of pasture on Bencloich Mill and employed one farm labourer, one dairymaid and one house servant. Robert Kincaid continued to be the tenant of Bencloich Mains for an extended period.

It was interesting to find that in the 1851 census the tenant of Bencloich Mill was William Gilmore (28) a married farmer of 42 acres who was also a spirit dealer and as the Welcome to Campsie site indicated there was a distillery on Bencloich.

There appears to have been a clash between him and the 1855 tenant of Bencloich Mill Farm. Walter Weir, who was 40 and born in Campsie, who lived with a housekeeper Margaret Weir (35) and a dairymaid Agnes Weir (15). Walter was recorded in several newspapers 2 April 1864 under the Scottish bankruptcy section as being a prisoner in Glasgow applying for "cessio bonobum" which allowed a debtor innocent of fraud to avoid prison if they surrendered all their estate and paid any debt above value of same.

**Walter Weir, sometime farmer, Bencloich Mill, Campsie, presently a prisoner in the Prison of Glasgow.
Alfred Powell, sometime residing at No. 86 South Bridge, Edinburgh, presently prisoner in the Prison of Edinburgh.**

The Glasgow Saturday Post 2 April 1864

The outcome was not found but later articles named Walter Weir as a farmer and reports were favourable in the newspapers after. It is sad to think that the fortunes of tenants can change and that the tenancy can end when agriculture was not doing well.

Mr Gilmore, mentioned earlier, took the proprietors to court because tenant farmer, Walter Weir, had refused to leave the tenancy and stayed there for 6 months after Mr Gilmore had been granted the lease. He claimed to have been out of pocket buying cows and machinery for dairy farming and planting cabbages and green vegetables.

He took the proprietors, The Trustees of Walter McFarlane, to court
Article published in The Daily Edinburgh Review 30th June 1864

OUTER HOUSE.

(BEFORE LORD ORMIDALE.)

GILMOUR v. DALRYMPLE AND OTHERS (M'FARLAN'S TRUSTEES).

The following abridgment of the interlocutor and note by the Lord Ordinary sufficiently explains the circumstances of this case, which was tried before his Lordship without a jury. The Lord Ordinary finds, in point of fact, that, by minute of agreement and lease dated 25th March 1863, the defenders agreed to let to the pursuer the farm of Bencloch Mill, consisting of forty-one acres, in the parish of Campsie, from Martinmas preceding in respect of the lands to be cropped, and from Whitsunday following in respect of the other lands and the houses, at a rent of £70; that said farm was taken by the pursuer chiefly for keeping milch cows; that the pursuer in spring 1863 made preparations for taking possession of said farm, and in particular he tilled part of the land, and planted a considerable number of cabbages and greens; that he also provided furniture, dairy utensils, and cows, with a view to his possession of said farm; that Mr Weir, the previous tenant in said farm, refused to give up possession thereof at Whitsunday 1863, and continued therein for about six months thereafter; that consequently the pursuer was deprived of the possession of said farm and houses, and obliged to store the fore-said furniture and dairy utensils elsewhere, and otherwise to dispose of his cows; and that the refusal of Weir to give up possession of the farm was duly intimated and made known by the pursuer to the defenders, who nevertheless failed to give him possession of said farm in terms of his lease; his Lordship finds accordingly, that by and through the defenders' failure to give to the pursuer possession of said farm, in terms of his lease, he has sustained loss, injury, and damage, to the extent in all of £59 7s.

Fellow tenant, Robert Kincaid, encountered a different type of misfortune and appeared in Court as a witness. In the 1851 census he was recorded as a widower aged 60 and a farmer of 62 acres with 500 acres hill pasture, employing one farm labourer (Peter McKinlay), a dairymaid, Margaret Barr, and a house servant, Agnes Ogilvie. His sons Robert, aged 24 and William and James both 15 were also in the house.

In 1861 he and his family along with some of the servants, were struck down with food poisoning. Police investigations showed this to be caused by the addition of arsenic to the oats used to make oatcakes and porridge. A servant employed temporarily, Agnes Kirkwood, had not eaten the oats and was charged with poisoning the farmer and others as she had been seen in the cupboard where the arsenic was stored. A number of witnesses gave evidence.

This incident was widely reported in newspapers across Scotland and the UK and seemed to be the sensational story of the day. The verdict was not proven and most articles detail how servant Agnes Kirkwood was cheered as she left the court.

Thankfully Mr Kincaid and his family were able to continue farming on Bencloich Mains. A lengthy article was published in *The Stirling Observer*, and *Midlands Counties Advertiser* on 19 September 1861 explaining how the evidence was circumstantial with no proof of motive detailed to the court and reported that the crowd were in a mood for cheering everyone that left the courtroom that day.

ATTEMPT TO POISON.

Agnes Kirkwood was charged with having, on the 17th June last, in or near the house at or near Mains of Bencloich, in the parish of Campsie, occupied by Robert Kincaid, farmer, there, in which it appears she was servant, administered, or caused to be administered, or taken by the said Robert Kincaid, a quantity of arsenic or other deadly poison, by mixing the same with a quantity of oatmeal which she knew was to be prepared and used as food by the said Robert Kincaid and his family; and the indictment averred further that the oatmeal having been baked into cakes and partaken of by Kincaid, he was seized with vomiting and pains, and suffered grievous bodily harm, and that Agnes Kirkwood, the panel, mixed the arsenic in the meal with intent to murder or disable, or do some other grievous bodily harm to the said Robert Kincaid; and she was further charged with having on the following day administered poison to Lilius Auld, a fellow-servant, William Kincaid and James Kincaid, sons of Robert Kincaid, and John Bennie, another servant, by the oatmeal referred to being used, as she knew it was to be, in making porridge for the family; and the indictment farther averred that these four were also seized with vomiting and pains, and suffered grievous bodily harm, and that the poison was mixed with a similar purpose as in the other charge. The prisoner, who is apparently about twenty years of age, on being called on to plead, replied, in a distinct tone of voice, "not guilty." A jury having been empannelled, the case went to trial. After the examination of a number of witnesses, and the prisoner's declaration having been read, the jury were addressed by the Advocate-Depute for the prosecution, who called for a verdict of guilty on the statutory charge. A very able defence was made by Mr Lamond, advocate, for the prisoner. The Advocate-Depute finally intimated that the capital charge was departed from. The Lord Justice-Clerk then summed up at considerable length, and after retiring for a short time, the jury, by their foreman, gave in as their verdict, by a majority, "not proven." The prisoner then left the bar, amid the applause of a crowded court.—The court met again on Tuesday, when the only two remaining cases were disposed of. Thomas Rankine, for theft, was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude; Catherine Easton, also for stealing, was sentenced to be imprisoned for 18 months. His Lordship having complimented the authorities, the court rose about two o'clock.

Mr Gilbert Filshie was the tenant of Bencloich Mains for 19 years (a common lease situation in the area).

In the 1871 census he is recorded as a 29 year old farmer of 825 acres of which 125 acres were arable. He employed 9 labourers, was born in Old Kilpatrick, and lived with his wife Elizabeth who was 22 and born in Bute, a farm servant George Filshie aged 68 born in Old Kilpatrick -assume relative, another farm servant Thomas Gray aged 18, born in Erskine, and Catherine Campbell a 19 year old dairymaid born in Argyllshire.

Farm tenants and workers appear to travel around, which is an indication that circumstances were such that they had to go wherever work could be found to survive.

Farm fairs were common practice in Scotland where farm workers negotiated short term contracts even at start of 20th century.

The newspaper report of a farewell presentation to Gilbert Filshie, when he was leaving to farm in England, indicated that he worked hard to make the farm viable- levelling fields, putting in drains, building steadings and generally improving the farm. On the 1871 census he employed 9 men which is many more than others around did.

Speakers stated he had ten very favourable years, but that the last nine years had proven more difficult. The report is from the Kirkintilloch Herald 12 January 1887.

DINNER AND PRESENTATION TO MR GILBERT FILSHIE, CAMPSIE.

A complimentary dinner to Mr Gilbert Filshie, farmer, on the occasion of his leaving Bencloich Farm for the south of England, was held on Tuesday evening, 4th inst., in the Crown Hotel, Clachan of Campsie. The dinner was attended by over 30 gentlemen—Mr Wm. Horne, Newmill, in the chair—the duties of croupier being discharged by Mr John Wyllie, Bencloich Villa. Amongst the gentlemen present were Messrs M. Coubrough, W. Murdoch, W. Brechin, W. Bauchop, and R. Gray, farmers; Dr. Miller, Lennoxton; and Messrs Stewart and Maconochie, Bute. Letters of apology for absence from Rev. J. Y. Scott and other gentlemen were intimated by the chairman. After an excellent dinner, served in Mrs Provan's best style, had been partaken of,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the toasts of "The Queen," and the Prince and Princess of Wales," &c. In referring to this as the Jubilee year of her Majesty's reign, he remarked that it would be easily remembered by the guest of the evening and his family as the year in which they left Campsie. He also alluded to the great interest which the Prince of Wales has all along taken in agricultural affairs. The toasts having been duly honoured,

Mr LEE, Milton, proposed, "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers." In speaking of the reserve forces he considered that the Volunteers were a force to be proud of, and to be depended on by the country. He thought they should be better equipped and supported by the government than they were at present.

Mr J. N. M. SHAND replied to the toast in able and felicitous terms, referring especially to the war-like ardour which prevailed at the origin of the Volunteer movement, and gave some racy and interesting reminiscences of the formation of the two companies of Volunteers in Campsie in the year 1860.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of the evening, said it was with mingled feelings he rose to perform that duty. He would rather that some other had undertaken it, better qualified than himself. Their friend, Mr Filshie, who was about to leave them, when he came to Benclouich, got the farm in its natural state, and the manner in which it was wrought up and improved by him showed that his early training as a farmer in his own native place had not been lost upon him. He set to work and laid drains, filled ditches, cleared out useless hedges, and levelled rough ground—like the settlers in some states of America. The first year of his occupancy, in which he had to contend with a bad winter, would have damped the spirits of the most arduous of men. But Mr Filshie persevered with his improvements, got a new steading built, and proved himself a practical and successful farmer. During the first 10 years of Mr Filshie's tenancy, farmers were reaping good fruits from their labours, but for the past 9 years there had been a growing agricultural depression, and the great reduction in the price of grain of late years had pressed very hard upon the farmer, leaving him no profit to pay his rent. The legislature might make laws, but unless landlord and tenant bore one another's burdens, no effectual improvement in the farmer's condition could be looked for. Under these circumstances, Mr Filshie, having been unable to secure a renewal of his lease, had been obliged to go south, where farming could be followed under more favourable conditions. Many times of late they had parted with friends and neighbours in a similar manner, Mr Filshie being the fifth farmer in their neighbourhood who, within the last few years, had gone to the south of England. The high state of agriculture he had brought his farm to made them sorry to lose him. Personally it was with sorrow that he, the chairman, bade him adieu, as he had been an excellent neighbour, and Mr Filshie had his best wishes for his future prosperity. The chairman then, addressing Mr Filshie, said:—I

our good wishes for your future prosperity. Since you became a tenant on the Glorat estate you have proved by industry, by close attention to duty, and by good farming, that you deserve our respect. Indeed the way in which you have improved your farm, and the capital you have laid out in developing it, show that you were anxious to do your part faithfully, and to the best of your ability. Like others you have felt the effects of the great depression in trade for several years, and the serious fall in the value of farm produce, compared with what it was 10 years ago. The difficulties that farmers have to contend with are very discouraging, and there is no wonder that some of our number have gone to try farming in England, to see if they can be more successful. Though you have not been so successful here as you could have wished, it will be gratifying to you to remember that you earned the esteem of your friends in Campsie, and that you left with a token of our hearty good wishes for your good fortune in your new home.

Besides the purse containing 30 sovereigns the presentation was also made to Mr Filshie of a handsome aneroid. The toast having been drunk with all the honours,

Mr FILSHIE in reply said—I rise to thank you for the kind expression of your feelings towards me on this occasion, and for the handsome presents you have given me, for which I beg to return my heartiest thanks. I have now been 19 years amongst you, and I believe I have seen far more changes during these 19 years than in the previous 25 years of my life. I am sure I have received more benefit from you than you have received from me. Mr Filshi then said, he felt great regret at parting with so many old friends, and he would be much pleased to see any of them at any time at his new home. Last year he went to his landlord and offered to take the farm at a rental of £400 for 5 years, but this offer was refused. This year things were worse, and he offered to take a lease of the farm at £300, and after being advertised, it was now let to another tenant at £330. This showed the different conditions under which land was held at present. A reduction in the price of land was

urgently required. There had been a succession of bad years. They could formerly get on with two good years and a bad one, but it was not so now—it was the reverse. He hoped that times would get better and that things would yet improve. He had visited the south along with the chairman, and from what they had seen there, they had thought of removing. He spoke for himself at all events, but he knew that Mr Horne had a few years of his lease still to run, when he might go south also. He again begged to acknowledge their kindness to him on this occasion.

The speaker said five farmers in recent times had to leave Campsie and head South indicating that this was a difficult time for farming in the area for many reasons including that imports were cheaper, prices for livestock and crops were falling, and rents had been negotiated when times were better. Mr Filshie was just one of many tenants on a 19 year lease. Because of a depression in agriculture people felt that rents should be reduced.

It was evident that proprietor representatives felt differently and stated that the improvements Mr Filshie had made on the farm had been generously funded by them and disputed the amounts of rent.

THE LETTING OF BENCLOICH FARM.
(*To the Editor.*)

SIR,—The report given by your correspondent in Campsie regarding the letting of Bencloich Farm is inaccurate. The rent offered by Mr Filshie in May, 1886, was £300 per annum, not £400. The farm has been let in two portions, one portion on a seven years' lease, and another portion for one year only. The rent from both is £330. The rent of the farm for 19 years previous to Mr Filshie's occupancy in 1868 was £385.

Your correspondent might have mentioned the fact that during the occupancy of Bencloich by Mr Filshie, the landlord expended a sum of £4000 in improvements, which would indicate that the credit of reclaiming and improving Bencloich, *might in a small degree* be attributed to the open-handed generosity of a landlord who looks to the comfort and success of the tenant, by doing more than had been bargained for.—I am, &c., **TRUTH.**

Stirling Observer 11th September 1886

LETTING OF BENCLOICH FARM.--We understand that the farm of Bencloich, on the estate of Sir Charles Stirling, Bart., has been let to two new tenants, at a substantial reduction of rent—the arable portion, consisting of about 180 acres, having been taken by Mr A. Connell, dairyman and cattledealer, Lennoxtown; and the upland and hill pasture, amounting to about 700 acres, by Mr Hugh Campbell, Gartmore. Mr Gilbert Filshie, the present occupant, whose lease will shortly expire, has taken a farm in the South of England.

Kirkintilloch Herald 1st September 1886

Alexander Connell took over the lease from Gilbert Filshie in 1886. In the valuation rolls of 1895 and 1905 he was the tenant across the two main farms.

He died on the farm aged 75 in 1905. His death was registered by his son Peter Connell. He was born in Campsie to Peter Connell - a carter- and Margaret Connell, nee Millar. He was married to Elizabeth Hamilton and had a son Peter and daughter Maggie living with him on 1891 census. His son Peter Connell continued on the lease. It was in the Herald in 1912 that he disposed of a horse from Bencloich Farm.

The Herald 14 March 1914 reported a Love Darg for Alexander Morton of Stepps an agriculturalist and horse breeder to welcome him to Bencloich farm with 37 ploughs. His name appeared in papers winning awards for notably Clydesdale horses. This was continued by his son Allan Anderson Morton who was noted as a breeder of Clydesdales and award winner numerous times for Ayrshire Cattle. He was a dairy farmer. Sadly, his death was reported in Kirkintilloch Gazette in September 1934. He died following an operation to remove his appendix and left a widow and 2 children.

Mr John Dobie came from a farming family from Cambusnethan and took over the tenancy of Bencloich farm in 1936. He too won awards for dairy cattle and became known as a very respected breeder of Clydesdale horses with many of the ones he bred winning competitions. He was considered an expert and was nominated to be a judge for competitions.

CLYDESDALE HORSES (Open)

Brood Mares, foaled or to foal this season—John Dobie, Bencloch, Lennoxton.

Foals—John Dobie.

Yeld Mares, 3 years old and upwards—A. Frame, Easter Seamores, Dennyloanhead.

Geldings, 2 years old—David Imrie, High Blochairn, Milngavie.

Fillies, 2 years old—John Dobie.

Fillies, 1 year old—1, James Christie, Dalfoil, Balfroon; 2, Thomas Semple, Kilbride Farm, Helensburgh; 3, A. Brown, Easter Board, Croy.

Best Two-Year-Old or Under—1, John Dobie; 2, David Imrie; 3, Jas. Christie.

Best Pair of Clydesdales—John Dobie.

Best Animal of the Clydesdale Breed, bred by exhibitor (Silver Jubilee Perpetual Cup, presented by the Hon. H. E. A. Dewar)—John Dobie.

Championship for the Best Animal of the Clydesdale Breed (W.R.I. Cup)—1 and 2, J. Dobie.

Overhead Championship for Best Animal of the Clydesdale Breed—1, J. Dobie; 2, A. Frame.

Kirkintilloch Herald 20 May 1959.

CLYDESDALES

Mares, foaled or to foal this season—1, James Smart, 29 Valley Street, Bishopbriggs.

Yeld mares, 3 years old and upwards — 1, James Chapman, Johnston, Gartcosh; 2, Alex. Brown, Easterboard, Croy; 3, James Pettigrew.

Geldings, 3 years old and upwards—1, Robert Stewart; 2, Jamieson P. M. McVicar, Campsie Glen; 3, James Pettigrew.

Two-year-old filly or gelding—1 and 2, James Pettigrew.

One-year-old colt, gelding or filly — 1, John Dobie, Bencloch, Lennoxton; 2, James Pettigrew.

Yearlings and two-year-olds, entered in the volumes of the Clydesdale Stud Book — 1, John Dobie; 2 and 3, James Pettigrew.

Best pair of Clydesdales—1 and 2, James Pettigrew.

Yeld mares or geldings in harness — 1 and 2, James Pettigrew.

Best animal, 3 years of age and over, to be shown by full member of Strathkelvin Young Farmers Club—1, John Dobie.

Kirkintilloch Herald 17 June

John Dobie was also a dairy farmer who worked through many changes from being small scale local production distributing excess milk locally to developing into an industry which scientifically worked out how to get the best yield from the best cattle. Machinery developed for milking cows and the need for dairy maids for example faded. Pasteurization of the milk became common place until it was eventually compulsory. The Scottish Milk Marketing Board was set up in the 1930s and influenced how dairy farming progressed setting standard for distribution of milk, helping with marketing and setting prices that farmers would receive for the milk.

During the war German prisoners of war worked on the farm but no detailed information was found about them.

The farm is still in existence having been worked as a dairy farm by his son Robert also. He concentrated more on breeding cattle rather than Clydesdales and was also successful at prizegiving

The farm continues in existence and is now run by Robert Dobie's son who has moved away from dairy farming to rearing and selling livestock.

This continuation in the family perhaps explains why farm is locally known not as Bencloch but as Dobie's.

Birdston Farm



1230-1975

Barrie A Stewart

My native parish, how transformed
Since first I knew thy face,
My bosom is no longer warmed
When I thy paths retrace;
These paths, alas! are modelled new,
Their rural aspect gone;
The favourite bush I can't review,
Nor yet the favourite stone.

Thy ancient hills alone remain
From innovation free;
Thy ancient hills alone constrain
Parochial love from me.
The Glazert stream that once so pure
Did thro' thy valleys glide;
Meandering past the cottage door
And by the hamlet side,

Is now a poisoned putrid rill
Diverted from its course
To drive the mossy fulling mill
With all its frothy force.
Where rustic labour used to toil,
Machinery drinks the needed oil,
Loud thundering in the glade.

William Muir

Born at Birdston on the 28th of November 1766

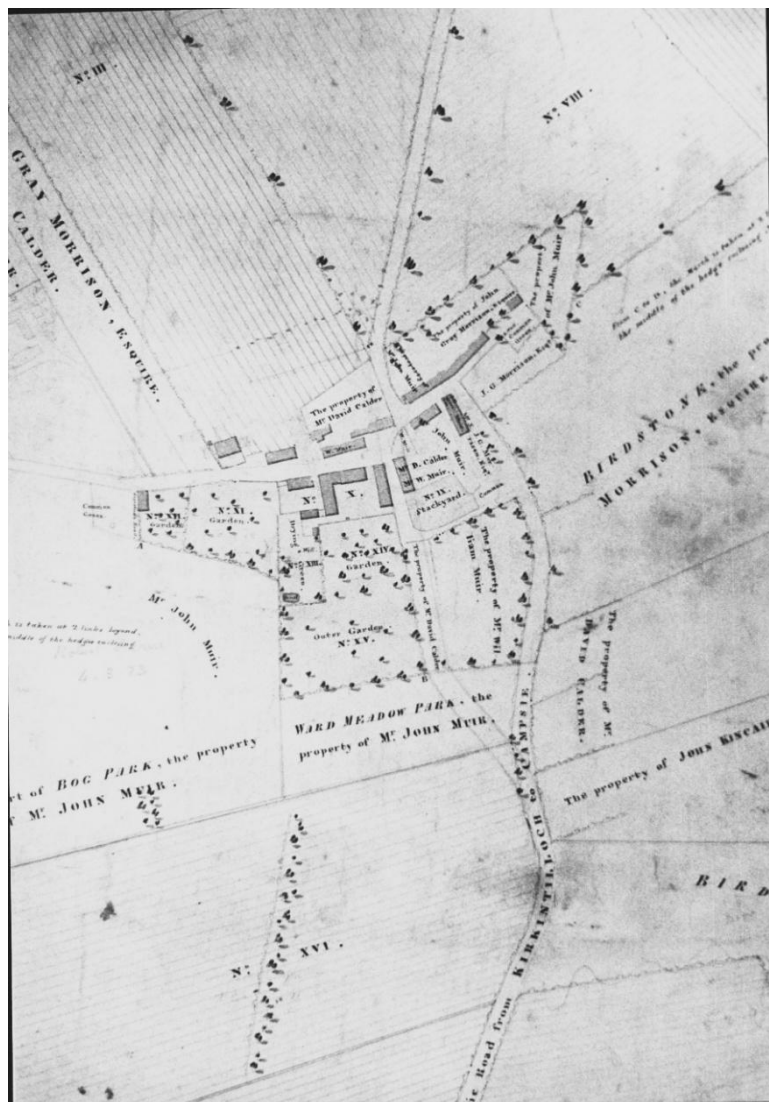
The lands of Kincaid were granted by charter by King Alexander III in 1230 to Maldouen, third Earl of Lennox. Birdston was part of the Kincaid Estate from 1280 until 1350. In 1350 part of the estate, including the lands of Birdston, formed part of the dowry when a Kincaid daughter married a Galbraith of Craigmaddie Castle.

There were no sons born of this marriage, so the land was divided amongst their three surviving daughters. One of these daughters, Janet Keith Galbraith, married David Hamilton of Cadzow and he became laird of one third of the Galbraith Estate and one quarter of the Kincaid Lands. The family prospered and they continued to live in Craigmaddie Castle until the 8th Laird built a new residence at Bardowie. The building costs meant that the 8th Laird became short of funds and in 1534 he sold part of the estate, including Hayston and Birdston, to John Stirling of Keir.

The 9th Laird restored the family fortune and repurchased the lands for the estate. Unfortunately, the 11th Laird supported King Charles I and found himself on the losing side when that King was captured and ultimately beheaded in 1649. Financial ruin was now facing the estate.

Sir James Livingstone was the 11th Laird's major creditor and, although related to him, he used this to his own advantage. The dower lands of Birdston and Bankier given to Mary Douglas on her marriage to the 11th Laird in 1616 were removed by Livingstone to allow them to be feued off.

These dower lands were divided into eight lots with five feuars appointed between 1653 and 1658.



The 1771 division of the lands of Birdston. Credit: EDC Archives.

These feuars were William Muir, John Muir, James Donaldson, James Muir and David Calder. The Muir family later gave rise to Thomas Muir.

The five men worked together and built houses for their families which eventually led to the hamlet of Birdston.

The farmstead, built around 1660, is that of an enclosed farm with buildings on three sides. It has been a Grade B listed building since 1979.

In 1731 the land division was rearranged by the feuars, Marion Donaldson, James Calder and the three Muir descendants. This was done for their mutual convenience.

There was further rearrangement and subdivision of their common land in 1773.

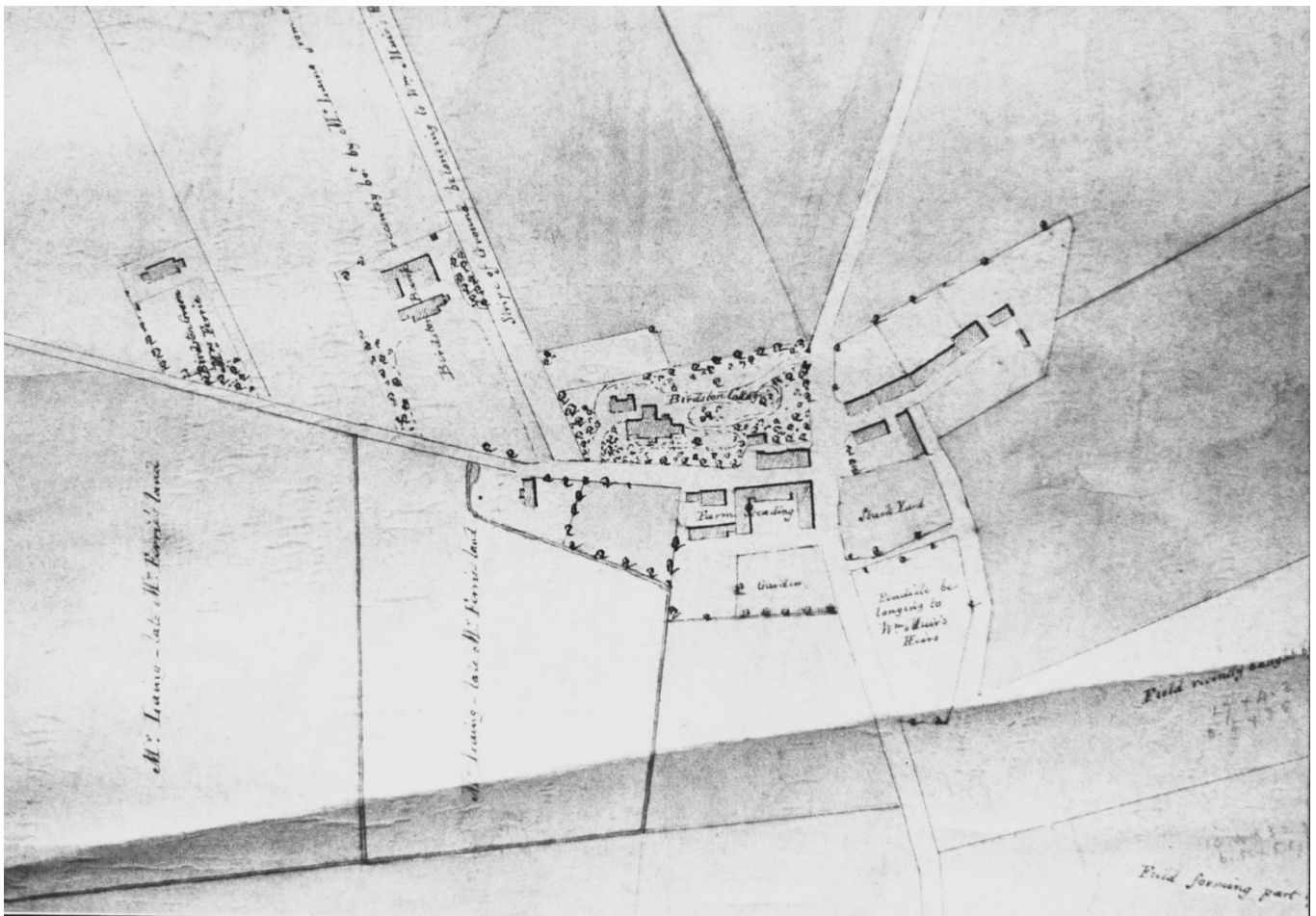
Birdston was and is a jewel in the Campsie crown as far as farming is concerned. The fields are relatively flat and consist of rich arable soil.

The main downside is that the land is prone to flooding.

Over the years various parcels of the land were sold off to Miss Lennox of Woodhead and John Kincaid. One Robert Ferrie bought and sold land until he was in possession of Birdston Farm.

There is a report in the Glasgow Herald of the 28th of August 1844 of a cottage to rent in the grounds of Birdston Farm. The farmer's name was given as Mr Ferrie. Viewing the 1841 census indicated that this was Robert Ferrie and that his wife was Margaret Muir. Margaret was a daughter of John Muir and Mary Muir, the couple were in their sixties by this time and there was no son listed to take over the farm. Living with them were Janet Douglas (25), farm servant, Donald McKinnon (31), agricultural labourer, and John Ralston (15), agricultural labourer. Other labourers would have lived in the surrounding cottages and bothies.

Interestingly, a second farmer, James Stevenson (25), his wife, Janet (20) and their 5 month old son William were also listed in Birdston on the 1841 census. This is indicative of a second farm being present in the area, possibly on the ground still belonging to William Muir.



Map of Birdston following Robert Ferrie's death.

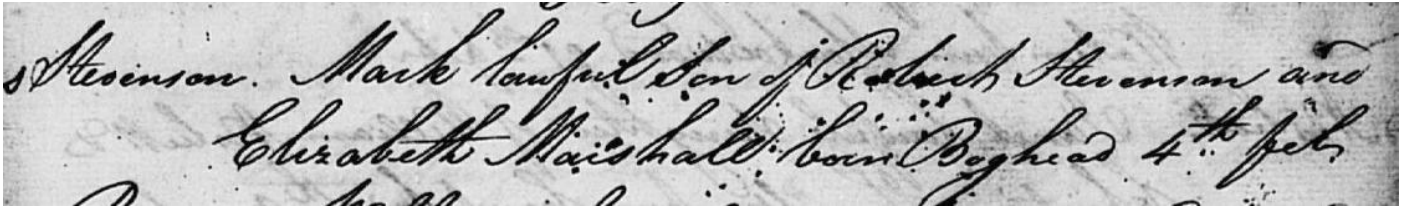
Credit: EDC Archives

By 1855, the valuation rolls indicate that Birdston Farm had become part of the Lennox Estate.

Following Robert Ferrie's death his wife Margaret Muir sold the farm to the Lennox family but continued to live in a cottage in Birdston until her death, aged 86, on the 22nd of March 1859.

Mark Stevenson became the tenant at Birdston Farm.

Mark was born on the 4th of February 1800 at Boghead, Cadder. He was the son of Robert Stevenson and Elizabeth Marshall. He was baptised on the 9th of February 1800 in Cadder Church.



(Scotland's People)

He was the couple's seventh child. They had a total of nine children recorded in the baptismal records of Cadder.

Margaret 1787, Marrion 1790, Elizabeth 1791, Robert 1793, Mary 1795, Jean 1797, **Mark 1800**, Anne 1802 and John 1804.

Mark met and married Jean Horn at Baldernock on the 27th of March 1830. Jean had been born in Kirkintilloch.

Their only surviving child, Robert, was born in Baldernock on the 17th of September 1834.

We first find mention of Mark being at Birdston Farm in the Glasgow Herald of the 28th of February 1845, when it was reported that he had been a judge at the Kirkintilloch annual ploughing competition on the 20th of February 1845. In August of 1844 the Glasgow Herald had reported a Mr Ferrie as being the farmer at Birdston so Mark's tenancy began at some point between those two dates.

There is a lease agreement still in existence dated 14th and 20th April 1847 as prepared by James Stevenson's representatives. As per usual, the mineral rights were retained by the landowners, in this case the Lennox family. This lease was for 19 years at a cost of £350 per annum. A £20 reduction would be given as long as the toll gate was kept in place between Birdston and Kirkintilloch. The proprietor would be responsible for the strengthening of the embankment on the West side of the burn to prevent flooding. Mark was to be responsible for 5% of this bill in addition to providing cartage to transport materials. Any work Mark carried out to improve the drainage of the property would have the cost of this deducted from the rent up to a maximum of £20 per year. The lease further dictates the rotation of crops which must be adhered to on a six year cycle. Year 1 oats, year 2 fallow or green crop, year 3 wheat or barley sown down with ryegrass and clover, year 4 hay and years 5 and 6 pasture. If Mark wished to plough a field after the hay was harvested, he had to gain permission from both the factor and the landowner. He was expressly forbidden to keep sheep or lambs. While the terms of the lease may seem rather restrictive today, they ensured the continued fertility of the soil and the prosperity of the farm. A further clause allowed for the land allocated to the farm to be altered to allow for the building of a railway.

By 1851 we find Mark and his family at Birdston Farm. He farmed 162 acres and employed 16 labourers. He was 51 years old and his wife, Jane, was 45. Their son, Robert, was 16. Living with them were, John McColl (23), James Hill (18), William Dempster (18) all agricultural labourers along with Mary McDermid (22) and Marion Reid (16) who were house servants.

By the 1861 census, Mark had increased the size of the farm to 200 acres and was employing 14 labourers and 2 boys. It should be noted that the labourers were of both sexes and comprised of both indoor and outdoor servants. Robert was now 26. Living with them were John McLean (23),

Alex McDonald (16) farm servants, Janet McDonald (21), Catherine McInnes (20) and Agnes Binnie (18) domestic servants.

On the 25th of November 1863, Robert married Harriet Van Battenburg Hunter in Dollar. Harriet had been born in Bombay where her father, Robert Hope Alston Hunter was a 1st class surgeon in the army. Her mother was Harriet Elizabeth Adriana Gilland.

By 1871 Mark was 71 years old and Janet 65. The farm was 200 acres and Mark employed 4 men, 3 boys and 12 women. Living with them were Cath Lindan (20), Jeannie McLean (33), Rachel Buchanan (17) domestic servants, John Barrie (14) and James Dingwall (33) farm servants.

Robert (36) was living in Mayfield Cottage, Birdston and working as a farmer and grazer of sheep. He was now farming 1000 acres, 100 acres of which was arable. Harriet was 31 and they had two daughters Harriet (5) and Jane (4). Living with them were Mary Hunter (25), Harriet's sister, and two domestic servants, Elisa Young (19) and Charlotte Young (13).

Mark died, aged 74, from congestion of the lungs on the 24th of August 1874 at Birdston Farm.

Robert Stevenson took over the tenancy from his father.

In 1881 Jane (76) was still living in the farmhouse and was recorded as a retired farmer's widow. Living with her were Mary McLean (26) general servant, Mary McColl (22) dairymaid, Archie McNair (18) milk driver, Daniel McLean (22), James Binnie (17) and Daniel Taylor (13) who were farm servants.

Robert (46) was still living in Mayfield Cottage and had taken over the responsibility of running the farm. It was now back to 200 arable acres and he employed 4 men, 2 girls and 1 boy. Harriet was 42 and they had four daughters, Harriet (15), Jane (14), Louisa (8) and Adriana (1). Living with them were Matilda Faith (21) nurse and Isabella Rae (17) a general domestic servant.

Jane died, aged 78, on the 3rd of May 1884.

STEVENSON.—At Birdstone Farm, Campsie, on the 3d inst., aged 78 years, Jean Hora, relict of Mark Stevenson.

5/5/1884 Glasgow Herald

Robert and his family then moved into Birdston Farmhouse.

His daughter, Jane, married James MacFarlane in Barcelona in 1885.

In 1887 the gamekeeper for the estate, William Stewart, found himself in trouble with the law when he placed poison laced meat along the lane leading to Birdston Bank House and on the main road at Birdston Farm.

By 1891 Robert (56) was living and farming at Birdston Farm. Harriet was 51 and Harriet (25) and Louisa (18) were now both working as teachers in private schools. Adriana does not seem to be in the country.

With no sons to inherit the farm and his daughters growing up, Robert understood that his tenure of Birdston Farm was coming to an end and the family decided to emigrate to Canada.

All the farm stock and farming equipment were put up for auction at a dispenishing sale on the 23rd of October 1891. The items listed for sale were:

Livestock: 18 cows (calved or to calve), 6 calved queys, 4 three year old queys near calving, 1 bull, 7 stirks, 10 calves, 4 horses (all good workers) and 1 colt.

Crops: 50 stacks of oats, 3,000 stones of ryegrass hay (an excellent crop in good order) and 8 acres of turnips.

Implements: engine and boiler complete, threshing mill, fanners, reaping machine, raking machine, hay cutter, grist mill, weighing machine and weights, bushel, 40 F.C. troughs and bindings, turnip cutter, turnip pulper, wheel barrow, straw barrow, 2 set zig zag harrows, 1 set saddle harrows, 2 double and 3 single moulded ploughs, 2 grubbers, turnip barrow, 2 meat coolers, land roller, clod crusher, sheep rack, hayseed barrow, drill scarifier, several pairs of capes, hay slipe, dog cart, van, 3 carts with wheels complete, 2 waggons, 5 sets of cart harness and 1 set of gig harness. A wide variety of stable and dairy utensils were also included in the sale.

A further auction was held on the 14th of March 1892 to sell all of their household goods.

**At Birdston Farm, Kirkintilloch, on Monday, 14th
March, at Twelve o'clock.**

**PUBLIC SALE OF
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE
AND EFFECTS,
MAHOGANY 12-FEET TELESCOPE TABLE AND
LEAF-HOLDER,
8-DAY CLOCK, By DICKIE, Paisley;
MAHOGANY SIDEBOARD,
MAHOGANY 2-DOORED WARDROBE.**

(Belonging to Robert Stevenson, Esq., who is going abroad.)
E **EDWARD DICK** has been instructed to Sell,
by Public Auction, as above, comprising:—Mahogany
12-Foot Telescope Table and Leaf-Holder, Mahogany Side-
board, Mahogany 2-Doored Wardrobe, 8-Day Clock, by
Dickie, Paisley; 2 Easy and 6 Small Chairs in Haircloth,
Sofa in Haircloth, Couch, Easy, and 6 Small Chairs in
Damask; 2 Gilt Clocks, Marble Clock, 2 Mahogany Chests
Drawers and Napery Press, Bagatelle Board, 5-Doored
Bookcase and Books, Oval Mahogany Table, Gilt Over-
mantel, Carpets, Draught Screen, 2 Window Tables,
Pictures, Mahogany Bedstead, Iron and Brass Bed-
steads and Bedding, Washhand-Basin Stand with Marble
Top and Ware, Swing Mirrors, Grates, Fenders, and Fire-
Irons, Bed-Room Chairs, Window Curtains and Poles,
Pembroke Table, Barometer, Oak Hall Table and Chairs,
Umbrella Stand, 2 Handsome Paraffin Lamps, Enclosed
Kitchen Range, Dresser, 2-Roller Mangle, Table, Chairs,
2 Brass Jelly Pans, Milk Churn, China, Crockery, Pots,
Pans, and usual Kitchen and Culinary Utensils, Hen
Coops, Rain-Water Barrel, Incubator, &c.

On View Morning of Sale.

Trains from Glasgow (Queen Street, High Level), 8.30
and 10.35.

261 Hope Street, Glasgow. Telephone No. 106.

12/3/1892 Glasgow Evening Post

Ending a lifetime of farming and moving to a new country was not an easy decision but with several generations of equipment and possessions sold off Robert, Harriet and their two youngest daughters boarded SS Hibernian on the 17th of March 1892 and sailed to Halifax in Canada. From there, the family travelled to Vancouver where they made their new home.

Their daughter, Harriet, married Alexander Reid in Glasgow on the 23rd of March 1892 without her parents or sisters present.

Robert died in Vancouver on the 7th of March 1899 aged 64.

The next tenancy of Birdston Farm seems to have been a short-lived affair lasting only four years.

William Prentice was born in Overtoun, Lanarkshire in 1843. He married Isabella Weir in Strathblane on the 22nd of December 1868. He took over the tenancy of Birdston in 1892 when the Stevensons left. He was already the tenant of Eastfield Farm in Springburn and an experienced farmer.

**The Subscriber has received Instructions from Mr
WILLIAM PRENTICE, Birdston Farm, Kirkintilloch, to
Sell as above on**
SATURDAY, 22ND JULY;
Also,
SALE OF
8 ACRES GROWING POTATOES
(REDBOGS AND REGENTS).

**The Subscriber has received Instructions from Mr
JOHN SCOTT, Birdston Bank Farm, Kirkintilloch, to
Sell as above,**
ON SATURDAY, 22ND JULY.

**The Auctioneer begs to call the attention of Buyers,
as the Potatoes are an excellent Crop, ready for lifting
on day of sale. The Hay and Potatoes will be carted
to Kirkintilloch or equal distance.**

N.B.—The Company to meet at
BIRDSTON FARM AT 2.30.

**Train from Queen Street (High Level) at 1.40 p.m.
for Kirkintilloch Station.**
JAMES N. PAUL.
Auction Mart, Dumbarton.

19/7/1893 Kirkintilloch Herald

Unfortunately, a spate of thefts ate into his profits.

THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

Two young men from Birdston and a third from Milton, were charged with having on 2nd July, in the garden at Birdston Farm occupied by Wm. Prentice, farmer, maliciously pulled and destroyed a quantity of gooseberries, peas, and strawberries. All three pled guilty.

The PROSECUTOR, after stating the circumstances of the case, said the charge should have been one of theft, but he did not wish to brand three respectable young men as thieves.

A fine of 15s, with the alternative of 12 days' imprisonment was imposed in each case.

17/7/1895 Kirkintilloch Herald

By the Summer of 1896 it was obvious that William had overstretched himself and he was forced to give up the tenancy of Birdston Farm.

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.
WILLIAM PRENTICE, Farmer, Eastfield Farm, Springburn, and also at Birdston Farm, Kirkintilloch, having granted a Trust Deed for behoof of his Creditors in favour of **ROBERT BURNS M'CAIG**, Accountant, 183 West George Street, Glasgow, all Persons **INDEBTED** to the Truster are requested to make payment to Mr M'CAIG forthwith ; and all Persons having **CLAIMS** against the Truster must lodge the same with Mr M'CAIG within One Month from this date.
A. WILKIE CROALL, Writer, Glasgow,
Agent for the Trustee.
Glasgow, 29th July, 1895.

3/8/1896 Glasgow Herald

A displenishing sale was held on the 8th of August 1896 to help pay off William's debts.

Up for sale were all of the stock along with growing crops of corn, wheat, barley and potatoes as well as hay in ricks and several farming implements.

By giving up Birdston and selling everything off, William managed to pay his debts and retain his tenancy of Eastfield Farm.

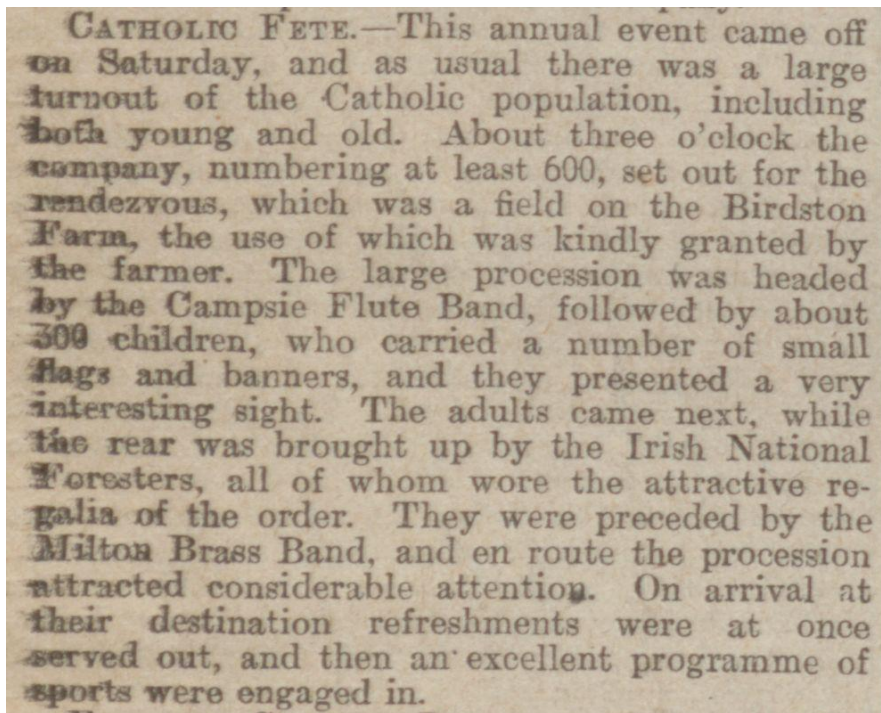
William died of emphysema, aged 80, on the 6th of October 1924 in Gartloch Sanitorium.

William Bauchop of Hole Farm in Lennoxton saw the vacancy of Birdston Farm as an opportunity. He was already known to the Lennox Estate and was viewed as a safe pair of hand to take over the tenancy.

William was born about 1854 in Yoker, Dunbartonshire. His parents were John Bauchop, distillery manager, and Ann McCulloch.

He married Janet Reid Weir on the 5th of March 1885 at Baldernock. William, aged 30, was already the tenant farmer at Hole Farm, Lennoxton.

William saw an opportunity to rent out parts of Birdston Farm for local events. This brought in some, much needed, extra income.



CATHOLIC FETE.—This annual event came off on Saturday, and as usual there was a large turnout of the Catholic population, including both young and old. About three o'clock the company, numbering at least 600, set out for the rendezvous, which was a field on the Birdston Farm, the use of which was kindly granted by the farmer. The large procession was headed by the Campsie Flute Band, followed by about 300 children, who carried a number of small flags and banners, and they presented a very interesting sight. The adults came next, while the rear was brought up by the Irish National Foresters, all of whom wore the attractive regalia of the order. They were preceded by the Milton Brass Band, and en route the procession attracted considerable attention. On arrival at their destination refreshments were at once served out, and then an excellent programme of sports were engaged in.

10/7/1897 Falkirk Herald

William found himself subjected to the same petty thieving as his predecessor but made it very plain that this was something he would not tolerate.

A WARNING TO BOYS.

Henry Stewart, foundry worker, **Kilsyth Road, Kirkintilloch**, was charged with having on 28th August, from a field on Birdston Farm, pulled a growing turnip. He pled guilty.

The Prosecutor said the taking of a single turnip might seem a small matter, but when they took into consideration that this field was quite near to the road they would see this was a practice that should be put down.

A penalty of 5s or 3 days was imposed.

7/9/1898 Kirkintilloch Herald

By the 1901 census William was 44 and Janet was 56. Living with them were Annie Livingstone (23) and Mary Ewing (20) both dairymaids and Alexander Bebner (14) cowboy. Sadly, Alex would go on to become one of the casualties of WW1 and his name is on the Kirkintilloch War Memorial.

Birdston, due to its low-lying position and proximity to the river Kelvin, has always been subject to the danger of flooding as was seen in the conditions of Mark Stevenson's lease. In 1903 the river Kelvin burst its banks and threatened the farmhouse itself.

At the Campsie Road the residents were prepared for the flood, and did not suffer quite so acutely as at the previous overflow. The flood again blocked the Hayston, Balquharrage, and Milton Roads. On the latter the extreme end of the inundation was at the road leading into the courtyard at Birdston Farm, an experience unprecedented in the memory of those in the district, while it covered the large portion of the land to the north of the Torrance railway, a state of affairs seldom, if ever experienced before. At the Balquharrage Road the water was again almost up to the junction with the Glasgow Road.

13/2/1903 Kirkintilloch Gazette

Once the floods receded, the planning began in earnest for the Kirkintilloch Co-Operator's Children's gala at Birdston Farm.

The Kirkintilloch Gazette of 10th July 1903 reported that thousands of young folk assembled at Donaldson Street and processed to Birdston behind the Kirkintilloch Rechabite brass band waving flags as they marched. Mothers with babies in their prams brought up the rear. Provisions had been made for 3,500 people but this ran out although the plentiful supply of tea did not. There were sports and athletic events along with an acrobatic display by a troupe of gymnasts. The children entered into various competitions on the programme and marched back to Donaldson Street a 8 pm.

Flood defence of the area then became a hot topic and Birdston Farm lost two acres of ground to allow this to proceed.

The site is just over the Kelvin from the Rob Roy F.C.'s field, and on the farm of Birdston. Two acres have been taken, and the operations are to be started forthwith to raise a portion of it by four feet. The feuars are Messrs Andrews and Cameron, patentees of a variety of compression pumping machinery, which they are presently under the necessity of having manufactured at different works, but which they mean to produce themselves at Kelvinside.

5/8/1905 Falkirk Herald

In this modern world we assume that fire hydrants will be available for the fire brigade to use but this was not the case in the early 1900s.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE.

At a meeting of Water Committee it was resolved to recommend that a hydrant to be used in case of fire at Birdston farm, be put in at the sight of the water superintendent on the applicant paying the cost of the work and the sum of 10s per annum, on the understanding that the hydrant would only be used in the event of fire.

15/11/1905 Kirkintilloch Herald

If William wished for a fire hydrant to be available for Birdston Farm he was going to have to pay for it to be installed and meet an annual bill to continue to have it available.

KIRKINTILLOCH BOYS BEAT CREATION.

James Marshall, schoolboy, son of John Marshall, carter, 45 Freeland Place, Kirkintilloch, and Richard Carmichael, schoolboy, son of James Carmichael, moulder, Townhead, Kirkintilloch, were charged with having, on the 20th September, stolen 3 turnips at Birdston Farm.

Marshall admitted the charge, but the other denied it.

The Prosecutor stated that both boys were caught in the act by a constable. These Kirkintilloch boys beat creation, and he thought that parents had advised them to plead not guilty.

The case was continued for a week.

Turnip pilfering seemed to occur on a fairly regular basis.

1/11/1907 Kirkintilloch Gazette

In February 1908, Mrs McDonald from Lennoxton met with quite a serious accident and broke her arm while on the way to visit the William and Janet at the farm.

She had been travelling by dogcart from Geelong Place when the horse stumbled on the hill near the entrance to Kincaid House. Mr McPhee, who had been driving the cart, was thrown over the front but fortunately landed on the horse's back. Mrs McDonald was not as fortunate as she was thrown onto the road, breaking one arm and staving the other. She was taken to Kincaid Lodge where medical assistance was summoned. After treatment, she was taken home.

KIRKINTILLOCH "LUGGIE" JUVENILE TENT,
I.O.R., No. 195.

A N N U A L E X C U R S I O N

TO BIRDSTON FARM,
ON SATURDAY, 25th JUNE, 1910.

Leave Temperance Hall at 2 o'clock.

Juvenile Members, Free; Adult Ticket, 6d.

15/6/1910 Kirkintilloch Herald

In June 1910 large numbers of people met at the Temperance Hall in Kirkintilloch and marched through the town behind the Rechabite band to a field on Birdston Farm. The afternoon consisted of refreshments, sports and fun activities for the children.

In the 1911 census William was 54 and his wife, Janet, was 66 they had been married for 30 years but have had no children. Living with them were their two dairymaids, Annie McIntyre (21) and Helen McDonald (20).

THATCHER wanted. — Apply, Birdston
Farm, Kirkintilloch.

4/12/1912 Kirkintilloch Herald

Turnip stealing proliferated across the district and on the Sabbath too!

In 1913, five Kirkintilloch boys found themselves in front of the judge for stealing turnips on the Sabbath.

On the 31st of August schoolboy Michael Dunlop stole two turnips from Birdston Farm. On the 7th of September Borthwick Sneddon, a telegraph messenger, along with schoolboy Patrick Quin stole cabbages and turnips from Watshod Farm. On the same day. Police apprehended John McDade, apprentice mason, as he threw turnips over the fence at Birdston Farm to William O'Donnell, printfield worker. Milton of Campsie police reported that they had had many complaints of boys stealing turnips that they had set up watch and were most vigilant on Sundays when the highest level of complaints were received. The boys' parents were fined 2/6 each and the boys let off with a warning.

By 1914 the world was at war but the stealing continued at Birdston Farm. Mrs Stewart, wife of an engineman at Kincaid Print Works, forfeited a bail of 7/6 when she failed to appear on a charge of stealing a stone of potatoes from Birdston Farm on the 17th of October. In November, Henry Woods and John Friel were up on a charge of stealing turnips from Birdston Farm. Henry Woods ran away to Ireland so failed to appear while John Friel was admonished.

On a happier note, William won second prize for the best turnout in the ploughing competition held at Balmore in February 1915.

He then won first prize for the best gelding at the Campsie Show held on the Dougalston Estate in June 1915.

Unfortunately, the annual Rechabite celebration planned at the farm in June 1915 proved to be a washout with heavy rain.

JUVENILE RECHABITES.

The members of the local tent of Juvenile Rechabites were to have spent the afternoon at Birdston, and headed by two pipers, and carrying a number of flags, they set out shortly after two o'clock. On reaching the field the conviction was brought home that the rain was on for the day, and the children returned to Kirkintilloch. They adjourned to the Temperance Hall, where refreshments were served, and afterwards they proceeded home.

30/6/1915 Kirkintilloch Herald

The children from the South United Free Church were luckier with the weather the following year.

The children attending South U.F. Church Sunday School had their annual trip on Saturday to Birdston Farm, whither they were conveyed by hay waggons.

16/6/1916 Kirkintilloch Gazette

William died suddenly on the 23rd of June 1916 when he slipped into a diabetic coma. Insulin treatment was not available at this time as the first recorded use in humans was not until 1922.

DEATH OF A FARMER.—The death took place early on Friday morning of Mr. William Bauchope, farmer, Birdston, after a brief illness. He had been in Kirkintilloch the previous Monday, and took ill the same night. Mr. Bauchope did not identify himself in any way with public affairs, but was rather of a retiring disposition. He had for two decades been tenant of Birdston Farm, which was a favourite venue for local and city trips. He was in the 62nd year of his age, and is survived by his wife.

28/6/1916 Kirkintilloch Herald

With no son to take over the farm, Janet began the heartbreaking process of leaving her home and make way for a new tenant.

Sale of Growing Hay
At BIRDSTON FARM, Kirkintilloch,
ON SATURDAY, 22nd JULY, 1916, at 2 p.m.

THE Subscribers, favoured with instructions from Mrs. Bauchop (per Messrs. Brownlie, Bauchop & Co., Writers), will sell by Public Auction, as above.

42 Acres of Growing Ryegrass and Timothy Hay will be sold in lots to suit purchasers.

Terms of Sale—Cash.

MACDONALD, FRASER & CO., LTD.,
Auctioneers.
63 Bellgrove Street, Glasgow.

19/7/1916 Kirkintilloch Herald

A second sale of crops was held on Saturday 26th August 1916 when 40 acres of oats, 16 acres of potatoes and 10 tons of oat straw went under the hammer.

AT BIRDSTON FARM, KIRKINTILLOCH,
IMPORTANT DISPLENISHING SALE
—of—
LIVE STOCK, CROP, IMPLEMENTS, &c.,
On SATURDAY FIRST, 28th OCTOBER,
1916, at 11 a.m.,
All as previously advertised in the "Kirkin:
tilloch Herald."

Terms of Sale—Cash.

Refreshments will be provided at moderate charges.

MACDONALD, FRASER & CO., Ltd.,
Auctioneers.
63 Bellgrove Street, Glasgow.

25/10/1916 Kirkintilloch Herald

While it is heartbreaking to read the list of a whole lifetime of farming going under the hammer, it gives the modern reader an insight into the livestock kept and the implements used on farms during the First World War.

Livestock: 5 work horses, 1 work mare with foal, 1 three year old colt, 1 two year old filly, 1 one year old filly, 1 pony (13.2 hands), 32 Milch cows and Queys, 3 two year old Queys in calf, 4 Quey stirks, 2 calves, 1 Ayrshire bull and 40 head of poultry.

Crops: 10 Stacks of Oats, 45 Tons of Ryegrass and Clover Hay – the whole secured in splendid condition, 3 Tons Oat Straw, 6 acres of Swede Turnips – an excellent crop.

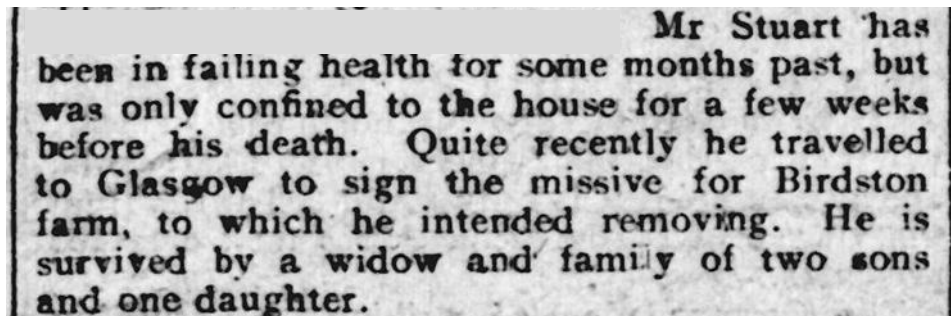
Implements: 5 carts, 3 Hay Waggons, 2 corn carts, milk waggon with barrels, Milk Van Blinder (by McCormick), 3 Mowers, 2 Hay Rakes, 2 Iron Rollers, 4 Set Harrows, Circular Harrows, Set Hay Seed Harrows, 2 Drill Harrows, Cultivator, Hay Shipe, Hay Collector, 5 Swing Ploughs, 2 Double Moulded Ploughs, 1 Oliver Plough, Stack Props and Bosses, Potato Digger, Turnip Sowing Machine, Horse Hoe, 2 Cart Bodies, 1 Dogcart (almost new), Gig Lamps, Pony Trap, 2 Hay Rick Lifters, 4 Ladders, 1 Extension Ladder, Horse Hay Fork (by Wilson & Son), Engine and Boiler and Thrashing Mill, Steam Churner, Butter Cooler, 3 Wheelbarrows. 1 Sack Barrow, 4 Meal Ginnals, Doghouse, Henhouse, Weighing Machine, Barn Fanners, Hay Cutter, Chaff Cutter, 6 Sets Cart Harness, Plough Chains, Graipes, Shovels, Rakes, Turnip Cutter, Straw Barrow, 2 Boilers, 3 Meat Coolers and a lot of other Barn and Stable Utensils also a Very Large and Valuable Dairy Collection.

Janet died, aged 76, on the 8th of February 1917 at her nephew's house in Bearsden. She had been suffering from Parkinson's disease and eventually died of heart failure.

The death took place at Chapleton Avenue, Bearsden, on Thursday, of Janet Reid Weir, widow of the late William Bauchope, farmer, Birdston. Mrs Wauchope had been laid aside for a considerable time, and was in poor health at the time of her husband's death, whom she has survived by only a few months. The funeral took place to Campsie Churchyard on Monday.

14/2/1917 Kirkintilloch Herald

The next tenant died before he could take over the farm. **William Stuart** had been the tenant farmer at Broomhill for many years.



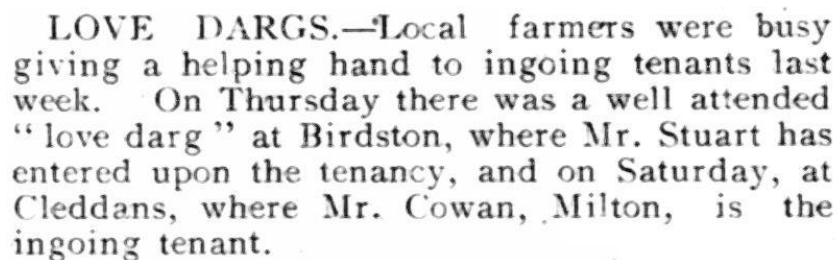
Mr Stuart has been in failing health for some months past, but was only confined to the house for a few weeks before his death. Quite recently he travelled to Glasgow to sign the missive for Birdston farm, to which he intended removing. He is survived by a widow and family of two sons and one daughter.

11/10/1916 Kirkintilloch Herald

The lease, however, seems to have passed seamlessly to William's son, James.

James Stuart was born in Strathblane on the 18th of June 1883. His father, as stated above, was William Stuart and his mother was Isabella Lyon, they had married in Campsie in 1878.

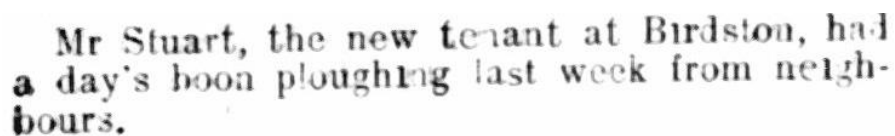
James married Jean Henderson Nicol in Culsamond, Aberdeenshire in 1917.



LOVE DARGs.—Local farmers were busy giving a helping hand to ingoing tenants last week. On Thursday there was a well attended "love darg" at Birdston, where Mr. Stuart has entered upon the tenancy, and on Saturday, at Cleddans, where Mr. Cowan, Milton, is the ingoing tenant.

7/3/1917 Kirkintilloch Herald

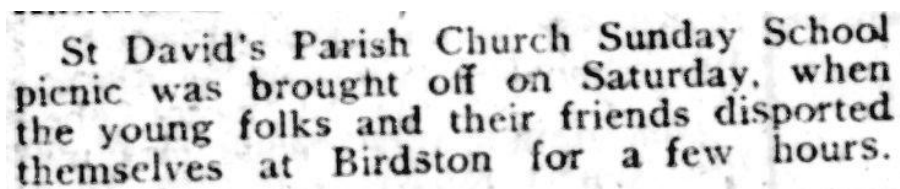
It would seem that the term "Love Darg" meant that local farmers would lend a hand in the initial ploughing for a new farm tenant. This was a way of welcoming new neighbours.



Mr Stuart, the new tenant at Birdston, had a day's boon ploughing last week from neighbours.

9/3/1917 Kirkintilloch Gazette

James continued the tradition of having events held on the farm. The first one reported was a Sunday School Picnic just a few months after he and Jean moved in.



St David's Parish Church Sunday School picnic was brought off on Saturday, when the young folks and their friends disported themselves at Birdston for a few hours.

31/8/1917 Kirkintilloch Gazette

By January the following year James was advertising for staff. There were few men available due to the war so female staff were sought in their stead.

WANTED — Woman for Outdoor Farm Work; able to Milk preferred; R. & K. House available.—Apply, Jas. Stuart, Birdston.

30/1/1918 Kirkintilloch Herald

WOMEN (Two) Wanted to Shaw Turnips; 6d. per hour.—Stuart, Birdston Farm.

20/11/1918 Kirkintilloch Herald

MAID Wanted for Farm; must be a good milker; good wages.—Apply, J. Stuart, Birdston.

27/11/1918 Kirkintilloch Herald

James spent a lot of time and effort in selling his goods and meeting the needs of the local community.

M I L K .
— 8 —

Owing to SCARCITY of SUPPLIES in the Burgh, I Intend Retailing my MILK in KIRKINTILLOCH instead of sending it into Glasgow.

Beginning on THURSDAY MORNING, 2nd OCTOBER, I will Deliver from Van, Chiefly in COWGATE, ALEXANDRA STREET & BELLFIELD

Intending Customers Kindly Let Me Know Their Requirements By POST CARD OR OTHERWISE.

JAMES STUART,
Birdston Farm,
Kirkintilloch.

29/9/1919 Kirkintilloch Gazette

The following advert raises a smile and makes us wonder just how odd the horse was.

LAD Wanted (16—17 years old) to work odd horse on farm.—Stuart, Birdston, Kirkintilloch.

23/4/1919 Kirkintilloch Herald

The Campsie Cattle Show in June 1919 was held at Balcarroch Farm in Campsie Glen. James took 3rd prize for a cow not in milk and 1st prize for a bull two years and up.

SALE OF HAY IN STACKS.

At BIRDSTON and FRENCHMILL FARMS,
on THURSDAY FIRST, 11th Inst., at
3 p.m.

**SALE OF 70 TONS RYEGRASS AND
TIMOTHY HAY AND 6 TONS
STRAW.**

All Extra Well Secured.

PAUL & MILLAR,
Auctioneers.

10/9/1919 Kirkintilloch Herald

Gala days continued to be held at the farm.

**KIRKINTILLOCH EQUITABLE
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED**

**CHILDREN'S
GALA,**

In Field at Birdston Farm.

SATURDAY, JULY 2.

Tickets, Adults, 1/3; Juveniles, 3d
(Including Tax).

10/6/1921 Kirkintilloch Gazette

The procession for this gala was headed by four bands and a crowd of 6,000 people took part.

Unfortunately, petty theft still seemed prevalent at the farm. The 1920s saw a period of post war depression and widespread unemployment and poverty.

BIRDSTON BOYS.

Four Birdston boys, Alex Coll (13), Hugh Coll (9), And. Hendrie (10), John Hendrie (8), were charged with the theft of 12 pailing stobs from Birdston farm.

At first the quartette denied the charge, but Mrs Coll got very annoyed on being told that the accused would all have to come back to court and bring witnesses with them.

At last she said she had no coal in the house and sent the boys out to gather firewood. It was not stealing she considered.

The fiscal said the serious thing was that this was the second time the Colls had been there for theft. He was not surprised when this was the way their mother condoned their offence at home.

Mr Teevin said that the Hendries would be admonished, but under the special section of the Act Mrs Coll would be fined in 10s—5s or 5 days for each of her boys.

7/7/1922 Kirkintilloch Gazette

A new type of gala took place in 1922, that of the Ex-Servicemen's Club. These clubs formed after the war as a way of offering support to men who had fought in horrendous conditions of which their loved ones were largely unaware. They raised money to support the widows and children of war casualties or for their former comrades too injured to hold down a job.

Kirkintilloch Ex-Servicemen's Club are holding a gala in a field on Birdston Farm on the last Saturday of the month. Three bands have been engaged for the occasion, and a fair and sports programme are to be carried through. The widows and children of Servicemen are to be given free admission.

17/7/1922 Kirkintilloch Herald

Despite the earlier discussions about a fire hydrant being installed at the farm, it became evident that there was not a suitable water supply for the fire brigade to use when a fire broke out in two sheds situated to the rear of the farmhouse. Water eventually had to be piped in from Lennox Hospital but the delay in ensuring a water supply meant there was a real danger of the fire spreading to the house. There was considerable damage done.

£1000 Damage by Fire at Birdston

Damage estimated at £1,000 was done by fire which broke out at Birdston Farm (Mr James Stuart's) on Tuesday night. About 11.30 it was noticed that two large sheds situated to the rear of the buildings were involved.

Bishopbriggs Fire Brigade arrived about midnight. Owing to difficulty of securing a water supply, pipes had to be laid a distance of about 300 yards and a connection made at Lennox Hospital. It was almost 1.15 before a supply was available and by this time the fire had got such a hold that the firemen's efforts had to be directed chiefly to seeing that the fire did not extend to the adjoining buildings.

Practically all the farming implements were destroyed, the losses including a milling machine, two self-binders, two traps, 4 carts, a hay waggon, seed drills, two rick lifters, a van, numerous small tools, and a considerable quantity of straw. A good deal of damage was also done to the premises. The damage was covered by insurance.

27/7/1923 Kirkintilloch Gazette

In March 1924 James opened a farm shop in Eastside, Kirkintilloch.

— OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT —
... of ...
BIRDSTON FARM DAIRY

PREMISES, formerly CROSS KEYS, at
27—29 EASTSIDE, Opposite Station,
WILL BE OPENED on **FRIDAY, 29th**
FEBRUARY, for the Sale of **MILK, BUTTER**
AND ALL DAIRY AND FARM PRODUCE.

HOME-BAKING OF VARIETY OF
SCONES, CAKES, ETC., EVERY DAY.

Warm Milk, Pure and Clean, Delivered Twice
Daily Direct from the Producer.

— **J. STUART, BIRDSTON FARM.** —

5/3/1924 Kirkintilloch Herald

He used this to sell his farm produce direct to the public.

SEED POTATOES at Growers' Price:—
Boxed Earlies (British Queen), 2st. Box,
5/-; Second Earlies, Great Scot, 1/9 per st.;
Kerr's Pink and Golden Wonder, 1/9 per st.—
To be got from J. STUART, 27-29 Eastside,
Kirkintilloch. High Grade Fertilizers at 1/7
per stone at Birdston Farm.

19/3/1924 Kirkintilloch Herald

By the end of March 1924, it would seem that something strange was going on – was this some sort of scam and, if so, what did the scammers hope to gain?

**NOTICE TO THOSE WHOM IT
CONCERNS.**

NEITHER BY POST NOR PERSON
WAS ANY CANVASSING DONE
FOR **BIRDSTON FARM DAIRY.**

THE SUCCESS OF THIS DAIRY
IS DUE TO THE HIGH QUALITY OF
THE PRODUCE AND THE CLEANLI-
NESS ATTENDING SAME.

26/3/1924 Kirkintilloch Herald

The Kirkintilloch Gala Day of 1925 had to return to Woodhead in Kirkintilloch as James had their usual field under cultivation and there was not another suitable one available. This caused some disgruntlement in the committee as it was pointed out that Kirkintilloch, unlike Birdston, was a dry town so no alcohol could be sold. The Gala did go ahead at Woodhead without the availability of any alcoholic beverages.

Another fire broke out at the farm at the end of August 1925 and the fire brigade encountered the same problems in gaining a water supply.

STACKYARD FIRE AT BIRDSTON.

About 11 o'clock on Wednesday night a stackyard adjoining Birdston Farm, occupied by Mr. James Stuart, was discovered to be on fire. There were in the yard at the time six stacks of hay and one of wheat straw. Stirling Burgh Fire Brigade, with which the Western District Committee have a working arrangement, was 'phoned for, and arrived at the farm forty minutes from the time the message was dispatched. By this time three stacks of hay had been destroyed, and the farm workers and neighbours were striving by drenching them with water to save the other four stacks. The Brigade turned their attention to this salvage, and were successful in saving the four stacks. There were 24 tons of hay in the stacks that were destroyed, and the damage is set down at £96. The loss is covered by insurance. The Fire Brigade, after coming 22 miles from Stirling, had to get water from a hydrant at Lennox Hospital, 500 yards away, and were unable to leave the yard till shortly after six o'clock on Thursday morning.

26/8/1925 Kirkintilloch Herald

Yet another fire broke out in October 1925 and the same problem was encountered by the fire brigade – no suitable water supply!

The nearest fire plug was a quarter of a mile away at Lennox Hospital but the hoses were not long enough to stretch the distance from the hospital to the stackyard.

They eventually managed to pump water from a nearby ditch by forming a dam with corrugated iron sheets, stones and mud allowing them to collect enough water to put the fire out.

This was obviously a situation that was becoming ever more urgent.

When the cause of the fire was investigated it was found to be caused by some children playing in the stackyard

The argument of the fire plug rumbled on and James found that he would be expected to pay for it himself.

He had arranged with Kirkintilloch Town Council to put this in at once but expected to be reimbursed by Campsie as it would benefit everyone in the area.

The main problem was that the water would be coming from the Kirkintilloch water pipe as Campsie had no water supply in the area.

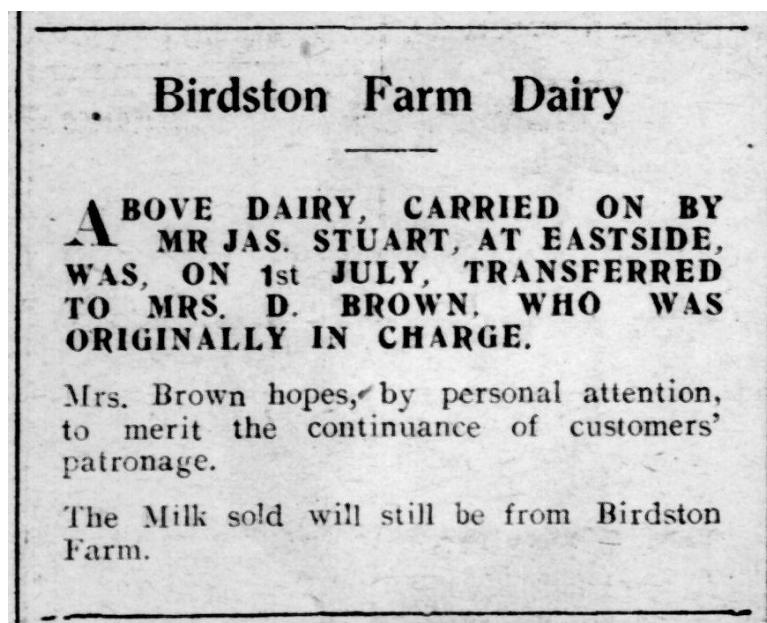
There were several arguments from Campsie up to and including that Birdston was in Kirkintilloch and not Campsie!

Campsie took the view that as they did not authorise this they would not pay for it.

James, at his own expense, obtained his own personal fire hydrant for the sole use of his farm.

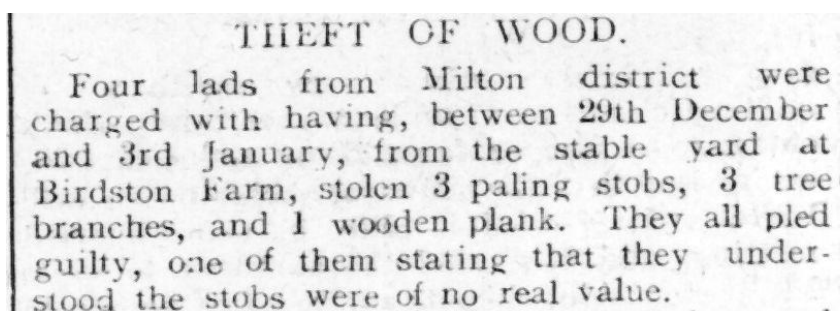
Any other house in Birdston would need to get water from Lennox Hospital in the event of a fire!

In July 1927 James transferred ownership of his farm shop to Mrs Brown.



7/7/1926 Kirkintilloch Herald

James was always interested in new farming equipment, so it was no surprise that Birdston Farm was the place chosen to demonstrate a new grain drying device in October 1927. It was claimed that the new dryer would do away with the need to turn over cut grain thus saving a considerable amount of labour.



27/2/1929 Kirkintilloch Herald

Around this time, James decided to move to a farm outside London and the Kincaid Lennox Estate put the farm up for sale.

It was purchased by **David William Reid**.

David was born in 1887 at Bridgend Farm in Campsie. His father, William, was a farmer and his mother was Jessie Stark. David had an elder sister, Elizabeth, and a younger brother Thomas.

There is nothing in the local papers for a displenishing sale at the point of transfer. It may well be that James took most of the farming accoutrements with him and sold much of the livestock directly to the Reids.

David seems to have focussed on growing potatoes and other crops but he also rented out pasture for grazing.

FOR SALE—One Ton Seconds Kerr's Pinks; nice seed.—David Reid, Birdston Farm, Kirkintilloch.

24/4/1929 Kirkintilloch Herald

GOOD GRAZING for a few Cattle.—Apply, David Reid, Birdston Farm, Kirkintilloch.

12/6/1929 Kirkintilloch Herald

WORKERS WANTED for Potato Lifting.—Apply, David Reid, Birdston Farm, Kirkintilloch.

11/10/1929 Kirkintilloch Gazette

James obviously did not take well to farming in London and returned to run New Mills Dairy in Milton of Campsie.

TRANSFER OF BUSINESS.—Mr James Stuart, who some time ago left Birdston Farm, Milton of Campsie, to take up farming on the outskirts of London, has again returned to the village, and has procured from Mr Grant the dairy known as New Mills. This business will now be carried on by Mr Stuart.

15/3/1930 Callander Advertiser

James died of a coronary thrombosis, aged 67, at Sunnyside in Milton of Campsie on the 6th of April 1931.

In 1931 there was great excitement as an aeroplane display was planned at Birdston Farm.

People came from miles around just to see the spectacle.

Unfortunately, the aerial aerobatics display had to be postponed as one of the pilots took ill. The display was delayed for a week to allow for the pilot to recover.

Meanwhile, other pilots took people on short flights across the surrounding area.

An aeroplane, owned by the North British Aviation Company, whose headquarters are in Liverpool, put in a busy flying season on Sunday afternoon. The taking-off and landing ground was in a field on Birdston Farm, lying alongside the Birdston Road. Here there was a long line of people anxious to have the thrills of a flight, but darkness came on before all had their wish gratified.

20/11/1931 Kirkintilloch Gazette

Around this, David carried on growing potatoes, turnips and wheat.

TENT GONE ON THEIR RETURN.

MINER STOPPED AT GARTMORE.

The sequel to the mysterious disappearance of a tent belonging to two campers in a field on Birdstone Farm, Kirkintilloch, was heard in Stirling Sheriff Court on Wednesday. The police were informed immediately the loss of the tent was discovered, and the next stage in the mystery was the interrogation by the police of a man at Gartmore.

He appeared in Stirling Sheriff Court on Wednesday, when his name was given as James Carroll, a miner, of no fixed residence, and he admitted the theft of the campers' tent, two blankets, a haversack, a shirt, a groundsheet, a kettle, a waterproof coat, a scarf, and a frying pan.

Accused had two previous convictions.

The Fiscal explained the campers went to Kilsyth, and on their return in the early hours of the morning found their property gone. Information was lodged with the police, who kept a look-out, and accused was detained at Gartmore. He was understood to be a deserter from the Army.

Sheriff Dean Leslie sent accused to prison for fourteen days.

The petty thieving which had gone on around the farm became a bit more serious when a group of people camping on the farm returned from a day out to Kilsyth to find their tent and most of their belongings gone.

The perpetrator was soon apprehended and tried at Stirling Sheriff Court.

23/7/1932 Bridge of Allan Gazette

A Second Air Display at Birdston



FLY
Yourself, or
Fly with →
Famous Pilots
SIR ALAN COBHAM'S
GREAT AIR DISPLAY
At BIRDSTON FARM, MILTON ROAD, KIRKINTILLOCH,
On THURSDAY, JULY 6th, at 2.45 and 7 p.m.
ADMISSION, 1/3; CHILDREN, 6d. FLIGHTS FROM 4/-.
12 AIRCRAFT. 2 AIR LINERS. 20 THRILLING EVENTS.

7/7/1933 Kirkintilloch Gazette

The air display of 1931 proved so popular that a second display was held on the 6th of July 1933.

On the previous Saturday one of the planes passed over Kirkintilloch emitting a stream of crimson smoke. Anyone who guessed the correct height of the plane was given free tickets to the display

The aeroplanes involved were De Haviland Tiger Moths. A tremendous show was presented including wing walking, formation flying and loop the loop. Two

members of the audience volunteered to be taken up in a plane where they experienced not only flying for the first time but the adventure of loop the loop in a Tiger Moth.

David died, aged 46, at Birdston Farm on the 15th of December 1933. He had been suffering from myocarditis for several months.

Once again we see a dispenishing sale with the animals, crops and implements sold off.

PAUL & MILLER'S SALES

DISPLENISHING SALE of FARM STOCK, CROP, IMPLEMENTS, and Several Articles of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, etc., at **BIRDSTON FARM, Kirkintilloch** (late David Reid Trust), on **SATURDAY, 17th November, 1934**, at 11 a.m. Consisting of:—

STOCK.—34 Head Cross and Ayrshire Cattle, including 4 Cows, January and February calvers; 12 Cows, calved and to calve; 4 Cross Heifers, Spring calvers; 5 Cross Bulling Heifers; 5 Cross Heifers in forward condition; 3 Cross Heifer Calves; 1 Shorthorn Bull (fat); 1 Gelding; 1 Mare (fully pedigreed); 1 Filly, rising three years (fully pedigreed).

CROP.—18 Stacks Oats (Yielder); 6 Stacks Hay (Timothy and Ryegrass); 2½ Acres Swede Turnips in pits.

FARM IMPLEMENTS, Stable and Dairy Utensils, etc., as previously advertised.

NOTE.—The Implements are in splendid condition and practically new.

Graham's Buses leave Cathedral Street, Glasgow, every half-hour, and pass farm road end.

Terms—Cash at Sale.

17/11/1934 Bridge of Allan Gazette

He left the ownership of the farm to his sister, Elizabeth, but it was his brother, **Thomas Reid**, who took over the running of the farm in December 1934. He had previously been farming at Crofthead in Cadder. Thomas had married Violet Maxwell McCulloch in Campsie in 1925. Their daughter, Janet Hendrie, was born in Polmont in 1927. A second daughter, Anne Lawson, was born in Duthill in 1941.

By 1936, there was a dispute about the state of the road between Birdston Farm and Watshod Farm as it had become insanitary at the Birdston end. The six properties abutting onto this portion of the road had been contacted to effect repairs. While the farmers at either end along with two of the properties endeavoured to spread sand and gravel to alleviate the problem two other proprietors refused. The sanitary inspector was forced to intervene with those who refused.

Thomas's daughter, Janet, married Jack Graham on the 19th of April 1939 at Balgrayhouse in Springburn.

Despite ongoing discussions about water there was still the small matter of the fire hydrant which, it would seem, had never actually been fitted, and Watshod Farm could not be supplied with mains water at all due to lack of both pressure and supply. Finally in 1941, Birdston got some good news in that they would now have a fire hydrant fitted. Thomas, like his predecessor, James, would, however, be required to pay for the installation.

It was remitted to the Water Superintendent to report on the subject. It was agreed that a hydrant be fitted on the water main at Birdston, at a charge of 5/- per annum, on condition that the applicant, Mr. Thomas Reid, Birdston Farm, pay the initial cost, in addition to the annual charge.

14/5/1941 Kirkintilloch Herald

The second world war finally came to an end and the agricultural show returned to Birdston in 1947.

SHOW

**Of Attested Cattle, Clydesdale and Lightfooted Horses
(Open), Dairy Produce, Dogs (Open) and Open Jumping
Competitions**

At BIRDSTON FARM, Kirkintilloch,

On SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1947

The show area embraces the parishes of Kirkintilloch, Campsie, Cadder, Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Baldernock.

Entries close on Friday, 2nd May, 1947.

Premium Lists on application to the Secretaries—

M. & M. GRAHAM,
Wester Board Farm, Twechar

Tel.—Kilsyth 3112.

16/4/1947 Kirkintilloch Herald

Thomas won the supreme championship with his three year old quey in calf. He also won first prize in the Clydesdale championship with his yearling filly.

Thomas made a name for himself with the high quality horses he bred at Birdston Farm so it was no great surprise when he was appointed as a judge in the National Stallion Show.

* Mr. Thomas Reid, Birdston Farm, has been appointed as a judge at the National Stallion Show on March 5 and 6. Mr. Reid has been a consistent winner at local shows over the past few years.

Kirkintilloch Herald 30/1/1952

Thomas's second daughter, Anne, married Donald Carswell in St Mary's Church, Kirkintilloch on the 1st of June 1952.

While it is assumed that most farms have chickens, this is the first official confirmation that the Reids kept chickens.

PULLETS for Sale; Br. L. x L.S.; on point of lay.—Reid, Birdston Farm.

Kirkintilloch Herald 28/10/1953

Thomas did not feature much in the newspapers but he was very highly regarded in the quality of the horses he bred at Birdston.

Reserve was Supreme Lady, a six-year-old bay mare shown by W. Herron, Derryvane House, Portadown. She was bred at Birdston by T. S. Reid, and is by Craigie Supreme Commander out of a Gartness Control dam.

The Scotsman 26/5/1956

In 1961 the water supply which had been argued over for so long was finally about to happen.

Burgh of Kirkintilloch

Water (Scotland) Act, 1946

NEW 15 inch PIPELINE FROM WOODBURN CLEAR WATER TANK TO LEDGATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in terms of Sections 26 and 27 of the Water (Scotland) Act, 1946, that the Town Council of the Burgh of Kirkintilloch propose to lay a 15-inch diameter water main from the Burgh's Woodburn Clear Water Tank to a point approximately ten yards west of the Gale Bridge on the north bank of the River Kelvin, both in the Parish of Campsie and the County of Stirling and thence within their own area of supply.

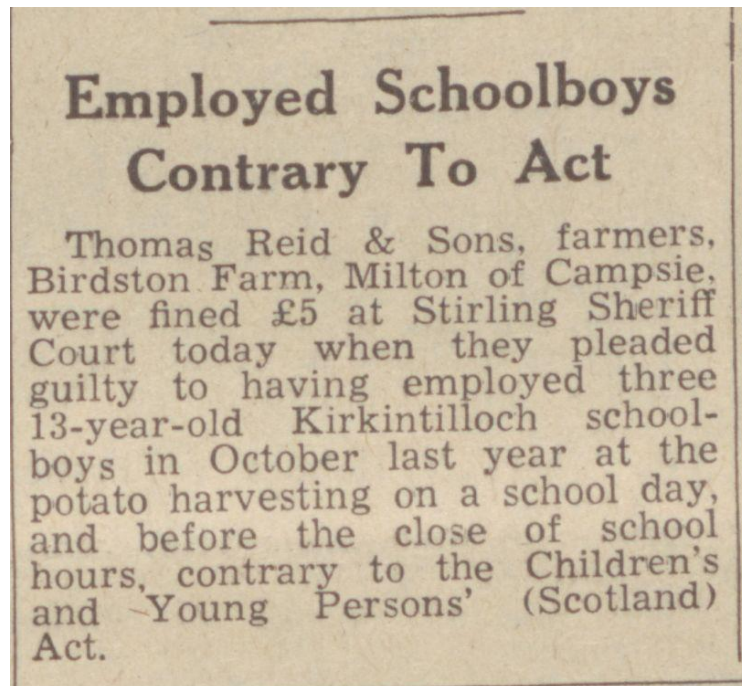
The land directly affected thereby lies in the property of the following persons:—

Mrs. Jean Stewart & Sons,
Meadowbank Farm, Ledgate,
Kirkintilloch.

Thos. Reid, Esq., Birdston Farm,
Kirkintilloch.

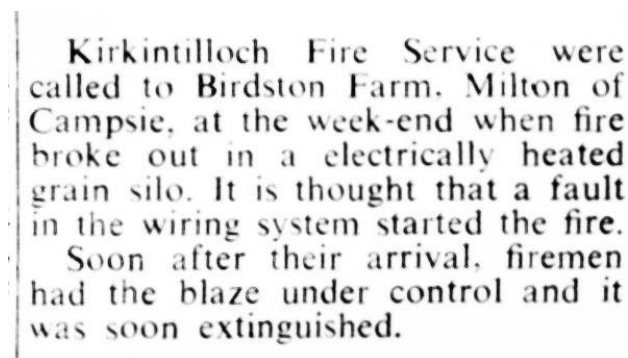
17/5/1961 Kirkintilloch Herald

Thomas found himself on the wrong side of the law when he employed underage boys to assist with the potato harvest in 1961. The school leaving age had been raised to 15 in 1948.



16/1/1962 Edinburgh Evening News

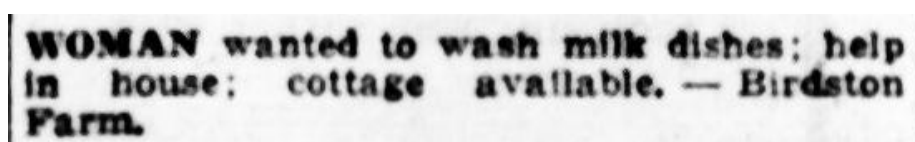
Yet another fire broke out in September 1962 when an electric silo caught fire. Perhaps the same one demonstrated by James Stuart in 1927.



19/9/1962 Kirkintilloch Herald

Fortunately, with the fire hydrant finally fitted, a ready supply of water was available for the fire brigade to use and the fire was soon quenched.

Evidence that Birdston was, still very much, a dairy farm was exhibited in the advert looking for a woman to wash milk dishes.



19/9/1962 Kirkintilloch Herald

Janet died, suddenly, of a coronary thrombosis at Birdston Farm on the 11th of July 1967. She was 74 years old.

REID—Suddenly at Birdston Farm, Kirkintilloch, on Tuesday, 11th July, 1967. Janet Martin Lawson, beloved wife of Thomas Reid.

19/7/1967 Kirkintilloch Herald

Less than a month later a bus ran out of control and landed in a field at the farm.

BUS OFF ROAD
A bus, travelling between Campsie Glen and Glasgow, went out of control and ran into a field at Birdston last Thursday morning. The bus was quickly put back on the road and little or no damage was done.

9/8/1967 Kirkintilloch Herald

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Acts, 1947-1969

NOTICE OF LOCAL INQUIRY

The Secretary of State has appointed A. F. C. Clark, Esq., C.B., to hold a local inquiry and to report with respect to appeals against the conditions imposed by Stirling County Council as local planning authority, on the grant of planning permission in principle for the development of land for residential and ancillary purposes at Frenchmill Farm and Birdston Farm, Milton of Campsie, Stirlingshire.

The inquiry, which will be held in public and at which interested parties may claim to be heard, will commence at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 1971, within the County Offices, Viewforth, Stirling.

F. M. M. GRAY,
Assistant Secretary,
Scottish Development Department,
St. Andrew's House,
Edinburgh, EH1, 3DD.

25/2/1970 Kirkintilloch Herald

The 1970s was the decade of the destruction of many historical buildings and loss of farmland in the Campsie area.

A proposal to build houses on the land of Birdston Farm met with strong opposition.

An appeal was held against the Secretary of State's decision to refuse this planning application.

John T. Bell were proposing a £13 million development to house 17,000 people across the parish. At this stage some 300 new houses had already been built at Milton of Campsie.

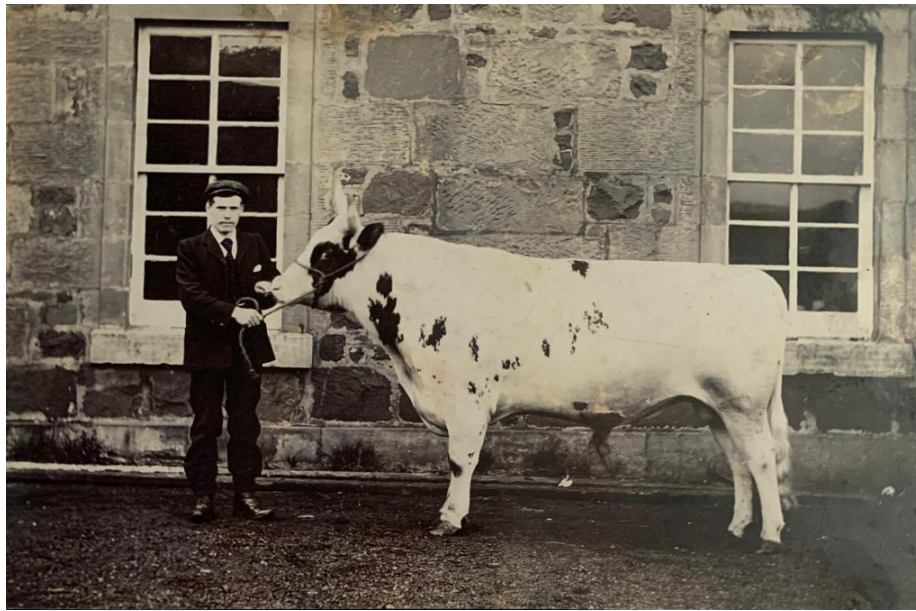
The main argument against further development in the area was the sheer volume of traffic which was already bringing Bishopbriggs to a standstill with cars heading into Glasgow.

The planning permission was refused and Birdston Farm remained much as it had always been.

With the severe flooding in the area which took place in 1994 it was perhaps a wise decision.

Thomas Reid died aged 84 at Birdston Farm on the 20th of January 1975 and the farm passed to his family.

In researching Birdston Farm, it has, in many ways, been a return to my family's roots. They moved to Birdston in 1860 and remained there for over 100 years. Over the years, many members of my family worked on the farm either officially or in a lending a hand neighbourly fashion.



Alex Stewart, Birdston Farmyard

Credit: Barrie A Stewart

The farm has always grown crops, including the turnips so attractive to petty thieves, and the fertile ground so strictly husbanded by farmers who knew its worth, has for generations supported a high quality dairy herd.

While Mark Stevenson's lease of 1847 strictly forbade the keeping of sheep, these days it is common to view the Birdston flock in the fields in front of the farmhouse. Improvements in the understanding of land management means there is no longer the need for the strict crop rotation Mark had to adhere to. The mechanisation of milking means that the need for several dairymaids on the farm became redundant but the farm still, as always, runs with the seasons.



Birdston Farmhouse 1976

Credit: EDC Archives

Hole and Capieston Farm



17th century - Present

Phil Wadsley

General Preamble

Early Campsie communities, from individual “hunter-gatherers”, naturally joined to gain benefits from civilisation. Apart from Pre-Christian forms of religion, based on awareness of their position in the natural environment, individuals came together for increased effectiveness, safety and development.

Stones became important common meeting points in this process.

Later, these significant stones were marked with Celtic pre-Christian symbols including markings which we now call cup, rings and V-rods.

When Irish missionaries came to Scotland, bringing Christianity, they used the original places of worship, incorporating the Christian Cross into the Celtic symbols. They also used the Gaelic “cil” to mean a place of worship such as in Kilmarnock, the Church of St. Marnock. “Clachan” is the plural of “clach”, the Gaelic for a stone. The name came to be applied to a group of stone buildings, hence the name Clachan of Campsie where Machan made the centre of his ministry in the 7th century.

In common with most of Scotland, from early times, most of the population of the Campsie area depended on agriculture to survive. By the 16th century, society was largely based on the production of food. The smaller communities had grown up around natural beneficial features, and these lands became significant to power and wealth.

In the Campsie area, the Northern part, towards the Fells, although naturally somewhat less fertile, and more difficult to cultivate than more Southerly parts, did have geological benefits which would allow continued developments through time. The steeper areas practically remained the domicile of sheep.

There was generally a continuous source of water, to aid crops and animals and, in time, for use as a source of energy to power the first forms of mechanisation of processes. Milling of grain, including barley, corn and oats, being a vital production process.

Alongside this water, local limestone and coal meant lime-kilns were created, producing fertiliser to enhance the soil and hence used, alongside animal excrement, dung, to improve the yield of crops.

The human resources were important, for these processes to take place and increase the wealth and power of the Landowners, their local Clan chiefs and Earls of the Scottish Kings.

By the 17th century, a feudal system existed, with the Earls of Lennox given the privileges and jurisdictions of a Barony. They had the powers of life or death through the Woodhead Barony Court.

The lands North of the Glazert, running from Clachan of Campsie to Crow Road included the farms:

Baccorach (latterly Balcarrach) with 10 tenants, Corshouse (latterly Crosshouse) with 1 tenant, Champiestoune (Capieston) and Holl (Hole) with 2 tenants, and Balgrochan with 5 tenants.

The earliest census we have access to, 1841, for the separate Hole and Capieston Farms, shows basic information for those present. With the limited staff, and smaller land area, one can appreciate their origins in subsistence farming

Hole Farm 1841

Name	Age	Occupation
Robert McLean	40	Farmer
Margaret McLean	40	Wife
Margaret McLean	30	Farm Servant
Margaret Robertson	20	Farm Servant
Angus Campbell	20	Agricultural Labourer

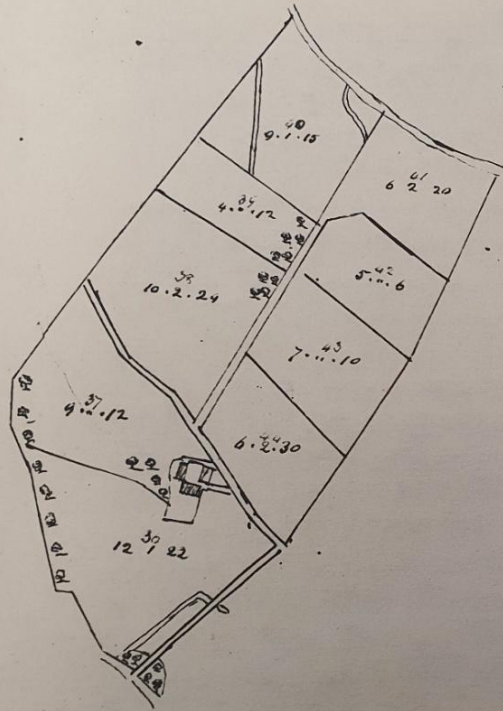
Capieston Farm 1841

Name	Age	Occupation
William Simpson	50	Farmer
Ann Simpson	35	
Margaret Simpson	7	
William Simpson	5	
Marion Simpson	2	
Jean Simpson	9 months	
Roderick Cameron	30	Agricultural Labourer
John Hamilton	20	Agricultural Labourer
Elizabeth Reid	15	Farm Servant
Mary Brown	10	Farm Servant

Control over the size and usage of the farmlands, premises and equipment, through the tenancy agreements, was dealt with by the estate's Factor.

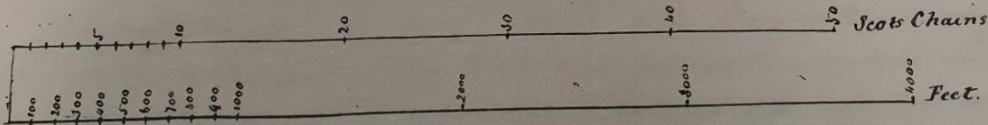
Factor's Field Maps

HOLE

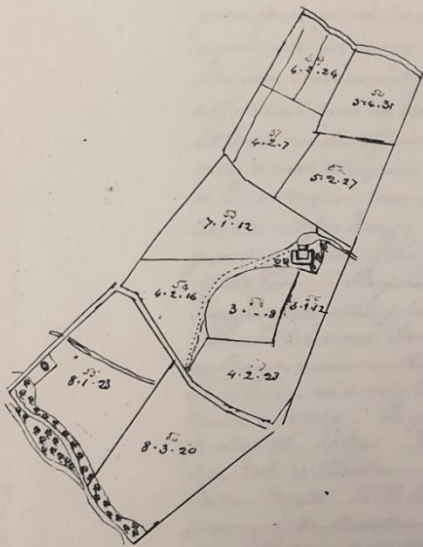


CONTENTS

N ^o	NAMES	Descri ⁿ	A	R	F
36	House park	Arabl.	12	1	7
37	Stachyard park	"	9	-	12
38	West Champieston park	"	10	2	24
39	West Low park	"	4	-	12
40	West high park	"	4	1	15
41	West high park	"	6	2	20
42	East Low park	"	5	-	6
43	East Champieston park	"	7	-	10
44			6	2	30
45	Stachyard ^{ic}	H&G	-	5	6
46	Garden	"	-	1	4
47	Wood	Wood	-	-	24
48	Farm Roads	Road	-	2	6
Total			72	2	56



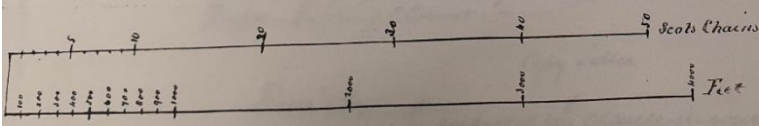
CAPIESTON.



CONTENTS

N ^o	NAMES	Descri ⁿ	A	R	F
49	Louchiad parks	Arabl.	4	2	24
50	"	"	5	-	31
51	"	"	4	2	7
52	"	"	3	2	17
53	Capieston bog	Mire pits	1	1	12
54		Arabl.	4	2	16
55		"	8	2	23
56	Gardrum parks	"	6	3	20
57	Crumroch parks	"	4	-	33
58		"	3	-	4
59		"	1	1	12
60	Stading	H&G	-	1	4
61	Garden	"	-	1	6
62	Plantation to side of Glazen	Wood	1	2	0
63	Farm road	Road	-	1	6
Total			65	1	54

72 - 2 56
186 - 50



In return for rights of land use, premises and equipment, the tenants paid the landowners, initially in kind, eventually in a mix of money and produce, before monetary exchange only, for that which they produced.

Another condition applied was that the grain a tenant harvested had to be ground in the landowner's mill so that tenant had to pay the miller, also a tenant of the landowner, to grind the crop. So, the farmer was paying the landowner twice over, for that privilege of tenancy. In times of famine, the farmer's family would be reduced to a subsistence level and indebted to their landowner

From the early information, Capieston & Hole Farm are not linked, being described by the name Hole Farm and Capieston Farm, alone.

The final separate tenancies shown are for Robert (Robin) Alexander and William Simpson

Hole Farm 1851

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Robert Alexander	Head	55	Farmer of 90 acres employing 3 males & 1 female	Stirlingshire St Ninian's
Marion Alexander	Wife	55		Campsie
Agnes Armour	Servant	25		Garmore
Alexander King	Servant	26	Farm labourer	Garmore
George Coubrough	Servant	12	Errand boy	Campsie
Michael McArthur	Servant	24	Farm labourer	Ireland

Capieston Farm 1851

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
William Simpson	Head	64	Farmer of 75 acres	Campsie
Ann Simpson	Wife	46	Farmer's wife	Campsie
William Simpson	Son	14	Farmer's son	Campsie
Ann Simpson	Daughter	14	Farmer's daughter	Campsie
Marion Simpson	Daughter	12	Farmer's daughter	Campsie
James Simpson	Son	6	Farmer's son	Campsie
Janet Simpson	Daughter	2		Campsie
John Hetherington	Servant	36	Farm labourer	Campsie
Janet Grant	Servant	22	Farm servant	Shettleston
John Witherspoon	Servant	14	Errand boy	Lanarkshire Hamilton

There is an increase in the number of "workers", collectively, by breeding your own, as well as hiring labour. Use of child labour was seen as not only acceptable but essential, at that time.

It is also noted that the census starts to show the size of the farm, from 1851 and beyond, but no real clue as to form, or mix, of types of agriculture in each.

The next phase of development, and improvement, can be more seen more clearly, with the merging of Hole and Capieston Farms.

A letter from the Factor gives the fine detail of the tenancy Agreement.

Recd. from,
1857
William Cunningham, Tenant under a Minute of Lease date 11th 7 15th Novem^r 1853
the Conditions thereof are as follows, Part I. The Subjects let are the Farms of Hole and Capieston lately
possessed by Robert Macquarrie and William Simpson, excepting the Buildings or Buildings on Capieston
and the Garden adjacent thereto which are reserved - being at H. 1853 as to Lands to be ploughed and
W. 1854 as to houses & the other lands. - Duration fifteen years & lease. II. Proprietor reserves
Minerals and right to work them, also right to peat, plant trees, & other coats & The Proprietor to allow a deduction
for ground taken off & also for mineral damages as may be ascertained by Arbitrator. The dwelling house called
Michele Cottage & its garden on the lands of Capieston do not form part of the subjects hereby let. - Assignees and
Subtenants are excluded and Rent reserved on West side of Capieston, multiples - III. Rent £200 for first seven
years & £220 for the remaining years of lease, payable at West & Whist, Commencing at West 1854 - six days
work of a man & horse least each year after the first three years. IV. Buildings to be insured against fire to such
extent as Proprietor judges reasonable from time to time. V. Tenant dispenses with a dwelling house, but Proprietor
to provide houses for two married farm servants - one at Hole & to consist of one or if need be two apartments, the
other during first five years of lease to be at Capieston, thereafter in Proprietor's option at either place, or any other place
not more distant from Hole than Capieston is, & to consist of one, or need be two apartments - also one separate apart-
ment at Hole for female servants. In addition to these there shall be at Hole the usual offices suitable for the lands
viz. Cartillery, Milkhouse, Panshouse, byre for not fewer than 20 nor more than 25 milch cows & 10 young beasts, stabling
for 5 horses, Barn, Granary, Potable house & cart shed for 6 carts - the dwelling houses & other immediately need a com-
modation to be ready by Whist & the Barn ready for use by 1st Nov^r next. - VI. Fences to be taken by tenant as the are;
or maybe at his duty & leave them as they may be at expiry of lease. VII. Tenant to thorough drain at his own ex-
pense at least 100 acres (scot's measure) within first six years in a substantial & efficient manner to the satisfaction of
the Proprietor or his factor & in case of misunderstanding or difference to be referred to one of the Town Council's Superintend-
ents of Drainage in the West of Scotland. VIII. Dring at Hole steaming to be valued by written & taken by tenant as valued
price to be paid at or before Whist, also grass seeds sown with the best crop according to the price they cost Proprietor.
IX. Management to be according to the most approved manner of modern husbandry; it being the under-
standing & agreement that the tenant is to improve the lands & to put & keep them in good order, & condition
That to overcrop or run them out, in particular, no part of the lands is in ordinary circumstances to be
made to carry two white crops in immediate succession and on no account more than two
under any circumstances. When two white crops are taken in succession the field is to be
cropped the next year after the second white crop with Potatoes or Turneps, or Summer fallow.
And in either case it is to be properly cleaned & manured at the rate of at least 30 saus of
good
3

good, farm yard, manure for each acre before being again cropped and it is to be sown down with the crop immediately following the green crop or pasture, as we used to be accustomed to three years & thereafter - When a field has been broken out of use, it is to be rest - & the condition of pasturage or use at the end of the fifth year at furthest and to remain in pasture at least two years. In the last year of this lease there shall be at least one sixth part of the lands in pasture of two years old, 1/3rd in the third year after the corn crop, with which the grass seed is to be sown. One sixth in pasture of one year old, one sixth in hay, one 6th in Green Crop or Summer-fallow, thoroughly cleared & manured at the rate of at least 30 tons per acre of good Cow, Horse & Pig Dung; one 6th in Oats, Barley or Wheat sown down with good Eye grass & Clover seeds in sufficient quantity for hay of the following year; & the remainder in Corn Crop of any kind & so Straw or Dung to be sold off the farm. Proprietor conduits to one third of straw (wheat) provided an equal part quantity of good dung, is brought from other places & applied to the lands - Proprietor to furnish or pay for the grass seeds sown with the sward, & the tenant to harrow them in properly & preserve the young grasses in white, not allowing herself to pasture them. Drove or Stacks remaining on the farm at tenants removal to be taken & paid for by landlord or reckoning to be paid by arbiters time laid in during the last year to be paid for - Course of management above prescribed not to be deviated from without Consent in writing - Sheep not to be kept on the lands unless tenants puts up a substantial & sufficient fence to protect the hedges - X. Old road to Clachan shut up, except by Mill-hill Cottage. Tenant personally to pass a foot from Hole to Clachan. XI. Tenant to preserve Game, & give notice of trespassers - XII. Tenant bound to appear at Parson Carts - XIII. All disputes or questions arising between the parties to be settled by arbiters with power to name an Overseeman. Reserving Proprietors right of hypotism. XIV. Tenant to remove without warning or pay £200 additional each year he remains with prejudice to the landlord's right of removing - XV. Conditions of lease to be fulfilled under a penalty of £200 - Lastly Parties agree to enter into a regular book upon stamped paper - Testing Clause, -

Copy Letter

Lennox Castle 11 November 1853

Dear Sir, In respect of the clause in your Lease of the farm of Hole & Capieston, signed by you this day, regarding Insurance against fire, it is understood that in conformity with the practice on the estate you are not to be charged the premiums & duty annually payable. These are paid by the proprietor, and in the event of fire & claims against the Insurance Co. he may avail himself of the tenants rights as well as his own for constituting his claim - I am Dear Sir
Yours Truly
W. William Cunningham
Clachan, Campsie
Alec Lullaway

William Cunningham took over the tenancies of Hole and Capieston on 15 November 1853, Totalling 135 acres, with a term of 15 years. He took up residence at Lennox Cottage, along with his Daughter Elizabeth Smellie (Widow) as Housekeeper, his Granddaughters Jessie Smellie and Annie Smellie ("The Green Lady" of Campsie High Kirk legend) and Domestic Servant, Jeanie Kerr.

William, living in the Clachan, was a proprietor of a Bleaching company, employing "19 males and 32 females", prior to taking tenancy of Hole Farm and Capieston and moving to Lennox House, as a farmer.

The first census he appeared, as a farmer, was in 1861.

Census records show William employed 2 ploughmen, 3 labourers and 2 dairymaids.

The initial Factor's letter acknowledges the need to have additional accommodation for the labour force, especially married staff and families, with two accommodations. This initially included Capieston, but agreed alternatives would be within a similar distance, under changing conditions.

With the combined lands, this tenancy would give more opportunities for improved profit, through the increased land area and application of his labour force.

1861 census Lennox Cottage

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
William Cunningham	Head	67	Farmer of 135 acres employing 2 ploughmen, 3 labourers and 2 dairymaids	Lanarkshire
Elizabeth Smillie	Daughter (widow)	39	Housekeeper	Stirlingshire
Annie Smillie	Granddaughter	16	Scholar	Renfrewshire
Jeannie Kerr	Servant	19	Domestic Servant	Stirlingshire

1861 census Hole Farm had three separate households

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Janet Thompson	Servant (widow)	44	Dairymaid	Stirlingshire
Margaret Thompson	Daughter	21	Domestic Servant	Stirlingshire
Janet Thompson	Daughter	12	Scholar	Dunbartonshire
David Thompson	Son	8	Scholar	Dunbartonshire

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
George McDonald	Head	34	Ploughman	Lanarkshire
Jane McDonald	Wife	27	Wife	Ayrshire
Mary McDonald	Daughter	6	Scholar	England
Angus McDonald	Son	4		Stirlingshire
Janet McDonald	Daughter	1		Stirlingshire

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
William Gilfillan	Head	42	Ploughman	Stirlingshire
Mary Gilfillan	Wife	29	Ploughman's wife	Stirlingshire
John Gilfillan	Son	5		Stirlingshire
William Gilfillan	Son	1		Stirlingshire

1861 census Capieston Farm

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
William Stewart	Head	58	Agricultural Servant	Renfrewshire
Margaret Stewart	Wife	40	Wife	Lanarkshire
Ann Stewart	Daughter	6	Scholar	Stirlingshire
Margaret Stewart	Daughter	4		Stirlingshire
Separate household but still on farm				
Janet S Miller	Head (Widow)	61	Serving	Lanarkshire

Apart from accommodating the personnel, the Factor's letter also includes scullery, milk house, boiling house, byre for not fewer than 20 nor more than 24 milk Cows & 10 young beasts, stabling for 5 horses, barn, granary, potato house & cart shed for 6 carts.

There are very focussed conditions to ensure the improvement of the farm for better ongoing efficiency and effectiveness.

Many conditions of tenancy are around the use and maintenance of the land, such as rotation of crops, use of fertiliser, including dung, and drainage.

They had to meet standards of care for the animals

The Landowners also maintained mineral rights on the land.

With words to give exit targets for the agreement, the main use of land is described as follows:

"On in pasture of one year old in the last year of lease, at least 1/6th in pasture of two years old

In the third year after the corn crop, with which the grass seed next sown, 1/6th in pasture of one year old, 1/6th in Hay, 1/6th in green crop or summer fallow, thoroughly cleaned and manured at the rate of at least 30 tons per acre of good cow, horse & pig dung, 1/6th in oats, barley or wheat sown down with rye grass & clover seeds in suffice quantity for hay for the following year."

There are many other details shown on the Factor's letter, which is hard to read. These are a selection of further points.

Within 6 years of the tenancy commencing, 100 acres of fencing also had to be maintained, as an operational cost. Other costs included animal feed, fertiliser and payment to and looking after the employees.

A special note is made about the Old Road from Lennoxton to Clachan, to ensure it is closed to the public. The tenant (and staff) had the rights to use it on foot, but history shows the public had different ideas, leaving the farm tenants at risk of sanction from the Landowner. The tenants had to repair any damage caused by locals forcing their ways through the Old Road that ran from Cumroch Road through to Clachan.

Apart from theft, damage and disturbance to farming, there is also disturbance to the Landowners' rights in game-shooting, which continues today.

Preservation of game on the lands was a condition of tenancy.

The path of the Old Road is still in use as a well-trodden footpath, for all, between Lennoxton and Clachan

The tenant had to agree to attend the Barony Court.

So, we can see that a main use as a dairy farm, possibility of raising other animals, with additional use in supply from crops of corn, barley, oats and hay, interleaving the land use with essential field rotation.

For this, the tenant, was charged £200 rent per year.

William Cunningham unfortunately died in 1866. His daughter, Elizabeth, and granddaughters, Jessie and Annie, stayed in residence at Lennox Cottage.

The Hole Farm and Capieston tenancy passed to James Weir, now with an annual rent of £315, reflecting changing conditions nationally and improvements made. This included the living space, across the properties, for James, his wife Elizabeth and children, plus increased staff and their families.

The residents are shown in the Census below

The 1871 census shows some interesting changes of staff.

The introduction of the gamekeeper, David Milne, apart from looking after the “Game” as part of the tenancy requirements, will be used for other duties.

As it involves roaming across the lands, he can ward off unwanted visitors, such as those intent on using the Old Road, including damage to fences/walls, theft of crops and equipment, plus poaching. He would also be involved in dealing with vermin: e.g. rats/mice attacking stores of produce or foxes, attacking young animals and poultry. Although not stated, there is a high probability of keeping chickens or geese to supplement the human food intake. Pigeons, especially in flocks, eat the grain, produced as crops for sale or animal feed.

There will be advantages of having a relation who is a mill wright living (boarding?) on the premises.

Apart from an income, off-setting other costs (such as milling), knowledge of grain markets would be useful.

Servant Mary Allison, a nurse at the age of 12, may be looking after children on the farms, especially baby Andrew Reid.

The introduction of Robert Ralston as milkman, being able to assist in the milking and daily delivery of the milk in churns, is also of interest. These are days before refrigeration and, hence, selling of bottled milk in shops.

1871 census Capieston – two separate households

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
David Milne	Head	26	Gamekeeper	Forfarshire Brechin
Christina Milne	Wife	29		Campsie
Catherine Louisa Milne	Daughter	5 months		Campsie

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
George McDonald	Head	42	Ploughman	Lanarkshire Glasgow
Jane McDonald	Wife	37		Ayrshire
Mary McDonald	Daughter	16	Laundress	England
Angus McDonald	Son	14	Printfield Worker	Strathblane
Janet McDonald	Daughter	11	Scholar	Strathblane
James McDonald	Son	6	Scholar	Campsie

1871 census Hole Farm

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
James Weir	Head	37	Farmer of 164 acres	Lanarkshire
Elizabeth Weir	Wife	24	Wife	Stirlingshire
Andrew Weir	Son	4 months		Campsie
James Hamilton	Relation	24	Mill Wright	Lanarkshire
Hannah Currie	Servant	20	General Servant	Lanarkshire
Marion McNeil	Servant	40	General Servant	Argyllshire
Mary Allison	Servant	12	Nurse	Strathblane
Hugh Stewart	Servant	18	Farm Servant	Blantyre
Robert Ralston	Servant	16	Milkman	Lanarkshire

As we move on by 10 years, there have been changes in the personnel in most of the defined roles.

It is interesting when a male worker's wife is shown with an association to their husband's profession, e.g. Mary McInnis, as "Ploughman's Wife". This implies she assists husband John in his roles.

James and Elizabeth Weir's family has also grown in number.

1881 census Capieston

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
George Howe	Head	21	Gamekeeper	Dunbartonshire
John McInnis	Head	24	Ploughman	Stirlingshire
Mary McInnis	Wife	26	Ploughman's Wife	Stirlingshire
Jessie McInnis	Daughter	10	Scholar	Stirlingshire
Mary McInnis	Daughter	5	Scholar	Stirlingshire
Margaret McInnis	Daughter	4		Stirlingshire
John McInnis	Son	2		Stirlingshire
Marion McInnis	Daughter	1		Stirlingshire

1881 census Hole Farm

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
James Weir	Head	46	Farmer of 164 acres	Lanarkshire
Elizabeth Weir	Wife	34	Wife	Stirlingshire
Andrew Weir	Son	10	Scholar	Campsie
John Weir	Son	7	Scholar	Campsie
James Weir	Son	4		Campsie
David Weir	Son	2 months		Campsie
Jeanie Weir	Son	6	Scholar	Campsie
Janet Weir	Daughter	2		Campsie
James Donnachie	Servant	26	Farm Servant	Dunbartonshire
Robert Conbrough	Servant	20	Farm Servant	Stirlingshire
Agnes Scott	Servant	24	Dairymaid	Lanarkshire
Rachel Buchanan	Servant	23	Farm Servant	Stirlingshire

As you may expect, James had a pride in his work and especially in his horses.

Below, we see his "Sire", Crown Prince being short-listed for award, from what is described as an evenly matched group of horses.

STALLION SHOW AT GLASGOW.

There were no fewer than twenty deputations present yesterday, with the view of selecting horses to travel in their respective districts. The aged stallions brought forward were not only more numerous, but made, as a whole, a better show than last year, and it was with difficulty ten animals could be picked out to compose the short leet in this class. These were "Paragon," sire Columbus, belonging to Wm. Wyllie, Fenwick, Ayrshire; "Ivanhoe," sire Lorn, P. Crawford, Dumgoyack, Strathblane; "Young Clyde," sire Young Campsie, Andrew Clark, Manswraes, Bidge-of-Weir; "Prince of Altyre," "Paisley," "Lucks All," and "Darnley," all four belonging to David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley; "Napoleon," sire Crown Prince, James Weir, Hole Farm, Lennoxton; "Admiral," sire Premier, James Nelson, Highsethead, Holytown; "Sir Colin," sire Farmer, Peter Ferguson, Queen Street, Renfrew. The prize-takers in the above leet were—1st (the Society's premium of £100 and silver medal), "Darnley;" 2nd (the Society's premium of £100), "Ivanhoe."

For breeding purposes "Scotland's Glory," belonging to John M'Donald, Porterfield, Renfrew, was selected for the Lauderdale Agricultural Association, premium £60; "Sir James," belonging to David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley, for the Haddington Association, premium £100; "Bothwell," belonging to David Riddell, Paisley, for the Forfar Association, premium £100; "Paisley," belonging to David Riddell, for the Earl of Selkirk's tenantry, premium £100; "Luck's All," belonging to David Riddell, Dumfries Association, premium £100.

Among the three year-old stallions "The Bonnie Breast Knot," and "Stanley," both belonging to D. Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley, were selected, the former for the Upper Strathearn Association at a premium of £150, and the latter for the Lockerbie district at a premium of £100.

James' involvement with Horses, is shown below, being elected as a member of Clydesdale Horse Society, in Glasgow, 1884.

CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY.

THE monthly council meeting of this society was held in Glasgow on Wednesday—Mr. T. D. Findlay of Easterhill in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the society, viz.:—Life Members—John Campbell, Esq. of Kilberry, Argyll; Walter J. Harkness, Mitchell's Slacks, Thornhill, Dumfries. Annual Members—L. C. Chrisp, Hawkhill, Alnwick, Northumberland; James Weir, Hole Farm, Lennoxton, Stirling; John Ballantyne, Shortlind, Hamilton; Robert Jessiman, Corsie Stone, Huntly, Aberdeen; J. W. Aitken, Perth. The income for the month amounted to £108 9s sterling, and the expenditure to £53 17s 0½d sterling. The cash balance at the society's credit on 29th February, exclusive of £1350 17s 6d invested, was £831 13s 10d, being an increase of £234 13s 7d since 30th November 1883. The Duke of Montrose was elected president of the society for the ensuing year, and Mr. Stirling of Kippendavie vice-president.

The Editing Committee was increased from 7 to 10, and the following gentlemen were appointed to act on that committee for the year:—The President, the Vice-President, *ex officio*; Mr. James Park, Dechmont; Mr. James Picken, Laigh Langside; Mr. Alexander Buchanan, Norwood; T. D. Findlay of Easterhill; Mr. James A. Fernie, Hilton, Alloa; Mr. James Weir, Sandilands; Mr. Robert Craig, Flashwood, Dalry; Lord Arthur Cecil, chairman.

The secretary was granted leave of absence for ten days; and the Council unanimously agreed to advance his salary by a sum of £50 per annum, the advance to date from 1st January last; and instructed the Editing Committee to place on record a statement of their appreciation of the services rendered to the society by Mr. M'Nillage, and of his devotedness to the interests of Clydesdale breeders.

In 1885, William Bauchop and his wife Janet, sister of James Weir, took over the tenancy from James and Elizabeth Weir, who retired to Hertfordshire where this photo was taken



William Bauchop celebrated taking over the tenancy with a “Love Darg”, communal ploughing on Hole Farm as described below.

LENNOXTOWN.

A LOVE DARG.—The farmers of this neighbourhood turned out in considerable force on Friday, 13th inst, to give a day's ploughing by way of friendly recognition of their new neighbour, Mr William Bauchop, who has recently entered on the occupancy of the Hole Farm, in succession to Mr James Weir. The number of ploughs at work on the ground was 42, including a considerable number from Strathblane and Milngavie. The weather was very favourable, and the ground in good condition. The extent of land turned over at the close of the day's darg was about 28 acres.

25/3/1885 Dumbarton Herald and County Advertiser

Census for 1891 shows these details for William Bauchop at Hole Farm

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
William Bauchop	Head	36	Farmer	Dunbartonshire
Janet Bauchop	Wife	45	Farmer's Wife	Lanarkshire
Alexander Young	Servant	21	Farm Servant	Dunbartonshire
Thomas McLaren	Servant	18	Farm Servant	Lanarkshire
Margaret Hamilton	Servant	24	Dairymaid	Stirlingshire
Flora McFee	Servant	18	General Servant	Lanarkshire

Details of occupancy at Capieston cannot be found on the 1891 census.

William Bauchop also made use of his farm for local events, as shown below.

LENNOXTOWN CATTLE SHOW.

THE annual agricultural show of the farmers in this district was held on Tuesday, in a park on the farm of Hole, near Lennoxtown, granted for the occasion by Mr Bauchop. The district, which formerly comprised the parishes of Campsie, Strathblane, and Baldernock, has this year been enlarged, the portion of New Kilpatrick belonging to Stirlingshire being now included. The turnout of stock was quite equal to former years. Awards:—

CATTLE.—Cow in milk, four years old and upwards—1, John M'Kean, Ballewan, Strathblane; 2, William Bauchop, Hole, Campsie; 3, Thomas Ballantyne, Balquharrage, Campsie; 4, John Coubrough, Blairtummock, Campsie. Cow in milk, bred by exhibitor—1 and 3, John M'Kean; 2 and 4, John Coubrough. Cow in milk, three years old—1, John M'Kean; 2, William Horne, Newmill, Campsie; 3, John Coubrough. Cow in calf or milk, two years old—1, Hon. C. S. B. Hanbury Lennox, of Lennox Castle; 2, William Bauchop; 3, John Coubrough. Cow with most milk—1, John Coubrough; Cow not in milk, but apparently in calf—1, John M'Kean; 2 and 3, John Coubrough. Best cow or quey, any age—John M'Kean. Three cows in calf or milk—1, John Coubrough; 2, John M'Kean; 3, Thomas Ballantyne. Bull, three years old and upwards—1, William Horne; 2, Robert Buchanan, Letter, Killearn; 3, James Freeland, Broadgate, Strathblane. Bull, two years old—1, Arch. M'Lachlan, Cuilt, Strathblane; 2, John M'Kean; 3, Thomas Ballantyne; 4, John Coubrough. Bull, one year old—1, Arch. M'Lachlan; 2, William Hannah, Baldernock; 3, John Rennie, Blairskaith, Baldernock; 4, Thomas Ballantyne. Bull, any age (silver cup)—Wm. Horne. Quey, two years old, not in calf, bred by exhibitor—1, John M'Kean; 2, A. R. Duncan, Blairquhosh, Strathblane; 3, Hon. C. S. B. Hanbury Lennox; 4, Robert Jamieson, Ballagan, Strathblane. Quey, one year old, bred by exhibitor—1 and 3, Arch. M'Lachlan; 2 and 4, John M'Kean. Pair of Queys, one year old—1, Arch. M'Lachlan; 2, John Coubrough; 3, James Freeland.

HORSES.—Brood mare, in foal, or foal at foot—1, Arch. M'Lachlan; 2, Robert Stevenson, Birdston, Campsie; 3, John M'Kean. Yeld mare, three years old and upwards—1, R. Reid, Finnescroft, Campsie; 2, Jas. Freeland; 3, R. Gray, Baldorran, Campsie; 4, G. Filshie, Benclotch, Campsie. Gelding—1, Hon. C. Hanbury Lennox; 2, George Hosie, Kinkell, Campsie; 3, Gilbert Filshie. Entire colt, two years old—1 and 2, Peter Crawford, Burnfoot, Strathblane; 3, Wm. Roy, Langshot, Campsie. Gelding or filly, two years old—1, Robert Gray; 2, James Freeland; 3, Peter Crawford. Colt, one year old—1, Peter Crawford; 2, James Strang, Redbog, Baldernock. Filly, one year old—1, James Freeland; 2 and 3, Peter Crawford. Best mare or filly, any age, bred by exhibitor—Robert Reid. Gelding or mare, three years old and upwards, not above 15.1 hands, suitable for a butter-milk cart—1 and 2, William Bauchop; 3, David Morton, Inchbelly, Campsie. Cob, not above 14.2 hands—1, E. M'Allister of Carbeth, Guthrie, Strathblane; 2, John Coubrough, Blanefield, Strathblane. Pony, not above 13.1 hands—1, J. Guthrie Smith, Mugdock Castle, Strathblane; 2, Henry Harris, Woodburn, Campsie. Gelding or mare, most suitable for saddle or harness—1, C. K. Aitken, Napier Lodge, Strathblane; 2, Alex. Macnab of Lilyburn, Campsie. Cob, 15 hands and under, to be driven in harness (open)—1, W. B. Stewart, Glasgow; 2, E. M'Allister.

SHEEP.—Leicester ram—Robert Buchanan, Letter, Killearn. Leicester ewe and lamb—1 and 2, William Buchanan, Crosshouse, Campsie. Blackfaced tup, two-shear and upwards—1, R. Buchanan, Letter; 2, John Coubrough, Blairtummock. Shearling ram—1, R. Buchanan; 2, John Coubrough.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Two pounds fresh butter—1, Wm. Moir, Leddriegreen, Strathblane; 2, James Hunter, Barlock, New Kilpatrick; 3, John Coubrough; 4, John Livingstone, Beanscroft, Baldernock; 5, Arch. Bryce, Bardowie, Baldernock. Two pounds powdered butter—1, William Moir; 2, John Livingstone; 3, John Coubrough; 4, Robert Mitchell, Hillend, Baldernock; 5, Arch. Bryce.

TROTting MATCH, confined to district—1, P. Crawford; 2, J. Parker, Craighead.

With financial problems at Birdston Farm, the tenancy became available and William Bauchop was given the opportunity to move there.

This change can be seen happening, from the article below.

Farms To Let.

STIRLINGSHIRE.

TO LET, for such period as may be arranged, with Entry at Martinmas next to the Lands for tillage, and Whitsunday to the Houses and Pasture,

HOLE and CAPIESTON FARM, near **LENNOXTOWN,** extending to about 168 Imperial Acres, as presently occupied by Mr William Bauchop. The Farm is within 1 mile of Lennox town and 10 miles of Glasgow, and is well adapted for the keep of a Dairy Stock. The Lands are of fine quality, and the Buildings are in good order.

For further particulars, apply to Mr James King, West Lodge, Campsie Glen, who will arrange for showing the Boundaries; or to Messrs Dundas & Wilson, O.S., 16 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, who will receive Offers up to 11th June, 1898.

The present Tenant is leaving the Farm.

31/5/1898 Glasgow Herald

However, Mr & Mrs Bauchop were obviously well thought of in the community, as seen from their attendance at the Lennox Castle Curling Club Dance

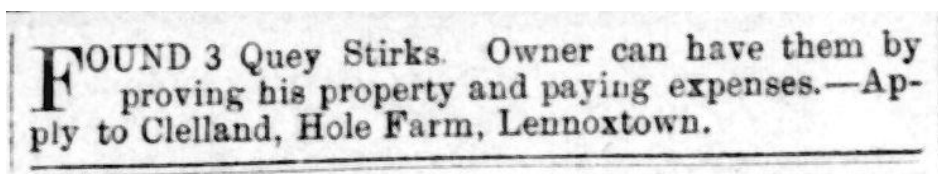
included the following:—
Captain James A. King, Mrs King, and Miss King, Glazert Bank; Mr John B. Ross and Mrs Ross, Baldow; Mr Macindoe, Mr W. Macindoe, and Miss Macindoe, Knowehead; Mr John W. Yuill and Mrs Yuill, Glenmill; Colonel J. W. M'Farlan and Mrs M'Farlan, Finglen; Mr Walter Yuill, Govan; Mr Oliphant A. Brown, Southfield; Mrs Howat, Glasgow; Miss Galbraith; Miss Russell; Dr. Miller, Lennox town; Dr. Gibson and Mrs Gibson, Lennox town; Mr James Macindoe and Misses Macindoe, Luss; Mr Thomas Logan and Mrs Logan, Lennox town; Mr John Coubrough and Mrs Coubrough, Craigend; Mr Thomas Hinshelwood and Mrs Hinshelwood, Glasgow; Mr Peter Buchanan, Lennox town; Mr Service, Glasgow; Mr Thomas Barr, Glasgow; Mr George Horne and Miss Horne, Newmill; Mr William Bauchop and Mrs Bauchop, Hole Farm; Mrs Thomas Hodge and Mrs Hodge, Lennox town; Mr Thos. Downie, Lennox town; Mr J. P. Cathcart, Dumfries; Mr Archibald M'Adam, Blair'o'er, Drymen; Mr James Davidson and Misses Davidson, Lennox town; Mr James Stewart and Miss Stewart, Blairtummoch; Misses Stewart, Lennox town; Miss M'Nicol, Lennox town; Mr Thomas Shanks and Miss Shanks, Balgrochan; Mr Buchanan, Parkhouse, Killearn; Mr Paul, Killearn; Mr Christie, Lennox town; Mr Andrew M'Elfrish and Miss M'Elfrish, Milton; Mr D. M. Alexander and Mrs Alexander, Glasgow; Mr Michael Ferguson and Miss Ferguson, Lennox town; Mr M'Kinlay and Mrs M'Kinlay, Twechar; Miss Bennie, Campsie Glen; Miss Matson, Milton; Mr John Buchanan, Gaidrew, Drymen; Mr Wm. Roy, Langahot; Captain W. Denholm, Lennox town; Mr John H. Balfour, Lennox town; Misses Macarthur, Lennox town; Miss Lyle, Glasgow; Miss Gibson, Lennox town; Mr Buchanan, Calibae, Killearn; Mr Ferguson, Stirling; Mr Allison, Glasgow; Mr Rankin, Kilsyth.

Kirkintilloch herald 23/12/1891

Unfortunately, William Bauchop died at Birdston on the 23rd of June 1916, aged 67, soon after falling into a diabetic coma, at a time before insulin, and its injections, were known.

The new tenant was John Clelland along with his wife, Jessie Barr, and their daughter, Mary.

As mentioned, earlier, damage to fencing would have to be repaired by the tenant, which probably relates to this posting in the article below



12/9/1900 Kirkintilloch Herald

1901 census Hole Farm

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
John Clelland	Head	48	Farmer (agric.)	Lesmahagow
Jessie Clelland	Wife	40		Lesmahagow
Mary Clelland	Daughter	15	Farmer's daughter	Lesmahagow
Mary Mathieson	Servant	19	Dairymaid	Blantyre
Patrick Mines	Servant	24	Ploughman	Ireland
George Hamilton	Servant	23	Ploughman	Ireland

1901 census Hole

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Hugh McCutcheon	Head	24	Gamekeeper	Straiton

Sadly, the Clelland's tenancy was short lived as John died of pleurisy and heart failure, aged 50, on the 13th of January 1903.

His Death Certificate, registered in Campsie, describes him as a farmer (formerly blacksmith). It records that John was married twice. His first wife was Mary Forrest (deceased) and second surviving wife was Jessie Bass.

John's Daughter Mary witnessed the certificate.

Jessie organised a dispenishing sale to clear the farm for the incoming tenant. She then moved to Edinburgh where she married Henry Wales Brown, a draper from her hometown of Lesmahagow in 1907. She died, aged 78, in Lesmahagow in 1939.

DISPLENISHING SALE of FARM STOCK, CROP, and IMPLEMENTS, at HOLE FARM, LENNOXTOWN, on SATURDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, commencing with Small Articles at 11.30 a.m.

LIVE STOCK—2 Clydesdale Mares (one expected in foal), 1 Clydesdale Horse, 1 Foal, 1 Van Horse, 24 Dairy Cows (mostly Winter and Spring Calvers), 4 Two-year-old Heifers, 6 One-year-old Heifers, 4 Calves, 1 Two-year-old Stock Bull.

CROP—24 Stacks Oats (19 secured in splendid condition), 1½ Acres Swede and 4 Acres Yellow Turnips (good crop).

IMPLEMENTS—4 Close Carts (2 with Broad Wheels), Oliver Plough, 5 Double and Single Ploughs, 2 Sets Iron Harrows, 4 Field Grubbers, Plough Trees, Hay Slipes, Horse Rake, Reaping Machine, Land Roller, Turnip Sowing Machine, 2 Meat Coolers, Milk Van, Sack Weighing Machine, Corn Bruiser, Fanners, Ladders, Ropes, Wheelbarrow, Cart and Plough Harness, Hand Implements, Tools, Vertical Boiler, Cart Weighs, &c., &c.

HOLE FARM is close to CAMPSIE GLEN STATION.

J. & J. MARSHALL, Auctioneers.

Carlake, 9th Nov., 1903.

13/11/1903 Kirkintilloch Gazette

The incoming tenant was David Buntain who had previously farmed Cockmuir Farm in Maryhill.

Looking at the 1911 Census, the labour force looks somewhat different to previous tenancies, less in number and necessary experience. In the Ferrie family we see children moving away from working on the land and seeking different types of employment.

One can see an example of education affecting farming families. Once, the expectations of a household were for the next generation to become involved in the family farm. With the changes in society, this was not always the case. David's daughter not only completed her basic schooling but went on to attend Lenzie Academy where she won a prize in 1903.

Jenny Brown, 42 Royal Terrace, Kirkintilloch; Jessie Buntain, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown; Helen Devine, Helen Keith, Station Buildings, Lenzie; Grace Knox, Jeanie M'Arthur, Woodilee Cottage, Lenzie; Agnes Morrison, West Springfield, Bishopbriggs; Jessie Munro, Woodilee Cottages, Agnes Stark, Madge Alexander, Gowancroft, Kirkintilloch; Isobel Anderson, Johnstone Cottage, Kirkintilloch; Janet Campbell, 37 Canal Street, Kirkintilloch; Winnifred Dow, Lizzie Stark, Behmount, Kirkintilloch.

Lenzie Academy Prizegiving

6/7/1906 Kirkintilloch Gazette

In the 1911 census we find the Ferrie family living at Capieston along with the gamekeeper John Whitelaw, while David and his family lived at Hole Farm.

1911 census Capieston

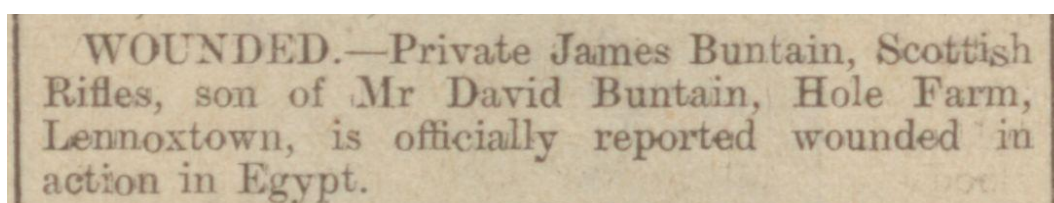
Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
James Ferrie	Head	56	Ploughman	Stirlingshire
Margaret Ferrie	Wife	50		Stirlingshire
George Ferrie	Son	20	Coal Miner	Stirlingshire
Mary Ferrie	Daughter	18	Printfield Worker	Stirlingshire
Margaret Ferrie	Daughter	14	Scholar	Stirlingshire
Annie Ferrie	Wife	12	Scholar	Stirlingshire
Isabella Ferrie	Daughter	11	Scholar	Stirlingshire
Joseph Ferrie	Son	10	Scholar	Stirlingshire

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
John Whitelaw	Head	24	Gamekeeper	Perthshire

1911 census Hole Farm

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
David Buntain	Head	48	Farmer	Renfrewshire
Eliza Buntain	Wife	43		Renfrewshire
Jessie Buntain	Daughter	19	Assisting in Dairy	Renfrewshire
John Buntain	Son	17	Working on Farm	Renfrewshire
James K Buntain	Son	14	Servant	Springburn Glasgow
Mary Barr	Servant	20	Servant	Lanarkshire
Annie McFarlane	Servant	17	Servant	Stirlingshire

As the 20th Century evolved, World Events, including the First World War, impinged on the Buntain family.



5/5/1917 Stirling Observer

By the 1921 census there have been changes within the family are evident.

David's wife Eliza had died, aged 53, in early 1917.

Having returned from WW1, recovering from his wound, David's son James has moved into banking, with the Clydesdale Bank, but lives in the family home, on Hole Farm.

His sister has married Alex Cook Rae, who is a Bank Teller with the Bank of Scotland, and their son David Buntain Rae, also live at Hole Farm.

Plenty of financial advice will be available to David Senior.

The families at Hole Farm have the support of two servants who one might expect to carry out domestic duties.

Meanwhile, the Capieston dwellings are described as “Cottage”, with Gamekeeper Robert Paterson, for the Landowners’ family, under Mr. Kincaid Lennox of Lennox Castle, and “Bothy” housing John McNeish, Ploughman for Hole Farm, his wife Mary and daughter Annie.

The role of Ploughman would be simpler than previous extensive “cropping” requirements, but grass cutting, weeding and, essentially maintenance of “Land Drainage” systems would be required. One would expect the areas of Field Boundaries would fall to him, as well.

The ever-present problem with other animals, and people “straying” onto Hole Farm may be part of his remit.

1921 census Hole Farm

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
David Buntain	Head	48	Farmer	Renfrewshire
James K Buntain	Son	24	Bank Clerk	Lanarkshire
Alex Cook Rae	Son-in-Law	31	Bank Teller	Stirlingshire
Jessie Rae	Daughter	30		Renfrewshire
David Buntain Rae	Grandson	1		Forfar, Montrose
Martha Thomas	Servant	45	Servant	Stirlingshire
Isabelle Brown	Servant	19	Servant	Lanarkshire

1921 census Capieston Cottage

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Robert Paterson	Head	50	Gamekeeper *	Dunotter

* For Mr Kincaid Lennox, Lennox Castle

1921 census Capieston Bothy

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
John McNeish	Head	31	Ploughman (Hole)	Renfrewshire
Mary McNeish	Wife	26		Lanarkshire
Annie McNeish	Daughter	6	Scholar	Lanarkshire

Beyond the Census of 1921, the other documents we have for David Buntain’s tenancy are Valuation Rolls up to 1925.

We see some change in his annual rent. The only other relevant information is the name of the ploughman resident at Capiestan.

The last one named is James Park (relative of our present CLHG member Alan) in 1925.

David Buntain passed away on 5th December 1934, at Haughead Cottage.

He is buried at the Campsie High Kirk Cemetery, in the family Grave.



FUNERAL OF LOCAL FARMER. — The funeral of Mr. David Buntain, retired farmer, who died at his residence, Haughhead, Campsie Glen, took place to Lennoxton Churchyard on Friday last. Mr. Buntain was well-known in the district, as previous to his retirement he was tenant of the Hole Farm, Lennoxton, for many years. He is survived by a son and daughter, his wife having pre-deceased him some years ago. In Trinity Church on Sunday, the Rev. D. M'Farlan referred to Mr. Buntain's long connection with the church, and expressed the congregation's sympathy with his relatives. (We regret the above item went astray in transit last week.)

19/12/1934 Kirkintilloch Herald

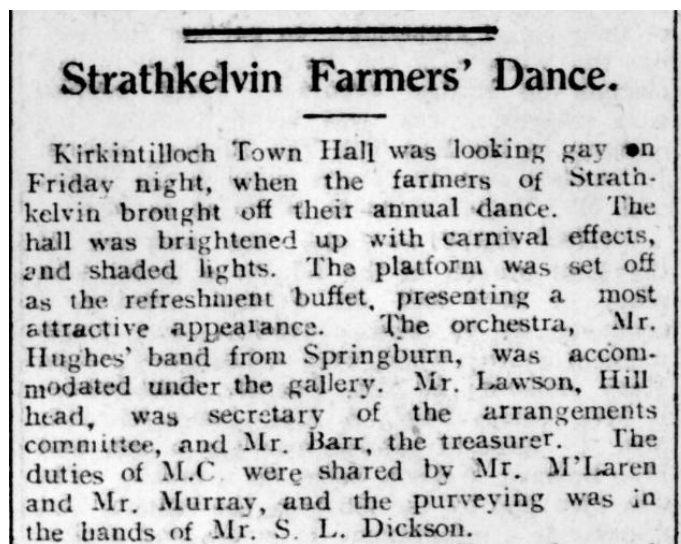
David Buntain was the last tenant farmer to farm Hole and Capieston as the Lennox family sold off much of their holdings in the area.

The 1930 Valuation Roll shows Robert Wilson as the proprietor and occupier of Hole and Capieston Farm. He also owns Hole and Capieston House where John Stewart is the occupier. As part of the purchase, Robert also became the owner of the shootings at Hole and Capieston. The previous owner, one William George Peareth Lennox, now holds tenancy to the shootings he once owned.

In the 1921 census we find Robert and his family farming at Kirkland House Farm in Avondale, Lanarkshire.

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Robert Wilson	Head	47	Dairy Farmer	Mauchline
Marion Wilson	Wife	46	Home Duties	Sorn
John Wilson	Son	23	Carter	Strathaven
Robert Wilson	Son	21	Carter	Strathaven
Jessie Wilson	Daughter	21	Milliner	Buckie
George Wilson	Son	18	Ploughman	Strathaven
Agnes Wilson	Daughter	15	Home Duties	Strathaven
William Wilson	Son	9	Scholar	Strathaven
Johnston Wilson	Son	6	Scholar	Strathaven
Andrew Wilson	Son	7 months		Avondale
Dorothy Smart	Visitor	22	Milliner	Manchester

Robert became involved in local society and was reported as attending the Strathkelvin Farmers' Dance held in Kirkintilloch Town Hall in November 1928. He Attended with Miss Wilson, his eldest daughter. It was a busy night as over 60 couples attended.



The company numbered over 60 couples, and included the following: — Messrs. and Miss Barr, Bankell, Milngavie; Messrs. and Misses Bell, Longmuirhead, Lenzie; Messrs. and Misses Bowie, Balmuidy, Maryhill; Messrs. Bryce, Govanlea, Knightswood; A. Barr, Hill Farm, Chryston; Mr. and Miss Bennie, Caurnie Dairy, Kirkintilloch; Mr. Brown, Blairskaith, Messrs. Paterson, Barbeth; Mr. Clarkson, Bardowie; Mr. Jas. Devine, Auchinloch; Miss Hillis; Mr. and Miss Dickson, Rose Street; Mr. and Miss Dingwall, Glea-orchard Lodge, Balmore; Mr. and Miss Dickson, Regent Street; Mr. France, Woodilee Cottages; Mr. and Miss Findlay, Brackenbrae, Bishopbriggs; Mr. Flears; Mr. Ferns, Milton; Messrs. and Miss Gray, Springfield, Bishopbriggs; Miss Gilchrist, Rushyhill, Bishopbriggs; Mr. and Miss Graham, Tambowie, Milngavie; Miss Gray, Duncairn, Milngavie; Mr. P. Graham, Heatherknowe, Lennoxton; Miss M'Phail, Frenchmill, Milton; Mr. and Miss Tuten, Townhead; Mr. and Miss Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton; Mr. J. Blackwood, Bankhead, Coatbridge; Mr. and Misses Johnstone, Park Villa, Torrance; Miss Grant, Cardowan, Stepps; Mr. Mitchell, Main Street, Kilsyth; Mr. J. C. M'Intyre, Knightswood Store, Anniesland; Mr. and Miss M'Laren, Gadloch, Lenzie; Mr. and Misses Martin, Eastermains, Kirkintilloch; Miss Mackie, Belmont Terrace; Miss

M'Callum, Eastside; Miss M'Lean, Myvat, Condorrat; Mr. and Miss Miller, Woodhead Avenue; Mr. and Miss Matson, National Bank House, Kilsyth; Misses Nicol, Colston Cottages, Bishopbriggs; Mr. and Misses Pitcairn, Birdstonbank, Kirkintilloch; Mr. and Misses Hosie, Bedcow; Mr. Hopkins, Meadowbank, Torrance; Miss Hosie, Blarnavaid, Drymen; Miss Inglis, Torrance, Mr. & Miss Jackson, Craigendmuir, Stepps; Mr. & Miss Jamieson, Balornock; Mr. and Miss Knox, Hilton, Bishopbriggs; Messrs. and Misses Kennedy, Green's Farm, Kirkintilloch; Mr. Lang; Mr. and Miss Murray, Park Farm, Lenzie; Mr. and Miss M'Gowan, Hornshill, Stepps; Miss Mackie, Smithston, Croy; Misses Muir, Netherinch, Milton; Mr. Ralston, Back o' Hill, Torrance; Mr. Riddell; Mr. Robertson, Health Avenue, Lenzie; Mr. and Miss Scott, Broomknowes, Lenzie; Mr. and Misses Stewart, Meadowbank, Kirkintilloch; Mr. P. Stirling, Barleybank; Miss Stewart, Balornock, Springburn; Mr. and Miss Scott, Meadowfield, Longriggend; Misses Semple, Ballagan, Strathblane; Mr. and Miss Shanks, Gartloch Farm, Coatbridge; Mr. A. Strathdee, Kirkintilloch; Mr. Shovelin; Mr. Steel, Aitkenhead, Bargeddie; Mr. Steel, Cardowan, Stepps; Mr. Walker, Coathill, Cumbernauld; Mr. and Miss Wilson, Auchinstarry; Mr. Wilson, Valleybank, Lenzie; Mr. and Miss Whyte, Oxcang, Kirkintilloch.

Mr & Mrs Wilson, with others collected for a wedding present for Violet Kincaid Lennox and her husband Lieutenant-Commander JS Bethell, RN

BETHELL-LENNOX WEDDING.

LIST OF PRESENTS.

The following is a list of the presents to Miss Violet Kincaid Lennox and Lieut.-Commander J. S. Bethell, R.N., whose wedding took place at Campsie:—

List of subscribers to silver canteen of cutlery presented to Miss Violet Monica Peareth Kincaid Lennox on the occasion of her marriage:—

Mr and Mrs J. Simpson, Arkyll, Lennoxtown.
Mr and Mrs Wilson, Hole Farm Lennoxtown.
Mr and Mrs G. Wood, Main Street Lennoxtown.
Mr and Mrs J. H. Wylie, Capieston, Lennox-

19/4/1929 Kirkintilloch Gazette

In 1931, George Wilson of Hole Farm was named as one of the main winners at the Campsie Show, where he won first prize with his Friesian cow.

CAMPSIE, STRATHBLANE AND BALDERNOCK CATTLE SHOW THE PRIZE-WINNERS.

The annual show of the Campsie, Strathblane, and Baldernock Agricultural Society was held in excellent weather at Balcarroch Farm, Campsie Glen, on Saturday. The show was a great success. There was a large attendance, with a record entry, 70 over the previous show, which gives great credit to the new committee and the newly-appointed secretary, Mr A. C. Rae, Westfield, Lennoxton, who all worked very hard. Prize-winners:—

CATTLE.

There was an excellent show of Ayrshire cattle, and the championship was secured by Mr J. Mitchell, Newton, Milngavie, with the famous Strawberry II., the Strathaven champion. The reserve went to Mr A. A. Morton, Benclloch, Lennoxton, with Benclloch Beauty, shown for the first time. The "bred" championship was won by Mr R. Richmond, West Milliken, with Beauty, a home-bred two-year-old cow in milk. The reserve was Mr A. Laurie, Kessington, with Kessington Pauline.

Aged cow in milk—1, J. Newton; 2, Thomas Hodge, Muckcroft, Lennoxton; 3, George Haddow, Carlston, Torrance.

Cow in calf or in milk bred by exhibitor—1, R. Richmond; 2, S. Brown, Barrhill, Lennoxton.

Aged cows in calf or milk—1, R. Richmond; 2, G. Haddow; 3, T. Hodge.

Cow in calf—1, A. Laurie's champion; 2, A. C. Edmonstone, Duntreath Castle; 3, R. Richmond.

Back-calvers—1, A. A. Morton; 2, A. Laurie; 3, A. A. Morton.

Aged bulls—1, A. C. Edmonstone; 2, A. Laurie; 3, James Hosie, Kinkell.

Yearling bulls—1, James Hosie.

Two-year-old queys—1, A. Laurie; 2, S. Brown; 3, John Gray, East Baldoran, Milton.

Yearling queys—1, A. C. Edmonstone; 2, R. Richmond; 3, J. Gray.

Pairs—1, John Gray; 2, S. Brown.

Friesian cow in calf or milk—1, George Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton; 2, A. Laurie.

Commercial cow, any breed—1, A. Laurie; 2 and 3, A. C. Edmonstone.

Calves—1, A. Russell, Summerston; 2, R. Richmond; 3, A. Wilson.

Pair grazing cattle—1, 2, and 3, J. Adam, Knowehead, Campsie Glen.

Under new ownership, there are developments occurring at Hole Farm in 1931 when improvements to workers cottages are approved.

PLANS.

Plans passed included those for additional bedroom and bathroom at Crossknowes, Torrance, for Mrs Cullen; improvements on workers' houses at Hole Farm, Lennoxton, for Mr R. Wilson; alterations to Kirk o' Muir House, Carronbridge, belonging to Mr John Bennie; alterations and additions to house at Wheatlands Home Farm, Bonnybridge, for Mr George A. Ure; bungalow at West Balgrochan, Torrance, for Mr Walter Stewart.

25/6/1931 Kirkintilloch Gazette

We see trading in cattle, for improvement of the herds, going on at various markets.

DISPERSAL SALE OF WESTER FREW MILK COWS. SOLD AT LIVE STOCK MARTS ON THURSDAY.

TWENTY-THREE ANIMALS AVERAGE £25 3s.

An important sale of dairy stock was carried out at Stirling on Thursday, by the Live Stock Marts, Ltd., who disposed of twenty-three milk cows, belonging to Mr Robert Armstrong, Wester Frew, Kippen, on the occasion of his retiral.

Mr Armstrong, who has been in the dairying business for the past thirty years, had built up one of the foremost stocks in the district, and was a frequent prize-winner at local shows. It is now five years since he took over Wester Frew, prior to which he was for nineteen years in Newmills, Cambus. His was a well-known stock, and it was therefore no surprise to find the ring at the Central Auction Mart crowded to its utmost capacity. Mr James M'Dermont, who occupied the rostrum, completed his task with the utmost expedition and experienced quite a satisfactory trade. At the close, he commented on the fact that the attend-

ance was the largest he had seen in the ring, and thanked them, on behalf of Mr Armstrong, and the Live Stock Marts, Ltd., for their presence.

The top price was £37 10s, given by Mr Mitchell, Dasherhead, for a fine big cross cow, another, at £1 less, going to Mr Carswell, Dykes, who purchased four in all.

The one Ayrshire in the herd, a May calver, fully pedigreed, went to Mr John Fleming, Farnell, Brechin, and so returned to her former home.

Mr Armstrong's well-known blue champion cow was not shown in the best of bloom, which accounted for the low price of £20 10s, paid by Mr A. Wilson, Woodend, Buchlyvie.

The herd of twenty-three animals brought £578 10s, an average of £25 3s.

The details of the sale were as follow: £37 10s, to Mr Mitchell, Dasherhead; £36 10s, to Mr Carswell, Dykes; £23 15s., to Mr Carswell; £21, to Mr A. Wilson, Woodend, Buchlyvie; £20 10s, to Mr A. Wilson; £20, to Mr R. M. Ballantyne, Raploch Farm; £19, to Mr B. More, Fordhead; £16 10s, to Mr John More, Bield; £20, to Mr D. Mitchell, The Ross; £30, to Mr Carswell; £21, to Mr Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton; £20, to Mr Duncan Robertson, Cambusbarron; £24 15s, to Mr John Fleming, Farnell Mains, Brechin; £20 10s, to Mr A. Wilson; £26 10s, to Messrs Jones, Dunmore Park; £25, to Mr Cunningham, Haugh; £25 10s, to Mr Carswell; £30 10s, to Mr Chalmers, Kirkcaldy; £31, to Mr Graham, Culbeg; £27 10s, to Mr Scott, Touchill; £20, to Mr A. Wilson; £27, to Mr John Thomson, Broich; and £34 10s, to Mr Chalmers, Kirkcaldy.

5/12/1931 Bridge of Allan Gazette

In 1932 George won 3rd place for his back calving cow at the Campsie Show.

AYRSHIRE CATTLE.

Cows in Milk, 3 years old and upwards.—1, Allan A. Morton, Bencloch; 2 and 3, Arthur Lawrie, Kessington, Bearsden.

Cows in Calf or Milk, bred by Exhibitor.—Robt. Richmond, Millichen, Summerston, Maryhill.

Two-Year-Old Heifer, in Calf or Milk.—1, Jas. Pirie & Sons, Laighpark, Milngavie; 2, A. C. Edmonstone, Duntreath; 3, John Imrie, High Blochairn, Baldernock.

Heifer to Calf after 1st September.—1, Jas. Pirie & Sons; 2, M. Barbour, Blairskaith, Bardowie; 3, R. Gray, East Baldoran, Milton.

Cows to Calf after 1st September.—1, A. Richmond; 2, A. Lawrie; 3, A. E. Edmonstone.

Back-Calving Cows.—1, M. Barbour; 2, A. Morton; 3, Geo. Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown.

Two-Year-Old Bulls, upwards.—1, A. Lawrie; 2, Jas. Pirie & Sons; 3, Findlay Murdoch, Balglass, Lennoxtown.

One-Year-Old Bull.—1, Jas. Hosie, Kinkell, Lennoxtown; 2, A. C. Edmonstone; 3, M. Barbour.

Two-Year-Old Queys, bred in district.—1, A. C. Edmonstone; 2, R. Richmond; 3, Jas. Hosie.

One-Year-Old Queys, bred in district.—1, A. C. Edmonstone; 2 and 3, Jas. Hosie.

Heifer, born after February, 1930.—1, Jas. Pirie & Son; 2 and 3, Jas. Hosie.

Pair of One-Year-Old Queys.—1, Jas. Hosie; 2, A. C. Edmonstone.

Best Group of Three Female Ayrshires—1, Jas. Pirie & Sons; 2, R. Richmond.

Best Animal of Ayrshire breed, bred by Exhibitor—1 and Reserve, Jas. Pirie & Sons.

Campsie Cattle Show

15/6/1932 Kirkintilloch Herald

We now have the Wilson family investing in education for the improvement of their family. Their son, William, is studying veterinary medicine at Glasgow.

LENNOXTOWN.

Tenders are being secured for the erection of either a concrete or a wrought-iron fence at the waterworks.

In the list of passes at the professional examinations of Glasgow Veterinary College this week the following local names appear—
First year (2nd Class Honours)—James Bolton, Main Street, and W. Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton.

27/7/1932 Kirkintilloch Herald

COLLEGE SUCCESS. — Mrs. M'Creadie, daughter of Lord Provost Kelly, presented the prizes at Glasgow Veterinary College on Friday. Among the recipients were James Bolton, Dunlop Place, Lennoxton (silver medal for chemistry and first-class certificates in chemistry and biology) and W. Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton (first-class certificates in chemistry and biology).

26/10/1932 Kirkintilloch Herald

The interest in breeding high quality Clydesdale horses is shown here by Robert Wilson who sold his horse for £60. This was the 4th highest price gained at the Spring Show in Lanark in 1933.

£72 For Winning Gelding.

While a filly had the credit of realising the top price of the day, the best trade was undoubtedly experienced for geldings at Lanark, on Tuesday, when Lawrie and Symington Ltd. conducted their annual spring show and sale of Clydesdales. In a good class of geldings the first prizewinner, a five-year-old grey, shown by Sir Kenneth S. Anderson, Bart., The Yair, Galashiels, brought the top price of £72, the buyer being Mr Murray, Fishwick, Berwick. Mr Gavin Hamilton, Auldtown, Lesmahagow, convenor of the County, had second with a six-year-old, which realised £68, also to Mr Murray. The fourth, from Mr Robert Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton, made £69 to Mr Murray.

9/3/1933 Illustrated Berwick Journal

We see the produce from Hole Farm being demonstrated by Mrs Wilson where she won prizes for her powdered butter and both her hens' eggs and her ducks' eggs. She also won prizes for her oatmeal cakes and pancakes.

DAIRY PRODUCE AND EGGS.

Judges—Mrs. Orr, Ardochill, East Kilbride, and Miss Doeull, Agricultural College, Glasgow.

Two Pounds Fresh Better.—1, Mrs. Wm. Mackie, Watshod, Lennoxton; 2, Mrs. Forsyth, Sauchenhall, Kirkintilloch; 3, Mrs. Young, Dalmoak Farm, Dumbarton.

Two Pounds Powdered Butter.—1, Mrs. R. Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton; 2, Mrs. Wm. Mackie; 3, Mrs. Forsyth.

Twelve Hen Eggs.—1, Mrs. Wm. Mackie; 2, Charles Young, Low Dalmoak Farm, Renton; 3, Mrs. Pettigrew, Auchengree Farm, Stepps.

Twelve Hen Eggs, White.—1, Mrs. R. Wilson; 2, Charles Young; 3, Mrs. Wm. Mackie.

Twelve Duck Eggs.—1, Mrs. Young; 2, Charles Young; 3, Mrs. R. Wilson.

Six Oatmeal Cakes.—1, Mrs. R. Wilson.

Six Scones.—2, Kirkintilloch Equitable Co-operative Society, Ltd.; 3, Mrs. Quinn, Church Street, Cumbernauld.

Six Pancakes.—1, Kirkintilloch Equitable Co-operative Society, Ltd.; 2, Mrs. R. Wilson; 3, Mrs. Young, Dalmoak Farm, Dumbarton.

Kirkintilloch Agricultural Show

21/6/1933 Kirkintilloch Herald

In 1933, William, finished his degree.

VETERINARY EXAM.—Among the passes at Glasgow Veterinary College professional examinations are those of James Bolton, Dunlop Place, Lennoxton, in Class "B," four years' course anatomy, physiology, and stable management (2nd honours), and Wm. Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton, Class "B."

5/8/1933 Callander Advertiser

Meanwhile Mrs Wilson shows her versatility and skill in baking, using local produce to compete at local events. She won prizes for her soda scones, oatcakes, pancakes and red currant jelly at the Flower Show in 1933. She must have been a formidable baker.

INDUSTRIAL SECTION.

Three Soda Scones (girdle baked).—1, Mrs. R. Wilson; 2, Mrs. Ewing; 3, Mrs. W. Bell.

Three Oatcakes.—Mrs. R. Wilson.

Three Pancakes.—1, Mrs. R. Wilson; 2, Mrs. W. Bell; 3, Mrs. Ewing.

Three Potato Scones.—Mrs. R. Wilson, Hole Farm.

Cake, any variety.—1, Mrs. W. Bell, Lennoxtown; 2, Mrs. Ewing, Lennoxtown.

Green Gooseberry Jelly.—1, Miss D. Kilpatrick, Lennoxtown; 2, Mrs. C. Bryce, Lennoxtown; 3, Mrs. W. Bell, Lennoxtown.

Red Currant Jelly.—1, Mrs. R. Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown; 2, Mrs. W. Bell, Crow Road.

Best Knitted Gent.'s Socks.—1, Mrs. D. B. Sutherland, Campsie Glen; 2, Mrs. J. Todds, Lennoxtown.

Best Knitted Article.—1, Mrs. Lillie, Lennoxtown; 2, Mrs. A. Meffin, Lennoxtown; 3, Miss E. Meffin, Lennoxtown.

Best Article of Needlework.—Miss N. Lawson, Main Street, Lennoxtown.

Most Meritorious Exhibit of Flowers.—Wm. Hunter, Torrance.

Most Meritorious Exhibit of Vegetables.—H. Sinclair.

Best Three Leeks.—R. Buchanan.

District Flower Show

30/8/1933 Kirkintilloch Herald

Robert also competed at local shows and won 4th prize in the Merchant's Van or Farmer's Odd Horse at the Campsie Show in 1936.

Championship for Best Animal of the Clydesdale Breed.—The Society's Silver Cup.—1, John Imrie; 2, John Dobie.

Merchant's Van or Farmer's Odd Horse.—1, Andrew B. Bell, Bankell, Milngavie; 2, Andrew Cowan, Wester Blairskaith, Baldernock; 3, Wm. Mackie, Watshod, Lennoxtown; 4, R. Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown; 5, John Gray, East Baldorran, Milton; 6, W. B. Donaldson, Auchineden, Blanefield.

Farmer's Turnout.—1 and 3, Andrew B. Bell; 2, Andrew Russell.

Campsie Cattle Show

10/6/1936 Kirkintilloch Herald

Mrs Wilson's prowess with powdered butter, Oatcakes and Pancakes on display at the Campsie Show.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

1lb. Fresh Butter in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Prints.—1, Mrs. D. Reid, Redmoss, Lennoxtown; 2, Mrs. Wm. Taylor, Crosshouse, Campsie Glen; 3, Mrs. Wm. Mackie, Watshod, Lennoxtown.

1lb. Powdered Butter in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Prints.—1, Mrs. D. Reid; 2, Mrs. Wm. Mackie; 3, Mrs. R. Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown.

Six Oatmeal Cakes.—1, Mrs. D. Reid; 2, Mrs. R. Wilson; 3, Mrs. Wm. Taylor, Crosshouse, Campsie Glen.

Six Pancakes.—1, Mrs. R. Wilson; 2, Mrs. Wm. Mackie; 3, Miss Mary Hosie, Kinkell, Lennoxtown.

Campsie Cattle Show 10/6/1936 Kirkintilloch Herald

Mr Wilson continued to adapt to the property at Hole Farm. In 1936 he received permission from Stirling Council to extend a house on his property.

addition to house at
Hole Farm, Lennoxtown, for Mr. Robert
Wilson.

1/7/1936 Kirkintilloch Herald

In 1937 the Lennoxtown Friendly Victualling Society held a gala day at Hole farm to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Lennoxtown Friendly Victualling
Society celebrates its 125th anniversary
this week. A gala day is being held in
a field at the Hole Farm, Lennoxtown, on
Saturday first.

6/7/1937 Edinburgh Evening News

Here is the happy event of Johnston Wilson marrying Margaret Dunlop

WILSON—DUNLOP.—At Milnercroft Farm, Cumbernauld, on 7th June, 1939, by the Rev. E. Sherwood Gunson, M.A., Hon. C.F., Johnston Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown, to Margaret Chapman, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Dunlop.

10/6/1939 Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser

In 1940 Johnston Wilson was now recorded as the tenant of the farm while Robert retained ownership. Was this perhaps a wedding present to the newly married couple?

Robert and Marion retired to a house on Glen Road. Marion Johnstone died on the 18th of October 1951, and Robert Wilson died on the 4th of June 1954. They were buried in Strathaven Cemetery.

The new Mrs Johnston Wilson soon settled in at Hole farm and won first prize at the annual whist drive in 1940.

WHIST AND DANCE. — The Campsie, Strathblane and Baldernock Agricultural Society's annual whist drive and dance was held in the Town Hall, Lennoxton, on Friday, 19th January. Unfortunately, the wintry weather prevented many people from attending, and, compared with previous years, the numbers were very considerably reduced. Mr. James Ralston, Garmore, Lennoxton, acted as cardmaster, and did his duties in his usual efficient manner. Mr. Walter M'Keich, Balcarroch, Campsie Glen, made a capable M.C. at the dance. The following were the prize-winners at whist:—Ladies—1, Mrs. Johnston Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton; 2, Miss C. Morton, Lochmill; 3, Mrs. J. O. Stewart,

24/1/1940 Kirkintilloch Herald

Farming went on as usual with hay making and turnip lifting.

CAMPSIE
HAY-MAKING.—Hay cutting has started in the district. Mr Wilson, The Hole Farm, Lennoxton, began last week.

7/7/1941 Stirling Observer

After the Second World War began, farming had to continue, to feed the Nations' People. Farming was considered a "Reserved Occupation", with the need to provide labour in this essential work. It should also be remembered that much of the heavy work was still provided by the Heavy Clydesdale Horses at that time, fed by locally produced feed. This also reduced the burden on vehicle Fuel, which was in limited supply.

FOR SALE—Forty Tons Feeding Swede Turnips. — Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxton.

12/3/1952 Kirkintilloch Herald

Accommodation was available for women willing to assist in the dairy.

HOUSE, three apartments, bathroom, h. & c., available to party who can supply woman or girl to wash dairy dishes, etc., or could give full time work if desired.— Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown.

27/12/1952 Bridge of Allan Gazette

MAN (experienced) wanted; general farm-work. — Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown.

26/5/1954 Kirkintilloch Herald

Hole Farm had always been a mixed arable farm with a dairy herd and in 1962 all of Johnston's hard work ensuring that his herd was disease free and kept in good condition was rewarded with an award from Stirlingshire County Council.

STIRLINGSHIRE DAIRY FARMERS WIN AWARDS

Winners in the Stirling County Council clean milk competition for farmers and milk producers are:

25 cows and over—1, Robert Graham, Airthrey Kerse, Bridge of Allan; 2, Johnston Wilson, Hole Farm, Lennoxtown; 3, R. Haddow and Mrs. H. Morrison, Tombrake, Balfron.

Under 25 cows — 1, John Nimmo, Inches, Larbert; 2, Mrs M. Ferguson, Gillandersland, Linlithgow; 3, John Currie, Mavisbank, Falkirk.

Certificates of Merit—Over 25 cows—David Findlay, Borland, Gartmore; and James B. Jarvie, Walton, Castlecary. Under 25 cows—John Gray, Dennyloanhead Farm, Dennyloanhead; and John Harvie & Sons, Inchwood, Milton of Campsie.

6/7/1962 Edinburgh Evening News

Johnston's daughter, Margaret, became involved in the running of the Strathkelvin Young Farmers Club and in both 1965 and 1966 was voted into the position of secretary and press officer.

Time moved on and the farm was sold to developers who planned to build 400 houses. This was and continues to this day to be hotly contested.

Johnston Wilson, the final farmer at Hole and Capieston, died, aged 81, in 1996 still resident in Lennoxton.



4/2/1987 Kirkintilloch Herald

Latterly, uses of the farmland was as pasture for feeding young cattle



and finally, sheep



At least one escaped...



Scottish Forestry took over most of the land between Clachan and that bounded by Crow Road under the name Balcarrach Wood, including most of the original Hole and Capieston Farms

Hole Farm Today



Capieston Buildings today, have been derelict for some time



However, use of the area has diversified



Where once farmers, ploughmen and gamekeepers worked the land, tourists now visit bringing a new vision to the land.

Kinkell Farm

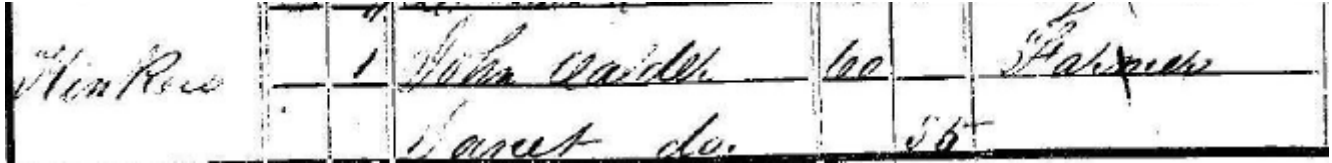


1841-1989

Angus Loney

For more than two centuries, the land at Kinkell has known only a handful of families—names carried by the wind across its fields, spoken in the stone walls, remembered in the soil itself. The first of these, as the records tell us, were the Calders although they had predecessors for many generations before them, their names have been lost in the sands of time.

The Calder's of Kinkell



A handwritten census record from 1841. The document is a table with several columns. The first column contains the name 'John Calder'. The second column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The third column contains the number '60'. The fourth column contains the number '55'. The fifth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The sixth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The seventh column contains the number '60'. The eighth column contains the number '55'. The ninth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The tenth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The eleventh column contains the number '60'. The twelfth column contains the number '55'. The thirteenth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The fourteenth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The fifteenth column contains the number '60'. The sixteenth column contains the number '55'. The seventeenth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The eighteenth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The nineteenth column contains the number '60'. The twentieth column contains the number '55'. The twenty-first column contains the name 'John Calder'. The twenty-second column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The twenty-third column contains the number '60'. The twenty-fourth column contains the number '55'. The twenty-fifth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The twenty-sixth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The twenty-seventh column contains the number '60'. The twenty-eighth column contains the number '55'. The twenty-ninth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The thirtieth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The thirty-first column contains the number '60'. The thirty-second column contains the number '55'. The thirty-third column contains the name 'John Calder'. The thirty-fourth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The thirty-fifth column contains the number '60'. The thirty-sixth column contains the number '55'. The thirty-seventh column contains the name 'John Calder'. The thirty-eighth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The thirty-ninth column contains the number '60'. The fortieth column contains the number '55'. The forty-first column contains the name 'John Calder'. The forty-second column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The forty-third column contains the number '60'. The forty-fourth column contains the number '55'. The forty-fifth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The forty-sixth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The forty-seventh column contains the number '60'. The forty-eighth column contains the number '55'. The forty-ninth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The fiftieth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The fifty-first column contains the number '60'. The fifty-second column contains the number '55'. The fifty-third column contains the name 'John Calder'. The fifty-fourth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The fifty-fifth column contains the number '60'. The fifty-sixth column contains the number '55'. The fifty-seventh column contains the name 'John Calder'. The fifty-eighth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The fifty-ninth column contains the number '60'. The sixtieth column contains the number '55'. The sixty-first column contains the name 'John Calder'. The sixty-second column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The sixty-third column contains the number '60'. The sixty-fourth column contains the number '55'. The sixty-fifth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The sixty-sixth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The sixty-seventh column contains the number '60'. The sixty-eighth column contains the number '55'. The sixty-ninth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The seventieth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The seventy-first column contains the number '60'. The seventy-second column contains the number '55'. The seventy-third column contains the name 'John Calder'. The seventy-fourth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The seventy-fifth column contains the number '60'. The seventy-sixth column contains the number '55'. The seventy-seventh column contains the name 'John Calder'. The seventy-eighth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The seventy-ninth column contains the number '60'. The eightieth column contains the number '55'. The eighty-first column contains the name 'John Calder'. The eighty-second column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The eighty-third column contains the number '60'. The eighty-fourth column contains the number '55'. The eighty-fifth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The eighty-sixth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The eighty-seventh column contains the number '60'. The eighty-eighth column contains the number '55'. The eighty-ninth column contains the name 'John Calder'. The ninetieth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The ninety-first column contains the number '60'. The ninety-second column contains the number '55'. The ninety-third column contains the name 'John Calder'. The ninety-fourth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The ninety-fifth column contains the number '60'. The ninety-sixth column contains the number '55'. The ninety-seventh column contains the name 'John Calder'. The ninety-eighth column contains the name 'Janet Calder'. The ninety-ninth column contains the number '60'. The hundredth column contains the number '55'.

Scotland's People

In 1841, the census taker found **John and Janet Calder**, John sixty and Janet fifty five, both born in Campsie, tending the land with the steady, weathered rhythm of people who had given their lives to it.

Their household was large but tightly knit, each child already a part of the farm's living machinery:

- **Robert**, 29, the eldest son, strong-shouldered and dependable.
- **Agnes**, 27, quick-witted and known to settle most disputes with a stern look.
- **David**, 15, still growing into his boots but eager to prove himself.
- **Mary**, 12, sharp-eyed and curious, often found slipping away to explore the burns and hedgerows.

A farm boy, **John Carson**, age 15, born in Kilsyth, worked alongside them—one more set of hands in the endless list of tasks that defined life at Kinkell.

But 1841 would be the Calder's last full year together.

Before winter's frost had lifted, John Calder passed away and was buried in the Clachan, leaving Janet to keep the farm together as best she could. Grief and hard work weighed heavily on her, and the following year, she too was gone.

And so, after decades of Calder footsteps on its fields, Kinkell fell silent, waiting for the next family to take up its story.

A New Beginning: The Andersons Arrive

With Janet's death and the tenancy now open, the farm passed to **William Anderson**, a farmer from Shotts. By 1851, his household at Kinkell was bustling with the layered relationships of a family bound by both blood and circumstance:

- **William**, 60, still remarkably steady-handed with the plough
- **Elizabeth**, 65, his wife, a gentle counterbalance to his stern practicality
- **Richard**, 33, their son, every bit the heir to his father's stubborn work ethic
- **Jean**, 24, their daughter, newly returned to Kinkell after heartbreak

Jean's husband, **James Braidwood**, had died young, leaving her with two small sons:

- **Andrew Braidwood**, 8

- **William Braidwood**, 4, born in Campsie as though destined to circle back to the same soil his grandparents once trod

Also living under the roof were:

- **Robert Prentice**, 16, a grandson from Shotts
- **James Anderson**, 18, a nephew
- And **Mary Docherty**, 22, a servant from Ireland, whose lilting accent surely stood out among the rich, broad Scots of the household.

It was a home full of overlapping stories—loss and resilience, duty and hope—woven together in the quiet rhythms of farming life.

The Last Anderson Days — and the Brief Tenure of James Lyon

William Anderson, after long years working the land at Kinkell, eventually laid down his tools and retired to Glasgow, leaving behind the fields that had shaped so much of his life. But Kinkell did not lie still for long.

In 1867, the tenancy passed to **James Lyon**, a man of experience and steady reputation. Yet fate allowed him only a short tenure on the farm. Just a year later, at the age of 68, James Lyon died, bringing an abrupt end to his stewardship of Kinkell.

With no successor ready to take on the farm at such short notice, the entire contents of Kinkell were put up for auction — tools, stock, household goods, and the accumulated equipment of an occupied farm. It was the sort of sale that drew neighbours from miles around, part necessity, part spectacle, and part a quiet closing of one chapter before the next began.

AT KINKELL FARM, 1½ MILES FROM CAMPSIE, ON THE GLASGOW ROAD, AND 2 MILES FROM KIRKINTILLOCH, ON MONDAY, 2D MARCH.

FARM STOCK AND IMPLEMENTS,
MILCH COWS, QUEYS, HORSES, HARNESS, CARTS,
MILK CART, CHURNING MACHINE, &c.,
BY AUCTION,
To be Sold, at Kinkell Farm, on Monday, 2d March.

P BURN & SON beg to intimate that they are instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. James Lyon (in consequence of giving up the Lease of said Farm), to Sell, 8 Milch Cows, coming to Calving and near Calving; 8 Two-year-old Queys, 1 Two-year-old and 1 One-year-old Bull, 4 One-year-old Queys, 1 Splendid Five-year-old Mare, 1 Strong Chestnut Horse, 1 Three-year-old Pony, 3 Sets Cart Harness, 2 Close-bodied Carts, Wheels and Axles, nearly new; Hay Waggon, Wheels, and Axle; Butter-Milk Cart, with Barrels, &c., complete; Churning Mill, Pair Fanners, Drill Grubbers, Ploughs, Meat Boilers and Coolers, Harrows, Barrows, Corn Chests, Feeding Troughs, and Variety of Farming Utensils, &c.
Sale to begin at Twelve o'clock.

P. BURN & SON, Auctioneers.

9 Exchange Place,
Glasgow. 19th Feb., 1868.

And so, with the dispersal of Lyon's belongings and William Anderson's passing in 1868, another turn was added to the long, winding story of the farm — each tenant leaving their mark before the land passed on once more.

The Waddell's Take the Helm

After the passing of William Anderson and following the brief and ill-fated tenancy of James Lyon, the farm at Kinkell once again awaited a steady hand. It found one in **James Waddell** and his wife Margaret Young, who took up the lease in the aftermath of the Lyon auction.

Where others had arrived at Kinkell in moments of transition or sorrow, the Waddell's arrived, newly married, with a sense of purpose. James stepped into the role with the confidence of a man accustomed to the rhythms of the land, bringing with him the promise of stability after several unsettled years.

And so, with James Waddell at its head, the next chapter of Kinkell's long story began — one more family in the line of custodians

1871 census

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
James Waddell	Head	32	Farmer of 165 acres	Shotts
Margaret Waddell	Wife	23		Shotts
Marion Waddell	Daughter	2		Campsie
William Waddell	Son	2 months		Campsie
Andrew Miller	Servant	20	Farm Servant	Kilsyth
Margaret Orr	Servant	17	Farm Servant	Old Monkland
Margaret Ballery	Servant	12	Farm Servant	Cumbernauld
Margaret Young	Visitor	59	Aunt	Hamilton

Under his stewardship, Kinkell once more settled into the dependable pulse of farm life — livestock tended, fields sown and harvested, and the house filled with the steady domestic activity that marks a working farm. Though the records of his early years at Kinkell are sparse, the very fact of his long tenure suggests a period of order and continuity, a welcome contrast to the losses and changes that had preceded his arrival.

In the time they farmed at Kinkell, they had six children Marion, William, Isabella, Margaret, Andrew and Mary. Margaret sadly died, aged 5, in 1879. They had left the farm by 1881.

The next tenant to take the reins was **George Hosie** and his wife Jean Bulloch. In the 1881 census they were to be found living at the canal basin in Kirkintilloch where George, aged 45, worked as a contractor. This was the beginning of generations of Hosies at Kinkell.

In 1883, the local farmers gave George a warm welcome with a "love darg". This suggests that the farm may have lain vacant for a short while or there was another short tenancy that has not been traced.. It is likely that the Hosies began their tenancy at Michaelmas, late September, 1882.

LOVE DARG.—The farmers of the Lennoxton district turned out in great force yesterday to give a day's ploughing as a friendly recognition of the new tenant of Kinkell Farm, Mr. George Hosie. There were 36 ploughs, in all, on the ground. At the conclusion of the day's work a large tract of land had been turned over.

14/3/1883 Glasgow Evening News

Over the years Kinkell has hosted various types of events from Sunday School trips, fetes and marriages.

ST DAVID'S PARISH CHURCH.—On Saturday, the scholars of the Sabbath School in connection with St David's, accompanied by their teachers—about 300 in all—had their annual trip. Fifteen carts were kindly lent by the farmers of the neighbourhood, and made comfortable for occupation by their living freight. The procession formed at the church and drove out Milton Road to Kinkell Farm (Mr Hosie's). The customary bread and milk having been given out the no less customary games were entered into. After spending a very pleassnt day, and having given three cheers for Mr and Mrs Hosie, the return journey was commenced. On arriving at the church a supply of sweetbread was served, and the children then dispersed.

30/6/1886 Kirkintilloch Herald

LENNOXTOWN.

R. C. SUNDAY SCHOOL FETE.—On Saturday last the children attending the Roman Catholic Sunday School, accompanied by Rev. Mr Magini and their teachers, marched to Kinkell Farm, where a park was placed at their disposal by Mr Hosie, and the usual holiday refreshments provided. The weather was not very favourable, but the usual games, races, &c., were engaged in for some hours before proceeding home.

15/6/1887 Kirkintilloch Herald

EXCURSION.—On Saturday the children attending the R.C. School, accompanied by a large number of parents and friends and headed by their flute band, proceeded on foot to Kinkell Farm (Mr George Hosie) where they were supplied with milk and buns. A pleasant afternoon was spent with music, dancing, games, &c.

11/7/1888 Falkirk Herald

1891 census Kinkell

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
George Hosie	Head	56	Farmer	Campsie
Jean Hosie	Wife	53	Farmer's Wife	Campsie
Jeannie Hosie	Daughter	29	Farmer's Daughter	Glasgow
Alexander Hosie	Son	24	Farmer's Son	Campsie
James Hosie	Son	19	Farmer's Son	Campsie
Annie Hosie	Daughter	17	Farmer's Daughter	Campsie
William Hosie	Son	12	Scholar	Kirkintilloch

1901 Census Kinkell

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
George Hosie	Head	66	Farmer	Campsie
Jean Hosie	Wife	63	Farmer's Wife	Campsie
Jessie Hosie	Daughter	29	Farmer's Daughter	Glasgow
James Hosie	Son	29	Farmer's Son	Campsie
William Hosie	Son	22	Assisting ploughman	Kirkintilloch
John Grecham	Servant	23	Cattleman & Ploughman	Cadder

George Hosie died at Kinkell Farm on the 23rd of December 1904 aged 69:

OBITUARY.—Early on Friday morning the death took place at Kinkell Farm of Mr Geo. Hosie, in his 70th year. Deceased was born at North Birbiston, Lennoxton, and for many years was a contractor in Kirkintilloch. Twenty years ago he became tenant of the farm of Kinkell, and was a most successful farmer, turning the farm to profitable account where many tenants failed. He is survived by a widow and seven of a family—five sons and two daughters—four of whom are married, one being in America. The funeral took place on Tuesday to the Parish Church Burying Ground.

28/12/1904 Kirkintilloch Herald

DEATH OF A FARMER.—By the death of Mr George Hosie, Kinkell Farm, which took place last week-end, the farming class in the parish is the poorer indeed. George was one of a large family—of sons and daughters, reared to the business by their father "Robin" Hosie of Fincroft. This was a homestead, when the family were there, which for a kindly welcome to the neighbour folks about had no equal. What a jolly lot of young men and women were there gathered in the kitchen when the day's work was over. Deceased was amongst the youngest of the family, and had farmed land in and around the district before "running" a lease of Kinkell, which, like the good farmer he was, he greatly improved by judicious management and not sparing labour. He was highly respected by the whole community, and was a splendid judge of cattle and horse, and in the working of agricultural land was able to make the waste place blossom like the rose. He leaves a widow and a grown up family to mourn his loss.

31/12/1904 Bridge of Allan Gazette

After the death of his father **James Hosie** took over the running of the farms and in 1906, he married Mary Reid whose parents farmed at Redmoss farm. They had six children, George, Mary, David, James, William and Robert.

The territorial army used the farm in 1911 for a large training exercise

TERRITORIALS.—The officers and non-commissioned officers of "D" (Campsie and Kilsyth) Company had a field day last Saturday, being examined and instructed in outpost duty by Capt. A. B. King. The operations took place on the fields of Kinkel and Balquharrage Farms and Whitehill estate.

29/3/1911 Kirkintilloch Herald

1911 census Kinkell

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
James Hosie	Head	39	Farmer	Campsie
Mary Hosie	Wife	22		Campsie
George Hosie	Son	4		Campsie
Mary Hosie	Daughter	1		Campsie
David Hosie	Son	0		Campsie

We know that the farm had sheep due to the report of some of them escaping

STRAYED from Kinkell Farm, Lennoxton, five Blackfaced Ewes; red kiel back of head; also tail head; J. H. on horn.

8/5/1912 Kirkintilloch Herald

James bred high quality horses and won first prize and overall champion at the Mearns Show in 1913 with his three year old mare, Lady Mary.

They also had a dairy herd

MORNING milk for sale, start 1st May.—Hosie, Kinkell Farm, Lennoxton, Campsie.

12/4/1916 Glasgow Herald

James was a well respected farmer in the community and in 1916 he had the honour of presenting a gift to Captain W.M.P. Kincaid Lennox on the occasion of his marriage on behalf of the tenants.

MARRIAGE PRESENTATIONS. — On the occasion of his marriage Captain W. M. P. Kincaid-Lennox was waited upon at Lennox Castle on Monday afternoon last and presented with a silver salver from the tenant farmers on the Lennox Castle estates. The presentation was made by Mr Jas. Hosie, Kinkell Farm, in a neat speech. The recipient suitably acknowledged the gift. The party were hospitably entertained by Mr and Mrs Kincaid-Lennox, to whom the thanks of the guests was conveyed in a speech by Mr Wm. Gardner, Glenside. Mr Lennox, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed the pleasure he felt in seeing so many of his tenants present, and regretted that, owing to illness, one well-known man, Mr Gardner, Kilwinnet, was unable to be with them. It was satisfactory to know that the patient was keeping better. In the evening a deputation from the tenants, feuars, and traders on the estates presented the Captain, in name of over seventy subscribers, with a solid silver tea set consisting of kettle and stand, teapot, sugar basin, and cream jug, along with a solid silver jardiniere. Mr A. Murray, Southfield, acted as spokesman. The silversmiths were Messrs Edward & Sons, Glasgow. The articles were suitably inscribed.

11/11/1916 Bridge of Allan Gazette

1921 census Kinkell

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
James Hosie	Head	50	Farmer	Campsie
Mary Hosie	Wife	32		Campsie
George Hosie	Son	24		Campsie
Mary Hosie	Daughter	12	Scholar	Campsie
David Hosie	Son	10	Scholar	Campsie
James Hosie	Son	8	Scholar	Campsie
William Hosie	Son	6	Scholar	Campsie
Robert Hosie	Son	1		Campsie

Tragedy struck in 1925 when there was a fire at Kinkell and the fire brigade could not access enough water. £500 of damage was done but fortunately there was no loss of life or serious injury reported of any human or animal occupants of the farm.

CAMPSIE FARM FIRE.

Last Friday night there was a disastrous farmyard fire at Kinkell Farm, situated on the side of the Lennoxton and Torrance Road and occupied by Mr Hosie. About half-past eight a haystack was observed to be well alight about halfway up the stack. A strong north-east wind was blowing, and while it was carrying the fire away from the farmhouse and the farm buildings, it was driving the flames further into the stackyard. Stirling Burgh Brigade, who are under contract to attend to fires in the Western Division of Stirlingshire, were 'phoned for and arrived about a quarter to ten. They were pretty much hampered by the limited supply of water, but they stuck to their fire-fighting task, which ended at five o'clock on Saturday morning. There were in the stackyard 13 stacks of corn and 6 of hay and of these 11 of corn and 2 of hay were saved. The damage is estimated at about £500. After the fire was discovered, and up till the arrival of the Stirling Brigade, a fire-fighting campaign was undertaken by Mr Hosie with the assistance of neighbours.

13/11/1925 Kirkintilloch Herald

Despite the fire and the damage that it caused, James rebuilt and bought the farm from the Lennox estate in 1927.

STRAYING SHEEP.

James Hosie, farmer, Kinkell, was charged with being the owner of twelve sheep found straying on the highway near Kinkell Farm, on 2nd February. He adhered to a former plea of not guilty, and was defended by Mr. Alex. Thorburn, of Patrick & Paterson.

Thos. Nicol, motor 'bus driver, Reid Place, Kirkintilloch, said that between 10 and 11 o'clock on the night of 2nd February he was driving one of Messrs. Graham's 'buses from Lennoxton to Glasgow. When approaching Kinkell farm steading he saw some sheep on the road, and he had to draw up pretty quick. There was nobody in charge of them. He didn't count them, but there were round about a dozen. He thought he had struck one of the sheep, and that was his reason for his reporting the matter. He wanted to keep himself on the safe side. They scattered, some down one side of the 'bus and some on the other, and went into fields on either side of the road. He saw that they were all off the road before he left.

Cross-examined—He paid no attention to any particular markings on the sheep. He was running to a time-table and had no time to go up and tell the farmer. He paid no attention as to whether there were sheep in a field on Redmoss Farm.

Jean Graham, 'bus conductress, 86 West High Street, Kirkintilloch, gave corroborative evidence.

Constable Frew said he got a complaint about sheep being on the road and made investigations. He called on the accused and charged him with allowing his sheep to stray on the public road. He saw a number of sheep in the field opposite the farm, and accused admitted they were his. He asked accused if any of them had been injured, and he said there were none. He mentioned that the hedges were newly cut, and the moon being out the sheep had a tendency to stray. The field where witness saw the sheep was an enclosed place, now under cultivation.

In 1928, James found himself charged with allowing his sheep to escape onto a public highway. James pled not guilty and the case was abandoned as there was no way to prove whether the sheep had escaped from Kinkell or the neighbouring Redmoss Farm as they managed to put themselves safely back into the fields.

6/4/1928 Milngavie & Bearsden Herald

Tragedy struck the family on the 14th of February 1930 when James and Mary's eldest son, George, died in Glasgow Royal Infirmary of acute nephritis. He was 22 years old.

OBITUARY.—Much regret was expressed last week-end, when it became known that George Hosie, eldest son of Mr James Hosie, Kinkell Farm, Lennoxton, had passed away at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, to which Institution he was removed about the middle of January, suffering from a serious illness.

22/2/1930 Callander Advertiser

MYSTERY FIND AT LENNOXTOWN.

“Farewell” Letter to Girl.

The finding yesterday of an overcoat and papers in a glen at Kinkell Farm, Lennoxtown, gave rise to fears that a tragedy had occurred in the district.

One of the papers indicated that the overcoat belonged to a man who resided in Burns Street, Glasgow.

There was also a letter addressed to a girl, which contained references to suicide.

A nearby dam was dragged by the police in an effort to solve the mystery. No body, however, was located.

Inquiries made at the address given, a lodging-house, resulted in the discovery that no man of the name mentioned was known there, and no other person was missing from the establishment.

A mystery surrounded the farm in 1933 when what was thought to be a suicide note was found in an overcoat in a glen at the farm. A strong police presence was launched in search of a body including the dredging of a nearby dam. No body was found and the man was found to have not existed.

19/3/1933 Sunday Post

In 1936, James gained planning permission to build a new byre on the farm.

New byre at Kinkell Farm, Lennox-
town, for Mr James Hosie. Architect—
J. Stevenson, architect, 24 Allan Park,
Stirling.

12/9/1936 Bridge of Allan Gazette

In early 1939 James' wife, Mary, sadly passed away in a nursing home in Glasgow. She was 57 years old.

HOSIE.—At a nursing home, Glasgow, on 6th February, 1939. Mary Reid, beloved wife of James Hosie, Kinkell Farm, Lennoxtown.—Funeral on Thursday, 9th February, at 2.30 p.m., to Campsie Cemetery. Friends please meet cortege at Church Gates.

8/2/1939 Kirkintilloch Herald

In 1940 at the start of the war, things were finally looking up for the Hosie family. James's daughter, Mary, married farmer James Rae who was son of James Rae and Jane Murray from Provanston Farm in Fintry.

James worked tirelessly through the war years but that took its toll on him and he died on the 1st of November 1947 aged 76.

HOSIE.—At Kinkell Farm, Lennox-town, on 1st November, 1947, after a short illness, James Hosie, aged 76, beloved husband of the late Mary Reid.

12/11/1947 Kirkintilloch Herald

The next person to continue the Hosie Dynasty at Kinkell was **Robert (Robin)**. He married Margaret Faulds Cowan, second daughter to Andrew Cowan of West Balgrochan Farm in Torrance and brought her to Kinkell Farm.

WEDDING OF LOCAL FARMER'S DAUGHTER. — The wedding of Miss Margaret Faulds Cowan, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Cowan of West Balgrochan Farm, Torrance, to Robert Hosie, youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Hosie of Kinkell Farm, near Campsie, took place at "Ye Old Oak Tearooms," Milngavie, on Monday evening of last week. The bride was charming in her dress of white lace and carried a bouquet of mauve and pink sweet peas. Her bridesmaids were Miss Isabelle Gray Cowan and Miss Mary Faulds Lockhart, sister and cousin. They were dressed in turquoise blue, and their bouquets were of pink sweet peas. The groomsman was

Dr. William Lancaster, friend and schoolmate of the bridegroom. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Dr. A. A. Morrison of Campsie High Church. The bride was given away by her father. The reception was held in "Ye Old Oak Tearooms," when a happy company of 80 guests attended the reception, very well and ably carried out by the City Bakeries. Early in the evening the young couple left for their honeymoon with a good send-off. They received many beautiful presents from their many friends in and around Torrance, and from a wide circle of farming friends. The good wishes of all go out to the happy couple.

15/6/1949 Kirkintilloch Herald

The new Mrs Hosie soon started to make her mark.

GIRL wanted to assist with dairy and housework; live-in. — Mrs. R. Hosie, Kinkell Farm, Lennoxtown.

16/11/1949 Kirkintilloch Herald

GIRL wanted to assist with dairy and housework; live as family; ten minutes' walk from Glasgow bus.—Apply, Hosie, Kinkell Farm, Lennoxtown.

4/3/1950 Bridge of Allan Gazette

By 1959 Robin and Margaret had completed their family with Robert, Margaret, Janet and Ian. When Robert retired, he moved to Shepherd's House on Easter Cadder Farm and let the next generation take the reins. Although retired, he would help out at Kinkell with odd jobs.

In 1989 there was a freak accident that took Robert's life.

Farmer mourned

THE farming community in Strathkelvin were stunned last week by the death of Robert Hosie, (69), in a freak accident at Kinkell Farm, Torrance Road, Lennoxton.

Mr Hosie died when a grass cutting machine fell on top of him as he was apparently trying to repair it.

Tragically, he and his wife Margaret, and children Robin, Ian, Janet and Margaret, were this week due to host a party to celebrate 105 years of farming in the community by the Hosie family.

Mr Hosie, who lived at Shepherd's House, Easter Cadder Farm, Kirkintilloch, was well-known and respected in agricultural circles.

His great grandfather started the business at Kinkell Farm, and Mr Hosie was on the committee of the Campsie Show for more than 40 years.

His son Robin said last week that the show, which was held on Saturday, should go ahead despite the tragedy.

"The show will be going ahead as planned," he said, "as I am sure that is the way he would have wanted it."

Robin explained that the family were doing various jobs around the farm when the tragedy happened.

"A neighbour was helping us make silage and he was the one who discovered what had happened.

"He rushed to tell me, but by that time it was too late."

Mr Hosie's funeral was held on Monday. His family will carry on the farming tradition.

7/6/1989 Kirkintilloch Herald

The Hosie family have over 140 years of history at Kinkell. In death as in life, the family are mostly laid to rest together in adjoining plots of the Churchyard Cemetery in Campsie.



1907

Erected in memory of George Hosie died 23rd Dec 1904 aged 89 years. Also his children Agnes Gilmour Hosie died 6th Dec 1869 aged 9 months. John Hosie died 4th Sept 1882 aged 6 years. Also his wife Jean Bulloch died 30th March 1923 aged 84 years. Also his daughter Jeanie Hosie died 6th Dec 1936.

A Farm That Remembers

And so Kinkell passed from family to family, generation after generation, each leaving footprints the land would quietly absorb. The Calder's with their decades of steadiness... the Andersons with their bustling household of children, nephews, and grandchildren... and The Hosies who would follow in the century and a half yet to come.

Kinkell has never been a place of grand events or spectacular drama.

Instead, it is a place where ordinary lives—rich with love, loss, work, and hope—slowly shaped the contours of the land itself.

A place where every field tells a story.

A place that remembers.

Knowehead Farm



1642-1976

Marion Donnachie and Isobel Cartwright

Knowehead Farm gets its name from Knowe meaning a hill and head meaning the top. On entering Clachan of Campsie Knowehead Road is on the left. This road is the access to the farm which is about half to three quarters of a mile along the road passing by the rear of Schoenstatt retreat, previously known as Ballencleroch (the house of the clerics).



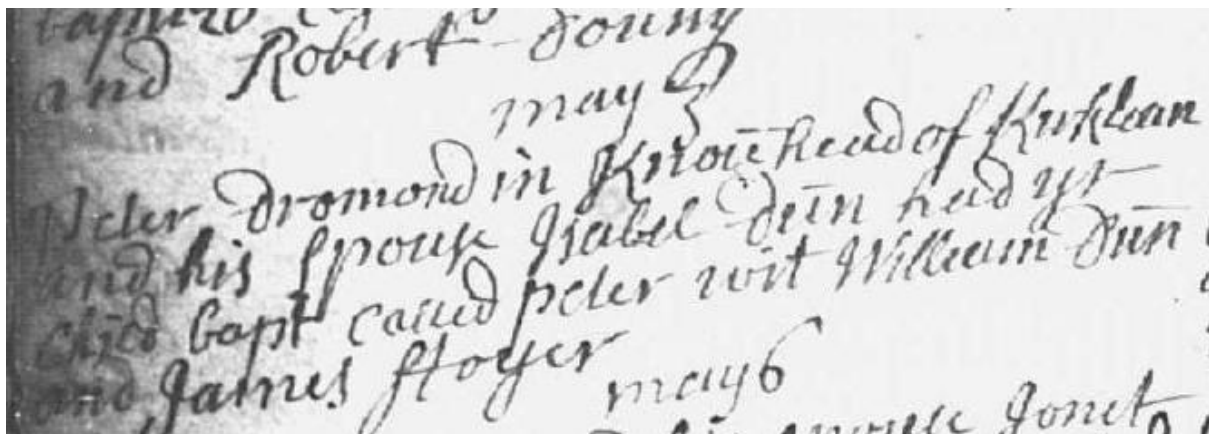
Credit: Ordnance Survey

Before the Calico Printing Works was opened in 1786 most of Campsie area consisted of various farms dotted about and some small cottage industries. Many houses were then built to accommodate the mill workers who were coming to live in the area and the Newtown of Campsie was established, then renamed Lennoxtown.

Knowehead Farm had an acreage of 2666 acres and, from 1642, was owned by the McFarlans of Ballancleroch. It became part of the Lennox Castle estate owned by the Kincaid Lennox family in the 1920s. In 1927 it was part of the Castle estate which was to be sold at an auction held at Lennox Arms Hotel. At that time the farm was let to Mr. James Adam at a rental of £400 pa and still had 17 years lease to run at that time but was withdrawn from the sale at £4776.

The farm was occupied by various tenants throughout the years.

The earliest farmer traced was Peter Dromond (Drummond) through the baptism of his son in 1753.



Scotland's People Campsie Baptisms

The family with the longest association as farmers of Knowehead were the Foyers. By 1811, Archibald Foyer was the tenant farmer.

22/ STIRLINGSHIRE GAME DUTY. 27/69
LIST I. of Persons who have obtained GENERAL CERTIFICATES, at the rate of THREE GUINEAS each, for the year 1811, in the COUNTY of STIRLING—
 16th August 1811 :—
 Mathew Anderson, Parkfoot, Kilsyth
 William Adam, Waterside
 George Buchanan, Balleown
 David Monro Binning, Esq. Auchenbowie
 Robert Brock, Craigallian
 John Buchan, Esq. Stirling
 John Brown, Falkirk
 Mr William Buchanan, Stirling
 Robert Cowie, senior, Castlecarr
 Robert Cowie, junior, Ditto
 Andrew Cowan, Townhead
 Captain John Christie, Hayfield
 David Dobbie, Townhead, Fintry
 James Davidson, Esq. Colzium
 John Easton, Lanton
 Dugald Forbes, Esq. Stirling
 Archibald Foyer, Knowehead
 Mr James Foyer, Cuilt
 Mr William Glass, Stirling
 Alexander Goodwin, Glenhead
 John Graham, Esq. Myoathill
 John Henderson, Esq. Westertown
 Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Robert Hamilton, Hatton
 John Hutton, Falkirk
 Mr William Kay, Wright's Park
 John Leckie, Esq. Broich

19/8/1811 Caledonian Mercury

Archibald remained at Knowehead until his death in 1835. His son, John, then took over the tenancy but he died in 1844. He was succeeded by his brother David

David Foyer

David was born on the 5th of July 1824 at Knowehead Farm where his father, Archibald, was the farmer. When his father, Archibald, died in 1835 and his mother, Isabella, in 1837, the children went to live with their uncle, James Foyer in Lennoxton. They are to be found there in the 1841 census. David was back and in charge of the farm by 1844 as evidenced by the prize he won at the Campsie Cattle Show for his sheep.

Class 10.—For best do. one-year-old, bred or purchased—1st prize, David Foyer, Knowhead; 2d, Jas. Coubrough, Auchineen; 3d, Jas. Frew, Balquhorage.

22/6/1844 Glasgow Courier

David married Christina Paterson Muir on the 6th of January 1853. They had ten children: Christina (1854), Isabella (1856-1856), Mary (1858), Archibald (1860), David (1862), Bethia (1865), Isabella (1865), John (1867) and William (1868).

David continued to win prizes for his sheep on a regular basis.

BLACKFACED.—9. Pair tups, not more than three shear—Premiums £3, £1; Bronze Medal—1st, 2d and 3d, David Foyer, Knowhead, Campsie. Highly commended—Wm Turner, Gavinburn, Old Kilpatrick; the heirs of the late James Watson, Mitchelhill, Biggar.
10. Pair tups, lambed after 1st January, 1860—Premiums £3, £1; Bronze Medal—1st, 2d and 3d, David Foyer, Knowhead, Campsie. Highly commended—John Phillips, Leigh Park, Milngavie.

15/6/1861 Paisley Herald and Renfrew Advertiser

David remained as the farmer of Knowehead until his death due to interstitial hepatitis (an autoimmune disease), aged 56, at Knowehead on the 29th of October 1880. His son, Archibald, took over the reins for a short while before emigrating to America in 1886.

AUCTIONS.

AT KNOWEHEAD FARM, CAMPSIE, ON TUESDAY, 12TH JANUARY, COMMENCING AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK FORENOON.

EXTENSIVE DISPLENISHING SALE
OF
FARM STOCK, CROP,
AND IMPLEMENTS.

WALTER J. BUCHANAN begs to intimate that he has received instructions to sell, by Public Auction, as above.

Terms—Cash at Sale.

Sale will commence at Eleven o'clock Forenoon with the Implements; Live Stock about Half-past Twelve o'clock.
72 Renfield Street, Glasgow, 4th January, 1886.

5/1/1886 North British Daily Mail

In 1927 Mrs Christina P Buchanan of London asked permission from Stirling County Council for permission for herself and her sister, Miss Bethia Foyer, to be allowed to be interred in the Clachan Churchyard although it had been closed some years before. Permission was granted as the ladies were the last of their line and a family grave existed.

Mrs C. P. Buchanan, London, a daughter of the late Mr Foyer, Knowehead, asked if burials could be made in the Clachan Kirkyard. They had two lairs in the Kirkyard which had not been opened since her father's death in 1880. She and her sister, Miss Foyer, were the last of the family.

11/3/1927 Kirkintilloch Gazette

Christina died in 1939 and her sister Bethia in 1948. Both ladies were granted their wish to be buried at the Clachan.

When the Clachan Churchyard, Campsie Glen, was closed some years ago by the Stirling County Council, on application to the Sheriff permission was granted for the interment of the two surviving sisters of the once well-known family of Foyer, Knowehead Farm, Campsie Glen. On Friday, one of the sisters, Mrs. Buchanan (Christina Foyer), who died at Glasgow, was interred in the family burying-place in the old churchyard.

29/4/1939 Milngavie and Bearsden Herald

☛ The death took place at Weymouth Drive, Kelvinside, Glasgow, on Wednesday last, of Bethia Edmonstone Foyer, fifth daughter and last remaining member of the family of the late David Foyer, Knowehead, Campsie Glen. The funeral took place to the Clachan Churchyard on Thursday. When the churchyard was closed on the application of the District Council to the Sheriff, the right of interment was reserved to Miss Foyer and her sister, who predeceased her some years ago.

17/11/1948 Kirkintilloch Herald

Foyer Gravestone Inscriptions in the Clachan Cemetery

18. (FS) John Foyer grazier Knowehead, fa Archd 20.9.1835 52, mo Isabella Muir 20.6.1837 36; David F in Knowehead, da Isabella Muir F. 6.12.1856 9m
19. (pink granite) David Foyer in Knowehead, w Christina Muir 14.9.1878 47, da Mary 20.1.1874 15, s John 25.8.1879 12, s Wm at Sutherland Nebraska USA 10.9.1895 26, s Archd Edmonstone at Sumner Nebraska USA 5.2.1907 46 (at head of 18)
20. (FS next 18) Archd Foyer grazier Knowehead, da Mary 15.12.1831 9y 11m, s John grazier Knowehead 28.5.1844 24, s David grazier there 29.10.1880 57, s David Muir F. 8.12.1914 52 bd Sutherland Nebraska USA, da Isabella Muir F. 61 bd Mochrum churchyard
21. (at head of 20) (pink granite) David Foyer of Knowehead Campsie Glen 1da Christina Paterson 18.4.1939 85 (wid of Peter Buchanan) da Bethia Edmonstone F. 8.11.1948 84

Mr. Robert McIndoe, who had retired from working, had an accident when a horse shied and he was thrown out. He died from his injuries in 1899. He was the tenant farmer of Knowehead from 1886 to 1895.

DEATH OF MR M'INDOE, J.P.—We regret to notice the death of Mr Robert M'Indoe, J.P., which took place at his residence, Lochbank House, Lennoxton, on Thursday. Six weeks ago Mr M'Indoe was driving in his trap, when the horse suddenly shied, and he was thrown out, receiving internal injuries, from which he never recovered. Mr M'Indoe was well known as a sheep farmer all over the west of Scotland. He took a great interest in agricultural affairs generally, and was a prominent member of the local Agricultural Association. He was, up till a few years ago, tenant of Knowehead Farm, Campsie Glen, but had retired from active work. Although 70 years of age, he was up till the time of the accident, hale and extremely active. He was a J.P. for Dumbartonshire, and was highly respected by all who knew him. He is survived by a widow and family.

15/7/1899 Bridge of Alan Gazette

Robert Glen is recorded, in the valuation rolls as the tenant from 1895 to 1915 yet there is no trace of him in the 1901 Campsie census. Further interrogation found him in Kilsyth as a butcher. It would seem that he was using the farm as a way to supply his butcher's shop and that Knowehead was not his main abode.

PRESENTATION TO A FARMER.—On Wednesday night of last week a number of residents in the Campsie Glen district entertained in the Burns Tavern, Lennoxton, Mr John Glen, son of Mr Robert Glen, the tenant of Knowehead Farm, Campsie Glen, and flesher in Kilsyth. The occasion was the departure of Mr John Glen to take up sheep farming in New Zealand. Mr Charles Yuill presided and made the presentation. Remarks were made on the loss the Glen district in particular and sheep farming in the district generally will suffer through the going away of Mr Glen. The company united in expressing their esteem for Mr Glen and their best wishes for his success, and in token thereof presented him with a gold medal. Mr Glen thanked his friends for their good wishes and parting gift. Mr Glen sailed from London on the Corinthian on Friday.

19/11/1909 Kirkintilloch Gazette

By 1919, the tenant was Mr. Robert Forrester who was the tenant from 1919 until 1924. While James had taken over from his father, Robert is still evidenced as winning prizes for Knowehead in 1923.

Mr. Robert Forrester, Knowehead, Campsie,
is the new tenant of Carston. His son will
continue to carry on Knowehead.

30/11/1921 Kirkintilloch Herald

The farm was let to James Adam in 1924 who was well known in the area as a breeder of black faced sheep.

In 1930 a fire broke out on the roof of the farmhouse causing considerable damage.

FARM FIRE AT CAMPSIE GLEN.
Fire broke out yesterday at Knowehead Farm, Campsie Glen. Bishopbriggs Fire Brigade were summoned, and as the fire had originated in the roof of the farmhouse, the firemen had to remove the slates and cut away part of the roof, so as to get at the seat of the outbreak, and prevent the flames extending. Considerable damage was done.

1/6/1930 Sunday Post

James died in 1940 at the age of 57. His son, William, took over briefly but he had been succeeded by Robert Ferguson by 1942.

In 1943, Mr. Robert Ferguson, is noted as having raised £10 for the prisoners of war fund by holding a whist drive.

He carried on fundraising and by 1944 had raised £41 10s for allied POWs and troops on the frontline.

COMFORTS FUND.—As a result of two whist drives recently held at Campsie Glen, the sum of £11 15s was handed over to Lennoxton and Campsie Glen Comforts Fund. Mr Robert Ferguson, Knowehead, is organiser for these whist drives, and since February, 1941, he has made a total contribution to the fund of £41 10s.

13/1/1944 Stirling Observer

In 1952 Barbara Lockhart became the final tenant She was a well-respected and successful sheep farmer who won many prizes with her animals.

Her arrival at the farm coincided with a spate of cattle rustling and butchering. One of Miss Lockhart's bullocks had been shot and was so badly injured that it had to be destroyed.

Cattle Rustling on Campsie Hills

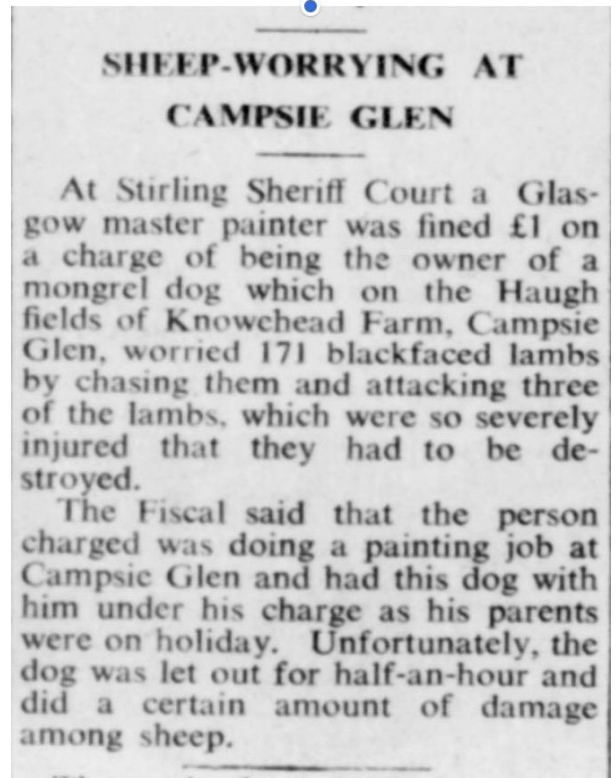
We can state authoritatively that there is no truth in the rumour that "Hopalong" Cassidy, the famous cowboy detective, is on his way from the wide open ranges of the U.S. West to the Campsie Hills following reports of cattle rustling in that region. The round-up of the rustlers will be left in the capable hands of the West Stirlingshire police.

Over the week-end it was reported that at The Lurg, Mr. James McEwan's farm near Fintry, parts of the carcasses of two hill-grazing cattle have been found hidden. The animals had apparently been killed, bled, and the best of the carcasses carried off. At Miss Barbara B. D. Lockhart's Knowehead Farm, Campsie Glen, a bullock was found wounded by a bullet and had to be destroyed. Both farms adjoin the Crow Road, a popular route over the Campsie Fells from Lennoxton to Fintry.

The loss of sheep has also been reported by farmers in the neighbourhood.

21/6/1952 Milngavie and Bearsden Herald

In 1958 a painter working at the farm let his dog out for half an hour and it chased the sheep and lambs; some were so badly injured they had to be destroyed. He was fined £1 at Stirling Sheriff Court.



19/11/1958 Kirkintilloch Herald

Barbara died in 1976, sadly as a result of a fire when she became trapped in her bedroom.

In another fire on Saturday, Miss Barbara Lockhart (60), of Knowehead Farm, near Lennoxtown, Stirlingshire, died after being trapped in her bedroom.

13/12/1976 The Scotsman

After this fire, which destroyed the house, a bungalow was built near to the Bothy to house the farm manager who was lucky to survive. His name was Jack Norman who continued to manage the farm until ill health forced him to retire. He became seriously ill and was admitted to hospital and after some time there he spent the rest of his life in a care home. We believe Caledonian Estates took over

Today the derelict farmhouse has been converted into a private family home with a chalet which is rented out as an Airbnb.

Other interesting articles.

CLASHMORE.

Taking a short cut for the famous Clachan of Campsie, across the face of Fassis, the hill which stands between the two glens, we soon fall in with a large grassy groove or hollow in the hillside named Clashmore, which bears a remarkable resemblance to the dried-up channel of some pre-historic river. South-east, a little from Knowehead Farm, a tiny streamlet, that had hitherto ran straight down almost from its fountain near the hilltop, here leaps over some rocks into this hollow basin, which now bends it eastward and carries it in its bosom right through the beautiful pleasure grounds of Ballincleroch House, and never halts until it has delivered its bantling burn to the loving embraces of the Campsie Glazert. Anyone curious enough, and not afraid of his braces, may see the happy union consummated any day, from the top of the boundary wall, in the public road, near the Campsie parish manse.

We have read somewhere that Belgium had been at one time the cockpit of Europe, but the grassy groove of Clashmore has been the cockpit of the Clachan callants time out of mind.

The word, like most Gaelic place-names, is made up of an adjective and a noun, viz., *Clais*, a ditch, a furrow, a trench, and *mor*, great, or of great size. That is "Great trench."

27/7/1892 Kirkintilloch Herald

As well as being a sheep farm, this article from Kirkintilloch Herald from 3rd of May 1911 about tattie howkin' would suggest that some of the land was also used for growing potatoes.

KNOWEHEAD FARM

employed 19 diggers of whom 7 were females. They were housed in an overcrowded loft above the barn, without separation of the sexes. The bedding consisted of straw, bags, and rugs. There is a gravitation water supply. The farm workers' privy was used by both sexes, and the accommodation was sufficient. Cooking was done at a fire in a coal shed, the accommodation being unsuitable. Personal ablutions were performed at a trough in the courtyard. There were no special means for clothes drying. Clothes washing was done in the courtyard, tubs, pails, etc., being supplied. The duration of stay was about a fortnight. The accommodation at this farm was found below the average. A bothy used for taking food in was in a very dirty state. Intimation under section 19 of the Public Health Act was served by Mr. Gough on the farmer regarding overcrowding and the state of the bothy, but the farmer was helpless to find a remedy. The diggers refused to be separated, and refused to remove into a larger apartment. Some improvement was made in the condition of the bothy, but the members of the gang appeared to have little faith in cleanliness. There was some delay in intimating the arrival of the diggers, and by the time they had been visited and intimation served and a return visit paid by the Sanitary Inspector the stay of the diggers at the farm was over. It will be kept under observation next season.

Real concern was raised about the conditions this mixed sex group were living in and it was seen as a contravention of Section 19 of the Public Health Act.

Robert Glen, the farmer at that time, tried his best and did manage some improvement but the diggers themselves seem to have worked against him.

3/5/1911 Kirkintilloch Herald

Muckcroft Farm



Credit EDC Archives

Karen Kimmett

Muckcroft Farm, located in Lennoxtown, in the Parish of Campsie, has a history rooted in the traditional agricultural and "wild" frontier days of the Scottish Lowlands. Historically, it was divided into **Easter Muckcroft**, **Mid Muckcroft** and **Wester Muckcroft**.

Map of Campsie published 1865



(National Library of Scotland)

Here is a breakdown of its historical significance:

The Field of Blood

It is said that a good deal of smuggling used to be carried on in Campsie as it prevailed extensively all over the country. Finglen was a great location for smugglers, and it is reported that at one time there could have been as many as seven illicit stills working there which could be detected by the smoke that they produced.

Local folklore connects East Muckcroft to the "Field of Blood," a site marked on Ordnance Survey maps. In the early 1800s, cattle raiders (the MacGregors under their assumed name Colquhouns) reportedly stole livestock and illicit whisky from a local still. They camped in a level field between East Muckcroft and the New Mill of Glorat, where the local farmers launched a bloody retaliatory attack while the raiders were asleep or intoxicated, successfully reclaiming their property.

Historical Name and Evolution

- **Etymology:** The name likely derives from the Gaelic *Muc* (pig) and the Scots *Croft* (a small farm), essentially meaning "Pig Farm."
- **Modern Names:** Because of the "muck" association, modern owners eventually renamed the sites.
 - **Easter and Mid Muckcroft** became **Cherrytree Cottage**.
 - **Wester Muckcroft** became **Lennox Lea Farm**.
- **Records:** The farm appears in land assessment tables as far back as the 16th century (appearing as *Mukrachs* or *Muckritt* in early maps like Blaeu's and Roy's Military Survey).

Industrial and Local Context

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the area around Muckcroft transitioned from purely agricultural to a mix of farming and industry:

- **Illicit Distilling:** The hills above Muckcroft were notorious for illicit whisky stills. Farmers sometimes had a "sympathetic" relationship with smugglers, as the high taxes on legal spirits made the illegal trade a vital part of the local economy.
- **Proximity to Lennoxmill:** The farm sat on the edge of the industrial boom brought by the **Lennoxmill Calico Print Works** in Lennoxtown, which transformed the quiet valley into a bustling centre of trade.

Note: Historical documents from the 1930s (by Peter Kincaid of Mid-Muckcroft) also link the nearby lands of Auchenreoch to ancient towers and mansion houses, suggesting the Muckcroft area was part of a significant network of local estates.

The valuation roll of 1855 documents the proprietor as **AF MacIntosh**.

Tenant farmer at Easter and Mid being George Brown and William Macfarlane at Wester.

The Macintosh family had deep roots in this area, particularly through the famous chemist **Charles Macintosh** (inventor of the waterproof fabric). Here is how the details connect:

Alexander Fisher Macintosh (1795–1862)

Alexander Fisher Macintosh was the son of **Charles Macintosh** (of Campsie and Dunchattan) and Mary Fisher. Unlike his father the inventor, Alexander followed a military path:

- **Rank:** He was a distinguished officer, eventually reaching the rank of **General** in the British Army.
- **Honours:** He was a Knight of the Royal Guelphic Order (**KH**).
- **Legacy:** He is often cited in genealogical records of the Campsie area as the heir to the family's interests following his father's death in 1843.

Muckcroft, Campsie

Muckcroft is a specific locality and former estate within the **Parish of Campsie**.

- **The Estate:** Muckcroft was part of the lands held or utilized by the Macintosh family. The family's industrial and residential history is tied to the **Campsie Alum Works**, which Charles Macintosh helped establish.
- **Records:** Historical parish records often list "Muckcroft Buildings" or "Muckcroft Cottage" as residences for workers and prominent families associated with the local estates.

The Family Context

The Macintoshes of Campsie were a branch of the larger Clan Mackintosh. Their specific influence in Campsie was defined by:

- **Industrial Innovation:** Transforming the area with chemical works (producing alum and Prussian blue).
- **Land Ownership:** Owning significant tracts like **Dunchattan** and interests in **Campsie Glen** and **Muckcroft**.

The next proprietor was John King 1789 to 1875

He was one of the best known merchants and a most highly respected citizen, was a native of Stirling, and was born in 1789. He received his education at the Grammar School in Stirling, entering that somewhat celebrated academy.

Having a preference for trade life, Mr. King's first situation was in the counting-house of the Hurllet and Campsie Alum Company at their Hurllet works, near Barrhead, where Mr. John Wilson of Thornlie, father of the late Mr. George Wilson of Dalmarnock, was managing partner, the other partners being Mr. Charles Macintosh of Dunchattan, a chemist of more than European reputation, and Mr. Charles Stirling of Cadder. After a few years spent at Hurllet, in the course of which he acquired a practical knowledge of the manufacture, besides making himself highly useful in the mercantile department of the business, he was appointed to the management of the Company's establishment at Campsie; and while there he devoted himself with unremitting attention to the task of improving the processes and increasing the various products at the works.

While resident at Campsie much of his leisure was spent in reading, and he thus acquired an extensive and minute acquaintance of his favourite authors, Shakespeare, Scott, and Cowper. Nor did he experience the want of intellectual society, for he was much in the company of the Rev. James Lapslie, the able but eccentric minister of the parish. His special friend, however, was Mr. Dalglish, afterwards Lord Provost of Glasgow, and father of our late Member of Parliament. Mr. Dalglish took a paternal interest in Mr. King, and insisted that, as a general rule, he should spend each Sunday evening in his family circle at Lennoxmill.

In 1825 Mr. King moved to Glasgow, to take the management of the Cudbear Works at Dunchattan, belonging to Messrs. George Macintosh & Co. This firm having been established in 1777, its name appears in the first Glasgow Directory (1783). Their works were the first chemical works erected in Glasgow. The workmen were all Highlanders, most of them ignorant of the English language; and, except those who were married, they all lived in a barrack within the works, and were supervised and watched over with something like military strictness. Various subsidiary manufactures were carried on at different periods, but the staple articles were always "Cudbear" and "Archil." These dyes were extracted from a whitish lichen imported from Sweden, the Cape de Verde Islands, and the coast of Peru; and they were formerly in extensive use for colouring woollen and silk fabrics, in every shade from crimson to purple.

Mr. Charles Macintosh, whose father had died many years before, was at this time (1825) the head of the firm; and having had ample experience of Mr. King's business capacity and reliability of character, invited him to assist him in the business of the firm, and after some time made him a partner, assuming also at the same time George, the elder of his own sons.

On 14th February 1826, Mr. King was married to Miss Christina Macnie, who, like himself, was a native of Stirling. In 1841 he went to reside at Levernholme, in the parish of Eastwood. This he made his chief residence during the remainder of his life.

Mr. Charles Stirling died a few years after Mr. King's admission as a partner to the firm of George Macintosh & Co.; and Mr. Charles Macintosh having died in 1843, and his son George in 1848, the whole of that business, and of the Hurllet and Campsie Alum Co., passed into the hands of Mr. King. Owing, however, to the introduction of new brilliant dyes, the use of cudbear, the chief article of manufacture at Dunchattan, was rapidly going out of use. In consequence, Mr. King closed the business of George Macintosh & Co. in the year 1851, after it had been carried on for upwards of 70 years. Thereafter he continued to devote the whole of his attention to the business of the Hurllet and Campsie Alum Co., remaining a partner to the date of his death.

In 1856 Mr. King purchased from General Alexander Fisher Macintosh, son of his former partner, Mr. Charles Macintosh, and a full cousin of our distinguished citizen, Sir John Moore, the estate of Campsie.

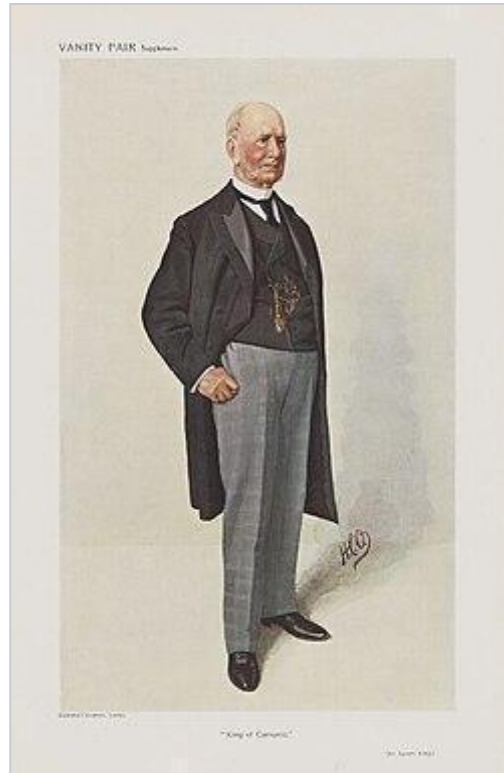
Mr. King was a strong Conservative and Churchman. He had no taste for public life. He was, however, a Director of the Merchants' House and of the Chamber of Commerce and also, at different times, a Director of the Clydesdale Bank, of the Forth and Clyde Navigation, and of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Co.

Mr. King died at Levernholme on 31st October 1875. He was survived by his wife and three sons, all his partners in business, and by two daughters. His eldest son, Mr. James King of Campsie, has filled the office of Lord Dean of Glasgow, and also that of Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, and is a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Stirling.

One of Muckcroft's most notable Proprietors

Sir James King, 1st Baronet, FRSE (13 July 1830 – 1 October 1911) was a Scottish businessman who served as Lord Provost of Glasgow 1886 to 1889. He was Director of the Clydesdale Bank for over forty years. He was also Chairman of the Caledonian Railway Company. His family motto was "Honos Industriae Praemium" translated as honour is the reward of hard work/Industry.

The 1885 Valuation Roll of Scotland note Sir James as proprietor of East, Mid and West Muckcroft farms succeeding his father above.



Sir James King - "King of Campsie", caricature by HCO in Vanity Fair, 1910.

He was born in Glasgow on 13 July 1830 the eldest of seven children to John King of Leverholme and Campsie, and his wife, Christina McNie. He attended Glasgow High school then Glasgow University before joining the family business of Hurler & Campsie Alum Company, in their offices at 77 Union Street in Glasgow. The firm made various raw chemical products, including potash and alum.

He played a very active part in the life of Glasgow joining the Town Council in 1874 and being variously Dean of Guild, Chairman of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Dean of Faculties at the University of Glasgow, and Chairman of the Clyde Navigation Trust. He was also Deputy Lieutenant and a Justice of the Peace for Lanarkshire.

In 1877, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. His proposers were William Thomson, Lord Kelvin, Sir Charles Wyville Thomson, Sir James David Marwick and James Bryce.

He was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1887 following her official visit to the city. In 1888 he oversaw the Glasgow International Exhibition in his role of Lord Provost. He was then raised to the rank of Baronet. In 1889 he served on the Royal Commission on the Highlands and Islands and was involved in paving the way for the Crofters Commission.

Through the 1880s and 1890s he rented the habitable sections of Bothwell Castle from the Earl of Home.

In 1910, he had two listed addresses: 115 Wellington Street in Glasgow and Carstairs House. Carstairs House was later renamed Monteith House in part due to the confusion and stigma for the similarly named Carstairs Hospital, a hospital once linked with the criminally insane, and itself now also renamed.

He died on 1 October 1911.

The farm was then owned by Sir James King's brother, Charles MacIntosh King 1836 to 1920.

Charles Macintosh King (1836–1920) was the younger brother of Sir James King. While Sir James focused on civic leadership and the family business, Charles established a notable military and administrative career of his own.

Professional & Civic Life

- **Military Rank:** He served as an **Honorary Colonel** in the 4th Volunteer Battalion of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.
- **Public Office:** He held several key administrative roles, including Deputy Lieutenant (D.L.) of Stirlingshire and Justice of the Peace (J.P.) for both Glasgow and Lanarkshire.

Marriage and Family

On 6 June 1867, Charles married **Jane Margaret Buchanan**, daughter of Andrew Buchanan. They had a large family of eight children:

- **Jean Buchanan King** (1869–1956)
- **John King** (1870–1890)
- **Christina Macnie King** (1872–1947)
- **Marion Buchanan King** (1874–1946)
- **Major Andrew Buchanan King** (1875–1915): A career soldier who died during World War I.
- **Charles Macintosh King Jr.** (1876–1964)
- **Walter Buchanan King** (1878–1899)
- **Robert Buchanan King** (1881–1965)

Charles Macintosh King died on 11 February 1920 at the age of 83

Robert Buchanan King 1881 to 1965

Son of Charles Macintosh King then became proprietor of the farm after his father's death in 1920.

Robert Buchanan King was the youngest son of Charles Macintosh King and Jane Margaret Buchanan. Unlike some of his brothers who pursued military careers, Robert established himself in the legal and civil administration fields in Scotland.

Personal Profile

- **Birth:** 5 July 1881.
- **Death:** 7 July 1965, at the age of 84.
- **Education:** He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from **New College, Oxford University**.

Professional & Civic Life

- **Legal Career:** He was a practising **Advocate**, a member of the Scottish bar specializing in courtroom advocacy and legal opinions.
- **Public Office:** Following in his father's footsteps, he served as a **Justice of the Peace (J.P.)** for Stirlingshire.

Marriage

On 12 January 1917, he married **Eliza Margaret Moncrieff**, the daughter of Robert Scott Moncrieff.

Robert's life stands in contrast to his brothers **Major Andrew Buchanan King**, who died from wounds in World War I, and **Lieutenant Walter Buchanan King**, who was killed in action during the Boer War.

Thomas Hodge

Thomas Hodge became the proprietor of Easter and Mid Muckcroft in 1925 although he had been a tenant farmer at Muckcroft since 1915. Wester Muckcroft remained under the ownership of the King family.

In the context of the King family of Campsie, Thomas Hodge appears as a likely relative through the family of Sir James King's mother, Christina Macnie. The Hodge and King families were both prominent in the Campsie and Glasgow industrial and merchant circles during the 19th century.

Thomas Hodge and the King Family

While not a direct sibling of Sir James King, the name **Thomas Hodge** is found within the extended family network of the Kings and Macnies:

- **Thomas Forrest Hodge** (born 1861) was a contemporary within the broader Hodge family in the region.
- The Hodge family frequently intermarried with prominent local families like the **Macnies** and **Buchanans**, who are central to Sir James King's lineage.
- Records from the **Campsie (Milton)** area in the 1881 Census list members of the Hodge family, such as **Sarah Hodge**, living in the same parish as the King family estates.

Establishment of The Baronetcy

The baronetcy of King of Campsie was created on 10 October 1888 in the Baronetage of the United Kingdom, with the title designated "of Campsie, in the county of Stirling". Letters Patent were written under the Great Seal on 8 October 1888, granting the dignity to Sir James King, Knight Bachelor, Lord Provost of Glasgow, and the heirs male of his body. This honour recognized King's prominent public service, particularly his leadership in municipal affairs and contributions to Glasgow's industrial and civic development, tying the title explicitly to the family's longstanding estates in Campsie, Stirlingshire, where they had built their fortune in the alum industry.

A key precursor to the baronetcy was King's knighting as a Knight Bachelor in 1887, announced in August as part of honours for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Serving as Lord Provost from 1886 to 1889, King had overseen significant civic initiatives, including his role as chairman of the executive council for the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1888, a major event showcasing industrial progress and attended by royalty. These responsibilities highlighted his dedication to the city's advancement, aligning with the baronetcy's creation as a reward for such endeavors.

The family's adopted motto upon the baronetcy's establishment, "Honos Industriae Praemium" (translated as "Honour is the reward of industry"), encapsulated the honour's emphasis on industriousness, reflecting both King's personal achievements and the family's entrepreneurial legacy in Scottish manufacturing.

Legacy and Associations

Sir James King, the 1st Baronet, expanded his family's alum business into broader commercial leadership roles that shaped Glasgow's industrial landscape. He served as a director of the Clydesdale Bank for over forty years, including twenty-seven years as chairman, contributing to the institution's growth during Scotland's industrial expansion.^[23] Additionally, he chaired the Caledonian Railway Company until 1908, overseeing key developments in Scotland's transport infrastructure. King also held the position of president of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Clyde Navigation Trust, roles that influenced trade policies and port operations vital to the city's mercantile economy.

Following King's death in 1911, the family maintained connections to chemicals and transport sectors, though detailed records of directorships for subsequent baronets remain limited. The 2nd and 3rd Baronets, Sir John Westall King and Sir James Granville le Neve King, upheld industrial ties through inherited estates and regional involvement, preserving the family's economic footprint without assuming prominent public directorships. Later generations focused on sustaining these legacies amid shifting economic conditions.

The Kings' business endeavors significantly bolstered Glasgow's 19th-century economy, particularly through advancements in alum production—which originated from the family's Hurlet & Campsie Alum Co.—and railway expansion that facilitated industrial trade. Their contributions to banking and navigation trusts supported the integration of Scotland's chemical and transport industries, enhancing regional commerce.

This commercial prominence underpinned the baronetcy's creation in 1888, recognizing King's services as Lord Provost of Glasgow and his role in economic development. The family's sustained business influence ensured the title's association with industrial achievement across generations.

The Farmers of Muckcroft

The first indication we find about farmers in Muckcroft is in an article printed in the Glasgow Herald in 1820.

Ploughing Matches.—On Friday the 25th ultimo, the first Ploughing Match, under the appointment of the Campsie Farmers' Society, took place on the farm of Kinkell, Campsie, possessed by John Calder. Twenty-seven ploughs started, and the work was in general so well performed that the judges had considerable difficulty in deciding the preferences. The premiums, however, were awarded as follows: viz., The first to John Brown, son of Malcom Brown, farmer, Balcurroch; 2d, to David Russel, servant to John Kincaid of Kincaid, Esq.; 3d, to Thomas Anderson, farmer, Mains; 4th, to William M'Culloch, son of William M'Culloch, farmer, Croft-john; 5th, to James Shearer, servant to John Calder, farmer, Kinkell; 6th, to John Brownlie, servant to Robert Kincaid, farmer, Garmore; 7th, to Peter Dickson, servant to William Brown, farmer, Muckcroft; and 8th, to William Dick, servant to William M'Kean, farmer, Muckcroft.—The exertions already made by this Society, during the few months that have elapsed since its formation, for the improvement of various agricultural objects, merit the highest praise, and entitle it to the encouragement and support of every person who takes an interest in the agricultural prosperity of the parish of Campsie.

3/3/1820 Glasgow Herald

Here we have Peter Dickson as farm servant to William Brown, farmer of Muckcroft, taking 7th place in the ploughing competition and William Dick farm servant to William McKean, farmer at Muckcroft, taking 8th position. This is evidence that Muckcroft Farm is at this stage already in at least two separate tenancies.

The following year, in the second ploughing competition, we see the same two men as farmers of Muckcroft. William Dick, 5th place, is still a farm servant to William McKean and Peter Dickson, 6th place, is a farm servant to William Brown.

Ferrie, farmer, Balgrochan; the 5th, to Wm. Dick, servant to William M'Kean, farmer, Muckcroft; the 6th, to Peter Dickson, servant to Wm. Brown, farmer, Muckcroft; the 7th, to Thomas Anderson,

2/1/1821 Glasgow Herald

David Buchanan of Easter Muckcroft won 2nd prize for his Ayrshire bull at the Highland Society of Scotland's livestock show in Glasgow in 1828. We also see that the two parts of Muckcroft Farm are now differentiated by name.

Class I.—For the best Ayrshire Bull not under three years,
The 1st Premium to Mr Malcom Brown of Campsie, Stirlingshire
2d, To Mr David Buchanan, Easter Muckcroft.
3d, To Mr Andrew M'Ewan, at Gowston, Stirlingshire—And the
4th, To Mr William Reid at Allanton.

27/9/1828 Edinburgh Evening Courant

In August 1834 the estate of the Lands and Barony of Campsie or Bencloch was advertised for sale with the proviso that if it did not sell as one lot then it would be further subdivided. The estate failed to sell at this point, so a further advertisement was placed in the Scotsman in 1835 with a reduction in the price.

In the Parish of Campsie.

**Lot. I. The ESTATE or BARONY of CAMP-
 SIE, comprehending the Lands of Easter, Wester,
 and Middle MUCKCROFTS, BARRHILL,
 MUIRHEAD, FINNIE'S CROFT, TORPHIN,
 and part of GREENHEAD, containing about 500
 acres Scotch measure, nearly all arable, with the Alum
 Mines, Colliers, Ironstone, and Limestone of the
 Estate, and Superiority and Feu-duties of Land, be-
 longing in property to the Alum Company.**

Proven rental conform to the existing leases, viz.

Land rents, after deduction of £16, 0, 4d, for pa- rochial and public burdens,	£602	5	5
Alum, Coal, and Lime Rents	610	0	0
Annual Feu-duties, (besides periodical duplicand),	183	7	2
Together	£1395	12	7

The proven value of which was £26,918, 13s, 11d;
 but now to be exposed at the reduced
 upset price of £25,500 0 0

30/9/1835 The Scotsman

The estate was purchased by Major General A.F. Macintosh.

In the 1841 census we find William Brown as the farmer at Muckcroft.

Name	Age	Occupation
William Brown	65	Farmer
Elizabeth Brown	55	
George Brown	20	
William Dickson	35	Agricultural Labourer
Alexander Dunn	12	Agricultural Labourer
Catherine Gillies	20	Farm Servant
Margaret McDonald	20	Farm Servant
Janet Armour	15	Farm Servant
Agnes Brown	50	Ind.
Thomas Buchanan	65	Agricultural Labourer

While David Buchanan continued to win prizes for Muckcroft, the only David Buchanan to be found on the 1841 census was the farmer at Sheilds Farm.

SECOND DIVISION.
For Open Competition.

Class 1. For the best Milch Cow—1st, James Clelland, Coat-bridge, Old Monkland ; 2d, William Hay, Orchardton ; 3d, James Frew of Balquharrage, Campsie.

Class 2. For the best Cow, bred by exhibitor—1st, William Hay, Orchardton ; 2d, James Frew of Balquharrage, Campsie ; 3d, David Buchanan, Muckcroft.

Kirkintilloch Cattle Show

29/6/1846 Glasgow Herald

By the 1851 census William Brown had died and his son George had taken over the farm.

George had been born at Muckcroft on the 4th of September 1816 indicating that his father's tenure had been a long one.

1851 Census Easter and Mid Muckcroft

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Elizabeth Brown	Head	64	Farmer's widow	Strathblane
George Brown	Son	34	Farmer of 160 acres employing 2 labourers and one boy	Campsie
John Campbell	Servant	18	Farm labourer	Oban
William Gibb	Servant	11	Errand boy	Killlearn
Margaret Blair	Servant	20	House servant	Campsie
Susan McInness	Servant	25	Dairymaid	Fort Augustus
Barbara Mathieson	Servant	25	Dairymaid	Campbelltown

Separate household on Easter and Mid Muckcroft

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
John Thompson	Head	33	Farm labourer	Perthshire
Isabella Thompson	Wife	30		Campsie
Isabella Thompson	Daughter	4	At home	Campsie
John Thompson	Son	2		Campsie
William Thompson	Son	3 mth		Campsie

1851 Census Wester Muckcroft

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
William Macfarlane	Head	64	Farmer of 60 acres	Campsie
Mary Macfarlane	Sister	54	Housekeeper	Campsie
Elizabeth Nelson	Servant	44	House servant	Glasgow
Margaret White	Servant	17	Farm servant	Paisley
Agnes White	Servant	13	Farm servant	Paisley

George Brown married Isabella Buchanan on the 14th of June 1859 in Campsie.

The railway which had been built through the farm offered a ready means of transport for crops and livestock.

**SALE OF GROWING TURNIPS,
ON THE FARM OF EAST MUCKCROFT, CAMPSIE.**

TEN ACRES of GROWING TURNIPS,
Aberdeen Purple and Green Top Yellows, in Lots to suit
Purchasers, an excellent crop.

The Glasgow and Campsie Branch Line of Railway runs through
the Farm, and the Exposer will Cart the Turnips to a siding in
connection with the Farm on said Railway, thereby affording a
ready transit of said Crop to Glasgow Cowfeeders, Dealers, and
the Public in general in Kirkintilloch, Campsie, and surrounding
neighbourhood.

Sale on Tuesday, 15th Nov., 1859, at Twelve o'clock Noon.
D. CRICHTON, Auctioneer, Coatbridge.

9/11/1859 Glasgow Herald

By the 1861 census George was recorded as living at Mid Muckcroft

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
George Brown	Head	44	Farmer of 60 acres	Campsie
Isabella Brown	Wife	28		Campsie
Jane Brown	Daughter	1		Campsie
Margaret Graham	Servant	21	Dairy servant	Eaglesham
Mary Allison	Servant	14	Domestic servant	Avonside
John Clark	Servant	16	Ploughman	Dumbarton

In the 1865 valuation roll it would seem that the land of Wester Muckcroft had been split with Andrew Forgie farming the land of Barrhill and part of Wester Muckcroft and Andrew Hosie farming the remaining land of Wester Muckcroft. No tenant is shown for Easter Muckcroft yet, there is an interesting find in the 1861 census.

1861 census Muckcroft (Could this be Easter Muckcroft?)

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Archibald Couper	Head	66	Farmer of 153 acres employing 6 labourers and 1 boy	Eastwood
Thomas Couper	Son	37	Farmer's son	Eastwood
Janet Couper	Daughter in Law	28		Kirkintilloch
Archibald Couper	Grandson	6		Old Monkland
Thomas Couper	Grandson	5		Old Monkland
William Couper	Grandson	3		Old Monkland
Jessie Couper	Granddaughter	1		Campsie
Ann Shanker	Servant	24	Dairymaid	Pollockshaws
Jean Campbell	Servant	12	Nurse	Eaglesham
Charles Colston	Servant	25	Ploughman	Paisley
William Craig	Servant	18	Ploughman	Inchinnan

The theory that this was, in fact, Easter Muckcroft is confirmed by the birth announcement in the Stirling Observer.

COUPER.—At East Muckcroft, Campsie, on the 5th inst.,
Mrs Thomas Couper, of a daughter.

10/9/1863 Stirling Observer

In 1866, a field at Easter Muckcroft was used by the local Territorial Battalions for formal drill practice.

LENNOXTOWN.

On Friday and Saturday last, the two companies of Rifle Volunteers stationed in this part of the country met for drill, under the command of Captain Young, the much respected Adjutant of the Stirlingshire Battalion. There was a numerous muster of both companies, especially on Saturday, when the efficient brass band of the Lennox Mill Company was in attendance. The muster on Saturday took place at 3.30 P.M. at the respective armouries. Lennox Mill Corps, No. 7, preceded by their band, marched out first, and being joined by the Lennoxtown Corps, No. 4, marched to a large field on East Muckcroft Farm, which was kindly granted for the occasion. The companies, after being told off, were marched past in open column and quarter distance column, then wheeled into line and put through the manual and platoon exercises; thereafter being broken into open column of companies from the right, they were put through all the different moves—deploying and forming line on the right and left, companies, advancing in echelon of companies from the left, changing front by wheeling a quarter circle on the move, forming into line and charging, forming rallying squares, re-forming into line, advancing in line to salute; mostly all of these difficult movements being done in a praiseworthy manner. The marching past was not quite up to the mark in either company, but we expect this defect will be overcome, and that our two companies will maintain the reputation which they have borne ever since they made their appearance in their original light brown uniform. The uniform now adopted by the Battalion has not been well received in this part of the county, and should the commanding officers ever think of making any change in the colour, and especially the shape of the tunic, we hope the members of the Battalion will be at least allowed an opportunity of declaring either for or against the retention of the present uniform.

24/5/1866 Stirling Observer

A report of the death of William Macfarlane in 1867 perhaps explains the strange division of the land of Wester Muckcroft in the 1865 valuation roll. William had given up farming due to his advanced age but continued to live in the farmhouse until his death.

At Muckcroft, Campsie, on the 16th inst., Wm. M'Farlane, Esq., aged 86 years.

20/2/1867 Glasgow Evening Post

Following William's death, Wester Muckcroft was formally amalgamated with Barrhill Farm.

1871 Easter Muckcroft Census

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Thomas Couper	Head	47	Farmer of 153 acres	Eastwood
Janet Couper	Wife	39		Kirkintilloch
William Couper	Son	13	Scholar	Old Monkland
Jessie Couper	Daughter	11	Scholar	Campsie
Mary Couper	Daughter	9	Scholar	Campsie
Margaret Couper	Daughter	7	Scholar	Campsie
Jeannie Couper	Daughter	4		Campsie
Thomas Couper	Son	1 mth		Campsie
Agnes Couper	Daughter	1 mth		Campsie
David Forrester	Servant	26	Farm servant	Campsie
George Sevie	Servant	20	Farm servant	Kilpatrick
Mary McCallan	Servant	20	Farm servant	Newport

1881 Easter Muckcroft Census

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Thomas Couper	Head	57	Farmer of 153 acres employing 4 men and 1 girl	Eastwood
Janet Couper	Wife	48	Farmer's wife	Kirkintilloch
William Couper	Son	23	Ploughman	Old Monkland
Jessie Couper	Daughter	21	Farmer's daughter	Campsie
Maggie Couper	Daughter	17	Farmer's daughter	Campsie
Agnes Couper	Daughter	7	Scholar	Campsie
Mary Couper	Daughter	1		Campsie
John Scott	Servant	23	Farm servant	Glasgow
John Stark	Servant	17	Farm servant	Glasgow
David Herdman	Servant	15	Farm servant	Cadder

A Sunday School outing was held at Easter Muckcroft in the Summer of 1885.

CAMPSIE.

SCHOOL FETE.—The last, but not least, school trip of this season took place on Saturday afternoon, the 8th inst., consisting of 350 scholars and teachers, in connection with the Sabbath School of Campsie Parish Church in Lennoxton district. The company met in the church at 2.30 p.m., where the Rev. John Young Scott, pastor, addressed them on the future procedure of the day. After praise and prayer the children were marshalled in good order, and marched three deep behind the local instrumental brass band, which was in waiting at the foot of the knowe before the church, and led the company through the village eastward, passing Callander House, Burn House, the old smithy, Rowantree-fauld, and Muckcroft Buildings, amidst a large number of spectators. Halting at the farm of Mr Alex. Couper of Easter Muckcroft, where a green field was freely given them by Mr Couper for the day, the company partook of an ample supply of buns and milk. The programme was exceedingly varied, consisting of musical pieces in an improved style from the band, and hymns rendered by the scholars, led by Mr Thomas Lindsay, leader of psalmody in the Parish Church. Football, swinging, and races were joined in, and prizes awarded to the most successful pedestrians. Messrs Brown, Todhill; Horn, Campbell, and Morrison, &c., as teachers, did more than a little in making the afternoon one which must be remembered for a long time to come. The position of steward was efficiently filled by Mrs Scott. The Rev. A. M. Brown made a short but suitable speech, after which the company were re-marshalled, and commenced their homeward journey, arriving on the knowe before the church doors at 7 p.m., in the calm still of the evening. After singing the hundredth psalm the party separated, having spent a very pleasant afternoon. The weather, though dull, was fair.

15/8/1885 Stirling Observer

There was a bit of trouble with the law in when the milk cart knocked down a pedestrian in 1886.

TORRANCE.

DAMAGES FOR BEING KNOCKED DOWN BY A MILK CART.—Some time ago an action was raised in the Stirling Sheriff Court at the instance of James M'Kechnie, Torrance of Campsie, against Thomas Couper, farmer, Muckcroft, Lennox-town, claiming £30 damages for injuries alleged to have been sustained by him in February last, owing to a milk-cart belonging to the defender, and driven by a boy, knocking him down on the public road, between Torrance of Campsie and Glasgow. The defence was that the pursuer was in the middle of the road when the milk-cart came up, and did not move into the foot-path when the driver gave him warning. It was also denied that he was knocked down by the cart. Sheriff-Substitute Mitchell has issued an interlocutor deciding in favour of pursuer, and fixing the damages at £10, with expenses of process.

21/7/1886 Kirkintilloch Herald

Thomas Couper died, aged 63, of pneumonia at East Muckcroft Farm on the 10th of July 1887. His son William registered his death.

LENNOXTOWN.

DEATH OF MR THOMAS COUPER.—The death is announced of Mr Thomas Couper, farmer, East Muckcroft, after a few days' illness. Mr Couper had been for many years tenant of Muckcroft Farm, on Sir James King's estate, Campsie, and was well known and highly esteemed in the district as a practical farmer. He was for some time a member of the Parochial Board, and was recently appointed an elder in the Established Church, Campsie. He leaves a widow and several of a family to mourn his loss.

13/7/1887 Kirkintilloch Herald

Thomas's son, William, took over the running of the farm.

1891 East Muckcroft Census

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
William Couper	Head	33	Farmer	Old Monkland
Janet Couper	Mother	58	Farmer's mother	Kirkintilloch
Jessie Couper	Sister	30	Farmer's sister	Campsie
Maggie Couper	Sister	26	Farmer's sister	Campsie
Agnes Couper	Sister	17	Farmer's sister	Campsie
Mary Couper	Sister	11	Scholar	Campsie
Robert Niblock	Servant	16	Farm servant	Dumbarton
Robert Simpson	Servant	17	Farm servant	Glasgow
Edmund Elliot	Servant	15	Farm servant	Whitburn

On the 22nd of June 1897 Queen Victoria celebrated her diamond jubilee. This was the first time that a monarch had reigned for 60 years, so celebrations were held across the country. East Muckcroft was at the Centre of Campsie's event.

LENNOXTOWN.

The celebration in Campsie took the form of a demonstration, taken part in by the two local companies of Volunteers, the local Lodges of Freemasons, Shepherds, and Rechabites, also the children attending the various schools in the parish, marching in procession through Lennox-town to a field on Muckcroft Farm, where, after a *feu-de-joie* had been fired by the Volunteers, and the "National Anthem" sung, the children were plentifully supplied with refreshments, each being also presented with a Jubilee medal. Four bands of music were engaged, and sports and races were afterwards held. The town was gaily decorated. A large bonfire was kindled at night at Crichton's Cairn, the highest point on Campsie Fells.

23/6/1897 North British Daily Mail

The turnip pilfering which seemed to affect all the local farms hit Muckcroft in 1899.

A WARNING TO BOYS.

Patrick Dempsie, printfield worker, son of Wm. Dempsie, Lockhart's Lane, Lennoxtown, was charged with having on 16th Sept., in a field on East Muckcroft Farm, maliciously pulled up two growing turnips. Accused pled guilty.

27/9/1899 Kirkintilloch Herald

PLOUGHMAN (married) Wanted; steady, experienced man.—Apply, personally, Couper, Muckcroft, Lennox-town.

27/11/1900 Glasgow Herald

1901 East Muckcroft Census

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
William Couper	Head	43	Farmer	Old Monkland
Janet Couper	Mother	65	Farmer's mother	Kirkintilloch
Jessie Couper	Sister	36	Assisting on farm	Campsie
Maggie Couper	Sister	32	Assisting on farm	Campsie
Agnes Couper	Sister	25	Assisting on farm	Campsie
Mary Couper	Sister	22	Domestic servant	Campsie
Robert Ballantyne	Servant	21	Ploughman	Hamilton
Robert Ballie	Servant	20	Ploughman	Glasgow

A rather damp Sunday School picnic took place at the farm in 1903.

S.S. EXCURSION.—On Saturday afternoon the members and others of the Sabbath Mission School, managed by Mr James Gardner, held their summer outing. The young people met at the old Subscription Schoolhouse where, after being arranged, they marched to Mr Cooper's farm at Muckcroft, where milk and other refreshments were abundantly served out, after which the usual outdoor games passed the time until tea was ready. Unfortunately, just as this was being served rain began to fall, which to a certain extent spoiled the pleasure of this good old annual. Nevertheless the full programme was gone through. The turnout was fairly good. The party returned about 7 o'clock. Mr Gardner deserves the highest praise for the splendid work carried on by him amongst the rising generation.

29/11/1903 Kirkintilloch Herald

Horror was about to affect the family as William committed suicide.

MILTON OF CAMPSIE.
SUICIDE.—On Friday morning the district was startled by the report that Mr William Couper, farmer, Muckcroft, had committed suicide by shooting himself with a gun. The report proved to be true, the unfortunate man having been found lying on the road leading to his farm between six and seven o'clock that morning with a discharged gun beside him. Couper, who was about forty years of age and unmarried, had been troubled a good deal lately. He had borrowed the gun from a neighbouring farmer the previous day on the plea that he was going to shoot some crows. The gun had evidently been discharged by the foot pressing the trigger, and the contents of the gun entered just at the right temple. Life was quite extinct when the body was found.

15/7/1904 Kirkintilloch Gazette

William took his own life on the 8th of July 1904 on a service road between Antermony Road and East Muckcroft. He was 46 years old.

East Muckcroft Farm was almost immediately taken over by John Macgilvray who had been the tenant farmer at Barrhill and West Muckcroft Farm.

His son, Charles, received a very highly commended for his bantam cock at the Glasgow Ornithology Society show.

Game bantam cock, black or brown red—1 and two specials N. Taig, Waterside; 2 Joseph M'Adam, Milton of Campsie; 3 James I. Little, Innsbridge, Kilsyth; vhc Charles M'Gilvray, Muckcroft, Lennoxtown; he and c Robert Kemp, Cawder Mill, Torrance.

30/12/1904 Kirkintilloch Gazette

His daughter won first prize for her flour scones at the Campsie Glen show in 1906.

Flour scones—1 Miss M'Gillivray, Muckcroft, Lennoxtown; 2 W. Graham, 3 Miss Russell, Kettlehill, Milngavie.

15/6/1906 Milngavie and Bearsden Herald

There was panic when Annie and Flora Macgilvray disappeared in 1906.

DISAPPEARANCE OF CAMPSIE GIRLS.

Kilsyth, Friday.—Considerable uneasiness has been occasioned by the disappearance of Elizabeth, aged fourteen, and Flora, aged eleven, daughters of Mr Mogilwar, farmer, Muckcroft, Campsie. About five o'clock on Wednesday they were sent on messages to Lennoxtown. Later in the evening they left by train, but since that no trace of them has been obtained. There is no reason for their disappearance. Up to this forenoon no word of the girls was secured. Inquiries to-day are being made at the houses of relatives.

24/11/1906 Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette

There was no further reporting on this incident so it must be assumed that the girls were found safe and well.

There was a R.C. Congregational Picnic held on the farm in 1907.

R.C. CONGREGATIONAL PIC-NIC. — This annual outing was held on Saturday afternoon, when the company marched in processional order headed by the Milton Band to Muckcroft Farm, where an enjoyable time was spent in sport and dancing.

23/8/1907 Kirkintilloch Gazette

The Macgilvray's time at East Muckcroft came to an end in 1910 when a dispenishing sale was held.

DISPENISHING SALE

of the whole

Farm Stock, Crop, Implements, etc., at
EAST MUCKCROFT FARM, LENNOXTOWN,

On **FRIDAY, 26th AUGUST,** at 11 a.m.

7 Horses, 18 Cattle, 40 head Poultry, 2 Pigs, 39 acres Growing Oats, 3 acres Wheat, 3 acres Turnips, 15 acres Potatoes, 65 ricks Hay; also, large assortment of usual Farm Implements, Stable and Dairy Utensils, etc.

THE Subscribers have received instructions from Robert T. Dunlop, Esq., Accountant, 58 Renfield Street, Glasgow, Trustee on the Trust Estate of Mr. John M'Gilvray, East Muckcroft Farm, Lennoxton, to Sell as above, consisting of:

STOCK.

15 Cows, 2 Calves, 1 Bull Stirk, 1 Pony, 1 Black Mare, 1 Chestnut Mare, 1 Black Horse, Mare and Foal, 1 Two-year-old Colt, 2 Pigs, 40 head Poultry.

CROP.

39 acres Corn, 3 acres Wheat, 3 acres Swedish and Yellow Turnips, 15 acres Potatoes, 65 ricks Hay.

IMPLEMENTS.

1 Close-bodied Cart, Pony Trap, Milk Van, 2 sets Harvest Capes, Potato Digger, 2 Waggon, 2 Reapers and Mowers, Self-Binder, Grindstone, 2 sets Harrows, Turnip Barrow, old Threshing Mill and Gearing, 2 Ladders, 4 Ploughs, set Chain Harrows, set Saddle Harrows, Barbed Wire, Brake Harrow, number of Stack Props, Meat Cooler, 2 Pails, Grubber, 2 Scythes, Corn Chest, 2 sets Cart Harness, Hay Rake, Hay Slips, set Trees, 2 Grubbers, set Van Harness, set Pony Harness, Henhouse on Wheels, Churn, Milk Dishes, Meal Giral, Forks, Graips, Etc., Etc.

Note.—The Grazing on the Farm will be Let till November.

Muckcroft Farm is quite near Lennoxton Station. Trains leave Queen Street (H.L.) at 8 and 10.20/a.m.

PAUL and MILLER,
Auctioneers.

Auction Mart, Dumbarton.

Thomas Hodge was the next and final tenant of East Muckcroft.

1911 Census East Muckcroft

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Thomas Hodge	Head	43	Farmer	Slamanan
Jeanie Hodge	Wife	32		Lennoxtown
William Scott	Nephew	3		Longriggend
John Ferguson	Servant	24	Ploughman	Longriggend
John Shane	Servant	18	Ploughman	Kirkintilloch

He was soon making his mark at the local shows.

**CAMPSIE, STRATHBLANE, AND
BALDERNOCK.**

Campsie, Strathblane, and Baldernock Agricultural Society held their annual show on the Dooki-Park, Milngavie, on Saturday, under the most favourable weather conditions. The total entries were:—Cattle, 87; horses, 102; sheep, 45; dogs, 14; butter, etc., 33. The principal prize-winners were:

CATTLE.

Cow in milk, three years old and upward—Robert Stewart, Craigielea, Milngavie.

Cow in calf or milk—Thomas Hodge, Muckcroft, Lennoxtown.

Cow in calf or milk, two years old—John Wilson, Keystone, Milngavie.

Commercial cow, any breed—John Wallace, Kessington, Bearsden.

Cow, not in milk but apparently in calf—John Wallace.

Bull, two years old and upwards—M. M'Keich, Balcarroch, Campsie Glen.

16/6/1911 Kirkintilloch Gazette

He seemed to also grow giant potatoes!

BIG POTATO.—The season has been most marked by the enormous growths among the vegetables, and the big spuds secured at various places have been reported. Last week, on Muckcroft Farm (Mr. T. Hodge's), the howkers lifted one which weighed a few ounces over 2 lbs. At one end it showed a likeness to a pig's head. The tuber was of the Queen variety.

1/11/1911 Kirkintilloch Herald

Jeanie Hodge proved her worth in the butter making competition in 1912.

BUTTER-MAKING.—At the Glasgow Agricultural Society's Show last week, Mrs. Thomas Hodge, Muckcroft Farm, was awarded fifth prize in the butter-making competition. This is most creditable when we consider the large number of entries.

10/6/1912 The Scotsman

Thomas won a number of prizes at the Killearn Cattle Show.

AGRICULTURAL.—Among the local exhibitors and prize-winners at Killearn Cattle Show last Friday were:—Mrs. Thos. Hodge, Muckcroft Farm, who secured first prize for oatcakes and also first prize for scones. In the butter section she was awarded third and fourth prizes. Mr. Thomas Hodge, Muckcroft Farm, had a number of exhibits, his prizes being:—Cow in milk, 4th; cow in calf and milk bred by exhibitor, 2nd; best pair of animals any breed, 4th; and for best animal of Ayrshire breed bred by exhibitor, 3rd. Mr. Peter Connell, Bencloch Farm, secured the following prizes:—Yeld mare three years old and upwards, 4th; colt or gelding one year old, 4th; gelding two years old, 4th; pony, not exceeding 14.2 hands high, driven in harness, 2nd. Mrs. Gray, Baldorran, showed a filly one year old, being awarded fourth prize.

9/8/1912 Milngavie and Bearsden Herald

This carried on year after year with Thomas winning prizes for his cattle and Jeanie winning prizes for her butter and baking. This continued throughout the Great War although Jeanie had to adapt her recipes to use less butter.

They regularly contributed eggs for wounded soldiers.

Disaster struck in 1915 when 20 acres of potatoes were destroyed by an unexpected heavy frost. In a time when food was scarce this was a difficult loss.

RUINED POTATOES.—Last Tuesday the potato diggers from Ireland employed by the Wholesale Co-operative Society, who had been lifting potatoes on Muckcroft Farm, left for their homes in the Green Isle. There are still twenty acres of potatoes at Muckcroft, which have been destroyed by the severe frost. At such a time as this, when food prices are so high, such an occurrence is painful.

1/12/1915 Kirkintilloch Herald

With the war over, Thomas and Jeanie returned to winning prizes for cows and baked goods at almost every agricultural show in the area.

By 1920 Jeanie's chicken flock numbers had recovered enough that she was able to offer some for sale.

FOR SALE, strong, healthy, hen-hatched Mixed Chicks from now onwards, 17/- dozen at farm.—Apply, Hodge, Muckcroft Farm, Lennoxtown.

12/5/1920 Kirkintilloch Herald

Thomas also managed to return to selling his horses which was something that had been severely restricted during the war as so many horses were required at the front.

HORSE SALE.—At the big horse sale at Lanark last week, the following local farmers disposed of horses:—Fillies—Mr. John Ferguson, Muirhead Farm, £17; Mr. John Hodge, Lochmill Farm, £21. Colts—Mr. Thomas Hodge, Muckcroft Farm, £24; Mr. John Hodge, Lochmill, £26. Three-year-old mare—Mr. Peter Connell, Balgrochan, £48. Mr. Connell also disposed of a two-year-old mare at £40.

20/10/1920 Kirkintilloch Herald

1921 Census East Muckcroft

Name	Position	Age	Occupation	Born
Thomas Hodge	Head	53	Farmer	Slamanan
Jeanie Hodge	Wife	43	Home duties	Lennoxtown
William Scott	Nephew	13	Scholar	Longriggend
Elizabeth Connell	Visitor	50		Campsie
Agnes Hamilton	Servant	50	Dairymaid	New Monkland
John Ferguson	Servant	30	Ploughman	Longriggend

At some point between 1920 and 1925 Thomas purchased East Muckcroft Farm from Robert Buchanan King and became the proprietor of his own farm.

Thomas and Jeanie continued to win prizes in every show they entered until, it suddenly came to an abrupt end in June 1931. Thomas's health had started to fail rapidly.

Thomas died, aged 67, on the 20th of February 1934 at Muckcroft Farm.

Jeanie lived for another 31 years and died, aged 88, in 1965 in Dollar.

Muirhead Farm



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1855-present

Allan Park

The farmlands are situated to the higher ground on the South of Lennoxton known locally as "The Southbraes."

Muirhead farm is still in existence and has a steading for horses. The picture was taken in 2016.

The name Muirhead is likely because of the location- meaning head or top of the moor. (There are many farms across Scotland called Muirhead. It is also an ancient Scottish surname). On Roy's lowlands military map 1752 -1755 there is "Muirhead of Muckritt" and also "Muirhead of Balgrachan recorded in what appears to be in same area as the farms noted below (found in National Library of Scotland archives). The area has been farmed for a longer period than discussed below, and names of farms change over the period, as well as that of proprietor and tenants. It also looks like over time the boundaries changed with additional parts of other farm e.g. Newlands being incorporated. Basic information has been gathered from valuation roles available from 1855 - 1940, as well as census information found in Scotland's People. Additional material was researched from various newspaper articles found via Find My Past.

There were periods of short term lets of various grassparks for grazing cattle, so the census and valuation roles will not have captured all who farmed at Muirhead farms. A typical notice of auction is shown below The Kirkintilloch Herald published an advert for let of 10 grass parks in the farm for grazing cattle by auction on 10th May 1893. Fields appear to have been auctioned for each grazing season and so tenants could potentially change frequently with tenants farming across different farms depending on need for, availability of, and success at auction for leasing the fields.

**LET OF GRASS PARKS
ON CAMPSIE ESTATE.**

The undernoted Grass Parks, in the FARM OF MUIR-
HEAD, near Lennoxton, will be Let for this
Season's Grazing by PUBLIC AUCTION,
ON SATURDAY, 13TH MAY.
Roup to begin at Muirhead Farm Steading at 12 o'clock
noon.

J O H N A N D E R S O N, AUCTIONEER, has
received Instructions to Let, as above, the under-
noted Parks:—

1. BARN PARK, Old Pasture,	6½	Acres or thereby.
2. BLACK SHOTTS,	9	„
3. MAILLEN KNOWES, „	15	„
4. BOG PARK,	4	„
5. GLENWHAPPLE PARK, Old Pasture, - - -	8½	„
6. SHEEP PARK—Old Pas- ture, 2 acres; Stubble, 6 acres, - - -	8	„
7. QUARRY PARK, 2nd Year's Ryegrass, - - -	5	„
8. WESTER CROFT, Old Pasture, - - -	11	„
9. BORE PARK, Old Pasture,	18	„
10. OFFICERS' MUIR, „	15½	„

These Parks are not fenced for Sheep, and will be let
for Grazing Cattle only, except Nos. 9 and 10, in
which Cattle and Horses may graze. The Steading
and Offices are also to be Let, for which Offers will be
received at CAMPSIE ALUM WORKS, LENNOXTOWN.
JOHN ANDERSON, Auctioneer, Kirkintilloch.

The Kirkintilloch Herald May 10 1893

The following table attempts to show who owned the farms and who some of the tenants were over the period from 1855 - 1940 according to valuation roles and census information. It is possible that some tenants farmed the area but lived on houses in nearby farms or that tenant in that house was not doing the farming at Muirhead Farm

	Farm of Muirhead		Muirhead Farm		
Year	Proprietor	Tenant	Proprietor	Tenant	Name changes
1855 Valuation	Maj Gen AF MacIntosh	Evan MacDonald	JLK Lennox	Robert Hosie	
Census 1861		John Hamilton		Robert Hosie	
1865 Valuation	John King	Andrew Buchanan	John King	John King occupier	
Census 1871		Not found		Duncan Stewart (Newlands)	
1875 Valuation	John King *	John Craig	The Hon Charles Spenser Baton Harbury Kincaid Lennox	Duncan Stewart	*Lands and steadings of Muirhead
Census 1881		John Craig		Duncan Stewart	
1885 Valuation	Sir James King *	Evan MacDonald	Mrs Cecilia Peareth Lennox	Duncan Stewart	*Noted as grasslands of Muirhead
1891				Duncan Stewart	
1895	Sir James King	Mrs Ellen Stewart widow (house)	Mrs Cecilia Peareth Lennox	John King	
1901		James McElfrish		John King	Muirhead Farm and Newlands farm

	Farm of Muirhead		Muirhead Farm		
Year	Proprietor	Tenant	Proprietor	Tenant	Name changes
1905	Sir Baronet James King	James McElfrish	Mrs Cecilia Peareth Lennox	John King	Grasslands and House of Muirhead
1911		James Main			
1915	Charles McIntosh King	John Ferguson	William George Peareth Kincaid	P William George Peareth Kincaid Occupier T William Aitken	Farm Muirhead and Farm Muirhead and Newlands
1920	Robert Buchanan King	John Ferguson	Wm George Peareth Kincaid Lennox	Thomas Spottiswood	As above
1925	Robert Buchanan King	John Ferguson	Robert Buchanan King	John Ferguson	Farm Muirhead and Two parks Lennoxtown
1930	Robert Buchanan King	William MacKerrow	Robert Buchanan King	William Mac Kerrow	One farm now "Muirhead"
1935	Robert Buchanan King	William MacKerrow	Robert Buchanan King	William MacKerrow	
1940	Robert Buchanan King	William MacKerrow	Robert Buchanan King	William MacKerrow	

One of the earlier tenants of The Farm of Muirhead listed above was John Hamilton. In the 1861 census he was recorded as aged 43, born in Stonehouse and was a farmer of 100 acres employing one dairymaid. His wife was Janet Gilmour (43) from Mains in Ayrshire. Domestic servant was Marjorie Anderson who was born in Clackmannanshire. Dairy farming seems to be consistent throughout the period. This is the bigger of the two farms and much of the land was used for grazing. Tenants of both farms appear to have changed frequently.

On the other farm Muirhead was Robert Hosie who was noted on the 1861 census as aged 76, born in Eastwood, and a farmer of 80 acres employing two men. Ploughman John Anderson (21) born in Kirkintilloch and Robert McKean (45), a widower born in Ireland, a farm servant, were also recorded in the house. His wife Agnes (69) born in Mearns and daughter Mary (47) born in Campsie were assisted by domestic servant Ann Buchanan also born in Campsie aged 13 Andrew Hosie a 16 year old mason born in Campsie was listed as a boarder and was perhaps a relation.

Andrew Buchanan was the occupier of Farm and parts of Muirhead in the 1865 valuation but no information was found of him being in Campsie on the censuses of 1861 or 1871.

Duncan Stewart was a tenant farmer born in Callander and on the 1881 census he was 75 years old and a farmer of 400 acres employing one man and two girls so assume he had a large dairy herd. He lived with his wife Helen (47) born in Fintry, 3 daughters (22, 14, 11) and 2 grandsons (5&6). His farm servant was Duncan Ewing (33) and a visitor was a sculptor named James Ewing from Fintry. Both Robert Hosie and Duncan Stewart were working in their mid 70s in days when state pensions were still to be introduced. It is unlikely that they lived in times of having days off far less holidays and so farmed their whole life as was common. Mr Stewart died in 1885 before the 1885 valuation, and it is noted that his widow then lived in a farmhouse on another farm. It is possible that proprietors felt some responsibility for their tenants and a widow was given an available home. It is interesting to note that an Evan MacDonald is living in the house 30 years after Evan MacDonald had been a tenant farmer there. No census records were found for Evan living in Campsie or perhaps he just wanted to return. The house rather than the farm was advertised in 1896 in the Kirkintilloch Herald and maybe it was common practice to rent out a house separately from the farm. The proprietor John King, appeared to actually, occupy Lands and part of Muirhead in 1865. He was a merchant from Glasgow and was proprietor of an extensive list of properties including mines of coal, lime and ironstone, alum ore, lands and farms of Muckcroft and West Muckcroft, steadings of Muckcroft Torphin and Fanniescroft, as well as woodlands in Campsie.

John Craig was the tenant in 1875 to John King. He is described as a farmer of 130 acres (larger than previous tenancies) and employed one man and one boy. He was 42 and was born in Dunlop. His wife Janet Whitely, 34, was born in Neilston as were their 3 sons Robert, 14, John 12, and William 10. Daughter, Janet, was born in Eastwood while a son James aged 5 and two daughters Agnes 3 and Elisabeth 1½ were born in Campsie. Farm servant John Smith age 44 was born in Baldernock.

The farms during the period covered have remained in the King family. Robert Buchanan King was an advocate who died at The Port of Menteith aged 84. He was the son of Charles McIntosh King a merchant and Jane Margaret King nee Buchanan. From various articles and adverts in papers over the years it looks like the farms had some mixed farming with ideal conditions for dairy farming. Transport links by train and road were highlighted as advantageous

S T I R L I N G S H I R E . **CAMPSIE ESTATE.**

TO LET, the FARM of MUIRHEAD, in the Parish of Campsie.

The Farm extends to about 118 Acres, and is well suited for Dairy Purposes, for which it is excellently situated, being about 1 Mile from Lennoxton and within 35 minutes by rail from Glasgow. Entry at Martinmas 1926 to Houses and Lands. The present Tenant has given notice of termination of his tenancy as at that term. Mr William Mathewson, Whitehill, Lennoxton, will show the Boundaries on receiving one day's notice. For further information apply to R. & J. M. HILL BROWN & CO., Writers, 41 West George Street, Glasgow, who will exhibit the Conditions of Let, and by whom Offers will be received up to 11th October 1926.

The Scotsman 22nd September 1926

There was also mention of oats growing well on farms in Lennoxton particularly on South side (The Stirling Observer 10 September 1885).

Farmers would have grown crops to feed both themselves and the animals. Surplus would go for sale at markets and farmers could sell to English markets also (after Act of Union in 1707). Markets were established as regular meetings where business was carried out for both buying and selling. Farmers had competitions to show animals livestock and produce. Newspapers were a source of information about the state of farming across the country, and no doubt farmers exchanged notes at these markets.

The farming community seems to have been sociable and the tradition of welcoming new tenants to the area with a "love darg" is a common tradition. This is when neighbouring farmers offer their labour for a day and enhances community spirit.

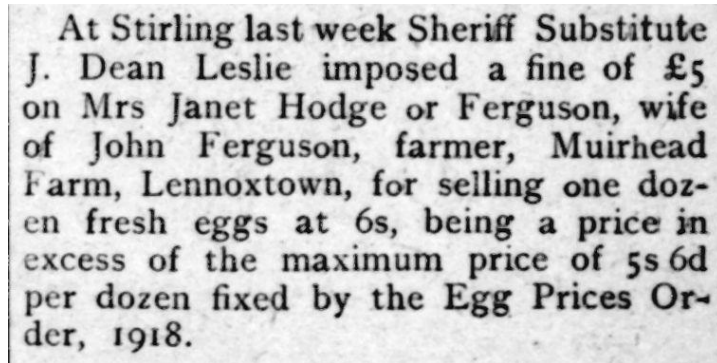
Mr Mains, for example, was welcomed with a dozen ploughs in 1911.

LOVE DARG.—The new tenant of Muirhead Farm (Mr. Ferguson) was the recipient of a love darg from the neighbouring farmers in the district on Saturday, sixteen ploughs being on the fields. The weather was of a wretched nature for outdoor work.

The Kirkintilloch Herald 18 March 1914

His successor, Mr Ferguson, had a welcome of 16 ploughs in 1914. He remained as a tenant for 13 years and for the latter part was farming across both farms after Thomas Spottiswood who in the 1921 census was 54 and a visitor to Lochgreen Farm, Falkirk and described as a farmer.

His wife made the papers Kirkintilloch Gazette 14 November 1919 when she was fined £5 with profiteering by over charging for eggs!



At Stirling last week Sheriff Substitute J. Dean Leslie imposed a fine of £5 on Mrs Janet Hodge or Ferguson, wife of John Ferguson, farmer, Muirhead Farm, Lennoxton, for selling one dozen fresh eggs at 6s, being a price in excess of the maximum price of 5s 6d per dozen fixed by the Egg Prices Order, 1918.

Kirkintilloch Gazette 14 November 1919

William MacKerrow farmed the amalgamated farm some time after 1925, but no information was found for him on the census or in newspapers.

Farms were commonly in the papers locally and nationally which gives information on the type of farm it was. Muirhead has articles about sales of horses or pigs for example, Mr McKerrow had 12 piglets for sale in 1935, so it was more than a dairy farm but dairy farming has been noted throughout.

James McElfrish who died in 1907 was noted as a dairy farmer on his death certificate. The farms extended in size as part of Newlands Farm was incorporated and in the 1871 census, tenant, Duncan Stewart, was a farmer of 200 acres, doubling this to 400 by the 1881 census (at age 75) with John Craig on the first farm farming 130 acres.

Earlier census information often records the number of acres farmed by tenant and number of men and women employed. It is more difficult to find the number of acres farmed in later years. By 1930 the two farms had amalgamated into one Muirhead farm. It has adapted and survived well and still exists today, currently as a steading for horses.

Farms have been places where folk have worked very hard in often extreme conditions. This may have helped develop social functions of the farm. The love dargs appear to be common in the area with folk giving a day's labour then enjoying eating and socialising to welcome new tenants.

Muirhead farm also hosted community events with Campsie young men having a picnic there as early as 1889 for example.

Y.M. ASSOCIATION PIC-NIC.—The members of Campsie Young Men's Association had a pleasant outing together on Saturday afternoon, at Muirhead farm. After a refreshment of curds and cream, an adjournment was made to a park close by, where football and cricket were the order of the day for two hours. The party then gathered together again at the house, where a most excellent tea was partaken of, prepared by Mrs M'Iver, the present occupant of the farmhouse, who promoted the comfort of her guests in every possible way. A few hours were spent round the social board, the chair during this part of the proceedings being occupied by Mr Wm. Brown, Todhill, who, in the course of a few remarks, gave some reminiscences of former gatherings of the association and of its membership in bygone days. The remainder of the time was pleasantly taken up with conversation, music, reciting, &c.

Kirkintilloch Herald 10th July 1889

Sometimes there were disputes like that noted below about right of way but more often farmers realised the need to work together.

A RIGHT-OF-WAY.

The Clerk to the Campsie District Council took up with Mr. Currie, Muirhead Farm, the question of the right-of-way past Finniescroft Farm, through the woods recently felled, and alongside the field to Glen Whapple Road, leading to Torrance. It had been observed that at some points gates had been wired, and were thus barred to pedestrians.

Mr. Currie replied that the agents of the estate were of the opinion that there was no right-of-way between Finniescroft and Muirhead Farm.

The District Council considered the matter at Monday's meeting, and agreed to reply that, in the opinion of the District Council, there was a right-of-way, but they were not going to do anything in the matter in the meantime.

The Kirkintilloch Herald 13 September 1944

In Agricultural Improvements in Strathkelvin 1700 - 1850 (McGuire, 1988) it says that research showed that the main obstacle to improvements in agriculture was a lack of sharing knowledge. Hence Agricultural Societies developed throughout the 18th century. Information was also available in newspapers which commonly had a section devoted to farming news. These Associations continue to exist to share problems and find solutions. Guidelines and rules were put into practice.

REDMOSS, TEMPLE and STERRIQUA FARMS



Ordnance Survey 1856 Parish of Campsie

1627-1940

ANGUS J. HOWAT
RUTH HOWAT

This report relates to the farm of Redmoss or Red Moss which is located on the former Kincaid estate in the south of the parish of Campsie, west of the present village of Milton of Campsie and east of the road B822 from Lennoxton to Torrance. The farm is accessed from the B822 south of Kinkell Farm.

Two facts that governed subsequent enquiry soon became obvious: (1) that little information can be gleaned about Redmoss prior to the 1840s and (2) that the present farm is composed of three smaller units, Redmoss, Temple, and Sterriqua and enquiries include information about all three.

Early history

Information about these farms proved scanty but was not non-existent. Redmoss appears to have been the largest of the three and is first found on maps of the late 18th century. It has not been found on any earlier lists of farms and properties. The name would appear descriptive of the terrain. Rev. Robert Lee, writing the parish account in the New Statistical Account of Scotland in 1841 speaks of small patches of deep moss along the side of the River Kelvin and the name may derive from this.

Temple can be traced to the 17th century when there is a reference in the Retours of Stirlingshire, (records of the confirmation of heirs with the right to inherit property) in 1627 of Temple of Kincaid in Campsie parish, presumably so designated to distinguish it from 'Temple of Balgrochan' beside West Balgrochan north of Torrance. The Knights Templar were active in Stirlingshire in the Middle Ages. The farm lay to the south of Redmoss towards Wetshod.

Sterriqua lay north of Redmoss near Easter Muckroft. The name, according to Johnstone's *Placenames of Stirlingshire* 'looks like the Gaelic *sturrach cath*, 'rugged uneven battlefield' which may or may not be correct. It was the birthplace of Rev. John Shearer, for many years UP minister of Larkhall, whose father was the tenant in 1820.

By 1840, following the Agrarian Revolution, smaller farms were amalgamated in a number of places to form more economical units. That is what happened here: On 16th November 1843 a lease was made out to William Henderson letting to him 'the farm of Temple as possessed by him and the adjoining farm of Redmoss as possessed by William Galbraith' for 19 years from Martinmas 1843 and Whitsun 1844'. It further stipulated 'One of the steadings to be removed and suitable accommodation to be provided by the proprietor at the other before Martinmas 1844. When houses and buildings have been erected and made tenantable by the proprietor they are to be maintained in good order by the tenant and left by him at the end of the lease in good and sufficient tenantable state and condition. Farm buildings to be insured against fire at the extent of £300 and the premium repaid by the tenant.' Henderson opted to remove to Redmoss and so Temple ceased to exist as a separate entity. There is no sign of it on the first edition of the OS map.

John Gray, a native of Cadder, is given as tenant in the Censuses of 1841 and 1851 and in the Valuation Roll of 1855. His subsequent history is not known. In the 1881 census David Reid appears as the tenant at Sterriqua. Shortly afterwards, between 1881 and 1885, the lands of Sterriqua were added to Redmoss and Temple and David Reid took over the combined farm, moving to Redmoss. The agricultural connection was broken in the 1920s, if not before, when the property was let to Peter Stewart, an engine-keeper with the Woodilee Coal Company in Kirkintilloch. The house was demolished in the 1930s by the County Council.

Owners and tenants

As all three tenants were on the Kincaid estate, the farmers were tenants of the Lennox family.

The successive proprietors listed in the Valuation Rolls are as follows:

- John Lennox Kincaid Lennox
- Hon Charles Spencer Bateman Hanbury Kincaid Lennox

- Mrs Cecilia Peareth Lennox
- William George Peareth Kincaid Lennox
- David Reid

About 1927 the farm was sold by the Lennox family to David Reid.

Tenants

1. In the 1841 census William Galbraith was the tenant at Redmoss with his wife, his son William and daughter Agnes. Also, resident was William Connell, a 14-year old agricultural labourer. Of the Galbraiths we know little. He may be identifiable with William Galbraith who was a provision merchant at Torrance in 1825. Certainly, when his daughter (Mrs Agnes Robertson) died at North Birbiston in 1917, her death certificate describes her father as a 'mine owner and farmer' which raises interesting questions. When the farms were combined in 1843 the Galbraiths must have moved away and nothing further is known of them.

2. **William Henderson** was born in Campsie in 1794, the son of Walter Henderson, farmer, and his wife Helen Martin. He married Jean Shearer in 1819, and they had a family of five sons and one daughter. They are found at Temple in the 1841 census and at Redmoss thereafter. He died at Redmoss on 8 February 1879 and was buried in Campsie Churchyard, his family headstone standing in the area lying on the west side of the High Church.

3. **Robert Henderson** succeeded his father in the tenancy. He was born in 1839 and married Jeanie Brock Weir in 1871. In early life he appears to have worked alongside his father on the farm until his father's death but his career thereafter as the tenant was short lived. By the mid-1880s he had given up farming and gone to live in Glasgow where he worked as a joiner until his death on 24 October 1896. His name appears on the family headstone at Campsie.

4. **David Reid, senior.** Mr Reid was born on 22 April 1844 at Threemilehouse, Renfrewshire to David Reid, farmer, and Mary Purdon. In 1870 he was married to Mary Allison a farmer's daughter at Muirhouse, Strathblane. At that time, he was farming at Balglass in Campsie. By 1876 he had moved to Sterriqua, taking over the combined farm of Redmoss and Sterriqua in the early 1880s. Their family consisted of two boys and four girls. By 1911 he had retired from farming and moved to stay with his son who farmed at Haggs. David died in 1921 and was buried in Campsie Churchyard.

5. **David Reid, junior,** was born on 17 September 1876 at Sterriqua. He grew up on the farm working alongside his father until he took up the combined tenancy when his father retired. On 29 January 1908 he married Margaret Stewart from Langshot Farm, Torrance. Perhaps it was his son's marriage that led his father to retire and so vacate the farmhouse. They had a son and daughter, the daughter dying in infancy. Further trouble was to follow as the following images indicate:

THE Estates of DAVID REID, JUNIOR, Farmer, Redmoss Farm, Lennoxton, in the County of Stirling, have, in virtue of and for the purposes of the Cessio Acts, been transferred to Mr. Robert Dempster, Chartered Accountant, 44 West George Street, Glasgow, as Trustee for behoof of his Creditors. Creditors must lodge their claims with the Trustee on or before 19th December 1912. The Creditors meet before the Sheriff, within the Court House at Stirling, on the ninth day of January 1913, at eleven o'clock forenoon.

**MORRISON & TAYLOR, Solicitors, Stirling,
Agents.**

Kilsyth Chronicle 10/12/191

KINCAID ESTATE, MILTON-OF-CAMPSIE.

GROUND TO FEU

Apply to Chas. Kirkwood, F.S.I., 67 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

KINCAID ESTATE, MILTON OF CAMPSIE, STIRLINGSHIRE.

TO LET, with Entry at Martinmas, 1912, the DESIRABLE DAIRY FARM of REDMOSS, together with the LANDS of STERRIQUA, extending to 180 Acres or thereby.

The Farm is about one mile from Lennox-town Station, about two miles from Kirkintilloch, and eleven miles by road from Glasgow.

The present Tenant is not an Offerer.

The highest or any Offer may not be accepted. Conditions of Let may be had and arrangement made for pointing out the Boundaries by applying to Charles Kirkwood, F.S.I., Factor, 61 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

Kirkintilloch Herald 21/8 1912

DISPLENISHING SALE

OF
LIVE STOCK, CROP, AND IMPLEMENTS,
AT

REDMOSS FARM, Milton-of-Campsie,

On *SATURDAY, 12th OCTOBER, 1912,*
at Eleven a.m.

MACDONALD, FRASER & CO., Ltd., have received instructions from Mr. Robert Dempster, C.A., 44 West George Street, Glasgow, Trustee on the Sequestrated Estate of Mr. David Reid, to sell at Redmoss Farm, on Saturday, 12th October, the whole Live Stock, Crop, and Implements thereon, comprising:—

LIVE STOCK.

2 Work Horses. 10 Milch Cows.

CROP.

20 Tons Ryegrass and Timothy Hay. 23
Acres Oats. 2 Acres Swede Turnips. 4
Acres Potatoes (Dates). 2 Acres Yellow
Turnips.

IMPLEMENTS.

Massey-Harris Binder, Mower (by Wallace),
2 Corn Carts, 2 Fast-bodied Carts, Horse Rake,
Iron Roller, Drill Roller, Drill Plough, 3
Swing Ploughs, Circular Harrows, Chain
Harrows, Set Iron Harrows, Large Grubber, 2
Drill Grubbers, Sack Barrow, Wheel-barrow,
Turnip Sowing Barrow, Meat Cooler, Grind-
stone, Turnip Cutter, Potato Digger (by
Wallace), Hay Slipe, Barn Fanners, Corn
Chest, Chaff Cutter, Threshing Mill (by Young,
Ayr), Graips, Forks, Rakes, Ropes, Pails,
Stools, 2 Meal Girnels, Baskets, Milk Cans,
Churn, Milk Van, Dog Cart (by Henderson,
Glasgow), 2 Sets Cart Harness, Set Van
Harness, Set Gig Harness, Riding Saddle,
Plough Chains, Dog House, etc., etc., and the
usual BARN and STABLE UTENSILS.

Redmoss Farm is about $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile distant from
Milton of Campsie Station, and 1 Mile distant
from Kirkintilloch and Lennoxtown Stations.

SALE AT 11 A.M. TERMS OF SALE—CASH.

MACDONALD, FRASER & CO., Ltd.,
Auctioneers.

63 Bellgrove Street, Glasgow.

Kirkintilloch Herald 2/10/1912

DISPLENISHING SALE.—At Redmoss Farm, on Saturday last, Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser & Co., Ltd., conducted a displenishing sale of stock, crop, implements, etc. There was an extremely large attendance of buyers from a very wide radius, and bidding was spirited from start to finish, the hay especially being considered extremely dear, the prices realized ranging from 30/- to 100/- per rick. Oats sold from £2 16/- to £4 per stack. One field of oats in the stook made £16. Potatoes sold from 6/3 to 7/- per drill; swede turnips from 3/6 to 3/9 per drill; yellow turnips from 8d to 2/- per drill. An old van horse made £3 2/6; cows, from £5 2/6 to £12; implements sold well, corn carts made from £2 to £5 5/-; binder, £8; mower, £2; potato digger £6; rollers, to £3; ploughs, to £2 12/6; thrashing mill, £7. The sale was carried through very expeditiously, the auctioneer being Mr. W. J. Cameron.

16/10/1912 Kirkintilloch Herald

David Reid became bankrupt and he had to give up the tenancy.

The third article gives a good description of the kind of farm that Redmoss was in the early 20th century – both arable and dairy.

What about David? Here lies a mystery. Clearly, he had to leave Redmoss but to where? His wife, Margaret Stewart, moved to Kinross-shire where she worked as a dairymaid and in 1922 married William Marshall, a ploughman there. On her marriage certificate she is described as a widow. But no record has been found of David's death up to then or subsequently.

6. Matthew Aitken Redmoss was taken over by Matthew Aitken from Croy. In 1917 he married Grace Ralston from Garmore Farm, Milton of Campsie. They moved to Eastmill, Auchterarder where he farmed successfully, until retirement. He died on 5 May 1957. Mr Aitken became well known in Scottish farming circles. While at Redmoss he contributed regularly and successfully to the Kirkintilloch Show – a selection of his prizes for 1927 is given below by way of example:

- Best cow in calf or milk, two years old
- Best bull, two years old or upwards
- Best bull, one year old
- Best quey [heifer], two years old, not in calf, bred in the district.

7. David Reid In 1927 the estate decided to sell the farm in common with the practice of many estates in the years following the first World War. A newspaper article (*Bridge of Allan Gazette* 4/6/1927) declares that

FARM SALE.—The name of Reid was long associated with Redmoss Farm. The Farm is now changing ownership, and the new proprietor is a Reid.

This was also a David Reid but it is not known if he was connected with the earlier Reid family.

[Editorial Note: Little biographical information has been discovered about this David Reid since he arrived on the scene during the post census period and the name is a very common one in Campsie parish, especially in farming circles. Further information would be welcomed. AJ HJ]

Farm workforce

As is common in farming life then as now all members of a farming family were expected to participate in the work from the earliest age they were able, especially in smaller units. Details of other labourers as recorded elsewhere are given in the censuses if the worker stayed in the house as part of the household. Those living elsewhere of course are not included.

1841 Census Temple	Janet Watson	Female servant	(20)
1851 Census Redmoss	Nan Mc Donald	House servant	(20)
	Robert Scott	Agricultural labourer	(18)
	<i>Farm employed three labourers</i>		
1861 Census	<i>Farm employed three labourers not listed</i>		
1871 Census	Catherine Brown	General servant	(15)
	<i>Household included farmer's 30 year old son included in household</i>		
1881 census	Margaret Cassidy	Domestic farm servant	(33)
	<i>Farmer employs 2 men, 1 woman</i>		
1891 census	Ellen Black	Farm servant	(20)
	Thomas Thomson	Farm servant	(22)
	Hector Groves	Farm servant	(19)
1901 Census	<i>Two sons assisting on farm: daughter assisting as dairymaid</i>		
1911 Census	Mary Bett	Servant	(18)
	<i>+ploughman: details illegible.</i>		
1921 Census	Christina Marshall	Housemaid	(19)
	William Wilson	Cattle boy	(16)

Acreage

1851 Census	Redmoss	120 acres
1861 Census	Redmoss	100 acres
1871 Census	Redmoss	100 acres arable (sic)
1881 Census	Redmoss	14 acres arable
1911 – advertisement, ground to feu	Redmoss	180 acres.

It is difficult to explain the fluctuations. The 1881 figure is surely an error.

Industrial

When David Reid junior was struggling with his creditors, the following notice appeared in the Kilsyth Herald of 10/5/1912:

Expected Large Mining Development In the District.

Messrs Shanks & M'Ewan, St Vincent St., Glasgow, have obtained through Mr Charles Kirkwood, estate agent, West Regent Street, Glasgow, a lease of the minerals on the Kincaid estate, and are presently engaged in boring with the view of proving the minerals and then working the coals. The lessees have put down two bores, the first at Redmoss, and the second at Watshod. The same firm have also secured the minerals underlying the estates of Carlestoun and Balqubarrage with the view of conjointly working them along with the Kincaid minerals. The idea is to put down a shaft somewhere between Kincaid House and Redmoss Farm, bringing a branch line from the Kelvin Valley Railway, which is quite close, up to the pit shaft. The further development depends largely upon the results of the borings.

As a result of the investigations however it was agreed not to pursue the plan, and the large mining development did not happen. If it had, the subsequent history of this area and of Milton and Campsie would have been very different.

Social In the summer of 1919 and possibly in other years, as well the Sunday School picnic for Milton of Campsie Parish Church was held at Redmoss. (*Kirkintilloch Gazette 11/07/19*)

MILTON OF CAMPSIE.
The Children's pic-nic on Saturday, to Redmoss Farm was a great success. They left the village in happy mood and had a glorious time at the Farm, where Rev S. Smith, Mr Jamieson (the superintendent), with his staff of teachers and Mr and Mrs Raphael, Kincaid House, helped to entertain the young folks. Mr Arch. M'Caffer piped the company from and to the village.

Redmoss is no longer a farm. For a number of years, it has been a livery yard where horses roam where once Ayrshire cows chewed the cud.

Even as the amalgam of three units, Redmoss was a small farm in an unrewarding terrain. Its story however must mirror the story of many farms not only in Campsie but throughout Lowland Scotland.

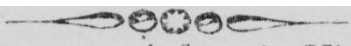
Slatefield Farm



1808-1940

Barrie Stewart

There is very little information to be found anywhere about Slatefield Farm but our opening is one of a murder in Slatefield in the year 1808.



This day, came on before the High Court of Justiciary, the trial of JAMES GILCHRIST, stocking-maker at Slatefield, near Glasgow, accused of the murder of MARGARET BROCK, his wife, on the 21st of January last.—The pannel was put on his trial at the last Glasgow Circuit, but owing to an error in the indictment, the case was certified to the High Court of Justiciary, by the Judges on that Court.—At a meeting of Court held some time ago, they found the indictment irrelevant, and the pannel was recommitted on a new warrant.—He was afterwards served with a new indictment.—The prisoner pled *Not Guilty*, and the examination of witnesses commenced.—Further particulars in our next.

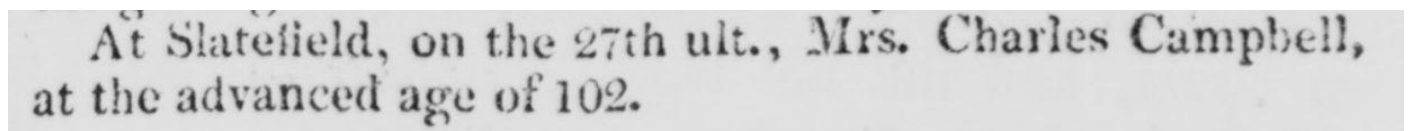
13/6/1808 Caledonian Mercury

While James pled not guilty, the High Court of Edinburgh disagreed with him and he was sentenced to be hanged in Glasgow on the 20th of July 1808. James, it would seem, first strangled Margaret then put her in a chair where he set fire to her clothes. This was done in the hope that her death would be believed to be accidental burning, a common cause of death in those times.

In July 1809 Glasgow Royal Infirmary received £100 from the late George Miller of Slatefield who also left £30 to the Reverend Kidson for the relief of the poor in the congregation.

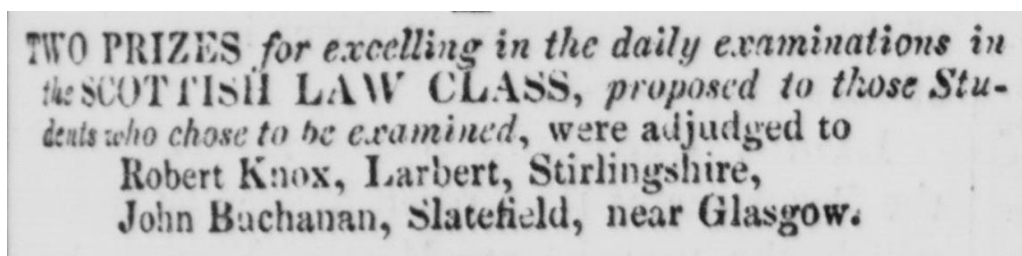
The death of John Buchanan Esquire was reported to have taken place at Slatefield on the 13th of March 1814. A Mr James Walkinshaw, son of the late John Walkinshaw died there, aged 25, in July 1818.

The death of Mrs Campbell at the remarkable age of 102, was reported across the UK



At Slatefield, on the 27th ult., Mrs. Charles Campbell, at the advanced age of 102.

4/1/1822 Glasgow Herald



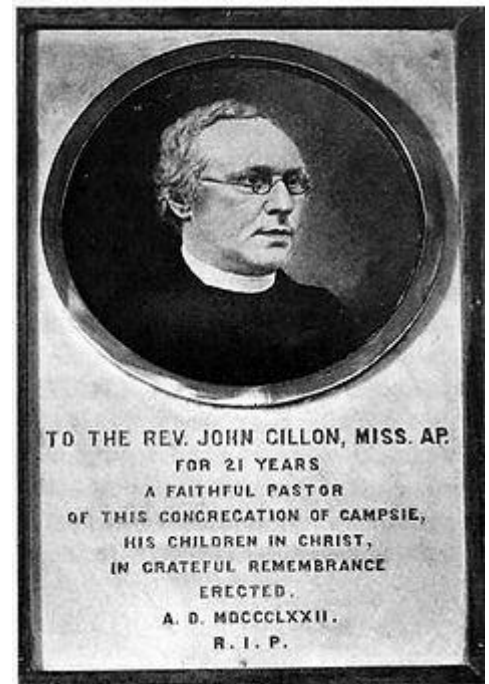
TWO PRIZES for *excelling in the daily examinations in the SCOTTISH LAW CLASS, proposed to those Students who chose to be examined*, were adjudged to
Robert Knox, Larbert, Stirlingshire,
John Buchanan, Slatefield, near Glasgow.

3/5/1822 Glasgow Herald

All of these reports seem to be of comfortably off people with no mention of a farm in sight yet the lease for the land and buildings, signed by John Gillon in 1849, still exists in the Woodhead Estate papers.

Slatefield North Birbiston Extant

Revd John Gillon tenant under a minute of lease dated 10 & 11 April 1849, the conditions whereof are viz^t I The subjects let are the Houses and Lands of Slatefield or North Birbiston as possessed by John Milne. Endurance of lease 6 years from Mart^s 1848 as to the lands and Whitsn 1849 as to the houses – II Rent £30 yearly, payable at Marts and Whitsn commencing at Marts 1849 – III Assignees and subtenants are excluded, excepting that the tenant shall be at liberty to sublet the dwelling houses to persons of fair reputation and not paupers on the roll of the parochial board but the tenant being responsible for rents – IV Proprietor reserves power to grant building leases on any part of the lands and tenant to be allocated a deduction for ground taken off at the rate of £5 per Scotch acre. Proprietor reserves the power to make roads through the lands for approaches to buildings etc. and also power to work and carry away metals or minerals and land taken away for roads or minerals to be paid for as fixed by arbiters – V The lands are let as farming lands to be cropped and pastured and not for any other purpose and the tenant is bound to manage and crop the same according to the rules of good husbandry, manuring and cleaning properly according to the best practice in the district and not having any of the lands in a foul or poor state during his occupation – VI The houses are to be received by the tenant as they are (except that the tiles of the roofs are to be made watertight by the proprietor or outgoing tenant, and the plaster of the kitchen of West Cottage to be repaired) and to be maintained by the tenant in good order. Fences to be received by the tenant in the condition that they be left in by the outgoing tenant and to be kept and left in as good an order as he received them – VII Tenant to remove without warning or pay £100 of rent while he remains, without prejudice to the Landlord's right of removing – VIII Conditions to be fulfilled under a penalty of £100 – Testing clause.



Parish History

The abovementioned, John Milne, is to be found in the 1851 census aged 65 and living at Meadowbank with his housekeeper, Margaret Milne, aged 44 who was probably his daughter. There were also two indoor servants, Elis Stevenson aged 19 and Euphemia Henderson aged 18. John was described as a landed proprietor with a farm of 40 acres.

The 1851 census gives us a little illumination, the Reverend John Gillon was in fact Father John Gillon the parish priest of Saint Paul's in Lennoxton (later St Machan's). He was, at this time 34 years old and had been born in Ireland. Beyond being the parish priest of Lennoxton he also ministered to Kirkintilloch, Kilsyth, Strathblane and Balfron. In addition to being a priest he was described as being a farmer of 6 acres employing two labourers. Living with him were Rose Minton (50) general servant, Mary Lask (25) farm servant and Margaret Martin (22) house servant.

With what appears to be only 6 acres of arable land, Slatefield should perhaps be considered more of a croft type holding rather than a farm. The lease certainly seems to indicate uncertainty of tenure which would not be the case for settled well husbanded land. The census record seems to bear this out as, at no point, do the tenants, beyond Fr. Gillon, claim to be farmers.

The suggestion has been made that Slatefield Farm had been part of North Birbiston land which was annexed off to provide the newly incumbent priest a means to grow food to feed his

household and certainly the title of the lease leads us in that direction. Yet there are the stories above which indicate the habitation of Slatefield as a separate entity long before the arrival of the priest.



Ordnance Survey

We can trace Slatefield and its demise as farmland through the valuation rolls from 1855

Year	Property	Proprietor	Tenant/Occupier
1855	Slatefield Farm	JLK Lennox	Father John Gillon
1865		No entry	No entry
1875	Slatefield Farm	CSB Kincaid	William Reid
1884	Slatefield Farm	CSBK Lennox	John Forrester
1885	Slatefield Farm	CSBK Lennox	John Forrester (farmer)
1895	Slatefield Farm	Cecilia Peareth Lennox	John Forrester
1905	Byres etc Slatefield Grass Land	Cecilia Peareth Lennox	John Calder John seems to be the proprietor of the byres etc. from this point onward, while the Lennoxs owned the land.
1915	Byres etc Slatefield Grass Land	William GPK Lennox	John Calder
1920	Byres etc Slatefield Grass Land	William GPK Lennox	John Calder
1925	Byres etc Slatefield Grass Land	William GPK Lennox	None Stated
1930	Sheds etc Slatefield Grass land	William GPK Lennox	Robert Ewing
1935	Grass land Slatefield	Cpt William MPK Lennox	William Ferrie

Most of Slatefield is now houses			
1940	Slatefield is now all houses		

Information from Scotland's People Valuation Rolls.

In the 1871 census, William Reid aged 34 described himself as an agricultural labourer living on Lennox's Land, Slatefield. His wife, Isabella, was 31 and they had a 6 year old son called Neil.

By 1881 William was a goods carter while Isobella was a shopkeeper and their son was still at school. They are now living in Brown's Land so have left Slatefield.

In 1881 John Forrester aged 37 and his family were living at Slatefield. John was a ploughman and his wife, Marion, aged 30 was a dairywoman. They had three children, James (7), Andrew (4) and John (2). The valuation roll of 1885 describes John as a farmer.

In 1891, John aged 46 was still a ploughman living at Slatefield with his family. Marion was now 40 and they had six children. James (17) and Andrew (14) were both printfield workers. John (12), David (9) and Margaret (6) were at school and Thomas (2) was at home.

By 1901 the family had moved to Lennox Place. John (56) was a carter on the estate and Marion was 50. James (27) was a printfield worker, John (22) was a slater, David (19) was a printfield worker, Maggie (16) was a laundry worker, Thomas (12) and Marion (8) were at school.

Our next tenant, John Calder, was living on Main Street with his family in 1901. He was 46 years old and worked as a dairyman and carter employing others. His wife, Agnes, was 36. The Calder family were the last tenants on Slatefield until the land was cleared and the houses which stand there now were built. Although Robert Ewing and William Ferrie were recorded as tenants their tenancy was restricted to the buildings rather than any land.

It does have to be said that the Calders were in the news for all the wrong reasons.

John Calder, Slatefield Farm, Lennox town, admitted in Glasgow Central Police Court delivering to a firm of milk purveyors in Glasgow sweet milk which was deficient in milk solids. There were two charges, and the respondent was fined £5 5s in respect of each.

2/12/1920 Daily Record

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.—At St. Rollox Police Court, Glasgow, last Wednesday, John Calder and Joseph Calder, Slatefield Dairy Farm, Lennox town, were each fined £3, with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment, for having ill-treated a horse by working the animal while it was suffering from two sores on the shoulder under the collar, a suppurating wound on the back beneath the saddle, and two other sores on the hind legs.

11/4/1923 Kirkintilloch Herald

DRIVING WITHOUT LIGHTS.

Joseph Calder, milk van driver, Slatefield, Lennoxton, was charged with driving a vehicle without lights on Campsie Road, near Balquharrage Cottage, on 5th February.

Accused, pleading guilty, stated he had the lamps, but it was a very stormy morning, and they had gone out.

The Prosecutor—He was like the foolish virgins. There were two lamps, but they were not lighted. In one of the lamps there was a hole in the glass, and the candle was burned out. Both lamps were cold and in a very disreputable state.

A penalty of 15/. or ten days was imposed.

5/3/1924 Kirkintilloch Herald

In March 1924 fire broke out in the hay shed and stables at Slatefield. While all the cows were rescued safely from the adjoining byre, a horse had to be destroyed as it had been so badly burned and the chickens in the hayloft all died.

ALARMING FIRE.—About eleven o'clock on Thursday evening fire was discovered to have broken out in a large wooden shed, the one half of which was used as a hay shed and the other half as a five stall stable by John Calder, contractor and dairyman, Slatefield. The fire originated in the hay shed, but quickly involved the whole building. The horses were with difficulty got out, but one of them was severely burned. A large wrap which covered it was in flames when it was liberated, and the horse ran through the field in this condition till it was caught and the burning wrap torn from it. The unfortunate animal was so severely burned that it had to be destroyed next day. The burning building was in close proximity to the byre and other buildings. All the cows were got out in safety. The police were soon on the scene, and, seeing the danger, phoned for the Bishopbriggs Fire Brigade, who were soon at the scene of the conflagration. The building was full of hay, and there was also other feeding stuffs, together with harness, which with the building was completely destroyed. Many willing hands rendered assistance in securing the liberation of the live stock. The other houses in close proximity were in imminent danger for a time, and were saved through the action of willing workers with pails of water till the arrival of the Fire Brigade. There were also a number of poultry destroyed that made their home in the hay shed. The estimated damage is about £350. The fire caused considerable alarm in the neighbourhood.

19/3/1924 Kirkintilloch Herald

John's son, David, was once again in the papers for the wrong reasons.

THEFT OF COAT.—David Calder (31), carter, Slatefield Dairy, Lennoxton, was charged at the J.P. Court, Glasgow, on Monday, with stealing a showerproof coat belonging to a roadman who was engaged in the vicinity of Torrance Road end on Tuesday, 10th February. By taking away the coat the accused deprived the roadman of his mid-day meal. Calder pleaded not guilty, but was convicted on evidence, fined £1, or ten days' imprisonment.

4/3/1925 Kirkintilloch Herald

John died, aged 75, on the 10th of June 1925 at Slatefield. He had been suffering from high blood sugar for several years and suffered a cerebral haemorrhage from which he died six days later.

Mr John Calder, constructor, Slatefield, passed away after a long illness in his 75 year last week. He was a well-known man and had carried on a large dairy and carting contractor's business. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon.

19/6/1925 Kirkintilloch Gazette

Following his death, a dispenishing sale was held. Presumably not all the stock was sold as his younger son, Joseph, intended to carry on the business.

SALE OF STOCK. — The stock, implements and effects belonging to the late John Calder, dairyman and carting contractor, Slatefield Place, were exposed for sale last Thursday. There was a large turnout of farmers, contractors, etc. The sale was conducted by Mr. Jas. Paul of Messrs. Paul and Miller, auctioneers, Dumbarton. Stocks sold and prices secured as follows:—Milk cows, from £6 to £23; Work horses, from £7 to £24; harness, from £3 10/- to £7 per set; lorries, £14 each; carts, from £2 to £14; quantity of hay, from £3 to £3 10/- per ton. Mr. Joseph Calder, younger son of the deceased, is carrying on the business.

23/9/1925 Kirkintilloch Herald

The land of Slatefield was auctioned off by Lennox estate in 1927.

While the Calder brothers intended to carry on the business, it would seem they were soon at odds and once again in the papers for the wrong reason.

A NOVEL FORM OF PAYMENT.

David Calder, carter, 10 Slatefield, Lennoxtown, and Joseph Calder, carting contractor, 16 Benclouch Road, Lennoxtown, had a bit of a tiff on 8th July which led to their appearance on a charge of having bawled and shouted, cursed and swore, and challenged each other to fight, thereby creating a breach of the peace.

David pleaded guilty to speaking, but not to cursing and swearing, and Joseph denied the charge of challenging to fight. Joseph, however, amended his plea to guilty, saying he wished to save time.

David was then ordered to stand down, and left the bar, but a moment's thought evidently altered his mind, for he stepped back again and also pleaded guilty.

The Prosecutor said the men met in Main Street, and after some disturbance Joseph asked his brother David up to the stabling yard at Stockwell Place. They went up, and a number of people followed them up. David struck Joseph a blow on the face first, and the latter went to the police and reported him for assault. Perhaps David was the aggressor.

David said when he met his brother he asked for his expenses for working at Balfron, and was told to come up to the yard and get them. Joseph was going to give him them by hitting him.

Joseph denied this. It was in the yard that expenses were first mentioned. He asked his brother up to the yard for the sake of quietness.

Both accused were fined 10/- or ten days.

5/8/1927 Kirkintilloch Herald

THROWING OUT A CHALLENGE.

David Calder, carter, 10 Slatefield, Lennoxtown, was charged with having on 20th Aug., in Main Street, Lennoxtown, near the Swan Inn, committed a breach of the peace. He pled guilty, and stated he had nothing to say.

The Prosecutor said he was the worse of liquor, and was asking for trouble. He was challenging any Irishman in the company to fight with him. He was at last Court, when he was fined 10/-.

Another penalty of 10/- or 10 days was imposed.

9/9/1927 Milngavie and Bearsden Herald

They also seem to have failed to pay off their late father's debts.

Appeal by the creditors of the late John Calder against £20 placed on byres, etc., at Slatefield, Lennoxtown, was dismissed in absence.

23/9/1927 Kirkintilloch Gazette

The contracting firm struggled along for a bit but without a firm hand at the helm it eventually became insolvent and the trustees stepped in and auctioned off the remaining horses and goods.

AN OLD FIRM.—The old firm of John Calder, contractor, Slatefield Place, which has been conducted by one of his sons since his father's death, is now dissolved. The last of the horses and contracting plant were sold by order of the trustees yesterday.

18/9/1928 Kirkintilloch Herald

The land of Slatefield had been bought by Stirling Council and they planned to build houses to replace many in the area which had become derelict slums. The initial plan was for 28 houses.

NEW HOUSES.—The Department of Health's approval has been given to the County Council for the provision of four three-roomed houses in Main Street, Lennoxtown, at a cost of £1561 4s 4d, and of a reconstruction scheme at Rowantreefaulds, costing £4277 7s 2d. The erection of twenty-eight houses at the Slatefield site is estimated to cost £9085 9s 4d.

25/10/1930 Callander Advertiser

NEW HOUSES.—Work has commenced at the new building scheme at Slatefield, where 28 houses are to be erected, and also at a site at the east end of Main Street.

31/12/1930 Kirkintilloch Herald

Almost as soon as the houses were put under construction the council discussed the possibility of increasing this number to 63 and a land survey was conducted to ensure that there were no mine workings in the area that could jeopardise the safety of the new buildings.

Campsie District Council has decided to ask—and not without all justification—that a slum clearance scheme of 63 houses be erected on a site at Slatefield.

14/1/1931 Kirkintilloch Herald

NO MINERAL WORKINGS.

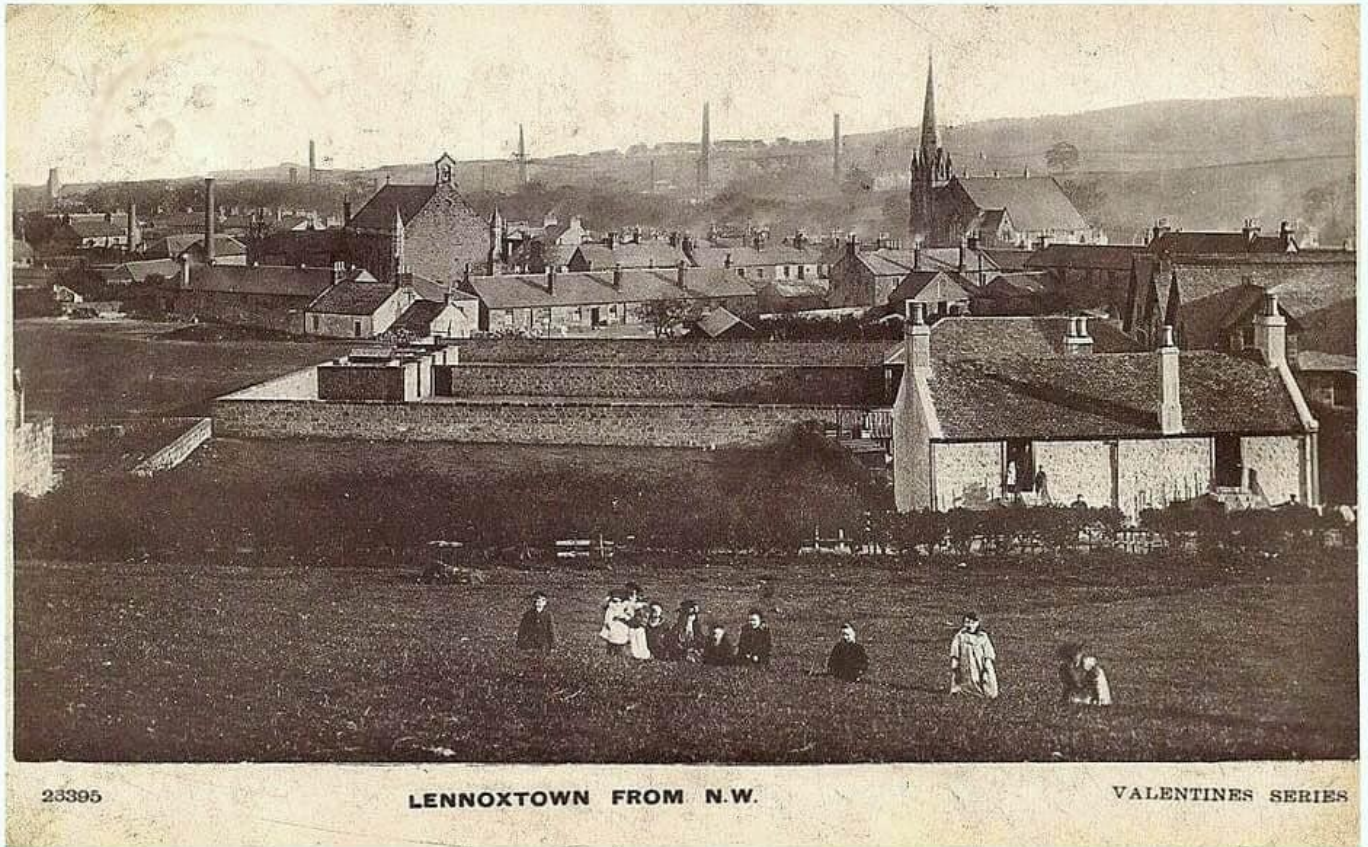
Mr James Hamilton, M.E., Glasgow, reported that there are no existing mineral workings under Slatefield, Main Street, or Rowantreefauld sites, Lennoxtown; neither are there ever likely to be any workings that will affect the stability of these sites, so that they can all be used by the Council for building purposes with the utmost confidence that they will not be disturbed by mineral workings.

23/1/1931 Kirkintilloch Gazette

Sir George Stirling used his considerable influence to try to get a grant towards the building of the houses. This would need to be done under the slum clearance act and everyone removed from the houses to be cleared would need to be rehoused but not necessarily in the new houses. If these conditions were met there would be a grant of £2 10s per unit. Sir George further urged the council to build houses of different sizes to meet the needs of the many single people in the area. He seemed at odds with the council when he finally exhorted

“In this area there was a very large number of single people and they could not take two widows and a widower and cram them into a two roomed house because they might not want to go and share it.”

16/1/1931 Kirkintilloch Gazette



23395

LENNOXTOWN FROM N.W.

VALENTINES SERIES

View over Slatefield

According to the valuation rolls on Scotland's People, Slatefield did indeed exist as a farm yet there is no evidence in the censuses that those who lived there considered themselves farmers.

The name did not arise from a previous slate mine as no mine ever existed and the geology of the area does not lend itself to metamorphic rock formation. Instead, it is likely to come from the stony nature of the soil in the area.

The rent from the valuation rolls compared to other farms in the area is much lower, about a tenth of Birdston and Hole and Capieston. This is indicative of a small area of difficult land.

The 6 acres of ground recorded in the 1851 census for Father Gillon is likely to be the size it remained – more than sufficient to graze a small dairy herd.

The name Slatefield still exists today as the name of the houses that were built to replace the slums in the local area and rehouse the people who had lived in them in habitable conditions.

Sir George got his way and the council did not ever try to house unrelated widows and widowers together.

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