

highland brooch.
brass. 18th. cent.
(obverse and reverse)

The KIST 18

T H E K I S T

The Magazine of
The Natural History & Antiquarian Society
of Mid-Argyll

President: Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA. FSAScot.

NUMBER EIGHTEEN: Autumn 1979

Editor: F.S.Mackenna, MA, FSA, FSAScot.

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A FRESH LOOK AT AUCHINDRAIN

(Site of the Museum of Farming Life)

Marion Campbell

Based on a lecture given at W.F.A.Day School: 1978

Forget the modern small-family grouping and the places where one can't discover who lives next door. There is a Gaelic phrase that sums up life in the Highlands to this day - Cha dhuine duine na h'onar - Man on his own is no man. The unit is - and still more it was - the community; such a community as this one. The group paid a fixed total rent to the landlord (in this case the Dukes of Argyll) but organised its own internal division of that rent.

This was a self-organising unit led by the heads of households who elected from amongst themselves a spokesman who had two main duties - to deal with outsiders (the Chamberlain of Argyll, a cattle-dealer, a visiting preacher, or whoever it might be); and to supervise the annual drawing of lots for land and the decision on how much live-stock could be kept. In a community based on long tradition, with an inbuilt reverence for hereditary skills, it is important to realise that the spokesman was elected, could resign, could be displaced, but when in office he was the arbiter.

Under his guidance the group had to decide whether they would allow new partners to join the community; in practice this meant that every time there was a marriage, the young couple might or might not be allotted a share of the joint assets. If they were accepted, the whole group helped to build them a house; if not, they had either to stay with parents (for most marriages were within the group) or possibly in a sub-tenant's "Cot-house" or they had to move out elsewhere. On the other hand, if through sickness or disaster there was a sudden fall in the total of partners, the survivors must decide whether to bring in outsiders or tackle a larger share of work themselves, with or without sub-tenant labourers.

The system could cope with unusual events too. Nearby Kilian, at the other end of the glen, was bought in the

late 18th-century by a rich Indian merchant and his brother (a General), and the small tenants were cleared to make a modern farm. Auchindrain took them all in and settled some of them; 20 years ago I was told how greatly the Kilian people resented having to go back and help with the harvest on their former home-ground - "and all they got for it was one sheaf in four". Hard indeed - but I'd like to know who arranged that 25% tax on the crop of the improved farm for the benefit of the evicted and their hosts. Possibly the 5th Duke himself?

Within the community the old and weak were looked after to the best of peoples' ability - hence the provision in most such units of a house to be occupied rent-free by a widow who was maintained by the neighbours, usually getting her dinner in a different house each day (or if she was ill, the food was taken to her). But the "Widow's House" served another social need; it was often the focal point for the community, the place where people met for ceilidhs and story-tellings, perhaps because the Widow was the Wise Woman/nurse/herbalist, perhaps because, by definition, there could be no dominant male to assert himself within those walls.

Above all, nobody will understand these communities who does not grasp the basic fact of the whole Gaeltacht, whether in Scotland or in Ireland - and that is that THE LAND OWNS THE PEOPLE, not the other way round. People may THINK they own the land, or a piece of it, but that thought marks them out as strangers and incomers. Whoever lifts the rent or collects the taxes, the dwellers on the land belong to that bit of the earth's surface and work for its good; and in return it feeds them.

I have already mentioned the group-decision on the amount of livestock to be kept - this is technically known as a Souming. There was a precise and well-tryed formula worked out by long experience, which gave the total number of cattle any ground could feed. I have heard it said "twenty will live and twenty-one will die". The basic calculation is always in cattle, but if a horse is to be kept, it will equal from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ cattle (depending on the ground and the size of the horse) and for sheep the general rule is $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 equal to one cow - again depending on breed. Then, knowing the total cattle, the group had to decide whether a partner might substitute

a horse or some sheep for some of his entitlement of cattle; and also, how many of the total stock the group could hope to bring through the winter.

The cattle would be small, to our eyes - as they would have been anywhere in Britain a century ago - probably pure bred rough Highland beasts, mostly black with an occasional red or brindle (unless some Lowland blood was brought in by a drover or obtained through service from a laird's imported bull). The cattle were the staple of life, providing plough- and draught-animals, milk, butter and cheese, manure for the infield, winter meat, tallow and hair, horn, hide, rennet for cheese-making (from calves' stomachs, the extract being stored in a small airtight jar) - and the best means of a cash export for sale either in Inveraray or at Kilmichael Glassary over the hill - or to a travelling drover making up his herd to be taken to Crieff or beyond. These drovers were implicitly trusted to return and pay over the market price of the animal, less a share of expenses, and many tales are told of their honesty and fair-dealing. (Hence, the murder of a drover was always regarded with particular horror).

The cattle were driven up to the hill-pastures in summer once the corn had begun to spring in the unfenced fields, and were kept there, herded by the young people of the settlement, until the harvest was in. The beasts went up loaded with stores and dragging "carrs" made of the long poles which would form the rooftrees of the shieling huts (and which were brought back in autumn) and women went along to make butter and cheese in the shielings unless these were near enough for the milk to be brought down to the permanent settlement. The calving was timed to take place on the shieling-grounds - incidentally clear of any inbyre infection, and probably not until mid-June when there was plenty of pasture. When the herds returned they were turned on to the stubbles and given free range over the outfield as well, where if the grass had been good enough it might have been cut for hay and stored for winter keep. Depending on the keep available - hay, mashlum (a mixed crop of beans, peas and small corn) and sheaves of oats - the group decided how many cattle they could hope to keep alive through the winter; the best cows, some heifers for replacement, possibly the bull unless he was due to be changed - and whatever else might be brought through.

The rest were either sold or slaughtered and salted down, IF there was good salt available (and sea-salt, though alright for seasoning food, is chemically unsuitable for preserving meat because it makes it stringy and unpalatable). The surviving cattle would also, in a hard winter, help to sustain the humans in the group by being bled - a small incision was made in the neck and a little blood drawn off, and the cut was then ligated with a stick. This blood was used to make black-puddings. It was after all, the custom to bleed humans for the good of their health and the process was said to keep the cattle healthy if they were having to be kept in the byre in bad weather. More often than not, of course, the cattle here would be put out into the field for a part of every day, unless the winter was unusually severe - if only to take them to water.

Still, with limited stocks of feeding, if spring came late the beasts might be very weak; the Gaelic term for "putting the cattle out of the byre in spring" is quite simply Togail nam Bo - the lifting of the cows. They might have to be carried out bodily and laid on the ground.

As well as cattle, there might be horses - rough hill-ponies, used as pack-animals or for riding more often than for ploughing. At the beginning of the 18th-century in Knapdale, plough-horses were in use, probably to pull the improved lighter ploughs then available. Heavy horses were regarded as aliens, English was used in speaking to them, and they were apt to be harshly treated ("Hard with the horse, gentle with the cow"), down to recent times.

Before the 1800's and the coming of the Black-faces, sheep were also kept by many of these communities; often herded, always (apparently) housed in winter. They were of the old native breed, rather like a small Cheviot, white- or yellow-faced with small high horns. A flock of 15 or 20 was considered a large stock. They gave milk (for cheese), meat, wool, hide and horn; smoked mutton-hams were a delicacy. Along with the sheep, goats might be kept, both because they would graze steep places where sheep could become trapped in rocks, and because they can be brought into breeding earlier in the year than sheep will successfully breed - feral goats kid from February onward - thus providing milk and young meat at the hungry-gap of the year (normally a feral goat will produce twins, so one could be killed for food). I have no percentage

figures for lambing, but a 50% success rate was still the accepted average on hill farms in the first half of this century, and twin lambs were more of a disaster than a triumph.

Pigs - or a pig - were kept here in fairly recent times, but I rather doubt if they were usually kept in the past; there is something close to a tabu on them in most of the Highlands.

Finally, there were hens, little larger than bantams, with roosting lofts on the rafters of the byres and a notched pole for a ladder. In many places creel-baskets were slung from the rafters as nesting-boxes, safe from rats. As well as eggs, hens provided the occasional scrawny bird for the pot - and of course feathers for pillows and wing-pinions for brushing the flour off baking boards. A cock's tail-feathers might be stuck behind a picture as decoration, in houses I used to know.

So far we have been looking at the detailed workings of an 18th/19th century community - but what lies behind it? How did it come to be there? Why was it organised in this particular way?

The track through the middle of the settlement crosses the valley on a narrow rib of bedrock which dictates its position. The houses are each set on rocky outcrops. Farther up the hillside the track curves round a long-cairn of Clyde/Solway type, unexcavated but from its shape likely to be some 5,000 years old. By the Curator's house is a mound which might well be a later, round cairn, perhaps 3,000 years old. Without excavations, nobody can say if these possibilities can be turned into facts; but the rocks and the track are firm facts. People have been coming through this end of the glen for a very long time.

If one looks at the old Celtic laws - laws which were in force before St Patrick's time in Ireland, which are dimly traceable in the oldest medieval Scottish law-texts, which applied to Wales in the 10th century - one finds that there were two systems of land tenure. One was the grant of land to an individual who could be trusted to bring a body of fighting-men to help the king or chief who gave him the land; this is closely akin to the Frankish system which eventually produced Feudalism. The other was the possession of land by a group of kinsmen who gave a proportion of their produce to the king or chief in return

for his protection against enemies - a protection provided by means of the individual tenant's fighting-men. The group-tenure is called in Welsh "unfree settlement", not that the occupiers were regarded as serfs but because the land was never likely to be available for re-allocation (since the entire family group would have to die out before the land could come back to the chief). Within the group who held such a joint-tenure, a leader was elected from the male heads of households. In theory at least, these leaders attended a sort of "district Council" from which an elected spokesman went on to attend the council - and (in fact now, not theory), that council elected each new chief from among the chief's family. The elected chiefs in turn elected their over-chief; down to at least 1249 AD, the "Seven Earls of Scotland" elected the King of Scots.

Turn to another aspect of the laws - the unit of society was not the individual but the kinship-group of 13 adult males. And another - marriages were normally made within the group, with second- or third-cousins marrying - the Welsh laws say "Marry within the group and feud with the stranger"; the Irish laws specify that this marriage system prevents land passing out with the group's possession.

Again, the laws administered by the tribal council assessed all offences as breaches of contract, with every breach punishable by a fine reckoned in cattle - cattle were the basic unit of exchange. And lastly, those laws accorded special status to all "Men of Skills", the Aes Dana who included metalworkers, craftsmen of all kinds, musicians and poets.

But all that is more than a thousand years ago - so what has it to do with Auchindrain from 1700 to 1963?

Auchindrain was a joint-tenancy farm; as the 8th Duke pointed out to Queen Victoria, it was a survival of an early kind of tenure not unlike that obtaining in parts of India. He told her also that the system was resistant to change and could lead to bad farming practice - which is true enough - the Dukes were enthusiasts for farming improvement, especially the 5th Duke in the mid-18th century; I cannot see him or his successors introducing such a reactionary system, so one can only guess that it was a survival too strong to be swept away. Experts such as Professor Archie Duncan and Dr Horace Fairhurst, who have been closely concerned in the Museum's development, have

said that they can hardly believe it can be a genuine survival from pre-Christian times; but if not, then what is it, and when was it introduced?

We have seen that cattle were the lifeblood (in several senses) of the community - that the joint-tenants were all related - that marriage within the community was the norm down to this century (the last tenant, Mr Eddie MacCallum, married his 2nd-cousin who also lived in this community). And one thing is certain, that Auchindrain and its kindred communities preserved a deep respect for their "Men of Skills" and particularly for their own musicians and poets, some of whom - like Eoghann MacColl of Kenmore, over the hill - won international renown for their work in both Gaelic and English.

It's not really a question of "How did a place like this fit in to Society?". It WAS Society, the basic building-block of Highland society until alien pressures came to break up that society. It was a workable system of self-sufficiency based on mutual support and co-operation, yielding a low cash income but providing enough to buy in the community's needs from outside - in a sense, a micro-cosm of Scotland which is still, to this day, self-sufficient in the practical sense, producing 97% of its food (114% if fishing can be maintained at the pre-EEC level) as against - for example, England's 33% food production.

Places like this had to produce a surplus for "export", in order to buy such essentials as salt which it could not produce. Probably they always produced also a surplus of individuals who had to move out (if the community was healthy enough to rear more than two children per household as replacements for their parents). Such "extra" members might take up farming on patches of marginal land nearby; before afforestation, one could see areas of old cultivation high up on the hillside to the south, and at some shieling-sites there is evidence of cultivation and therefore permanent settlement - or they might have to go further afield, even overseas; regarding the notorious "Clearances", Auchindrain was never Cleared, but did send at least two families to Australia. In effect, attachment to a small plot of land was so strong that if one had to move away it made little difference how far one moved - the other side of Inveraray was as bad as the other side of the globe - and the homeground was never forgotten.

At the same time the community was not wholly resistant to change; one remarkable feature, to my mind, is the way the Highland economy moved smoothly from a barter-system straight into the use of paper credits in the 18th century, when cattle were bought by Bills of Exchange which in turn were used to pay the rents - thus disrupting not the farming-tenure but the life-style of the landlords, hitherto geared to a regular supply of foodstuffs from their tenants. The "acquisition of a taste for expensive living" which is often put forward as one reason for the breakdown of Highland society after the Act of Union and still more after 1745, may well have been set going partly by the necessity of buying foodstuffs for the lairds' households - for in the 18th century lairds did not normally have Home Farms - milk, butter, cheese, poultry, beef and mutton all came in from the tenants of the land (and what a performance it must have been to arrange that they came in at reasonable intervals through the year and were all credited to the right person, especially when, as happened constantly, someone came along wanting the cow he had sold to another tenant credited against his rent and debited against the buyer's, and another person turned up with a foreign coin, a guinea or a Spanish Moidore, acquired when selling cattle at a market, and wanted that placed against his rent for the next five or ten years, instead of bringing along the fat wedder that the laird's wife had been expecting to put in her larder). Even the Dukes looked to these sources for the meat to be served to visiting dignitaries, and their Chamberlains must often have been hard-pressed to ensure that the Castle did not run out of eggs just when fine company was expected.

But none of that would worry Auchindrain - Och, the man was here again seeking cheese, but I just said it wouldna be ready for three weeks yet, it was nowhere near ripe. They had their own life to live, and a good life it was in spite of the difficulties. It's easy to romanticise it, as easy as it is to imagine that it was all wretched unremitting toil at starvation level. Of course there were terrible years of near-starvation, not least when an Army of Occupation came in - Montrose in 1643, the Marquis of Atholl in 1685 - and left "not a fishingnet nor a fruit-tree along Loch Fyne"; years when the precious seed-corn had to be eaten, leaving not enough to sow for

the next year's harvest - years when a drover brought back the seeds of plague from Carlisle Market, or years when the men had all to go to the wars and leave "the harvest of the white coifs" when the women worked alone, not knowing if they were wife or widow. But the good times were there too - when evryone worked together and sang the working-songs; when boys and girls went off to the Fair of Inveraray to buy trinkets and stare at the sideshows; evenings when the firelight of the Widow's House lit the faces listening to the stories and to the songs, when the curtains were never drawn so that one could look in and see who was there already and what was afoot, or a young poet, like Eoghann MacColl, could lurk outside while a friend sang his first song, and then come in when the applause told him he'd made a hit - and shyly admit he was the author.

Nowadays we all hear about Communes as if they were something entirely new, something invented in this half-century; but I for one should not be surprised if some day - when the oil runs out, when we are forced to realise that Small really is Beautiful - there were people coming to this place to see how you really can live the good life and make a go of it. I freely admit that the thought was already in my mind when I first began struggling to bring this Museum into being.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

The Auchindrain Museum of Farming Life is situated 6 miles south of Inveraray on the Lochgilphead road. Miss Campbell of Kilberry, with support from our Society, was instrumental in setting up the Museum, thereby ensuring not only a permanent and intensely interesting display of objects connected with farming and with the day-to-day lives of those who lived in the cluster of houses, but also the actual preservation and restoration of what may be regarded as a unique surviving site which was fast becoming ruinous.

AUCHINDRAIN = ACHADH AN DROIGHINN (Thorn Field)

HIGHLAND BROOCHES: A Note on the Cover

F.S.Mackenna

The brooch, in my possession, shown on the cover, has one or two points of special interest, to be mentioned later. It is of brass, $3\frac{1}{4}$ " outside diameter and $1\frac{3}{4}$ " internal. It is formed of a discontinuous circular strip of metal, with semi-circular overlaps where the pin pivots, at which point the ends are 'stepped' in order to allow the brooch to lie in one plane throughout its circumference. The overlaps and the split head of the pin have not been hard-soldered, a manoeuvre which would have required great skill to perform successfully.

The points of special note lie in the character of the incised decoration. On the obverse there is ample evidence of un-professional work. The four triangles which break the surface into compartments are very irregular in size, shape and distribution, and contrive to produce a star design (which is not a common Celtic ornament). Each contains a triquetrum. The resultant five fan-shaped areas each have an animal, of which three are supposedly feline and the remainder impossible to allocate. It is unusual to have no circular medallions on a brooch of this period (see the cover of Kist 5), and also no foliage.

The reverse has a single-type ornament of segments of concentric circles, mechanically produced.

The pin has deep indentations above and below the pivot, and one side has a pattern of close chevrons along its whole length. The odd thing is that this decoration is on the back of the pin, possibly due to an error in the assembling. The surface of the brooch has been considerably worn by the point of the pin.

Articles such as this were not the work of tradesmen or professionals but were produced by a 'handyman'. The larger brooch, already alluded to in Kist 5, is, on the other hand, of professional character, apparently moulded, not engraved as is the present example.

Annular brooches, in silver or brass, were used by women to fasten the earasaid; many, particularly in the case of brass examples, were of notable size; "as large as pewter plates", according to Burt!

EXCAVATION AT KEILLS CHAPEL, KNAPDALE, ARGYLL

Catherine M. Brooks

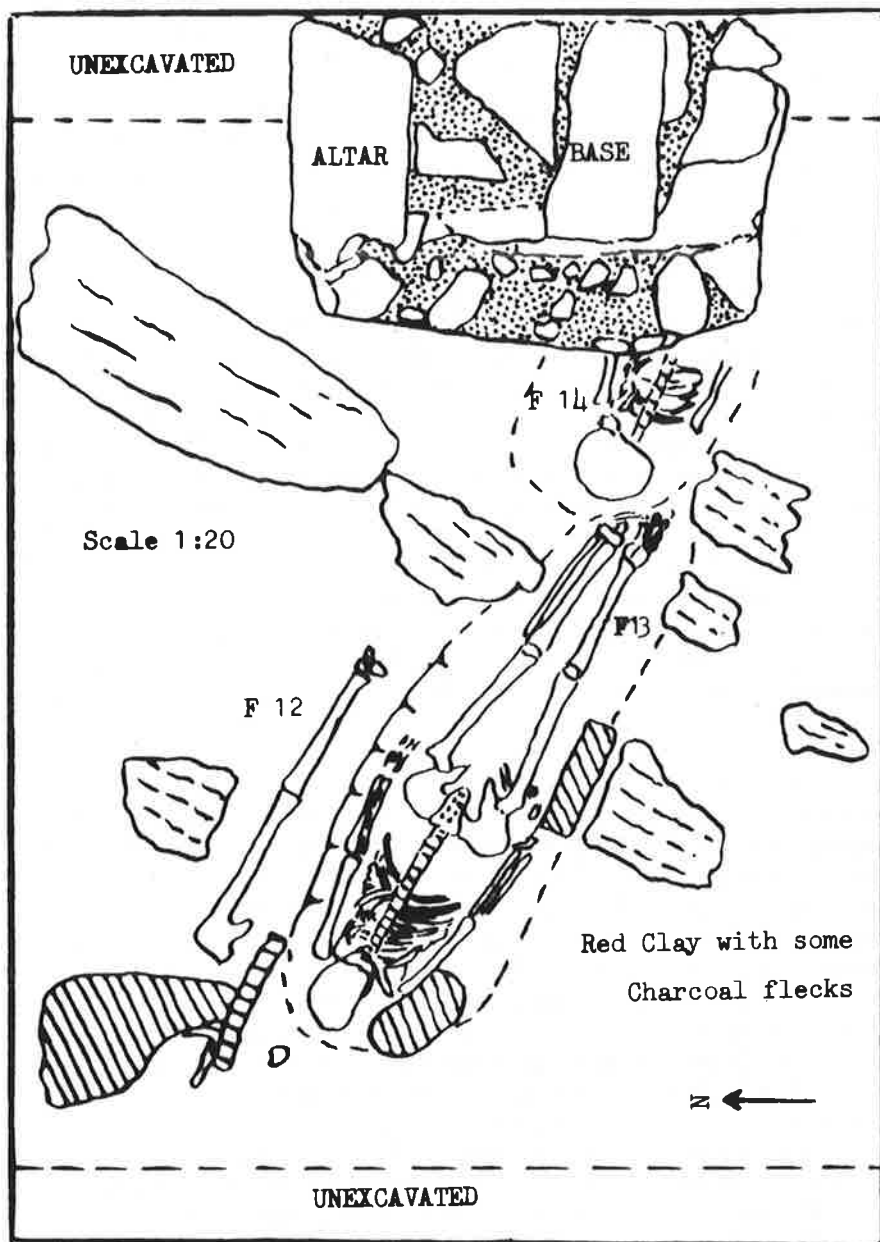
Excavation took place at Keills Chapel between August 22nd and September 1st, 1977, in an area of the chapel that was to be disturbed in the process of mounting a display of sculptured grave stones and the Keills cross.

An area of 21.5 sq.m. was excavated: a trench 3.2 m. wide across the E end of the chapel; a trench 0.7 m. wide along the N wall as far as the doorway; and a similar trench along the S wall. After removal of the grave-stones lying on the surface, the top-stones of 3 chest-tombs F1-3 were removed and the fill excavated. F1 is situated in the NE corner of the chapel, F2 in the SE corner, and F3 against the S wall, W of F2. The fill in each tomb consisted of brown soil with rubble, fragments of roofing slate and many disarticulated human bones. 18th-19th cent. pottery was found in all three, and a fragment of clay pipe stem in one, giving a late date to the latest skeleton in each grave. The 3 skeletons were oriented E-W, with the heads at the W end, and the bodies had been enclosed in wooden coffins bound with iron, traces of which survived. Small shroud-pins were also found. In the general fill of F3 was a bronze 'mushroom headed' pin, possibly belonging to the primary burial.

The construction of the 3 tombs varied. F1 was the most complex, with much rebuilding. The side slab was supported along part of its length by a mortared wall behind it. It had a primary floor of slabs resting on 2 layers of mortared stones, succeeded by another layer of mortared stones and rubble build-up supporting a second slab floor of smaller area than the first. Here lay the final burial.

F2 had 2 side-slabs, the lower one placed nearer to the chapel wall to brace the upper slab and prevent the end slab from collapsing inwards. The E end consisted of a slab and 'wall' of small stones mortared onto the E wall of the chapel. This grave was provided with a floor of stone slabs with an arrangement of 10 cm-diameter drainage holes, resting on a loose rubble and mortar foundation.

F3 had 2 side slabs similar to F2, and an end slab at the W end, the E end sharing the end-slab of F2. No trace of flooring survived.



Orientation of 3 Mediaeval Burials. F13 and F14 are cut into natural rock.

- 1 Bedrock
- 2 Stone
- 3 Mortar



Outwith the chest-tombs, a further 5 post-medieval burials, including that of a young child, were recorded. These were all oriented E-W. The skeletons were at different depths within the main layer, which was about 1 m. depth of homogeneous brown soil and numerous disarticulated bones. No grave-pits could be detected within this layer, it was so disturbed. A Charles 1 turner and 18th-19th cent. pottery and shroud pins came from the fill.

Some 30 cm. below the top of this layer, a structure of mortared masonry was found at the E end of the chapel; this was evidently an altar-base. It is 1.3 x 0.85 m. and is located 12 cm. from the E wall, 1.56 m. from the E wall and 1.96 m. from the S wall. It was partly overlain by one of the late burials.

Beneath the main layer was a layer of reddish-brown clayey soil containing very little charcoal or bone and no other finds. 3 skeletons found within this level were less well preserved than the later burials, the bone being very soft. The alignment of the skeletons was the same as the later ones, but these are probably medieval. One was completely covered by a heap of large stones.

This early layer rested on outcropping bedrock and red clay subsoil, some of which may be part of an artificial build-up to make an even floor level. In the red clay were found 3 burials oriented NW-SE. F14, the latest, was probably an adolescent, and was only partially revealed as it was overlain by the altar base. F14 cut through F13, a burial which in turn cut away the right leg of a skeleton F12. F13 was laid in a rock-cut hollow, but little trace of grave-pits for these burials was otherwise visible. There were no associated finds, but their position on a different alignment to the chapel means that they probably pre-date it. A pre-chapel burial phase was confirmed by the section at the S wall of the chapel after the removal of F2 and F3, where part of the wall rests directly on a dark brown clayey soil with bones visible in it.

In the absence of firmly associated dating evidence, therefore, the burials may be divided into 3 phases:

- 1) Pre-chapel (3 skeletons on a different alignment, at the lowest level).
- 2) Contemporary with first building and use of the chapel (3 skeletons aligned with the building).
- 3) Later burials, continuing up to the 19th century after

the chapel became ruined (8 skeletons, aligned with the building, some re-using the earlier chest-tombs).



Scale 1 : 1

REPORT ON THE SMALL FINDS

David H. Caldwell, M.A., F.S.A.Scot.

1. Charles 1 turner (2nd Scots), 3rd issue (1642, 44 or 50) - very worn.

2. Bronze 'mushroom headed' pin (see above; a fuller note on this pin and its parallels will appear in a forthcoming P.S.A.S.). The pin is 11.6 cm. long: the conical head is roughly engraved with radial lines and the upper part of the shank has incised cross-hatching. The lower part of the shank is squared off. Several other pins of this type are known, mostly from Scotland; these have been dated to the 6th and 7th centuries and possibly as late as the 10th century by Laing. Another pin of related type with dome-shaped head decorated with radial lines comes from Jarlshof in Shetland and may date to the 9th century.

The recovery of a mushroom headed pin from a grave of 14th/15th century date and later at Keills poses the question if at least some of the pins of this type might not be considerably later than hitherto supposed? We know that Highland men used pins to fasten their plaids as late as the 18th century and several pins of this and other types have come from sites with known medieval occupations - e.g. the Culbin Sands, Urquhart Castle in Inverness-shire and Kildrummy Castle in Aberdeenshire. Recently a bronze pin with dome-shaped head engraved with a cross and the upper part of its shank rope moulded was found in association with a building of 15th century date in excavations at Aberdeen.

3. Several brass pins, tinned, the heads formed of a piece of wire wound round the top of the shank and

smoothed over. Similar pins have been found on several medieval and later sites in Scotland and elsewhere, and in the context of burials were probably for fastening shrouds.

REPORT ON THE DENTITIONS OF 2 MEDIEVAL SKELETONS

Dorothy A. Lunt, M.D.S., Ph.D., H.D.D.

F13 (Phase 1)

The anterior part of the skull is in fairly good condition and the mandible is complete. The degree of bone development suggests that the individual may have been female.

All the permanent teeth have erupted, except the maxillary third molars which are impacted. The appearance of the mandibular third molars suggests that they had erupted only a short time before death, and this, together with the very slight degree of attrition of the remaining teeth, indicates that the individual was most probably c. 18-22 years old.

The maxillary right central incisor shows irregular wear of the incisal edge, in the form of a notch. This is probably due to an occupational habit, such as holding needles, pins or nails in the mouth during sewing, shoe-making etc.

There is no evidence of dental caries, or of periodontal disease, although tartar deposits are fairly heavy. A slight hypoplasia line on the maxillary right incisor may indicate some illness or minor metabolic upset at the age of 2-3 years.

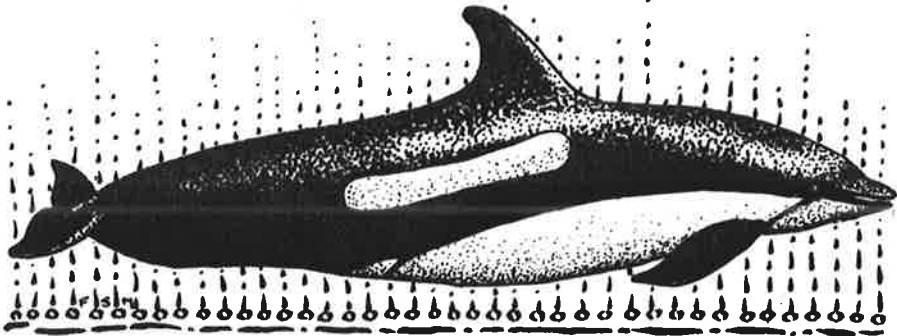
F10 (Phase 2)

Only the alveolar part of the maxilla is present, together with a large, well-built mandible which may perhaps indicate a male.

All the permanent teeth had erupted, and the degree of attrition of the molars suggests an age at death of c. 25-30 years.

There is evidence neither of dental caries, nor of periodontal disease or of enamel hypoplasia. There are slight to moderate deposits of calculus on some teeth, and the incisors in both jaws are slightly crowded. This is associated with a rather narrow, deep palate.

....oOo....



AN UNCOMMON DOLPHIN AT KILMORY KNAP

D.M.Hooton

On October 17th, 1978, Mr R.K.Miller and his family were visiting Knap and found a dolphin stranded on the beach. It was then dead, but fresh and in perfect condition, without any mark of damage. It was lying in the sand at the west side of the stream which runs into the sea at the eastern corner of Kilmory Bay (map reference NR 699746). The sand bank had washed round the body, partly embedding it. The weather had been stormy, and from its position the animal may well have come into the stream-mouth at high tide, helped partly by the waves, and been trapped by the ebb. The Millers moved it to the edge of the beach to photograph it, and left it there. It was not heavy to move and was easily carried between two people.

I came across it one evening a week later. It was still completely fresh but I had to wait till the rain stopped on the second day to photograph it.

It was a beautiful thing, 5 feet 3 inches long over all, with a powerful-looking streamlined body covered with thick smooth rubbery hide. The horizontal tail was 14 inches from tip to tip, very muscular, very unlike a fish's tail. The blow-hole at the top of the head was easy to see. The colour was blackish, with a white belly and a white side-stripe towards the tail. The head showed the typical dolphin feature of a projecting 'beak' above the mouth; quite a short one, though.

At this point I began to doubt its being a common

dolphin and wondered if it would be of wider interest and should be reported.

Next morning a phone call was made to the Fishery Officer at Campbeltown, who asked for a description and said he would get in touch with the Marine Biology Laboratory. That afternoon the Customs and Excise Officer arrived from Campbeltown. He said that the Royal Scottish Museum Natural History Department wanted the head sent to them in Edinburgh. He took it away, and next morning the Local Authority Sanitary Department removed the carcase for burial.

The animal has now been identified as a White-sided Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*). It is the first certain recording of this species in the Clyde area.

Dr J.A.Gibson of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, and Chairman of the Clyde Area Branch, is the Official Recorder of Marine Animals for the West of Scotland. He would like to know at once of any strandings of Cetaceans (marine mammals of the whale kind), or other information about marine animals in this area. He is able to travel to any part at short notice. His address is Foremount House, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire.

Dr Gibson has sent me a copy of his paper on the Marine Mammals of the Clyde Faunal Area, published in the Western Naturalist, vol.5, 1976. From this I learn that there are six species of dolphin known in British waters, in addition to the porpoise. The White-beaked Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*) is very similar to the White-sided Dolphin and this species is quite common in Western waters, frequenting the Sound of Kilbrannan, Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne. These two related species have shorter 'beaks' than the Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), a feature which may show when the animals leap out of the water, as they do sometimes.

EDITORIAL NOTE: It is odd that another rare visitor appeared about the same time, in a bay on the west coast of Jura. This was a Leather-back Turtle, stranded and dead. In the mid-60's a turtle, of undetermined species - was swimming about in Tarbert Harbour, where the Editor saw it more than once, close in to the Fish Quay. It was at least 4 feet long and by no means moribund.

EARLY ROADS IN MID-ARGYLL (Second Part)

F.S.Mackenna

Following on the foregoing outline of the road situation in our district it will be of interest if relevant entries in the Minutes of the Commissioners of Supply are now given. If a few refer to places outwith our area the excuse lies in some oddity of occasion or other reason. The entries are given chronologically, and except where obviously in the original language are *précis* in modern phraseology.

First is a verbatim transcript setting out the limits of our part of the county:-

An Act for Repairing the Highways and Bridges in
the shire of Argyll

"....That for the more easy and effectual Extension of the Powers hereby granted, the said Shire shall be divided into Seven Districts: videlicet Argyll, Cowal, Kintyre, Lorne, Mull, Ardnamurchan, and Ilay; and that the first of the said Districts called Argyll, shall extend from the Water of Fine to the March between the Lands of Inverneil and Stronechulline by Locharel, and the March betwixt Achachoigh and Barenlongart to Lochcaolisport, from thence to the Kirk of Kilmelford, and by the water of Avick to Lochow, from thence along the South Side of the said loch, to the Water of Tettle, and from thence in a straight line to the Head of Glenfine, excepting always the Parish of North Knapdale, which is to be annexed to the District of Ilay."

Extracts from Minutes of Commissioners of Supply
1744-1795

1747. 15th June.

ref. to building a quay at Wester Otter.

ref. the ford of the Water of Baranlongart,
South Knapdale, and the timber bridge repaired.

1748. 7th July.

Committee named to contract for the bridge of
Erines in Slevegoyle

1750. 2nd June.

Bridge of Lochgair to be rebuilt.

1751. 28th June.

Repairs to the Bridge of Add.

The inhabitants of the Western District or Ross of North Knapdale to finish the new road by the shore of Scotnish between Sallen-na-gallachelly and Tayvallich - persons ploughing down any part of the line of the new road to be fined.

1752. 8th May.

ref. to the old and new lines of road at Scotnish, North Knapdale.

1753. 20th Sept.

Appeal against assessment by James Campbell, Tacksman of Dunderave - has been charged with the duty on thirteen windows for the Old Castle of Dunderave "which has not been inhabited by any person for more than twelve moneths past".

1754. 22nd May.

- bridges at Echybeg, Curr and Lochgair to be finished.

1755. 1st May.

- repairs to bridges for Lindsaig, Drum, Mech-anoch, Add, and Ormsary.

1756. 3rd May.

Proposal of Mr Henry Kendal & Co, partners of the iron work at the Water of Lecan for building bridges upon the Waters of Lecan, Crarae, and Douglas.

1758. 16th May.

Application by Mr Arthur Harries, Overseer of the Iron Works at Argyll Furnace, for setting men to work on a road from Duren on Loch Awe to the Water of Leckan. Mr Harries ordered first to repair the road through the Moss from shore to the Leigh Bridge of Leckan.

1759. 1st May.

Petition for a bridge on the Water of Clachandow, on the road from Kilmichael-Glassary to the Ford of Stucacraw - the river can hardly be forded because of clay pits and sinking sands.

1760. 1st May.

No droves of cattle to pass over the new line of road in the parish of North Knapdale, "but through the lands of Barnakill [Dunardry. Ed.] as usual".

1761. 1st May.

Memorial by James Campbell, merchant in Inver-

array, setting forth that the West Ferry of Otter has no quay - horses have no way of getting into the boat other than by jumping off a slanting rock - the inhabitants of Silvercraigs ordered to work on the quay.

1762. 1st May.

The Overseer of the Argyll Furnace Company to make the road through the lands of Goatfield, in so far as the line above the houses has been altered by him.

1763. 3rd May.

Petition of the inhabitants of North Knapdale, showing how they have been making a new line of road from Dunardry to Bellanoch - much used by travellers - seeking help from public funds.

1763. 4th May.

Petition for a bridge across the Water of Avenagillen on the West side of Loch Tarbert and Lørgnahension in Kelislate, which the inhabitants of Kelislate, south of Drum-na-muchloch use when going to market.

Petition for £30 towards the cost of the proposed bridge over the Water of Clachandow - the most public road in the Braes of Glassary - the only passage for cattle to the Whitsunday Market from Mull, Lorn and Lochaweside.

£18 for a bridge on the Water of Achaghyll.

£12 to finish the quay at the West Ferry of Otter.

£10 for repairing the quay at the Ferry of Kilvickocharmig, North Knapdale. [Keills. Ed.]

1764. 1st May.

Petition for a further sum for the quay at the ferry of Kilvickocharmaig - committee appointed to deal with the proprietors, for moving the ferry to Barnaghallig, North Knapdale.

1764. 2nd May.

Droves of cattle to be hindered from passing by the new line of road from Dunardry to Bellanoch, North Knapdale, till the arable and meadow lands on both sides are sufficiently enclosed.

The old line below Ardrishaig is appointed to be kept open and continued the public road as formerly - the inhabitants of Inverneil to repair the quay there.

Stones to be removed from "Sleygeil Road, South Knapdale and Kilcalmonell, so as to render the same in some degree passable".

1765. 1st May.

Memorial of Daniel Campbell, merchant in Kilmichael in Glassary, setting forth that the roads from Carraig to Kilmichael and from there to Inveraray "were not rideable with any safety" - a new line of road to be decided upon, to join the new line between Loch Gair and Loch Gilp.

Stonefield authorised to make a new landing place at East Tarbert.

1766. 12th June.

Petition of John Campbell of Shirvan objecting to the new line of road through his farm of Nether Rudill - sets out his objections in detail - asks for the old line to be repaired instead - the Meeting adhere to the new line and order work to proceed on the road "so as proper Communications for Cattle be made on both sides thereof".

Memorial from Neil Campbell of Duntroon concerning a quay to be built at the ferry house from Crinan to North Knapdale.

Committee appointed for making out the most proper line of road for driving cattle to the Whitsunday Mercat through the Muir Grounds of Barnakill - the line to be 30 ft. broad.

1767. 11th June.

Petition anent the bridge over the Water of Kilmartin - so ruinous that passengers cannot cross in safety - so narrow that cattle crossing it are crowded together and are often hurt or fall over. £10 allocated for repairs.

Petition from the Heritors of Dalavich and Kilchrenan - "bad, roundabout and Tedious roads" from Lochaweside to Inveraray - the existing road from Port-innisherich runs by Durran and the Water of Leckan - petitioners want a new line by Kames to Balantyre - Mr Campbell of Carwhin's post travelled the route every week with a horse - much shorter route to Inveraray than the old line.

Petition concerning the ferry from Jura - the new cattle ferry has been established between Lagg and Keills, and the old ferry between Kinnachdrach and Aird in Craignish now increasingly disused - the Meeting is

asked for permission to abandon the old ferry.

1768. 3rd May.

Petition for a new bridge across the Water of Douglas - old bridge too narrow to allow a cart to cross.
Bridge to be built at Inverneil.

Road between Auchindryen and the High Bridge of Leckan to be repaired.

1769. 1st May.

Discussion on a proposal to route the new line of road from Auchindrain to Lochgilphead via Glenaira rather than the shore.

Otter recommended to keep good boats and give more punctual service at Otter Ferry

1772. 4th June.

Report that Duncan Munn in Aucholean, Kilfinan, had refused to work on the highways, and threatened to beat the constable, "swearing he would run his knife into him".

1773. 4th June.

Petition for repair of the quay of West Ferry of Otter - cattle frequently hurt and sometimes killed in boating them for want of a quay.

1774. 25th June.

Petition by Duntroon - fears damage to crops from cattle passing along the new line of road from Bellanoch to Dunardry.

We may here take leave of the Commissioners' Minutes, but one other item of interest remains to be presented. Miss Campbell has kindly allowed me to examine the Kilberry copy of Taylor & Summer's Map, dated 20th March, 1776, and readers may like to have a description of the line of the road at that time from Inveraray to Tarbert.

From Inveraray it appears to follow the present road but keeps to the west side of 'Douglas R.' until 'St John's' a little past the 4th m.s. At Auchendrain a branch goes off to the west (the still-well-marked track to Loch Awe). Just before crossing the un-named Leckan Water a branch strikes off towards the east to 'The Forge' and then goes along the shore to rejoin at 'Goatfield'. It continues close to the shore until reaching modern Crarae, just short of the 11th m.s. The river is 'Cada R.' and a 'Mill' is situated on its south bank. Next comes 'Auchgoil' and

at the 12th m.s. it goes inland, with a drive marked to 'Minard - Campbell Esq' going off at 'Shiragram'. Before the 16th m.s. is 'Lochgare Head' on the right and an un-named house on the site of the present Asknish marked 'Campbell Esq'. Loch Gare is named. The present Achnaba is 'Auchinliea'. The road passes inland of Kilmory and regains the shore at 'Loch Gilp head Inn'. 'Askmeel - Campbell Esq' seems to apply to the present Oakfield, and there is no mention of Ardrishaig. Next comes 'Inverneal- Col. Campbell' and at Stronachullin is 'Tyndrynan'. From the un-named Stronachullin Burn to the 'Ouran R.' (presumably Meall Mhor Burn) the line of road is dotted and marked 'A New Road now making'. Inland from this is the 'Hill of Slevgoie'. Continuing south we have 'Ashens - Campbell Esq', with the road going inland of the present line. 'Barmore' seems to apply to a house reached by the present main Stonefield drive, but the house is shown to the south of the present castle. The road then divides, as it still does, one line going direct to 'West Tarbet Inn' and the other 'to Tarbet', with 'Castle of Tarbet in Ruins'.

In the Minute Book of the Kintyre District Road Trustees there is a diverting entry which impinges on our area.

1 Oct. 1774. The Meeting having taken into consideration the bad consequences of a great number of Tippling Houses where Stages are not necessary they appoint the following as the most proper Places for Licensing Stages upon that Road and Recommend to the Collector of Excise to Compound with and tollerate the Houses following to the exclusion of all others which they desire the Clerk to intimate to the Collector. That is to say: Moneroy, Machriemore Miln, Killellan, Knocknahaw, Killkenzie, Tangy Miln, Bellochantuie, Lossit Miln, Drummore, Barr, Killean, Tayinloane, Runahorine, Clachan, one upon Loup's Property, Loup's Ferry, Leargnahuinsine (two houses), Dallacharn, Taynadrochit, Tayintraw, Dallintober (three houses), Saddell, Ardnacreish.

The writer is grateful to Mr Murdo MacDonald the Archivist, for generously allowing him to draw on the Extracts of Minutes which he himself has made, and to Miss Campbell of Kilberry for much topographical and local guidance.

MAKING CARTWHEELS IN JURA

Dr C. Stewart Sandeman

The wheels were made by an old man called Stewart who lived in the house at the north end of the row at Caggenhouse and had a workshop attached. He had been a ships' carpenter and came to Jura as cooper to the distillery, coopering being one of the duties of the carpenter in sailing ships.

The spokes and rim were carved with an adze and finished with a spokeshave. The rim was made in pieces, one to each spoke. The spokes were keyed into the hub at one end and into the rim at the other and the pieces of rim were keyed into each other so that the whole wheel was held together without any nails.

When finished the wheels were taken to Coll MacDougall's smithy. A flat strip of iron was cut to the exact circumference of the wheel and then a small piece was cut off equal to the thickness of the iron. This was a rule of thumb method of allowing for the linear coefficient of expansion of iron though Coll was convinced that iron expanded when heated by the amount of its thickness (in fact the amount of expansion depends on the length). The iron was then heated and hammered on the anvil to a perfect circle, the ends being butt-welded.

On a suitable day, dry without too much wind, a circular fire of peats was made, the iron tyre was placed on this, more peats were added at the sides and over the tyre and replenished as required. The wheel was placed on a circular plate of iron sunk in the ground with a hole in the middle which took the hub and allowed the wheel to lie flat. This plate was common to all smithies and was usually left when the smithy was abandoned and is sometimes the only way of identifying a ruin as having been a smithy.

When the tyre was red hot, which took many hours, the excitement began. Coll and Dan lifted the tyre with long tongs and dropped it squarely over the rim, which caught fire; when the tyre had sunk squarely over the rim it was immediately doused with buckets of water which had been filled beforehand from the burn; the tyre then contracted and bound the whole wheel together. I have never heard of a tyre coming off a cartwheel.

Carriage wheels were made differently, the rim being in one piece and steamed to shape, but I never saw this done

British war chariots had iron tyres, which astonished the Romans, but this ancient skill must be dying, if not already dead.

Coopering is another skill which does not use nails. The Wheelwright's was a trade on its own; possibly the Wainwright's too, for the building of waggons.

....oOo....

EXTRACTS FROM 'OLD KILBERRY'S' DIARIES

Second Series. Pt.3.

TRAVELLING

1878. 30th December.

Maggie and I were to have gone to Greenock and then round the Mull to Raasay in the Clydesdale but as it looked stormy and the ice was off the roads we drove to Tarbert, went by steamer to Ardrishaig and posted to Oban where we slept.

31st December.

Very stormy wet day. In the morning the Clydesdale came in but it was blowing so hard that we determined to go to Strome Ferry by railway and so we left Oban at 9a.m. by coach and took train at Dalmally. From Dalmally to Callender it was raining as hard as I ever saw it in this country and blowing very hard. We went to Stirling where Maggie went to bed for three hours to rest and then we dined and went to Perth, leaving Stirling at 10.30p.m. Arrived at Perth about 11.30 and saw the New year arrive on the platform there.

1879. 1st January.

We left Perth by train about 1a.m.and ought to have got to Inverness about 8.50 but when we got to Grantown about 6 o'clock we were stopped as a train in front of us had stuck fast in the snow about 6 miles from Grantown on the way to Dava. About 8 o'clock. I got out of the train and got the Station Master's wife (Mrs Forbes) to take Maggie into her house & to give us some breakfast and then Maggie stayed on in the house all day and was very comfortable. About 1 o'clock. Mrs Forbes gave us a very good dinner and we certainly were not very badly off although many of the passengers were. Eventually the line was cleared and we got

away about 4.30p.m. and arrived at Inverness about 8 and put up at the Station Hotel. The snow came on quite unexpectedly about 4a.m. It had all melted in the last few days and they had taken the snow ploughs off the line.

2nd. January.

Fine day but several heavy showers of snow. Although this was not the day for the steamer to run from Strome Ferry to Portree we determined to go to Strome Ferry so as to be on the spot and ready for tomorrow. The train very nearly stuck in the snow between Achnasheen and Ach-nashellach. When we got to Strome we found to our delight that the Ferret was there having come a special trip from Stornoway with recruits for the Ross-shire Militia. We got on board of her and just as we were going to start the Raasay yacht, Rona, came in for us and we got on board of hervery glad to get to our journey's end.

1889. 26th July.

The new railway /from Gourock to Glasgow/ has only been open for a week or two and is a great improvement on the old Greenock Route.

26th. October.

/having missed the Gourock train and consequently the Grenadier/went to Auchenlochan by s.s. Viceroy leaving 2.5p.m. Drove to Port a Mhaddy opposite to Tarbert - found there a skiff which I had telegraphed to Tarbert for, hired a trap and got home about 12.30 midnight.

1892. 12th. July.

/on way from Glasgow to London. The Diarist had recently taken to 3rd Class travel for economy/ Took a tourist ticket last night which cost me 52/- return 3rd Class.

24th. July.

/from London to Inverness/ Went 3rd Class and paid £3 for a return ticket to Inverness.

1904. 20th July.

/from Glasgow/train to Wemyss Bay and then by Turbine Steamer /K. Edward/ to Ardrishaig. Glasgow Fair time. Beastly steamer, very crowded and no proper arrangements. At Ardrishaig we could not force our way on deck until the steamer had backed out again. I told the Capt. he must

put us ashore & he refused. However I was very determined & at last he got a boat from the Daisy (Fishery Cutter) & we got ashore.

PERSONALITIES

1863. 2nd March. /at Kilberry/

Went down to Ardrishaig to meet Mr Hall (Kilblan) with Mistress McSnaiochan who astonished the natives pretty considerably.

1878. 15th February. /in London/

Dinner party - 18 to dinner and a large mob in the evening. A lot of curious characters including a Mrs Volkman who was Mrs Guppy (a great spiritualist), very large, immensely fat and about the most repulsive female I have ever seen.

1883. 21st June. /in London/

....to the Lyceum theatre where we saw that ranting idiot Irving in "the Lyons Mail".

1891. 24th September. /at Harrow/

The three Misses Stogden performed several trios on the Piano, Fiddle and Violoncello. Middling.

1896. 23rd January. /at Kilberry, commenting on the death in action of Prince Henry of Battenberg and the fact of his being allowed to go with the expedition/

Why the Queen should have allowed him to go is equally if not more inexplicable. He was usually in constant attendance on his wife /Pss. Beatrice/ and mother-in-law and it is quite possible that he wanted a change of any sort.

1905. 13th March. /at York/

Dined at St Clements Rectory with Canon and Mrs -. The canon seems to be a very small popgun but the rest of the family were cheery, good-looking and pleasant.

14th March.

There was a communion service but I did not stay for it. In fact I was much inclined to laugh and also to swear at the antics of a parson and an assistant who seemed to be trying to make mountebanks of themselves with considerable success. The former was dressed up like a Herald.

1905. 25th March. /in London/

My doctor tried to come the old soldier over me by giving me a prescription of water 11 parts and laudanum 1 part when I insisted on having pure laudanum to apply to my shoulder. The man is a fool and worse. He told me that he had written only laudanum and I suppose he thought that I could not read his writing. However Molly got me the pure stuff at the stores and not much harm was done.

1906. 6th April. /at Kilberry/

In the evening there was a concert in Kilberry School Ho.the only hitch was the singing by....the new School-master at Dunmore. He made a noise which he called serio-comic songs but the noise was terrible. However, poor devil, he is stone deaf and one cant expect much from a deaf man. It is a wonderful thing how well he manages the school and how well he brings on his pupils when he cannot hear a sound of any sort.

1907. 2nd March. /in London/

The election took place....a tremendous defeat of the Progressive party....Lord Monkswell a blethering ass and a self-sufficient humbug who has been one of the great Progressive party has been well defeated.

1907. 11th September. /at Oban for Games and Ball/
Competition of Piping Amateurs....C.M. was first. He is a good piper but has no ear and cannot tune his pipes so he had John McColl to do this for him and to put the pipes on his shoulder just before he started. Hardly fair on the other competitors....but there seems to be no rule against this rather shady style of doing business. Just as well that /he/ won as I think, and so did a good many others, that if he had not he would have cried.

PROBLEMS AND TRIALS OF A CHAIRMAN

1897. 27th April. /at Kilberry/

/the new minister of S. Knapdale, at School Bd. Meeting/ tried to boss the show and had to be sat upon. He was very rude to me in particular but I dont think that he will be as bumptious in future.

30th November. /at Kilberry/

School Board Meeting at Kilberry..../the minister/ was very violent in his language all through and obstructed the pro-

ceedings continually. He attacked all the actions of the Board and especially of Inverneill (the Chairman). I, in Inverneill's absence, was chairman and I had to call him to order many times and to use very decided language to him. He is an ill-conditioned and unmannerly boor and full of self conceit, extremely bumptious and unpleasant in manner.

1902. 17th January. /at Kilberry/
Meeting of District Committee at Lochgilphead....I was appointed vice-chairman. I accepted this office merely to prevent Col. - being appointed. He is a regular nuisance as chairman, talks nonsense, makes puns and wastes time.

1907. 20th February. /at Oban Cattle Show and Sale/
....meetings of Committee and Editing Committee and General Meeting of the Highland Cattle Society, at all of which I was Chairman as usual. It is a great nuisance to fall into the plan of giving in to being forced to be Chairman of everything. There is nothing that I hate more and I am always shoved in to do the work.The Annual Dinner (which was not very good) was not as well attended as usual and no wonder owing to the weather. In this case I got off being Chairman and got Forsyth (Quinish) to take the job. He is a much better Chairman than I am but people wont recognise this fact. He can give me pounds and he never riles anyone.

TO BE CONTINUED

Two delightful oral anecdotes of 'Old Kilberry' as Chairman, using "very decided language" to troublemakers.

"We'll have none of your damned democracy here!"

"Sit down, Sir! How dare you waste the time of this committee!"

.....

CORRECTION: Kist 16. Page 23, line 1. Delete 'meths', which was a mistaken Editorial emendation.