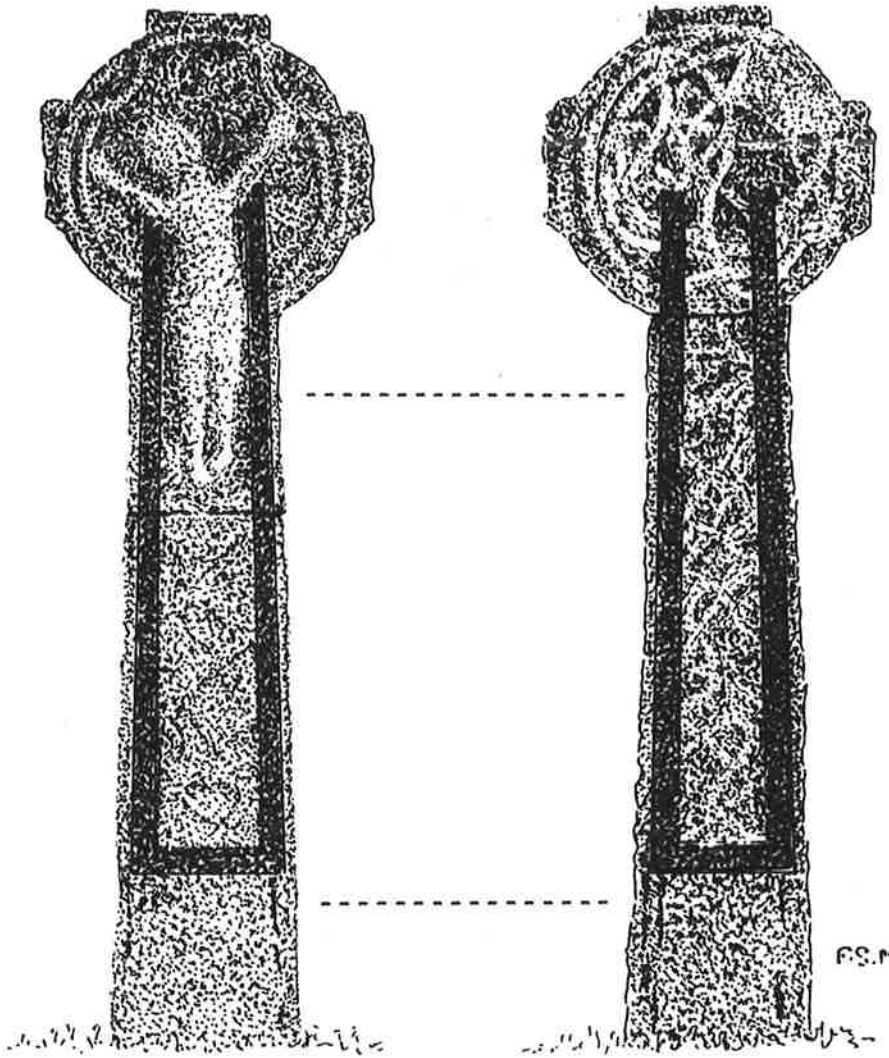
The Kilmichael Glassary Cross : 1982



The KIST 26

THE KIST

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

President: Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA. FSAScot.

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Joint Hon. Secretary (for Membership and Publications)

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Kilchoan Lodge, Poltalloch, by Lochgilphead

Price: 60p (postage extra)

AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY EXCAMBION

The Realignment of the March between Inverneil and Stronachullin

Geoffrey Turner

The year 1776 was eventful. Adam Smith's Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations was published; James Cook was setting out on his last voyage of discovery; Thomas Jefferson drafted the American Declaration of Independence; and David Hume the philosopher died. At Inverneil also, changes were afoot when, on the 2nd and 3rd July, the Sheriff Depute of Argyll "perambulated the march" between that estate and Stronachullin.

Today the lands of Inverneil and Stronachullin are separated by a substantial stone dyke running from the A83 at Bàgh an Taillear up into the hill in a very straight line which can be seen on the present O.S. maps, but when the Inverneil estate was bought in 1772 by Colonel Archibald Campbell this march was ill-defined and by no means straight. The legal process by which the march came to be shortened and improved can be understood from a reading of a letter-book in the Inverneil Estate Papers - Folio 1 1769-1777. I am grateful to Dr John Lorn Campbell, Isle

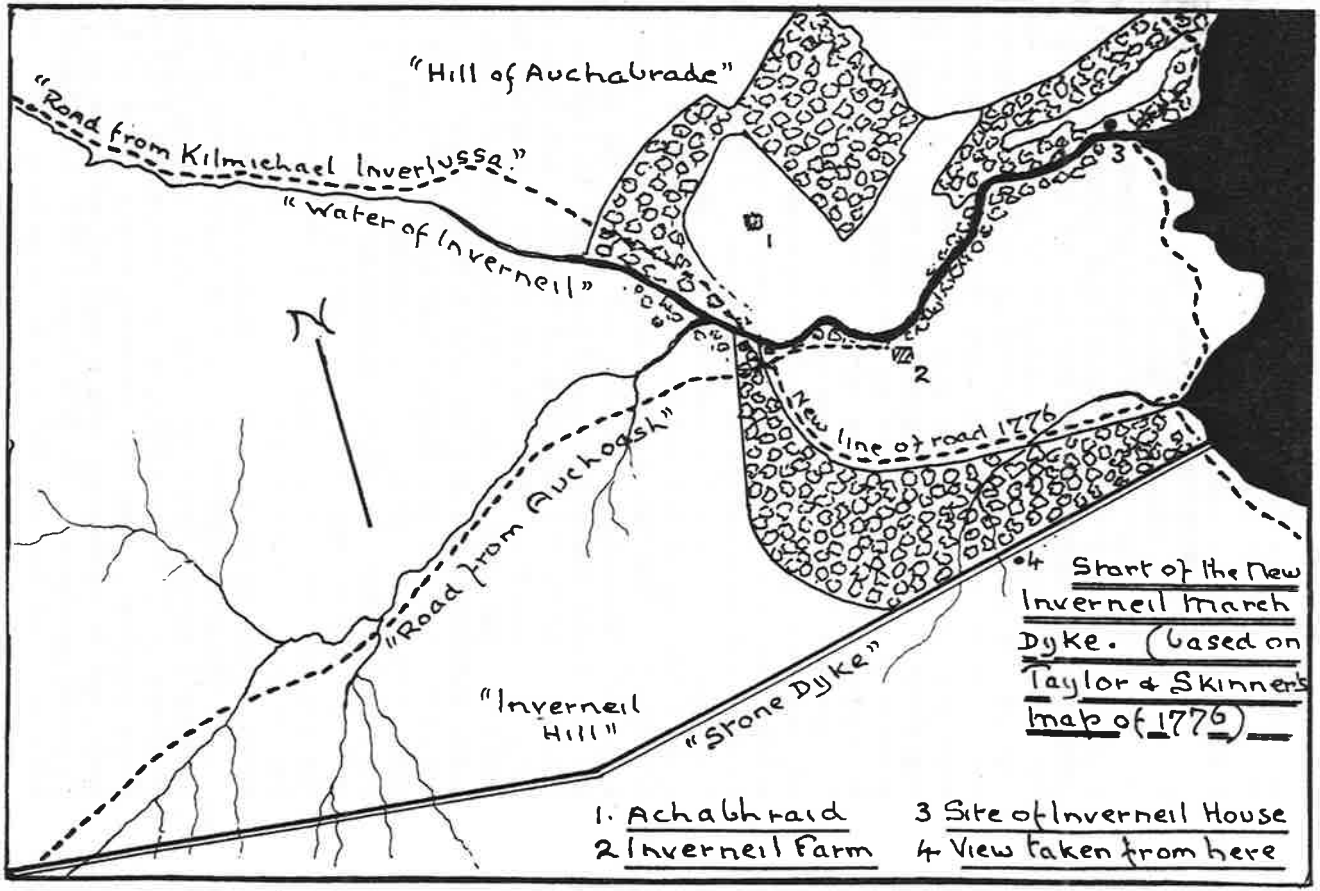
of Canna, for his permission to refer to these records.

In 1772 Archibald Campbell, at the age of 33, was Chief Engineer to the Honorable India Company in Bengal. He was Lt.Colonel of the 2nd Battalion of the Old 71st Regiment which sailed for North America in 1776. He was captured in Boston harbour, but exchanged the following year and led a successful attack on Savannah. As Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell he was Governor of Jamaica in 1785, and Governor of Madras 1786-89. He died in 1791 and is buried in Westminster Abbey. His affairs in Argyll were managed by his younger brother, Duncan Campbell (1742 - 1822), a Writer in Inveraray.

The new owner's policy was to improve his estate by enclosure, by planting trees and by replacing small tenants by his own stock, including sheep. To make an efficient plantation on the north-facing slope of Cnoc Glas it was first necessary to straighten, and so shorten, the southern march of Inverneil with Stronachullin; this would reduce the cost of building a stone dyke along the march. Sometime in 1775 Duncan Campbell presented a petition to the Sheriff Depute of Argyll based on Statutes passed in 1661 and 1669, as ratified by an Act passed in the first Session of Parliament of James VII. The petition concluded "May it therefore please your Lordship to visite the marches betwixt the foresaid lands .... and to run a straight and equal line of march betwixt the same by adjuding such parts of the grounds of either lands as occasion anyinconveniency in completing a streight and equal line of march to the other and to ordain such line to be the common march betwixt the said lands in all time coming and to decern a proper march dyke to be built thereon ....".

If effective the petition would require "the next adjacent heritor", namely "Archibald Graham alias Campbell Esquire of Shirvane" to agree to an exchange of lands on either side of the new line, subject to a monetary settlement for any difference in value, and to contribute an equal share of the cost of building, ditching and planting the new dyke.

At Inveraray on 13th October 1775, Lachlan Campbell, the Sheriff Substitute, issued a warrant for Archibald Graham to be served with a copy of the petition "either personally or at his dwelling place if within Scotland or if furth thereof at the Pier and Shore of Leith" and to


"Hill of Auchalbrade"
"Road from Kilmichael Inverlussa"
"Water of Inverneil"
"Road from Auchagash"
New line of road 1776
"Inverneil Hill"
"Stone Dyke"
1
2
3
4
Start of the New Inverneil March Dyke. (based on Taylor & Skinner's map of 1776)
1. Achalbhraid
2 Inverneil Farm
3 Site of Inverneil House
4 View taken from here

answer the petition within a specified time. The petition was served at the Mercat Cross of Edinburgh Pier and Shore of Leith on 21st October 1775 by William Gillies, messenger in Edinburgh.

In the following year on 14th June the Sheriff Depute, Robert Campbell, appointed the 2nd July 1776 for visiting the site and ordered the parties to attend. On the 9th July it was recorded that the Sheriff Substitute had "perambulated the march" on the 2nd and 3rd July and had fixed the new line to run "from Lochfine in a streight line through the grounds of Stronechulline till it enters upon the lands of Inverneil and from thence in a continued streight line up the hill till it comes to a moss on the top thereof, where it angles and proceeds through the grounds of Stronechulline in the upper end of Glendour in a streight line to the march of Inverneil and thence in a continued streight line up the hill through the lands of Inverneil and the march of Achachoish where it makes a sharp angle and proceeds in a direction nearly North and by East and by a stripe of moss under the foot of a steep brae inclining in a few places to the westward until it come to the top of the ridge nearly eastward of Arie Dhoil Aig etc.". The two parties were required to measure the areas of the separate parcels cut off by the new line, to specify their respective qualities, and to furnish this information "to Neil Campbell of Duntroon and Dugald Campbell of Kilmartine Esquires who are hereby appointed to value the same and to report their opinion thereanent." These gentlemen had not submitted their valuation by 19th November 1776, so the Sheriff Substitute then gave them until 12th March 1777. This reminder had good effect for, on 26th November 1776, Duntroon and Kilmartin "having with all the attention in our power viewed and considered the ground" gave their opinion that the acreage lost by Stronachullin exceeded that lost by Inverneil by an amount equal to one pound fifteen shillings of yearly value.

For the petitioners it was then agreed that since the Inverneil estate had been bought from William Wilson of Soonhope in 1772 for £3050, with a rental of £123 at 25 years purchase, then the assessed yearly value of £1-15-0 could not be converted into a capital sum at a rate above 25 years purchase. On 12th August 1777 the Sheriff Substitute fixed the capital sum to be paid by Inverneil at

£42-5-0 sterling and "decerned" the two parties to build the march dyke at their mutual expense.

On 11th September 1777 a letter was written to James Campbell of Silvercraigs and Captain Colin Campbell of the Marines, as managers of the Stronachullin estate offering to pay the £42-5-0 immediately, on their agreeing to pay their half of the cost of the march dyke "from time to time as it shall be contracted for and built". The letter also suggested that since the Sheriff Substitute "had much trouble and fatigue out of his common course of business in adjusting the march" it was reasonable to offer him jointly a fee of twelve guineas. The other side readily agreed to all this.

There the information from the letter-book ends but we know that the dyke was built and the plantations made. In Taylor and Skinner's plan of the lands of Inverneil in 1776 the intended planting is shown forming a horse-shoe shape around the cultivated fields of the low ground; and the march with Stronachullin is shown as an almost dead straight line nearly 2¼ miles long. In the General View of the Agriculture of Argyll compiled by the Rev. John Smith of Campbeltown in the 1790s, he says - "the late General Sir Archibald Campbell distinguished for correct taste and judgment, seems to have had this idea in laying out his grounds at Inverneil. All that was cultivated, or capable of being so, was first cut off by one general enclosure at the bottom. Without this, and above it, a considerable tract was cut off and planted, allowing the plantation to descend to the shore, where the ground was poor, and incapable of being cultivated; and the high lands above both enclosures were left for sheep or other cattle. Sir James, in following out his brother's plan, will probably extend the planting as far up the hill as it will grow, which was prudent not to attempt in the first instance; but it may be done by degrees, as one belt or tier will shelter another."

Sadly we know very little about the craftsmen who built the dyke. We know from Smith that masons and carpenters were paid no more than two shillings a day, with victuals. Ditching and dyke building were paid as piece work. Stone dykes, standing 5' high, cost, according to the convenience of stones, from four to six shillings a fall. This linear measurement equalled six ells or nearly 6¼ yards. The

Stronachullin march dyke of 2¼ miles would therefore have cost £190 at the higher rate.

The plantation which is seen today against the southern march of Inverneil is presumably a replanting since the eighteenth century, but there are still individual beech trees which were planted in General Sir Archibald's time. A small group behind Achabhraid was felled two years ago and last year a friend of mine with some expertise counted the rings in one of the stumps and concluded that the tree had been at least 190 years agrowing.

...ooOooo...

EDITORIAL SCHOLIUM: By a happy coincidence we have been given two contributions for this issue which complement each other in a remarkable way - Mr Turner's "Eighteenth Century Excambion" which precedes this note, and Mrs Hall's "Tree Planting", which follows. In both papers we learn of plans for extensive plantings on two local estates, Inverneil and Duntroon, and although the former commenced in 1776 and Mrs Hall's example is dated 1800, there is no reason for concluding that the later one was the first for Duntroon - there may have been earlier orderings. What is abundantly certain is that Neil Campbell of Duntroon knew all about Inverneil's forestry intentions, for he was one of the two local lairds appointed in 1776 to determine the alterations in value and consequent financial adjustments occasioned by the formation of a new march-line between Inverneil and neighbouring Stronachullin. Knowledge of Inverneil's plans to form a massive shelter belt round the lower agricultural parts of his estate very possibly inspired Duntroon to start on a similar scheme; or it may have been his successor at Duntroon, the Neil Malcolm of Mrs Hall's note, who took the initiative there twenty-four years later, in 1800.

We thought that Mrs Hall's contribution would gain in interest if we appended the present-day cost of such an order, and we are obliged to our friends the owners of Arduaine Garden for kindly taking trouble to obtain these prices for us.

On both estates a few venerable trees are survivors of these original plantings.

TREE PLANTING

Noel Hall

The Forestry Commission are not the only people to plant trees in Mid-Argyll as I discovered recently whilst browsing through an Argyll Farm Account Book of the beginning of the last century.

The following account, dated 10th March 1800 and sent to Mr Neil Malcolm of Duntroon, gives some idea of the wealth of woodland in Mid-Argyll. Perhaps we too could plant or care for a tree whose neighbour has succumbed to the ravages of time, winter gales or the power saw?

To Stirling, Gordon & Co.					1983 (wholesale)
Larch Firs.....	1000.....	£1	1	0	£112-225
Beech.....	900.....	1	11	6	180-198
Elms.....	900.....		18	0	90-120
Mountain Ash.....	500.....	1	0	0	200
Scotch Fir.....	200.....		2	0	15 - 30
Spruce Fir.....	200.....		4	0	14 - 20
Silver Fir.....	200.....		8	0	16 - 48
Limes.....	200.....	2	0	0	52
Sycamore.....	200.....		5	0	25
Laurels.....	100.....		16	9	100-145
Lauristinas.....	100.....	1	5	0	90-135
Portugal do.....	100.....		16	9	135
Strong Thorns.....	6000.....	3	12	0	600-900
Apples.....	12 stand....		9	0	
Pears.....	4 stand....		3	4	
Plums.....	4 stand....		3	4	£7·95 each (retail)
Cherries.....	2 stand....		1	9	
1-year old Ash.....	2000.....		9	0	64
Seedling Larch.....	2000.....		12	0	64
2-year old Ash.....	2000.....		12	0	188
9 Mats & Packing.....			13	6	?

This gives an approximate sum of £17 (retail) in 1800, and of £2100 - £2700 (wholesale) in 1983. Ed.

AN ORNITHOLOGIST MOVES TO KINGSTON, ONTARIO

Gordon Young

Coming to Kingston in summer, a visitor from Mid-Argyll will see many birds which at first glance appear familiar. But initial appearances are deceptive. The gulls wheeling over the lake are probably Ring-billed gulls, the terns in the distance could be the Herring Gull-sized Caspian Tern and the cormorants making their direct purposeful flight low over the water are certainly Double-crested Cormorants. The familiar-looking sandpipers bobbing on the shore are "Spotted" rather than "Common". Soaring overhead, the buzzard is one of many North American relatives of the European species, and hunting from the dead elm, the Kestrel which in silhouette and flight resembles the European bird so closely is seen on more detailed inspection to have markings which are quite different. In the forests the members of the crow and woodpecker families are easily recognised; but they belong to species never seen in Great Britain.

Nevertheless, out of the 333 species on the list of birds recorded in the Kingston area, as many as 60 may be found in Mid-Argyll, a surprising fact perhaps in view of the important differences in topography and climate. With a population rather higher than the whole of Argyll, the city of Kingston lies on the rolling limestone lowlands which are typical of the shores of the North East corner of Lake Ontario; but to the North and North East the landscape soon undergoes a dramatic change as the plains give way to the southern edge of the great Canadian Shield, a rugged area of granite and other igneous rocks, much deciduous woodland and innumerable lakes. The climate is classified as "Continental" but it is modified to some extent by Lake Ontario. In round terms this means that average temperatures are some 10°F higher (68°F) in July, and 20°F lower (21°F) in January than in Mid-Argyll and that the annual precipitation is less than half, (35"), of which almost a quarter falls as snow.

Of the 60 species common to both areas many observers would give pride of place to the Great Northern Diver, a bird which winters off the west coast of Argyll. In Canada it breeds on almost every lake and has become remarkably tolerant of human disturbance. Canadians in the

lake country eagerly await its arrival in Spring as the ice begins to melt, and claims to have heard the wild call of the Loon, to give the bird its North American name, are exchanged and commented on much as the people of Argyll discuss the first call of the Cuckoo, a bird which, alas, is not known in America. The Hen Harrier is another bird which is more common around Kingston than in Argyll. Although it moves off to the south to escape the most severe winter months, for the rest of the year it can be seen almost at will in all areas of suitable habitat. On the other side of the coin, two species which breed regularly in Argyll are much more rare in Eastern Ontario; indeed the Golden Eagle has not been reported at all for some years and the Peregrine has been seen recently mainly during migration.

Although North American finches are summer visitors there are no Chaffinches, probably Mid-Argyll's most common species; there are also no Blackbirds and no Song Thrushes. The North American Blackbird is not related to the British species and is distinguished by brilliant, eye-catching red and yellow shoulder patches. The most common member of the thrush family is the Blackbird-sized North American Robin, a bird whose only similarities to its European namesake are its red breast and its habit of frequenting human habitations. It undoubtedly owes its name to early British settlers who, motivated more by nostalgia than the niceties of ornithology, acquired the habit of calling any bird "Robin" which had red on its breast.

It is likely also that a longing for the sights and sounds of home had something to do with the presence in Kingston, and indeed throughout North America, of two familiar birds on the Mid-Argyll list; the House Sparrow and the Starling. Before 1850 neither species was known in North America but in that year the Brooklyn Institute decided to begin to rectify matters by setting up a committee charged with introducing the House Sparrow. The first step was to place an order in Liverpool for a "large lot" of sparrows and have them shipped to the United States. They were released in the following year and from then on vigorous efforts were made to introduce the species to various widely separated parts of America. It will come as no surprise to those who admire this resilient and enterprising bird to learn that by the early 1890s the col-

onization of the whole of North America was virtually complete. It is thought that the fortunes of the sparrow followed closely those of the horse which until well into this century provided the bird with a liberal food supply along the streets and highways. The number of sparrows declined as the horse gave way to the motor car but its numbers are now thought to be stable.

The introduction of the Starling occurred rather later, but it is a similar story, although the species was more reluctant to become established and is only now completing its colonization of North America. It was not until 1890 that the release of the first Starlings in Central Park, New York led to the discovery of their first nest in America, appropriately enough under the eaves of the nearby American Museum of Natural History. One learns from a puzzling report that the extension of the Starling's range to the west side of the Rockies was assisted by the Portland (Oregon) Song Bird Club whose members financed and organised the import and release of 40 birds at the end of the last century.

Attempted introductions such as the Duke of Argyll's release of Nuthatches at Inverarary in 1879, and the landing of Sika Deer in Kintyre a little later, were popular a hundred years ago but are now frowned on by naturalists Indeed when successful, they often had unexpected and unwelcome consequences. Such was the case with the House Sparrow and Starling in North America where native woodpeckers, certain members of the swallow family and other cavity-nesting species have suffered greatly from the competition provided by these aggressive and persistent birds.

At all events they are now firmly established on the Kingston list and are two of the comparatively few species which are resident throughout the year. Out of the 333 species only 28 fall into this category compared with 68 of the 200 birds in Mid-Argyll. From this it will be seen that migration plays a very important part in the ornithological year in Canada. In the Spring, as the ice breaks on the lakes and the snow disappears from the fields and forests, there is a dramatic increase in the number of birds both seen and heard. Thousands of Canada Geese arrive in March from the southern parts of the United States to spend two months or so on the islands in Lake Ontario before completing their journey to their breeding

grounds in Canada's far north. Introduced to England in the 17th and 18th centuries and now firmly established, the Canada Goose has been reported in many parts of Scotland and will assuredly appear on the Mid-Argyll list eventually. Brant geese make their way north a little later, flying, in contrast to the disciplined but noisy formations of the Canadas, in silent clouds low over the water. They winter in small numbers in Argyll most years.

The enormous rafts of duck are another feature not to be missed at this time of year; they can be seen wherever there is ice-free water. Most of the ducks eventually move further north to breed but many remain, notably among the European species, Mallard, but also Pintail and Shoveller; the Eider is a rarity on the Great Lakes but it is common on parts of the Atlantic Coast and off Alaska.

But it is in May and June that the stream of birds becomes a spate and the bird watcher faces the most exciting and testing time. Some thirty species of warblers and a dozen species of sparrows, none of them related to the House Sparrow, throng the trees and hedgerows and move through the dense fast-growing ground vegetation. Many of the birds have strong field characteristics and can be identified without too much difficulty, others are a challenge even for experienced bird watchers. All require a clear, unobstructed sighting for positive visual recognition and this is not always possible; hence the emphasis placed by most Canadian ornithologists on the identification of bird calls and the high degree of virtuosity achieved by many of them. If all this were not confusing enough, the return migration is made even more complicated by the passage of birds of the year whose immature plumage sometimes makes visual identification in the field impossible. But many species on the Kingston list present the observer with no problem of identification at all. One is the Turkey Vulture, a bird which soars with its 6ft wings held in a distinctive broad "V"; another is the tiny Ruby-throated Humming-bird which is considerably smaller than a Wren; it darts and hovers as only a Humming-bird can.

But it is in deep winter when lakes and rivers are frozen hard and fields and forests are under deep snow that the bird which is the star of the Kingston area dominates the scene. The Snowy Owl, a diurnal bird which is on the Mid-Argyll list but which has not been reported there for

some years, winters regularly on the islands in Lake Ontario. Numbers vary considerably from year to year and sometimes approach the ludicrous. A couple of miles from Kingston on Wolfe, a tadpole-shaped island with a head 6 miles across and a very narrow tail 12 miles long, a well organised count in January 1972 produced 87 Snowy Owls. Other owls too find the islands much to their liking in winter. Three years ago on Amherst, a much smaller island, 30 Great Grey Owls were seen in a day as well as 8 other species of Owl, amongst them the extremely rare Barn Owl. A fair number of Great Grey Shrikes and Snow Buntings are also attracted to the islands in the winter. Both birds are known in Mid-Argyll; a Shrike wintered for some years in the glen east of Achahoish, and although flocks of Snow Buntings are more common on the East coast of Scotland they are seen occasionally in winter moving along the beaches of Argyll.

Winter is also the time when bird watchers around the shores of Lake Ontario make their annual search for rare sea birds. Parties travel great distances to their favourite observation points and spend hours, often in bitterly cold conditions, meticulously examining every gull in sight. But the effort and the discomfort are forgotten if just a glimpse of a rarity is obtained. And what are these rarities? Bird watchers in Mid-Argyll may be amused to learn that the two species most eagerly sought but very rarely seen would not be entirely unfamiliar to them: they are the Lesser Black-backed Gull and the Black Headed Gull.

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THREE CRANNOGS AND AN ISLAND REFUGE

Ian M. Campbell

The three crannogs referred to in this note are near the north end of Loch Awe and only a short distance to the west of the craggy island, Frechelan. 'Crannog' derives from the Gaelic word for wood, and means lake dwelling. Most crannogs were wooden structures with a facing of stone to prevent erosion. A carbon date around 500 B.C. has been shown for an early Scottish crannog. They were still being constructed in 1600 A.D. and as late as 1688 some were still sometimes occupied.

The Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid-Argyll, in its Whitsun 1973 issue of "The Kist", printed a valuable report by C.M and T.D.McArdle on a Loch Awe Crannog survey made by a Sub-Aqua team. Within Edinburgh University on 20th November 1982 was held an interesting symposium to commemorate the centenary of Robert Munro's "Ancient Scottish Lake Dwellings". In this note valuable information comes from the McArdles' report and from Munro, but I accept responsibility for the suggestion that my island of Fraoch Eilean (to use the modern spelling) was perhaps at times a refuge for people from three neighbouring crannogs as well as from nearby parts of the mainland.

In the "Kist" report, an outline map of Loch Awe shows the position of the twenty crannogs found by the shores out of sixty possible sites inspected, but this note is concerned only with the three crannogs referred to as they are relatively close to Fraoch Eilean and to Inishail.

A visit to Inishail shows that it would not have been able to provide shelter for refugees, although it was for long the site of a religious establishment and may even haver accommodated a Celtic nunnery at a very early date. There is as yet no real evidence to support this conjectured nunnery, but one wonders whether the beautiful 8th century Irish glass artefact that I found on Fraoch Eilean might not have been previously on Inishail and perhaps in a nunnery on that island.

A point to be noted about these three crannogs is that one had a harbour and another a jetty. For this to be found in a group of only three crannogs suggests a higher level of technical achievement than in any other similar grouping on the shores of Loch Awe. Might this level of development be due to the fact that these three crannogs were the nearest to perhaps the loch's most secure refuge?

On this question of secure refuge, it can be agreed that today the southern part of Fraoch Eilean does not have much defensive potential, but until 1817 this southern part of the present island was in fact a separate island. It was in 1817 that the Earl of Breadalbane instructed his factor to arrange that the level of Loch Awe be lowered by about ten feet so that flooding of the low-lying ground surrounding the loch could be stopped, or at least restricted, and one consequence of these instructions was that an area between the two islands that had previously

been covered by water up to ten feet deep now appeared above this new water level, and the two islands became one.

In the 1855 Charter of Confirmation granted by the Duke of Argyll for the whole estate of Inverawe (an estate that ran from the top of Cruachan down to Loch Etive and to the River Awe) there is included "Fruachyllan and that little island adjacent thereto called Douyllan". The fact that the island previously adjacent to Fraoch Eilean had in 1817 actually been added to it need not lessen the value of this 1855 reference, because neither island had any occupants or any value for grazing and it would not occur to the lawyer who prepared the deed, presumably in Edinburgh, to enquire whether two small and commercially valueless islands in the middle of Loch Awe had become one as the unexpected result of action by someone other than the Duke.

In 1982 Dr Bruce Campbell and his brother Niall, both well-known naturalists and also representatives of the family of Campbell of Inverawe, visited Fraoch Eilean. Bruce's description of what they saw was published in the Oxford-based "The Countryman". The difference between what they saw on the historic Fraoch Eilean and on the 1817 addition is interesting - "Salmonberry (Rubus spectabilis), a relation of the raspberry from western North America... tends to dominate my impression of Fraoch Eilean's flora though it and most of the other introduced plants seemed to be confined to the northern (i.e.Castle) half of the island" while "the native association of heather, bluebell and woodrush rules on the southern half" of the present island.

The historical Fraoch Eilean's value as a refuge would be recognised by early residents on the nearby mainland or on those three crannogs, so what would they take with them when seeking sanctuary on the island? Apart from the obvious essentials, would they not take small personal treasures - such as a rare Irish glass artefact?

Munro describes (p.59) the finding on a Wigtownshire crannog of a "portion of an armlet, of greenish glass, with a blue and white twisted cable ornament running round it". This description shows that the artefact found in Wigtownshire was very similar to what I was to find in 1971 in the roots of a tree that had been felled on Fraoch Eilean's castle plateau during an archaeological 'dig'. Both artefacts have been given to the Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. Mine is labelled "Part of a blue glass bangle with white inlay of Irish type, probably 8th century A.D. From Fraoch Eilean, Loch Awe".

Having assumed an Irish origin for this Fraoch Eilean glass, one wants to know how it got to where I found it. The possibility that it came through a religious settlement on Inishail has already been mentioned.

Writing in 1771, Thomas Pennant brings in another Irish connection for my island, though no mention of glass. He writes of "Fraoch-Elan, the Hesperides of the Highlands" and then tells a tale that was "based traditionally in Connaught". Macdonald, in his "History of Argyll" says why he thinks Argyll's Irish connection must have started by the end of the 5th century A.D. Using the tides properly, a boat from Ireland would have little difficulty getting up as far as the loch shore near where Taynuilt now is, and from there it is only a short distance to the Fraoch Eilean and Inishail end of Loch Awe.

A long-cross silver penny of Henry III, that was probably minted in Canterbury between 1251 and 1255, was found on Fraoch Eilean during the recent digs, as was a Louis XIV coin of 1672. These finds, though remarkable, can be related to known periods of occupation, but what convincing explanation can be given for the glass artefact referred to in this note?

Dr Clarke, the Museum's Deputy Keeper, told me in November 1982 that our piece of glass had recently been taken from its place in an exhibition case in order to consider whether it, and any other similar finds of comparable age were in fact parts of a bangle or, indeed part of anything. Apparently it has been suggested that our Argyll exhibit, and also the Wigtownshire one and perhaps others elsewhere, may have been articles complete in themselves. It can be agreed that my exhibit has no rough ends to suggest that it was part of a larger object, and it can also be agreed that the curve does not suggest that in a conjectural extension it would make a satisfactory bracelet.

So the true nature and purpose of our glass remains unclear, meantime.

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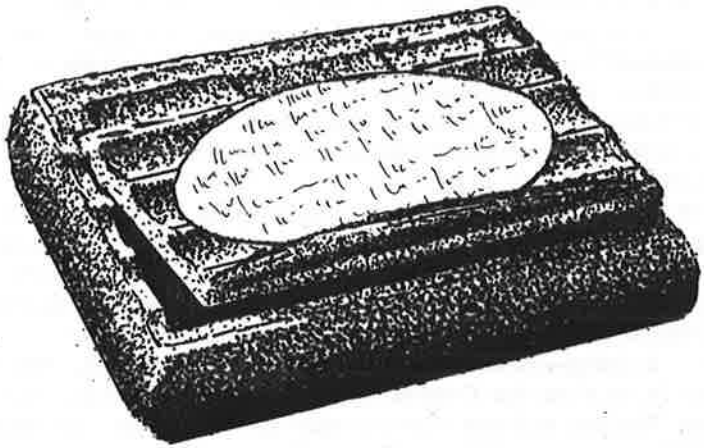
Editor's Note: Readers will recall Mr Campbell's very interesting paper on the history and description of Fraoch Eilean in Kist 22 (Autumn 1981).

A CURIOUS PRESENT



A Present
from David Robson
who was sentensed to transportation at the North^{d} Afsizes
in August 1835, for Burglary in
the House of John Davison Esq^{r}
of Ridley Hall, to Will^{m} England
Police Officer at Hexham
as a token of respect
21st July 1835

The extraordinary inscription beautifully engraved on the silver plate ornamenting this bird's-eye maple snuff box cannot fail to arouse interest and speculation, but the human drama it commemorates remains a mystery in spite of enquiries into local records by Major Basil MacNay, its owner. The box, apart from the accomplished engraving shows every sign of being the work of a country artificer although it is not in any way crude

KILCHATTAN (LUING) GRAFFITI - An Addition

The Editor

In Kist 22 (Autumn 1981), following on Miss Campbell's paper The Western Voyage of Alexander II, an appendix was given which dealt with and illustrated some of the very interesting and intriguing graffiti which have been found on all three of the remaining walls of the ruined 12th century Parish Church of Kilchattan near Toberonochy on the east side of the island of Luing.

Apart from numerous crosses of varying types, the main scratchings depict a number of mediaeval galleys. They constitute a unique collection of such petrographs, other occurrences being of single examples. On carved graveslabs they are of course far from uncommon but this in no way explains their presence at Kilchattan.

Miss Campbell made the stimulating suggestion that there could be some connection between them and the presence of part of Alexander's fleet lying in the bay below the church towards the end of his ill-fated Western Isles expedition. So far as we are aware this suggestion has not been either accepted or dismissed and it remains, as it were, 'in the air'.

But surely such an array of galley drawings must have marked some especially memorable event, and the presence of an animal figurehead on one of them would seem to indicate a vessel of more than ordinary importance.

The church is dealt with in the Lorn volume of the Ancient Monuments Inventory (1975) and three of the five inscribed stones described in the text are illustrated. These five are stated to be "the more interesting examples", so the fact that the stone here noted and illustrated for the first time is of at least equal interest but not mentioned in the Inventory seems to indicate that it escaped the notice of the Commission, as indeed also of ourselves on the inspection which led to the Kist note.

The discovery of this additional carving was made by Mr and Mrs J.S.Andrews in June 1983 when we visited Luing. Their sharpness of eye and felicity in making discoveries will be recalled by all who knew them while they resided in this area and were members of our Society.

Mr Andrews made a careful drawing of the stone, which we have scaled down to enable it to fit into our page size.

It will be seen that it is completely uncluttered by the additional designs which tend to confuse any appraisal of most of the other carvings; so no description of the large galley and the minute bow-section of another is required. The stone is located to the right of the doorway opening in the north wall, and three feet from ground-level.

The carvings which confuse the other inscribed stones (shown in Kist 22 and in the Inventory) are most probably later additions.

The Inventory suggests that all this wealth of scribing could have been the work of children, in view of their height above ground-level, but for various reasons we cannot follow this line of thinking. First of all, the position of any suitable stone was pre-determined; secondly a sitting posture would not be unlikely in view of the time which some of these graffiti must have required; next it seems unlikely that juveniles would have shown and maintained such an apparent unity of purpose - there would surely have been greater variety of subject; lastly one has to take into account the considerable difference in the level of the ground which has occurred since the church was built in the 12th century.

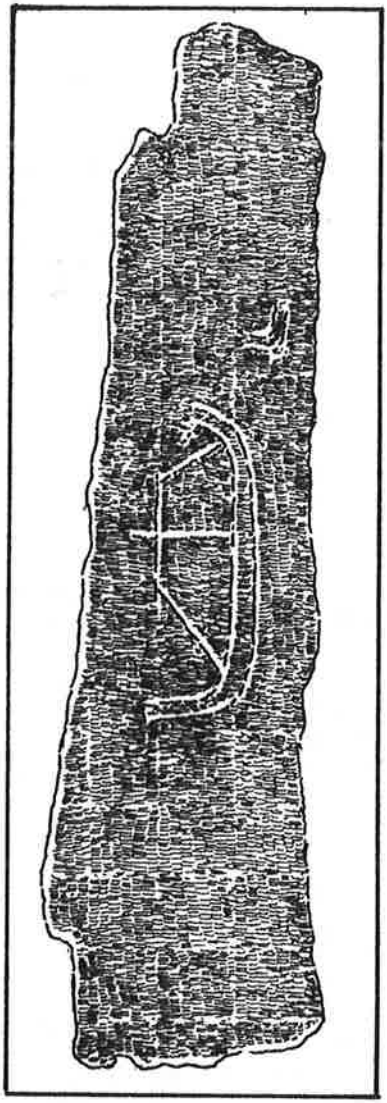
The authorship of these drawings must remain speculative but amongst the possibilities it seems to us that the crews of the galleys should be included. Coming on shore the church would be the most prominent building and it would at once attract attention from 'sightseers', and even in those days there was a human urge to leave some record of the visit (see Maes Howe for instance). Did the crews leave records of their ships? This in no way invalidates Miss Campbell's suggestion that they might have been Alexander's ships; rather it might seem to support it.

It may be of interest to draw attention to another ship scribing on the north side of Loch Creran (Lorn volume, page 298). It occurs on an outcrop. Despite the dated initials D S 1729, the design is certainly earlier, probably very much so, and that 'D.S.' recut it in 1729; its relative distinctness supports this idea. At anyrate it cannot represent one of Alexander's fleet, since that expedition terminated abruptly at Kerrera with his death.

The Commission considers that it could represent a local vessel of the second part of the 16th century. There is

no close parallel with the Kilchattan boats, for they do not in any instance show the prominent rudder of the Loch Creran example.

From the occurrence of ship pictures on all three remaining walls of Kilchattan church it seems an inescapable conclusion that the missing east wall must also have had a share, but as no stones can now be identified as having come from that gable speculation is vain.



Inscribed Stone at Kilchattan

Reduced from the original drawing by J.S.Andrews F.S.A.Scot

SOME NOTES on DUGALD CAMPBELL, MINISTER of KILMARTIN, and the CAMPBELLS or MacIVERS of ARDLARACH

Duncan Beaton

The bell situated near the car park at Duntroon Castle bears the following legend: MRO.DUGALLO CAMPBELL: A.S.1712: PRAECONE CELLAE MARTINI: PAROCHIAE ARDSKIODNISH: R.M.FECIT EDIN.

Dugald Campbell was born circa 1670, the younger son of Iver Og Campbell (1646-1712), heritor of Ardlarach in the Parish of Craignish. According to the F.E.S. he was educated at Glasgow University and ordained on 9 January 1690. He remained as minister of Kilmartin Parish from that time until his death in August 1721.

The Ardlarach family was not really a branch of the true Campbells at all, being instead originally MacIvers. According to the Rev. Peter Colin Campbell's An Account of the Clan Iver (2nd. ed. 1873) the MacIvers of Ardlarach were off the main line of the MacIvers of Lergachonie and Asknish. The noted Principal of Aberdeen University was at that time conducting a wordy vendetta against a family of Patersons, who 20 years earlier had inherited the estate on Loch Gair as senior descendants of Angus Campbell of Asknish. His little book unconvincingly attempts to group together the various MacIver families of Argyll and further afield, listing their common descent from Iver Crom. He goes on to dispute Iver's traditional position as a natural son of one of the early Lords of Lochow, before that great family assumed the surname of Campbell. What he does not explain with any degree of conviction is, why did Iver's supposed descendents take the name Campbell as their own during the 18th century, if no connection with the Argyll family was claimed?

Whatever the true origin of the name, and the validity of grouping the various families as one 'clan', the MacIvers claim to have held Ardlarach since the 14th century. Dugald MacIain 'ic Iain 'ic Iver appears on record in 1581 and his son Iain (John) married a daughter of Ranald Roy Campbell of Barrichbeyan, heritor of Craignish. The heritage of Ardlarach probably passed to the family as her dower.

Alexander Campbell (1670-1726) the Craignish lawyer and historian of the Campbells, was a great-grandson of Ranald Roy and personally knew Iver Campbell of Ardlarach (1607-

1689) and his son Iver Òg (1646-1712), the latter being his 2nd cousin. In his manuscript, a copy of which is kept in the Glasgow Mitchell Library, he acknowledges their assistance. As stated in the first paragraph, Iver Òg Campbell was the father of Dugald the minister and his brother Neil.

Although Dugald apparently had no children, his brother Neil, who succeeded to Ardlarach, married a daughter of his chief, Duncan Campbell of Asknish, and continued the line. It was during this period that the use of the name MacIver was gradually dropped in favour of Campbell.

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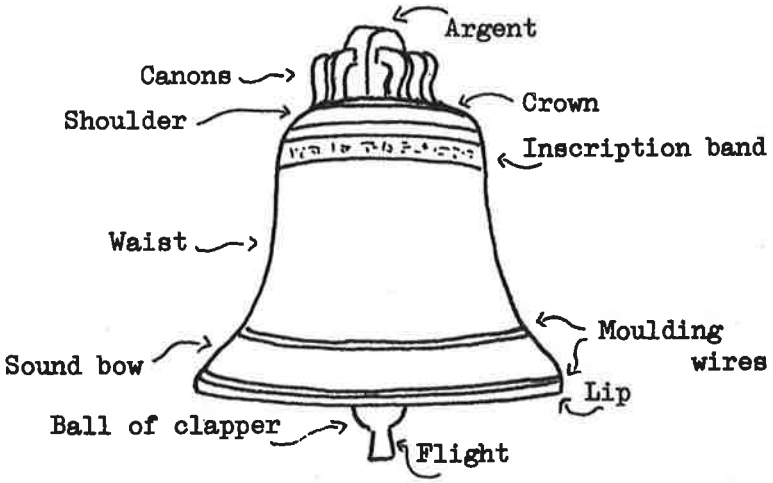
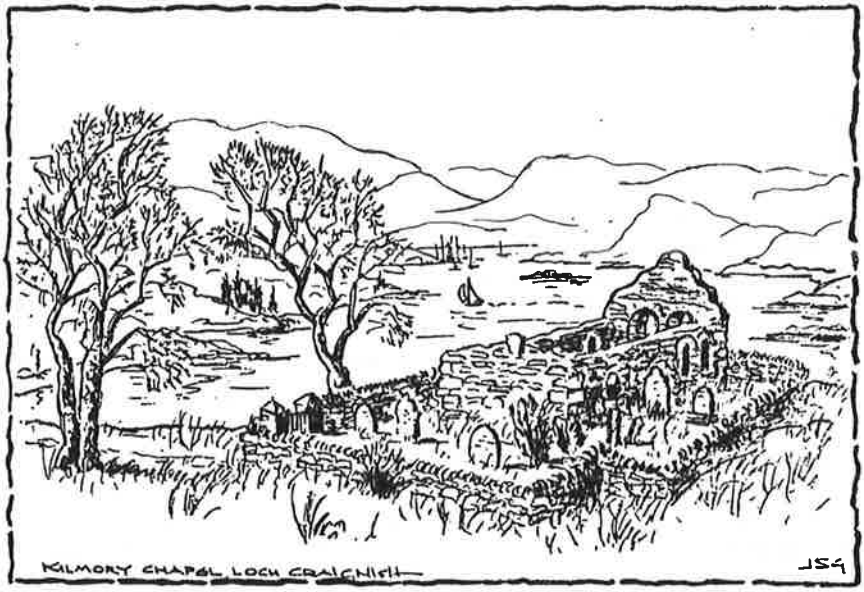
Editorial Note: Readers may like to know a little about the Kilmartin bell's maker. The initials R.M. stand for Robert Maxwell, who carried on the Edinburgh foundry after the death of its earlier proprietor John Meikle, who died in 1704. Maxwell had very probably been working with Meikle for some years, and he continued to use Meikle's alphabet for his inscriptions as well as canons and argent of the design already in use. His bells are fairly numerous, some bearing his full name, others only initials.

It will perhaps be of interest to illustrate the various parts of a conventional bell.



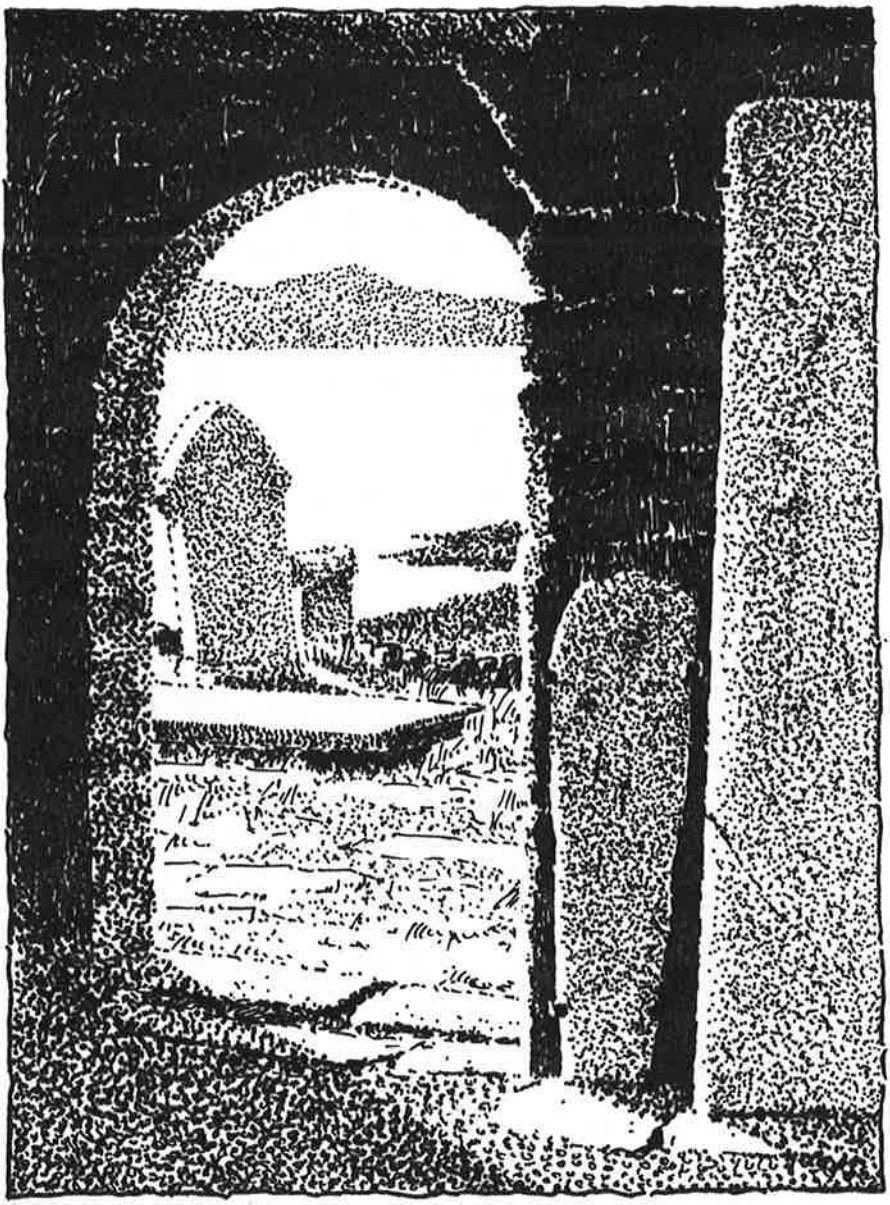


THE CRAIGNISH CARVED STONES

If the carved stones in the mediaeval chapel at Kilmory Craignish are less familiar than other similar collections in our area it is because they lie somewhat off the beaten track, although perfectly accessible.

The ruined chapel occupies a site at the south-west side of Bàgh Dùn Mhuilg (NM778014), an inlet of Loch Craignish, and the stones are gathered inside under a transparent protective roof. There are 24 of them, all but one of late 14-15th century date, and locally carved. The exception, the first to the left on entering, is a small slab with an incised cross and considerably older than its neighbours. At the east end there are four extremely interesting box tombs of about 1500-1560, with their outer sides carved with foliate arcades and with the ends also displaying carvings including deer - stag, hind and calf. The names of the original occupants have not survived. On the ground is a massive base for a standing cross, complete with an incised mass clock, recalling the one at Kilberry Castle. Also on the ground are numerous plain, or now-plain, slabs and five modern headstones standing upright.

The chapel itself, of late 12-13th century date, has

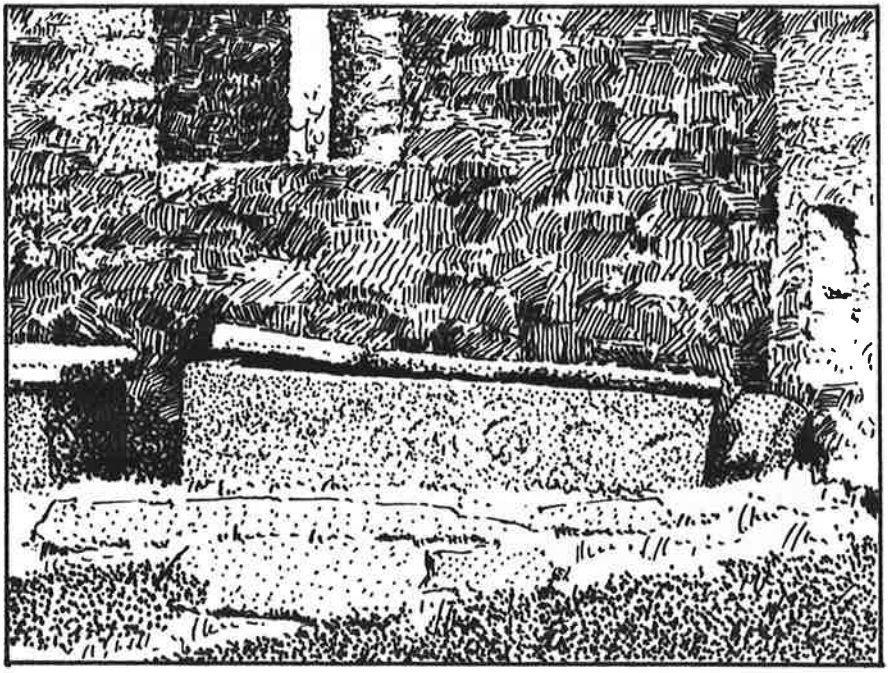


Kilmory, Craignish. P.S.M. 1983

interesting features, particularly the single-stone arched heads to the windows and door on the south wall. Noteworthy also is the masonry of the walls, seen clearly in the west gable; it shows large stones widely separated by areas of edge-on small pieces. This poses a problem for maintenance, as ordinary methods of pointing are almost impossible, and in some parts this has led to the masking of the small-stone areas.

The carved stones are now in the Trusteeship and Guardianship of this Society, and the donations of visitors (collecting box in the entrance-gate pillar) are of help in paying for the upkeep.

Mr John Gilbert has kindly provided his interpretation of the site from the raised ground to the south-west, and we have added two of our own drawings showing the interior. The first is of the doorway and two of the stones, including the early cross-slab; the second shows the north-east corner with one of the box tombs, a recess in the east wall, probably for ritual use, and the base of a window.



NOTE ON THE COVER

Expectations of finding the Kilmichael Glassary Cross in the village of that name are vain, for it is not there.

A great number of our mediaeval sculptured stones have suffered migrations, some official and others the reverse, yet few can have undergone adventures comparable to those of the Kilmichael Cross. By collecting and collating various odds and ends of its story some of the vicissitudes may be gleaned, but areas of uncertainty remain.

In 1355 there was a Pennyland of Crois Ghill'easbuig (he is thought to have been an Archibald of the Argyll Campbells), and nearby a Halfpennyland of Kilmichael. But it is very improbable that this Crois Ghill'easbuig can have been the stone we are now considering, as most authorities regard it as being of relatively late date, approximately 1500. Miss Campbell of Kilberry thinks that the Crois Ghill'easbuig may possibly have come to Kilmichael Glassary when the church at Kilneuair on Loch Awe ceased to be the principal church of the Lordship of Glassary and Kilmichael took its place. Equally the celebrated Torblaren Bell Shrine could have come from Kilneuair, but these are speculations which cannot be expanded here beyond stating their possibility.

The earlier church at Kilmichael Glassary was demolished in 1827, and during this operation the lintel of a doorway or window was discovered to be the shaft of a mediaeval cross. It must by then have been broken, as an intact cross would not serve well as a lintel. Incidentally its use as a lintel does not necessarily imply anything derogatory; it could well have been placed there as being an object of past veneration which was retained out of respect but in an unobtrusive position. This delicacy of feeling was not by any means general, for many a carved slab has been found in highly secular positions, as, for instance, the Rhudil Cross (Kist 22) which had helped in the formation of a stye's floor. Certainly the Kilmichael cross had been broken by the time the new church was built, for we are told that the head served as a gable finial (far enough above their heads to ensure its safety from over-zealous reformers who might have objected to it in a ground-level position). The shaft was possibly incorporated in the walling, but no details of its location

have come down, and there is room to doubt the statement.

In making a new road through the village the cross-base was found "near the bridge", and the villagers had the good sense to propose its re-union with the cross so as to form a focal point in their community, as they considered it to be the one piece of antiquity in the area worthy of preservation.

Before this could be effected, however, the two parts (not three as Drummond states, unless he was counting the base) were uplifted and carted off. By whom or for what reason we are given no hint. The spoils of this foray were abandoned at Bellanoch and eventually almost forgotten until they came under the notice of a Mr Nicol, who provided the tracking-horses for the Canal. He had it spliced with the massive iron straps which are still in place, and returned it to Kilmichael Glassary, where at last it occupied its intended position in the Stance Field.

Whether or not it subsequently fell, it had not finished its adventures, for the Poltalloch proprietor had built a private chapel and burial ground near his residence, and considering that a piece of antique carving would be an adornment he uplifted the cross despite the opposition of the villagers and re-erected it in the chapel grounds, where it remains to this day. It is now accompanied by two more recent 'acquisitions', the cross from Oib Mhor and the cross from Barrnakill. A further 'acquisition' can be seen at nearby Duntroon Castle, where the bell from Kilmartin church is now hung beside the car park (for some details of this displaced bell see Mr Beaton's note).

It is thought that a record of the condition of the cross in 1982 might be of ultimate interest, and for that purpose the measured drawings on the cover were made in June of that year.

The illustration of the cross which has been most readily available is the one given on pl.22 of Steer and Bannerman's Late Medieval Monumental Sculpture in the West Highlands: R.C.A.M. 1977. It is reproduced there from Sculptured Stones of Scotland, edited by John Stuart, 1856 and 1867. The artist was Jastrebski, whose work was completed by a Mr Gibb. Unfortunately this series of drawings was not entirely factual, for apart from inaccuracies which are obvious on inspection of the various stones, many deficiencies in the carving were supplied by

the artist, which means that we cannot assume that the Kilmichael cross was even then in the almost perfect condition in which it is shown. The iron bonding is not correct, nor are the feet of the figure properly reproduced, for the right foot should be outermost, not the left.

In 1982 the preservation of the front of the cross was found to be in many respects less good than that of the reverse. The figure, being of less intricacy than the interlace, and in any case in greater relief, has sustained less wear, although all trace of features is gone and the surface is now plane. The hands and feet, with the right, exposed, foot clearly showing only four toes, have fared best of all. In the matter of the disc-head, the projecting arms are considerably eroded. The rectangular panel on the shaft is now almost meaningless and very confused. Jastrebski shows it apparently intact. The iron clamp on the front is applied to the surface and not, as on the reverse, sunk flush by the drastic expedient of cutting away the carving. The decoration on the reverse, as stated above, is in considerably better condition, but on the head, apart from the attrition of the arms, a portion of the surface in the top right quadrant has flaked off. The edges of the shaft and head are now very much eroded and damaged, and it is only with difficulty that any suggestion of the primitive dog's-tooth decoration mentioned by Steer and Bannerman can be identified.

The nature of the fracture is interesting. On the front it occurs a little below the feet of the figure, and on the reverse it is a great deal higher up, at the junction of the shaft and head, giving a long oblique fracture. Steer and Bannerman point out that the repair resulted in some loss of height. At the time of the restoration it would certainly have been necessary to trim the broken surfaces in order to effect a satisfactory 'mating' of the two portions. Inspection of the carving in the region of the fracture gives clear indication of there having been some loss of surface height, but as the shaft tapers very little there is practically no resultant distortion. The present height is 5'11" (1.8 m.).

Coming to the technical consideration of the cross, it belongs to what is now known as the Loch Awe School, which was the least sophisticated of the several West Highland 'schools' of carving, making mainly grave slabs and only

three known surviving standing crosses. Its productions are now to be found mostly at Kilmartin, and to a lesser extent at Kilmichael Glassary, Dalmally, Strachur and Glendaruel. The masons used the stone occurring locally at whatever place they were working, and inevitably not all of it was completely suitable. The carving was almost certainly done by travelling craftsmen who were active until at least as late as 1500, which is the approximate date assigned to our cross. They did not 'go in for' inscriptions; indeed only one is known, at Glendaruel.

On our specimen the interlace, if it can be called such rather than a 'meander', is totally imcompetent, coarse and disorganised. The general appearance is not in any way enhanced by the iron bands, although the actual join has been well contrived.

THE GILLE BUIDHE

Hamish MacKenzie

Of all the immense number of tales which have come down to us concerning the vicissitudes of Charles Edward Stuart and his adherents after Culloden, there is one which is perhaps less current than many despite its authenticity and tragic brevity.

This is the story of the Gille Buidhe, still recalled on Loch Maree-side. His name is unknown and the appellation 'Yellow-haired Lad' is a folk memory descending from those who had seen him. Certainly he was a Jacobite messenger.

There was much activity on the West Coast and in the Hebrides involving French and English vessels, each for their own purposes seeking the fugitive Prince, the one for his rescue, the other for his capture. Six organised attempts at rescue were made, involving not only men and arms but also large sums of money. There was a constant coming and going of messengers seeking and bringing news and carrying the French money (not much of which reached the Prince). In the course of these activities the French ships several times waited in Loch Ewe; and at the time of our story two had anchored off Sgeir Bhoora near Poolewe for several days before moving off after waiting in vain for an expected messenger.

After the ending of the Loch Maree ironworking in the 17th century some of the men stayed on as crofters; one of their descendants, Hector Cross, lived at Letterewe, on the east side of the loch. At this time of year he and the other crofters were up at the shielings on the Claonadh behind Beinn Làir, above Letterewe.

A day or two after the departure of the ships a fair-haired stranger arrived at Hector's bothy seeking a night's shelter. In the course of the evening a vessel from which he had drunk milk was found to have a gold piece at the bottom. In no time word was spread that the traveller had gold, and soon after he left Hector's roof in the morning a shot was heard and the youth's body, stripped of everything, was found. Suspicion for the murder lay firmly on one family who exhibited an unexplained affluence thereafter. On into the nineteenth century an old man living at Letterewe was wearing a coat lined with part of the Gille Buidhe's plaid.

Unlike many such tales, the Gille Buidhe's sad story bears every stamp of truth, but in the matter of another Poolewe tradition we find the intrusion of the supernatural, which serves to cast doubt on the whole episode, reducing it to the level of a part-fiction, probably founded on hard fact, for there would seem to be no reason to doubt the arrival of the gold in question and its speedy concealment. It is the concluding part which strains credulity, not only by its improbability but also because it is a widely-known story-telling stock in trade.

The cask of French gold was ferried across the loch by the faithful Duncan McRae, who buried it in the Feadan Mòr, above Loch an Draing, and put the seun (spell of invisibility) on it. Once every seven years such spells become inoperative for a short time, and one of these intermissions occurred in 1826 when the wife of Rorie Mackenzie, shepherd at Loch an Draing, saw the cask, but although she marked the spot with her distaff before running off for help - proof of the weight of the cask, that she could not cope with it alone - it could not afterwards be found; nor since.

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