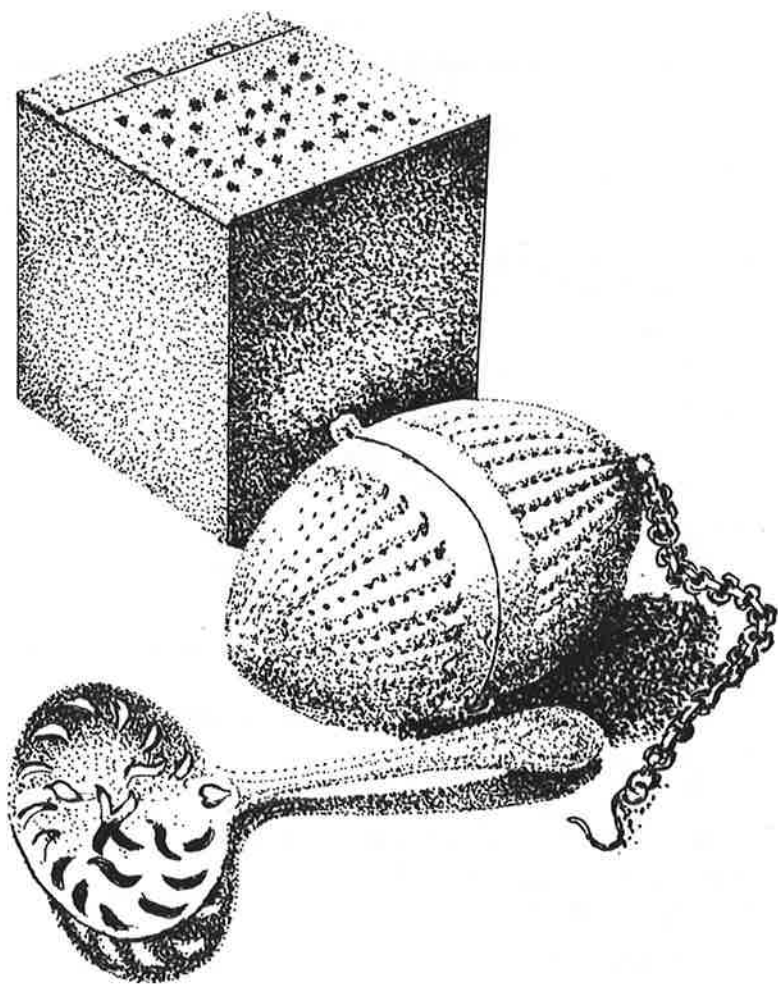


∴ THREE BYGONES ∴



1984.

G.S.P.

The KIST ∴ 30

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.

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NUMBER THIRTY: Autumn 1985

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

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(T.793)

Price 60p. (Post extra)

PSALMS and PROTESTS

Marion Campbell

Many a visitor to Argyll has laughed at the 'example of Highland laziness' called The Crofter's Psalm:-

O that the peats would cut themselves,
The fish jump on the shore,
And I within my bed to lie
Henceforth for evermore.

Some reciters even intone the verse to a tune; how many of them have ever cast a peat, or returned empty-handed to a hungry household, is another matter.

The singing of the Metrical Psalms, so much a part of Reformed worship, was encouraged by the Synod of Argyll's Gaelic translation, begun in 1654. In 1658 the first fifty psalms were to be 'put into syllabifications' by Mr David Symson and John McMarques 'in Kintyr, ane old man and able in the Irish language' (he was in fact a Bard), with help from other ministers, who were to prepare a text for printing and an introduction giving 'rule for right reading'. 1200 copies were printed in 1659;* their use was to be encouraged and ministers were to teach them by reading and explaining 'so much as is to be sung at a time'. No provision was, or could be, made for printed music (an expensive rarity), nor could many people be expected to read music. Tonic Sol-fa was not available until the 19th century. Congregations were therefore restricted to such tunes as one of their members might know or could pick up from attending another parish's worship. In the times of persecution which followed Charles II's Restoration, the occasional large conventicles at least gave an opportunity to hear massed singing, and perhaps to bring home new airs. The Gaelic words could even be sung alongside the Scots versions, thanks to the exertions of Symson and McMarques.

It was probably in the more peaceful days of the 18th century that groups began to meet and rehearse psalm-tunes outwith the services. As the words were taken from the Scriptures, it was obviously inappropriate to sing them repeatedly and thoughtlessly, merely to learn a tune, and so alternative verses were found for use at practices. Some were taken from children's games or popular songs, but others were produced by local talent; a late example (though its first couplet would have been inadmissible for strict observers) is:-

Behold, the earth it is the Lord's
And all that it contains;
Except the buses and the boats,
For they are all MacBrayne's.

I know of only one South Knapdale example, which I was told some twenty years ago. It uses place-names of holdings in Drumnamucklach, a small estate later absorbed into Ormsary. In the early 19th century the laird was at the Cape of Good Hope with the 91st Highlanders, and affairs were in the hands of a Factor in Lochgilphead (a man who did his best and was not an advocate of Clearances, as other evidence proves). Here is the verse:-

From Castle Rags to Castle Con,
Cretshengan and Balure,
The people there do pity much
The hardships they endure.

The rhyme has preserved a lost place-name, 'Castle Rags', which I have heard nowhere else. It must be connected with the small fort Dun Cragach, on the shore below Balure (the 'new' township, now ruinous). Castle Con, a roadside house, was inhabited until the end of last century; I knew a man born there.

Do any of our readers know other local verses? They would be well worth recording as footnotes to local history, and I feel sure the Editor would welcome them.

.....
* Editorial Note:- In sending her paper, Miss Campbell remarked that "someone had a fount of type in which to print it" and suggested that Mr Donald Mackechnie might know the answer. This supposition proved correct and the following notes derive from this source. The first 50 psalms were printed in Glasgow by Andrew Anderson between October 1658 and May 1659. Some indication of the printer's difficulties can be gained from remarks made about the 1694 reprint. Only a limited amount of type was available, with g and e being especially lacking. To offset these deficiencies italic letters had often been employed; the two accents were likewise troublesome, and were used indiscriminately. Things were almost certainly less satisfactory at the 1659 printing and even by 1707, when a reprint of the complete psalms was in hand, and the printers (still the same firm) were asked to use "a better paper with better character [type face] and more correct".

EARLY PLACE-NAMES of JURA

Malcolm McArthur

The Dean of Lismore, Donald Monro, made a "Description of the Western Isles" in 1549. I have used the 1664 edition, but much the best one is R.W.Munro's of 1961.* He restores to the printed text a list of the islands round Lismore from one of the early manuscripts. In this note I have used Munro's numbering system. Off Lorn Monro appears to give more names than there are islands. In the latter part of the Argyll list he took a central island and its surrounding islets together - Lismore 53-69 and Islay 70-81, and this may be how to look at the early part too - Lunga 18-29 and Luing 30-36, ending with Easdale 35 and 'Iniskenzie' 36. This last may be Insh Caorich (Sheeps' Isle) north of Easdale.

Islands 37-52 defeat attempts to identify them off Lorn. I believe they are all off Jura. R.W.Munro, with great serendipity and acumen spotted that 48-52 were the islands of Small Isles Bay, Jura. Monro explains the name 'Diamhain' as 'Idle Isle' - the useless one, in line with local tradition. He also mentions the safe bay 'Lubnaleirey', which I take to be Lub na h-Eileanraidh (Bay of Islands). The termination 'raidh' is a collective, similar to 'rookery' or 'heronry'. This would identify it as Small Isles Bay.

The islands on the Jura side of the Sound of Islay are easily identified as Glas Eilean 45, Fraoch Eilean 46; and 47, given by Monro as 'wood isle' must refer to the modern Brosdale Island.

The islands in Loch Tarbert, Jura, follow naturally also. 'E.rioh' 39 (King's Isle), 'E.dubh' 40 (Black Isle), 'E.na h-eaglais' 41 (Kirk Isle), 'E.ard' 43 (High Isle), 'E.iosa' 44 (Low Isle) are all on the 6" O.S.map. 'E.chrairache' 42 is now 'chraoibhe chaoruinn' (Hazel-wood Isle) which may be a corruption of 'criatharachadh' (sieve or filter island), a very good description of how the waters of the narrows rush round it.

The earliest detailed map we have is Pont's (Blaeu's)

.....
* R.W.Munro: "Monro's Western Isles of Scotland and Genealogies of the Clans. 1549" Oliver and Boyd. 1961

and it is faulty. It shows 'Glengargaster' (Garrisdale) in the south half of Jura instead of the north half. Similarly it shows 'Loch an Righ mor' and a river 'Tian' to the south-east of Loch Tarbert, but Loch an Righ mor is to the north-west of Loch Tarbert. If 'Tian' was misplaced, as well as the loch, it becomes arguable that Tian is Sian. In Abhainn an t-Sian the t elides the s in Gaelic pronunciation. Now we can claim 'E.anthian'³⁷ as Sian Island. George Buchanan, historian of Scotland and Tutor of James VI added a note on Tian, that it had a noxious yellow weed (possibly ragwort, which is notorious for its alkaloid poison content).

No modern name corresponds obviously to the last island, 'E.Uderga'³⁸, but it may go with the river Udergane.

In Monro's general description of Jura, there should be a punctuation stop at the end of the list of the Paps, to detach it from the following reference to "the sometime chapel in Ardlussa and the parish church in Kilearnadil".

The rivers are Lussa, Udergane, Glengargaster, Knockbreac, Lindale, the cairidh (or weir - in the next glen to it, still) and Avin Villi.

This last can refer to the Corran River, shown running into the northern part of Small Isles Bay in Pont's map. This part is called Loch na Mile on O.S. maps and the river is called Abhuinn Meill by Pont. It is interesting to speculate that the feminine noun could be, in the nominative, a-Mheall - representing a Norse 'fjall' or fell - a suitable name for a river draining the Paps.

Monro says Udergane is a big river and Uderga³⁸ a small rock. Entering Loch Tarbert, on the opposite side to Loch an Righ, is Glen Batrick, as the O.S. calls it; but this is at variance with local pronunciation - Gleann a'Bedirig. This is supported by Glen abedrig on Mackenzie's map in his 1776 atlas. Locals say the 'real meaning' is a'Bheith dhearg (the Red Birch) giving Gleann na Beithe deirge in the genitive. In Monro's day the distinction in script and print between U and V was not rigid, so his U may represent Bh (V). If e is inserted we have Bhederga. This may be a Gaelicism for Old Norse beit (pasture) + eyrvik (gravel bay).

Removing islands 37-52 from the Lorn list should make

it easier to find the remainder.

.....
Editorial Note: It may be of interest and help to readers who have no access to a copy of Munro's book on Monro, to give a transcription of the islands numbered 37-52 (see second paragraph of Mr McArthur's paper).

37. Narrest this lyis ane Ile callit in the Erische Leid Ellan anthian.
38. Narrest this lyis ane Ile callit in Erische Leid Ellan Uderga.
39. Narrest this lyis ane Iyle, callit in the Erische Leid Ellan Righ, or in English callit the King's Ile.
40. Narrest this lyis ane Ile, or rather a grate craige callit in the Erische Leid Ellan duff, or callit in English the Black Isle.
41. Narrest this lyis an Iyle callit in the Erische Leid Ellan naheglis, callit in English the Kirk Ile.
42. Narrest this lyis Ellan Chriarache.
43. Narrest this lyis ane Iyle callit in the Erische Leid Ellan ard, callit in English the high Ile.
44. Narrest this lyis ane Iyle callit in the Erische Leid Ellan Iisal, callit in English the laich Ile.
45. Narrest this layes ane Iyle namitt in the Erische Leid the Glass Ellan, callit in English the green Ile.
46. Narrest this lyis the Iyle which in the Erische Leid is namitt Freuch Ellan, callit in English the heder Ile
47. Narrest this lyis ane other which in the Erische Leid is callit Ellan na cravich.
48. Narrest this lyis ane rockie scabrous Iyle callit in the Erische Leid Ellan na gobhar, callit in English the Gaytis Ile.
49. Narrest this lyis a very prey litle sandey Iyle callit in the Erische Leid Ellan na gumyn, callit in Eng the Conyngis Ile.
50. Narrest this lyis the Iyle callit be the Erisch Ellan diamhoin, callit in Eng the Idle Isle.
51. Narrest this isle lyes Eisell ellan or the laich isle, a laich small isle.
52. Narrest this lyis Ellan Abhridich in Irish Uridithe.

...oo6ooo...

PRE-1855 INSCRIBED GRAVESTONES in KNAPDALE. Part 2

LERGNAHENSION, Kilberry Parish NR740615
(Off B8024 near Carse)

By the President and Miss Sandeman. 1972

Erected to the memory of DUNCAN CRAWFORD late farmer at DRUMNAMUCKLACH who departed this life 5th June 1828 aged 60 years by his family.

Erected by DUNCAN and DUGALD GRAHAM in memory of their father JOHN GRAHAM late weaver at GORTAN who died 15th (Jany?) 1823 aged 50 years.

Erected in memory of JOHN McGUGAN late farmer in KILNAISH who died the 19th April 1833 aged 65 years.

Erected by MARY McLEOD in memory of her husband ANGUS GALBRAITH parochial schoolmaster of KILCALMONELL who departed this life 14th Jany 1836 aged 43 years.

Erected by DUNC McPHAIL & CHIRSTY McMILLAN his present spouse in TAYNADROCHED in memory of son NIEL McPHAIL who departed this life Augt 12th 180(4?) aged 21 years also his former spouse CHIRSTY McINTYRE who departed this life Decemr 12 1804 aged 48 years.

Erected by DUNCAN MACPHAIL in memory of his father JOHN MACPHAIL late tenant at MUNICHELL who departed this life the 10th May 1818 aged 50 years.

Here lies the corp of IANET McFOIL daughter to DONALD McFOIL in LERGNAHENSION who died (April?) 1750 also JOHN McFOIL who died Febr 1752.

Erected by DONALD MACLEAN in memory of his father NEILL MACLEAN late weaver at CUILGHAILTRA who departed this life 1st March 1816 aged 42 years.

Erected by JOHN LEITCH schoolmaster at KILBERRY in memory of his sister MARY LEITCH who departed this life 1st April 18(40 or 50).

This stone was erected by ARCH MACKICHAN son to the dis-
ceast JOHN MACKICHAN 1790.

On back

GILBERT McKUHAN taylor & MARGARET M(cG?)ORRIE his spouse
Ther Burian Place.1720.

Erected by RON ALEX and NIEL DEWAR in memory of their
father NIELL DEWAR late tenant at CUILGHAILTRO who died
13th Augt 1836 aged 72 years.

Here lyes the corps of NEIL McALLBRIDE who died in July
1729. Done by ARCHIBALD McALLBRIDE his son & MARGRET
SMITH his spouse.

Erected by MARY McPHAIL in memory of her husband LACHLAN
GALBRAITH tenant BALURE who died 6th Sepr 1850 aged 73
Also their son DUNCAN who died 15th Decr 1836 aged 22.

Erected by COLIN CAMPBELL, KILCHAMAIG and CHATRINE SINCLAIR
his spouse in memory of their son LORN CAMPBELL late spirit
dellar Brown's Glasgow who died Janry (23) 1845 aged 31
years and LUCY CAMPBELL their daughter who died June (4?)
1827 aged 18 years.

Erected by DUNCAN CAMPBELL of the family of GLENFYCHAN in
memory of CATHERINE RANKIN his spouse who died 22nd Novr
1819 aged 62 years also DONALD CAMPBELL their son died
26th March 1815 aged 26 years.

This stone is erected by DONALD CAMPBELL to the memory of
his father ARCHD CAMPBELL late tenant in TIREGAN who de-
parted this life June 20 1795 aged 77 years.

Appropriated by DONALD MACNAB in memory of his father
ALEXR MACNAB late sheepheard at CREAR who died the 30th
Jan 1823 aged 44 years.

Erected by DUGALD McKELLAR millar at DRIMNAMUCKLACH in
memory of his daughter CHIRSTY who died 15 July 1824 aged
23 and of his son JOHN who died June 18(?28) aged 31 years.

Erected by DOND, MAIM & THOS HAMILTON in memory of their

father THOS HAMILTON late blacksmith at KILBERRY who depd this life 20th Feby 1845 aged 77 years also his mother CATHERINE McFARLAN who departed this life March 3 1839 aged 67 years and their brothers ROBT and ARCHD the former departed this life on the 9th April 1832 aged 32 years and the latter on the 24th Decr 1842 aged 38 years and both lie E of this.

Erected by ALEXR GLEN mason at KILBERRY in memory of his daughter ELIZABETH GLEN who died the 8th July 1810 aged 3 years.

Erected 1815 by JAMES CAMPBELL tenant BALURE in memory of his parents JOHN CAMPBELL late in COULGHAILTRO who departed this life May 20th 1804 aged 87 years MARGARET MacTAVISH aged 84 years.

Erected to the memory of JOHN McQUILKAN late tenant in CULIGHAILTRO who departed this life April 1st 1802 aged 85 years.

Erected by DUGALD CAMPBELL in BRECVAR to the memory of his daughter BETTY CAMPBELL who died in Augt 1829 aged 38 years.

Erected July 1844 by JOHN MILLOY in memory of DUNCAN MILLOY his father late of TORINTUIRK who died 30th Jany 1828 aged 42 years,

He was one reared in adversity who went forth on the frosty pilgrimage of life to withstand its temptations with the strength of virtue and resolve.

Here is a calm for those that weep
A rest for weary pilgrims found
They softly lie and sweetly sleep
Low in the ground.

Here is the burial place of DONALD MIIMOLUAG millar in LERGNAHUNSION his wife & children. 1748.

Erected by JOHN McKEICH tenant in DRIMUCKLOCH in memory of his father NEILL McKEICH late tenant in CORRARIE who departed this life in the year 1774 aged 39 years.

In commemoration of LACHLAN McKEICH for 12 years tacksman of BAILLIE then and always conducting a laudable life which terminated in a good old age 21 Sept 1828 in his 85 year.

Erected by MALCOLM, DONALD & JOHN BROWN in memory of their father NIELL BROWN late shoemaker in INVERARAY who departed this life at KILBERRY the 18th March 1812 aged 68 years.

Erected by COLIN BELL, CUILGHAILTRO in memory of his father DONALD BELL who died at CARSE Octr 1860 aged 72 and of his mother ELIZABETH McMILLAN who died June 1832 aged 78 also his spouse MARY McKEICH who died 20th Novr 1849 aged 50.

Erected by MARY McPHEIL in memory of her husband LACHLAN GALBRAITH tenant BALURE who died 6th Sept 1850 aged 73 also their son Duncan who died 15th Decr 1836 aged 22.

Erected by NEIL GALBRAITH shepherd CREERE in memory of his daughter JANET who died 16th Novr 1845 aged 12 years and 1 months.

Erected by DUNCAN DEORE tenant in CARS in memory of JOHN DEORE his son who departed this life the 2 May 1808 aged 20 years.

Erected by JAMES CAMPBELL in memory of his father NIEL CAMPBELL late tenant at CUILGHAILTRO who died 23 Dec 1826 aged 63 years.

Erected 1815 by COLIN McFADAN tenant in CULGHALTRO in mery of his children ARCHD aged 6 yrs CHAL(?)M 6 yrs DUNC 1 yer.

A.D. 1828. Erected by GEORGE JOHNSTONE, CARSE.

Erected 1815 by COLIN McFADAN tenant in CULGHALTR

Here is the bureal place of ALEXANDER McNIVEN tenant in FAIRFIELD who died in the year of Our Lord 1787 aged 76.

Erected as a tribute of respect to the memory of JOHN MACQUILKAN by his parents ALLAN McQUILKAN and MARY MILLOY at CARSE. He departed this life 2nd Nov 1827 in the 5th year of his age much and justly regretted.

Hear lies JOHN CAMPBELL & childring ANGUS CAMPBELL DONALD CAMPBELL ALEXANDER CAMPBELL JOHN CAMPBELL This stone set up by Captt DUGALD CAMPBELL of KILBERIE Desmr the (?)th 1720.

Here lyes the corps of DON(ALD) Mc(?DONALD) tenant in MULICHIN who died April 1779 aged (64?) years.

Appropriated by ALEXR, LACHLEN and JOHN MACTAVISH in memory of their father JOHN MACTAVISH late tenant CREAR. Died at ABHINNAGILLIN the 5th Sep 1822 aged 83 years.

A dressed millstone-

17 Square & Compass 80

This burring place belongs to WILLIAM DAWSON restored by Charles W. Dawson 1918.

Erected here in memory of FLORY McCOLL spouse to DUN McCOLL tenant NORTH COULL who departed this life year 1804 aged 52 years.

This stone is erected by COLIN H(AMI)LTON tenant in MULICHIN (to the) memory of (NEIL?) HAMILTON his father who died (15th) May 177(?)1 (age)d (?47) also his (brother) M(?ALCOIM) HAMILTON who died 19th D(?EC) 177(?)& aged 16 years.

Here lies J(?ANE) LITTLELOVE spouse to DUNCAN BAXTER in CULIGHALTROE who died Decmr 1751 aged 60 (?or 66).

Erected by DOUGALD MACTAGRT in memory of his father DONALD MACTAGART who died in GORTAN the 22nd Jan 1831 aged 71 years.

1817. Erected by JOHN McKELLAR and DOUGALD SINCLAIR in memory of PETER McKELLAR late shoe-maker in LERGNAHUSION who departed this life on the 3rd day of February 1814 aged 60 years.

Here lys interrred the remains of ALEXR CRAFORD son to DUNCAN CRAFORD and MARGRAT UHITE his spuse late tenant in TIR-ETIGAN who departed this life the 13th Guly 1804 aged 41 years.

Erected by DONALD CRAUFORD tenant in CHISHIGGAN in memory of his father JOHN CRAUFORD late tenant in CREAR who departed this life 5th day of March 1783 aged 46 years.

Appropriated by his fainley to the memory of DUNCAN GRAHAM late tenant at DRIMNAMUCKLACH who died the 12th June 1814 aged 73 years.

Erected by HUGH and WILLIAM STEVENSON in memory of their father JAMES STEVENSON late tenant in CULIGHAILTRO who departed this life 10th Jany 1784 aged 48 years.

Erected by DONALD McQUILKAN shepherd (SOUTH CRO)SSAIG in memory (of his sp)ouse CATHERINE STEVENSON who (died) 16th July 1853.

Here lies IOHN McILVARNOCK son to DONALD McILVARNOCK who died May 1738 aged 21.

Sacred to the memory of GEORGE JOHNSTON farmer a native of BERWICKSHIRE obit Jany 28th 18(4)0 aged 61.
.....

KILMAHUMAIG, S.Knapdale Parish NR789936
(B841 near Crinan)

By F.S.Mackenna. 1984

In memory of DUNCAN SINCLAIR who died at SILVERCRAIGS LOCHGILPHEAD 1st July 1888 aged 76 years and son DUNCAN died in infancy and daughter ELIZABETH died July 1849 aged 18 months.

Note- This Duncan Sinclair's wife is buried with her parents at Inverneill. q.v.

Erected by JOHN TURNER teacher to the memory of his mother Mc? ... who died 28 Nov 1831 and of his third daughter ANNE (?BOLLA....) died

In memory of NEIL Mc(?LAMOND or DONALD) who died (?12th)
Oct 1811 aged 26 years.

Erected by DOND SINCLAIR in memory of his father LACHLAN
SINCLAIR who died June 6th 1840 aged 75 years & of his
mother CATHRINE McLACHLAN who died May 15th 1841 aged 72
years. Also of his brother JOHN who died Sepr 20th 1824
aged 19 years. 1851

Erected by DUGALD McLACHLAN plumber DUGALD McLACH-
LAN his 1830.

Erected by BETTY SINCLAIR in memory of her husband DUNN
McDONALD who departed this life on the 18th of Jan'y 1850
aged 55 years.

.....

INVERNEILL, S.Knapdale Parish. NR841813
(Off A83, south of Ardrishaig)

By F.S.Mackenna. 1984

ROBERT son of WILLIAM SMITH and ISOBELL LAMONT his spouse
was deposited here A(nno) 1799.

In memory of CHRISTINA SMITH wife of DUNCAN SINCLAIR who
died at SILVERCRAIGS, LOCHGILPHEAD 10th March 1889 aged
77 years. Her mother ELIZABETH SINCLAIR died 13th June
1850 aged 58 years and father DONALD SMITH died 18th Oct
1850 aged 61 years.

Note- This Duncan Sinclair appears to be buried
at Kilmahumaig. q.v.

Erected to the memory of DONALD CAMPBELL late tacksman
at LOCHHEAD who died in August 1812 aged 83 years.

Erected to the memory of JOHN CAMPBELL late tacksman of
LOCH(HEAD) who died 27th November 1829 aged 67 ye(ars).

Erected by ROBERT WILSON in memory of MARGARET WILSON his
spouse who died 6th June 1801 aged 56 years. Also of
ALLAN and ROBERT their children.

..... CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE



DUN ALASDAIR: An Old Tarbert Site

F.S.Mackenna

The writer's property, on the northern side of Tarbert, has undergone many changes, culminating in a final addition which bears the date 1889. There have been numerous changes of ownership but the Title Deeds tell us nothing about the original house or the erection of the new one.

The buildings, in use and vestigial, are situated on a fairly level section of the steep slope rising upwards to An Uarraidh, north of the village, and some little distance above the public road. Potentially the outlook is extensive, across the harbour and Loch Fyne to Cowal, Bute and Ayrshire, but the enjoyment of this has varied over the years. Old photographs and rotted tree stumps show clearly that the site was formerly quite enclosed to north and east by a plantation of Scots pines, on both sides of the road. Gradually most of them were removed or else died of age, and twenty-seven years ago only a few remained, allowing full advantage of the extensive view. Now however, in self-protection from inspection by a number of houses erected on a ridge across the road, the conifers, previously kept in check, are being allowed to develop and soon things will be back to where they were years ago.

When the property was acquired over a quarter century ago, the ground to the north, known locally as the 'Jungle' was an impenetrable mass of twenty-foot-high Rhododendron ponticum interspersed with birches, rowans, sycamores and alders. The 'park' further up the hill, had remained in use for grazing and for hay-cropping.

So much for the surroundings. Signs of early occupation come from two directions; there is a rectangular stone foundation a few yards to the N.E. of the present buildings, which most probably was a wooden barn or shed rather than a house, judging from the fact that the remaining wall is level and there is no sign of a doorway. The nearby burn shows the foundations of a bridge.

The second piece of evidence of former occupation is a well, found in 1977, on the hillside above these foundations. It is roofed and partly sided with stone slabs and measures 36"x 24", with a depth of 18". When cleared out it filled quickly and maintains a steady flow which is led away by a stone-lined conduit. It very obviously was used by the oldest house, as the new one had its own water from a spring-fed tank on the hillside above. All memory of the well's existence had gone, so it had to be named for inclusion on the O.S. map - Tobar an preas chaltuinn, from an ancient hazel tree which overhangs it.

The present buildings are two - the garage-tool house and the dwelling house. The former, both from its appearance and from local information, was originally a house and byre under one roof. Its outside measurements are 42' x 13', with 2'-thick walls. The only visible features now remaining from its original use are two built-up windows and a disused chimney-breast. When the present house was built the old one became entirely a byre and shed. The 'oldest inhabitant' had heard of beasts being let out of the end door to graze where the ponticums eventually took over. Its final conversion to garage and tool-shed removed any evidence of its original lay-out, apart from the blocked-up windows and the fireplace.

The date of building of the new house is unknown, but it can be placed inferentially at least 150 years ago. An 1855 Deed has "sometime possessed by Duncan McIlriach, formerly butler to deceased Colin George Campbell", but the only definite point is that it was originally two semi-

detached houses, with twin front doors "exactly like that house opposite the Boat Yard, on the low road", one room (and a lean-to) downstairs and one room and a box-room above. At subsequent dates, all of which except the last, cannot be established (only the order of their occurrence being obvious from inspection) the following changes were made; the two houses became one; the walls were raised and the roof likewise, with windows upstairs instead of skylights; the next major alteration was the addition of six rooms at the rear, three downstairs and three up, the thick back wall being pierced to allow access; finally, and the only dateable alteration, commemorated by a mural panel DUN ALASDAIR 1889, oriel windows were provided for one of the downstairs rooms and for the room above it. Since that date, now close on a century ago, no structural alterations have been undertaken, any improvements having been entirely internal.

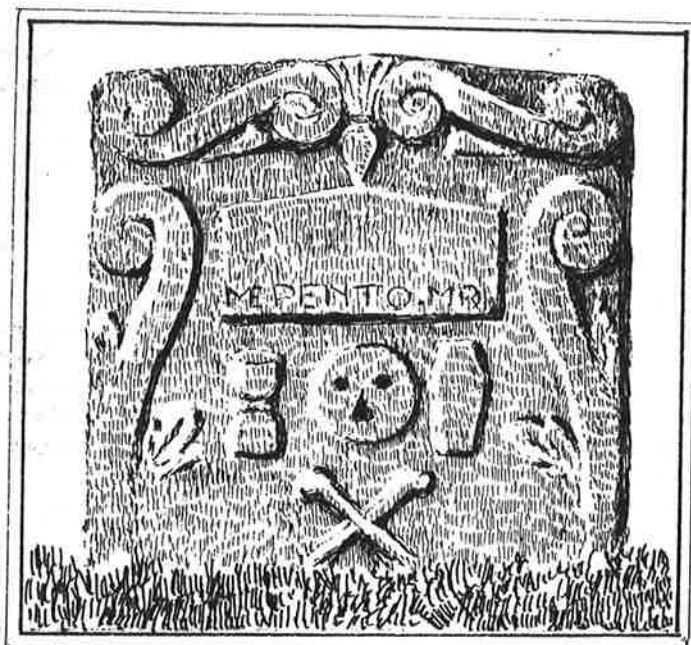
Some years ago an unknown benefactor gave us a water-colour painting of the garden, done in 1900, on the back of which are old labels "Tarbert, Loch Fyne, from Uncle Alfred's garden. Painted by Marjorie Miller. Xmas 1900. Given to my aunt Louie Miller, who wrote this." The picture was bought at auction in England by Mrs Dean, who lives in Coventry, shortly before she succeeded in tracing the subject and communicating with us, and most generously presenting it to us.

Dun Alasdair is mentioned in 'Old Kilberry's' Diary:
 1903: 25th May. Yesterday Mr Miller who lived at Dunalastair, Tarbert, died suddenly while eating his breakfast
 1906: 16th May. Sent John Ferguson to Tarbert where there was a sale of furniture in the house called Dunalastair. He bought a good many things for Achaglachgach and judging by his statement they were good and cheap.

The fact that all the external changes were made so long ago has saved the house from the fate which has overtaken many other old houses in the village, which have been ruined and rendered ridiculous by hideous 'picture windows'.

In conclusion it may be added that the former 'jungle' and the rest of the grounds have been developed into a rhododendron garden of some note

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A STRANGER IN OUR MIDST

F.S.Mackenna

When Colin Fergusson and I were recording the Mort Safe in Kilmory (Lochgilphead) graveyard (Kist 28) we noticed a headstone which stood out as being of a design quite foreign to our area. Its heavily carved fiddle scrolls and emblems of mortality at once labelled it as being of East Coast or Lowland origin. A perfunctory reading of the inscription supported the opinion that it had been brought here.

On a return visit, while the measured drawing was being done, Colin took the lettering in hand and succeeded in making a complete transcript. On the tablet in the midst of the carving is an attempt at MEMENTO MORI, but the mason has produced an alarming variation in MEPENTO MORI; having missed out the R in MORI he has superimposed it on the O. The ligatured ME is quite normal for the period.

On the other face there are two inscriptions. At the

CONTINUED on PAGE 19

A WINTRY DAY in JURA

Peter Youngson

The last Saturday in January dawned clear and bright and very cold. By ten o'clock Knapdale's snow-covered hills were glistening beyond the Sound of Jura, and the peaks of Arran looked splendid. Freezing or not, a brisk walk along the shore seemed indicated, so we set off with the dog. Frost on the ground, ice on the hens' water, but as so often in Jura no snow lying at sea-level, though the Paps are white. Our back-door birds seem to do well sharing the hen food. We pay them no heed on this morning, and they don't bother with us. We support that usual flock of chaffinches, four dunnocks, six wrens, four black-birds, some robins - and a partridge in a pear tree.

We step out down the short drive between the glebe fields to the shore road. The rock doves working the short grass don't even bother to lift off; there are eight of them and they've been feeding with us since before Christmas. The two hoodies near them seem to be just standing about, waiting for something to turn up.

We reach the gate, and the little rocky bay which here is called "The Minister's Water", splits into the birds which bother to leave, and those which don't. The pair of mallards are the first to go - exploding take-off and plenty of complaint, and half a mile out into the bay before they decide they're safe to settle. Our heron lumbers into the air and sails off to the nearby little conifer plantation where his family have recently taken up permanent residence. We'll probably see him there later, perched uncomfortably against the dark green like a Christmas Tree decoration. As we cross the road to the crackly fringe above the shore a snipe sizzles up out of the reeds and hurtles off jinking madly, his avoidance-pattern all lost on us.

Nothing else moves. The little bay accepts us, and we look at it for the thousandth time. Yes, the two mergansers are fishing as always just off shore, with the usual half dozen common gulls in the water nearby and a herring gull watching from the big rock. There are two peewits pottering along the edge. They've only been here a day or two, and we don't usually see them at all. They're very bold; perhaps they don't have much bother with people

normally. The broad belt of stranded sea weed looks dead - shades of rich brown like a beech-wood floor - but we know it will resolve itself into the usual mass of small brown birds which pick over it incessantly, and seem to do very well. Indeed, there they are - they're a mixture of twites and meadow pipits, with rock pipits and the odd linnet, but its far too cold to try to sort them out on this freezing morning.

We set off along the road, the sea a mere ten yards away, and the cock blackbird who lives here panics off the shore and skims over the wall into the field. A redshank sets off on his crescent flight out over the water to arc back to shore a hundred yards along. Two doses of his alarm call fit the short hop quite nicely. When we get on to where he landed, he'll do it again in reverse and the status quo will be restored.

The bay ends at the little basalt dyke which juts into the sea; the road bends and we see the long straight beach which follows. Several hoodies fly up from the dyke and a single black carrion crow goes too. We always have the odd black crow in winter, though Jura is of course 'hoodie' heartland, but this winter we seem to have had far more than usual. A ringed plover runs ahead along the sand, and there goes our redshank, on his way back.

The manse field has given way to a big, well-grazed park with sheep. Here are the golden plovers. Nine of them, working the field over with four more peewits. The goldens have been here for a couple of weeks, and today they are positively glowing in the sun. Some curlews here too, keeping us in sight over their shoulders as they sidle to a safer distance without wishing to make it too obvious.

We'll go as far as the otter rock before turning back, but he's off somewhere else today. Well, you can't have everything in one half mile. We turn back with frozen noses and tingling fingers. Real naturalists are supposed not to notice the cold. Not so much in the bird count perhaps, but the hills and the sea make up for a lot, and the mind's eye fills in the composite picture as it adds in the big party of fieldfares and redwings the day before yesterday, and the buzzard as big as the wee tree it sat in. And the hen harriers last week, and the yellow hammers in the stack yard. And to that you add other people's

excitement as well. That means the six whoopers on the Mill Loch, and the two strange birds Davie put up out of the long rushes at Knockrome. They flapped off on broad brown wings with their legs dangling behind "just like corncrakes" - fine clear description of two water rails. Why do these things always happen to somebody else. But good luck can be made to happen - as with the neighbour in Craighouse who has turned her natural rock-formation grotto into a rock garden, and in this favoured setting feeds such a variety of tits that even the local sparrowhawk expresses his gratitude by high-speed sorties. This winter holiday resort produced Jura's first confirmed Willow Tit.

Back at the Manse today though - get warmed up, a few notes in the diary, a Pay-In to the memory's Deposit Account, to be drawn out when the gales come.

...oooOooo...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

top comes this, the first line now defective:-

HERE LYES BODY OF DUNCAN.
CAMPBELL WHO DEPARTED.
THIS LIFE JULY THE 4. 1727.
AGED 72 YEARS.

and at the bottom, ending at ground level:-

THE HEAD STONE BEING BROUGHT.
HERE AND SATE UP BY HIS SON.
PATRICK SHIP MASTER AT
MANGGAFF IN GALLAUAY.

The chronology seems obviously to have been the purchase of a 'blank', carved but not lettered, in the Minnigaff-Newton Stewart area, and its removal to Kilmory, the lettering being added here.

At first one thought that the stone might be a re-used one, but as the style of carving is completely consistent with the date of the death of Duncan Campbell, this possibility is ruled out. To have been available for re-use the stone would have had to be already of some age, and any earlier lettering would have had to be erased; there is no sign of any such occurrence.

The peculiar interest of this 'stranger' headstone seems not to have been remarked until now.

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THE CROSS-SHAFT at KILLEVIN

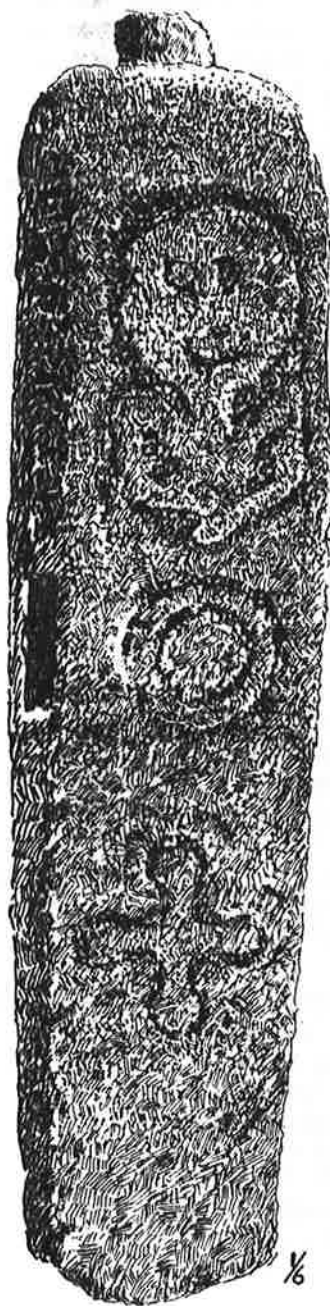
F.S.Mackenna & Colin F.Fergusson

This interesting stone, lodged in a recess in the burying-ground wall at Killevin, adjoining the Crarae policies (NR986972), seems to have been strangely neglected by antiquaries, for we know of only two descriptions and one illustration. Drummond drew it in 1866 and this representation, with a short description, was published in 1881; and the Misses Campbell and Sandeman described it in 1961 (P.S.A.S. XCV p.70). To remedy this deficiency Mr Fergusson and the Editor made a careful examination in May 1985, of which the following observations are the outcome.

When Drummond made his drawing in 1866 the cross was "about 9ft long". He goes on to say that the arms had been formed by "a long stone put through a hole in the shaft". It had been "perfect previous to 1843" when it was "wilfully broken". Presumably the damage was confined at that time to the arms alone if the shaft was indeed "about 9ft long", with the reduction to the present length of 3ft 6ins occurring later.

The earlier history of the shaft is uncertain, but possibly it had always been in the vicinity of its present location, for the immediate area had ritual and religious significance from prehistoric times.

There are two particulars in which the cross-shaft diverges from normal - the presence of a 2ins-high rounded tenon at its top, and of a well-cut mortice piercing the shaft



for the accommodation of the stone which formed the arms.

The tenon seems to be capable of only one interpretation - that it served to locate an apex-stone of the type found on some Irish crosses. This is a highly unusual refinement in Scotland, calling to mind only MacLean's Cross at Sorobaidh, Tiree, while a slot for the apex-stone tenon on the "St John's" Cross on Iona served the same purpose. The presence of a slot or groove at the top of one of the Keills (Knapdale) crosses (Kist 20, pp 2 & 4) was regarded as perhaps the seating for a separate stone terminal.

The conjunction of these two unusual features, the tenon and the mortice, on the Killevin shaft incline us to suspect that the cross was an importation from Ireland or more probably the work of an immigrant carver.

It will not escape notice that a tenon and mortice are devices employed by woodworkers, and their presence adds support to the contention that certain features of early stone standing crosses derive from still earlier examples made of wood. If this line of thought be correct, it places our shaft at a very early date.

The carving itself is relatively crude, especially in the case of the bust (head, shoulders and arms) which forms the topmost of the three sections of decoration. The effect is quite the reverse of the sinister face on the Riasg Buidhe cross on Colonsay. The small even-armed cross which forms the lowest part of the decoration is noteworthy for its bulbous terminals.

Careful examination of the back of the shaft revealed only a prominent boss, situated at the level of the concentric circles on the front.

The relative positions of the bust, the circles and the cross suggest that no further decoration existed on the missing portion of the shaft, even though this must have been some 5ft 6ins long.

Exact measurements of a stone of this type are difficult to assess, but the maxima are:- Height 3ft 6ins; width 1ft 9ins; thickness 7ins.

We are indebted to the President for help with several items of information.

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BIRD WATCHER BY WEST LOCH SHORE

Colin F. Fergusson

Stretching 9 miles from its entrance on the Sound of Jura to its head about a mile from the village of Tarbert at the narrow neck of land which saves Kintyre from being an island, West Loch Tarbert follows the usual pattern of the mainland land mass and lochs with its north-east to south-west lie. Never more than three-quarters of a mile across at its widest part near the entrance, the loch gradually narrows to assume the appearance of a strait or sound.

The loch is not an isolated one, for good roads run parallel to it on both south and north sides, so favourite spots along its shores can easily be reached on foot or by wheeled transport. Though there are many good picnic areas, there are no fine sandy beaches. From its headwaters, on both sides, shallow mud banks run down its entire length before dipping quite suddenly into a deep narrow channel. This fjord-like feature is to be found in many west-coast lochs.

In winter, from its head sometimes for almost half its length, the loch freezes over from shore to shore during heavy frost. Then the sound of breaking ice can be heard as fishing boats, based in the loch, and the daily car-passenger ferry for Islay cut a lane to the open sea. Being so narrow, the upper waters are so far from the sea and receive so many hill streams that the salinity, especially after a dry frosty spell, is very low. On these occasions many of the regular ducks, wigeons especially, take to the farm fields for their food.

Bird population both on the loch and alongside the adjacent shores can at times be very heavy. Mute Swans are sometimes seen in a herd of 40 or 50, and whistling Wigeon counted in hundreds. Goldeneye, the noisy Oystercatcher, Mallard, Redshank, head down and forever probing the mud with their long bills, and Shelduck can all be seen feeding in the shallows in hard weather, where the soft patches of mud can sustain a good food supply. This heavy concentration of ducks and waders can fluctuate at times, depending on the food resources available.

Sitting quietly by the shore the cooing of the Eiders mingles with the incessant chatter of Blue, Coal and Long-tailed Tits, the harsh call of the ever-present Hoodie

Crow and the raucous call of the Jay. Flying overhead the Golden Eagle passes over from one hillside to another, looking for carrion for himself or perhaps his family in their eyrie high on a steep mountain rock-face. The slow circling movement of the Buzzard as he searches the ground for his prey, and the swift flight of the Sparrowhawk as he plunges his way into a flock of finches can all be observed and admired by the patient watcher.

Spring has its own special calls. The high-pitched notes of the Red- and Black-throated Divers as they take their evening flight to the salt-water lochs after being relieved by their mate on the nest by some lonely hill lochan. Overhead the drumming of Snipe, the well-known and at times irritating call of the Cuckoo from some vantage point, then peace and quiet for a few minutes as it makes its way to another favourite landmark, followed by its diminutive attendant, a Meadow Pipit or a Lark, to start once again its steady call.

Parts of the loch shore and well up the hillsides are now being afforested, mainly with Sitka and Norway Spruce, in stark contrast to the native stunted oak, birch and handsome rowan. They provide home for the smallest of our birds, the Gold- and Firecrests. Their beautifully built nests hanging by slender threads under the lower branches of the fir trees, are the home of a very large family of this dainty bird. Again the dark-green mantle of the quick-growing conifers provides excellent food supplies for the Finches, such as spiders, caterpillars and all kinds of creepy-crawlies.

On the oak, ash and other trees, with their fine covering of moss and lichen, an occasional glimpse of the Tree-creeper can be got as he moves upwards, mouse-like, from the bottom of the tree to the top and along the branches, exploring every nook and cranny with his long slender curved beak for some tasty morsel. Then when he gets to the top, a quick flight to the base of another to repeat the whole process.

Summer sees many migrants in the area above the shoreline. Willow- Grass- and Sedge Warblers; Chiffchaff, while shy and secretive, give themselves away by their musical songs; Whitethroats and the chik-chik-chik of the Stonechat during the day are overtaken at night by the churring of the Nightjar. Ever-present, the resident

Larks and Meadow Pipits are busy rearing not one but sometimes two families. Of the larger birds, Hoodie Crows are abundant. The early-nesting Raven and the jet-black Carriion Crow are less common.

Amongst the most often seen birds by loch- or road-side, are the Pied Wagtails, whose nest may be spotted in the most unusual places. Under the river bank, near where the water enters the loch, the Grey Wagtail lands on a suitable perch before disappearing into her nest in a hole amongst the rocks. Upstream the prim Dipper with his black coat and white bib, bobs about on a boulder, then dives into the water to search for some food at the bottom. During the past year a rare sight has been the flash of blue as a Kingfisher darts about the river mouth at great speed. Has he a mate, one wonders!

Near a tangled mass of brambles emerges a hen Pheasant followed by six chicks. She seems quite content with them, though the nest she has just left contains nine dirty off-white eggs. Whether they would have hatched out or not she doesn't care. Perhaps by tomorrow her small clutch of young may be reduced still further, victims of predators or their mother's could-not-care attitude. Like the mallard and the wigeon, where large numbers of eggs are laid, often the birds leave the nest with only two, three or four young followers. Even these few can be picked off by the Black-backed Gulls, always on the alert for an easy meal.

With autumn the head of the loch becomes a haunt of the waders, ducks and swans again. During the summer vacation while on family business, the growth of weed in the shallows has been active and the various birds are now taking full advantage of the ready food supply.

Overhead the honking of the Greylag and Pink-footed Geese heralds their arrival from their summer breeding quarters in the far north, back to the green pastures and barley stubble fields of Kintyre. On the waters of the loch, among the large family of Mute Swans, a solitary Black Swan moves about freely. Quite tame, it comes near to the loch-edge when offered bits of bread. After leaving the loch it is reported to have taken up residence further down the peninsula. An escapee or not, it seems to be thriving.

A Whooper Swan with a numbered plastic collar arrived during the winter, disappearing after a few days. Enquiries revealed that the bird had been captured in Iceland

during the summer and released after vital statistics had been taken and the plastic collar fitted.

Curlews with their plaintive calling, are back at the loch edge, their very long curved bills probing the soft mud for their evening meal. Here they will stay all winter, visiting the green sward of the nearby golf course as the mood dictates.

Every season of the year has something to offer to the watcher by the shore of the West Loch. Favourites? Not really. But always a special thought for those birds which reside with us all year, sharing mutual pleasures.

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BARRNAKILL and CLADH BHILE: Two Notes

In Kist 29, in Note on the Cover, we gave a misleading opinion in dealing with the derivation of the name, when we stated that in this instance it was 'coille', not 'cill'. We were mistaken, for the whole area, with its standing cross, at least two rock-cut (probably 'termon') crosses, what may be the remains of a cell and other early artefacts, seems formerly to have had religious significance, making 'cill' the more probable derivation.

In Kist 14, p.14, we illustrated hitherto unsuspected carvings on the largest of the Cladh bhile crosses. They had been disclosed on a photographic slide and were verified by competent observers. That was in 1976. The RCAHMS officials on a 1985 inspection could not distinguish this decoration. Consequently we made another examination and found much surface deterioration had occurred, and our most sophisticated procedures revealed only a small portion of one of the arching lines at the top of the 'handle' and the faintest ghost of the circle and cross in the middle of the 'handle'. These vestigial marks were detected only because we knew where to look. Such deterioration in the surface over only nine years is very surprising. Most unhappily the highly important slide has gone amissing, perhaps having failed to return after a 'lending', so it seems that the outline drawing in Kist must remain the sole record of this vanished carving.

TRIALS and TRIBULATIONS of ANCESTOR-HUNTING

M.J.Whitten (Ontario)

Once a MacPherson, always a MacPherson, or so it seemed as I was growing up - and so, during a visit to Scotland in 1981, we thought it would be fun to find the place where my great-grandmother had grown up. We wanted to have some photographs to take home to the family at "Keppoch". This idea has developed into a four-year research project, still ongoing! It has led us into some interesting experiences.

We headed for Keppoch House in Roy Bridge, Inverness-shire, on a cold October day, where we were told the master was away for the day. A sherry at the local pub seemed called for to warm our bones and to decide what our plans should be. There we lucked in, for we were told that we should talk to the local historian, Miss MacDonnell in Spean Bridge. Our visit to her next day, poring over church records and those of Keppoch House, with a couple of trips to old cemeteries in the area (in pouring rain and with strenuously objecting sheep) almost persuaded us that we were not at the right Keppoch. Miss MacDonnell sent us off to Register House in Edinburgh, where we spent two days searching parish and census records in vain. However the 1841 census finally convinced us that we were looking in the wrong area. (A trip to the old family graveyard here would have sent us in the right direction, as I have since discovered.)

A letter to A.G.MacPherson at Memorial University in Newfoundland during next spring brought a map from Scotland, where he was on holiday. Keppoch in Knapdale was underlined and I became quite excited when I found a Cour in Kintyre. I knew that the two brothers, Hugh and Duncan, had called their places here Keppoch and Cour when they brought their families to Canada in 1847-8.

That August we were again in Scotland, heading for Tarbert, in Argyll, where we checked in to Stonefield Castle Hotel. The next day, a warm, very rainy one, we found Cour Farm in East Kintyre. When we reached Grogport we knew we had passed it, and it was only with a little luck that we spotted the sign on our way back. As we drove in we met the owner's son, who assured us that his family had been in Cour for three generations and someone else before

that. We left, disappointed, but then I insisted that John drive back so that we could take some pictures, just in case! We checked cemeteries in the area - no luck. Because of the rain we did not detour to Skipness - a mistake as we have now discovered!

The next day we started out to find Keppoch, and after stopping for directions, there it was with a lovely view over the Sound of Jura, but seemingly taken over by sheep. We called Miss Campbell of Kilberry, as it had been suggested that we should talk to her. She graciously invited us to come to Kilberry Castle and we had a very interesting visit over a most welcome cup of tea. We saw records from the 1700 and 1800s, but the years in which we were interested were missing. She knew nothing of the MacPhersons in the church records on which she had been working. The family were strong Church of Scotland adherents. We began to feel that once again we might be in the wrong area.

We were heading for Kingussie and Newtonmore, but did not leave next morning without making some enquiries in Tarbert and checking records in Lochgilphead, where those in the Registry Office were very helpful, and waiting till the afternoon to talk to the Archivist, Mr Murdo MacDonald. The Tarbert enquiries resulted, a few months later, in the receipt of a letter from Fiona Sellars - ~~wrong Macphersons!~~ But after I wrote thanking her, another letter arrived to say that her family, the Mitchells, and Alan of the Kilberry McPhersons had been close friends and that his grandson Alan had visited them often, as had his son Ross, who was in the R.F.C. and was killed in March 1917. Alan was my great-grandmother's elder brother and so Mrs Sellars had the right family! Alan McPherson in Tiretigan (adjoining Keppoch) and the Mitchells in Maryville, Tarbert, had been great friends. She also included a note of a Parish record - the marriage of Hugh McPherson and Jannet McNabb in May 1781 - my great-great-great-grandparents in South Knapdale.

Back to August. We decided to head for Register House in Edinburgh as we knew the families must show up in that first 1841 Census somewhere. One morning suddenly we found them - Hugh and his family at Keppoch and Duncan with his family and his mother, Jannet McNabb, at Cour. Great excitement! Unfortunately we had to leave a return trip to Tarbert for another year.

During the next spring I received a letter from A.G.

Macpherson that the tombstone for Hugh McPherson in Cour was located "in Clachan Kirkyard at the top of Loch Fyne". One very wet morning in August 1983 found us looking for this graveyard. We eventually found it at Clachan farm and spent a couple of hours in shoulder-high wet bracken checking stones and even struggling to turn over one which was flat on its face. A landslide had disturbed many of the stones; some I tried to read lying on my back - great for pale blue raincoats! Finally we had to admit that we could not find it. We had planned finding the stone, taking a picture for the record, and going on our way. However, I did hate to give up. In Inveraray we were sent to Mr Donald Mackechnie, who referred us to Dr F.S. Mackenna in Tarbert, where we had a delightful visit. He could give us no obvious help apart from assuring us that "Clachan Kirkyard" would be the one in North Kintyre, about twelve miles beyond Tarbert. Little did he know how helpful he had been. He gave us three copies of the Mid-Argyll Antiquarian Society's magazine Kist, which he edits, and several months later, at home, I opened one to find I was staring at my great-great-grandmother's name - "Jean Wilson married a McPherson and went to Canada" - in The Wilson Family in Inverneil (Kist 9).

We drove south to look in the churchyard at Clachan even though we had checked there the year before. We called on Mr Ian MacDonald and he took us to some other graveyards, but without success. But he did not give up, and a letter the following January told us he had found our stone - in the old cemetery at Skipness in East Kintyre.

Erected/by Janet MacNab/in memory of her husband/
Hugh MacPherson/late tenant at Cour/who departed this
Life/the 20th April 1827/aged 72 years.

He also enclosed information about a letter sent by Sarah McPherson, who had left Glenreadell, Skipness Parish, with her children, to her daughter Janet, married to Angus Taylor, overseer at Skipness Castle, telling of life in Canada. Sarah died three years later and is buried in the family cemetery on Cour Farm here. She was the widow of Donald and is shown at "Glenrith" in the 1841 Census. I had recorded the family from the census in Edinburgh because the names and circumstances seemed similar to Hugh and Duncan, although Donald is not listed and must have been dead by then. Donald was another brother of Hugh

and Duncan although I was not aware of this when I first began this research. Mr MacDonald also reported that a family in Scotland have a newspaper cutting from 1926-7, headed "Delaware farmer leaves estate of \$52,000 Duncan McPherson remembers relatives in Scotland in will". This would have been Sarah's youngest son, Duncan, and Janet's brother. (I have just discovered that a Jenny Taylor used to come out here to visit.)

When I visited the family cemetery on Cour Farm here, I discovered that there was no question about where the families had lived in Scotland.

NOTE on the COVER

The three 'bygones' shown on the cover often provide interest to visitors being shown over the house; the box and egg-shaped article are sometimes correctly named, but it is extremely seldom that the spoon is identified.

Starting with the pewter box, we have a Pounce Box, dating from the days before blotting-paper came into use. It contained powdered gum sandarac, which absorbed the wet ink and was then returned to the box for re-use. The perforated hinged lid fits so closely that no catch is needed. Inside is stamped in small letters J. Dixon & Sons, Sheffield and in larger type Leconte, Rue de la Paix, Paris. It had obviously been made for export.

The next object, egg-shaped and hinged to allow it to open along its 'equator', has a multitude of perforations. It was intended to hold tea, and was suspended by the chain and hook inside the urn on the tea-table - a forerunner of the modern tea-bag.

The last 'bygone', which so often defeats people, who think it must be some form of caddy spoon, is in fact a Mote Spoon, for fishing out floating pieces from a poured cup of tea. It is very beautifully designed and made, with engraved decoration in the style fashionable at the time of its production. It has the London hall-mark and date-letter for 1793, with the silversmith's initials G.B. for George Baskerville, specialising in ladles and spoons.