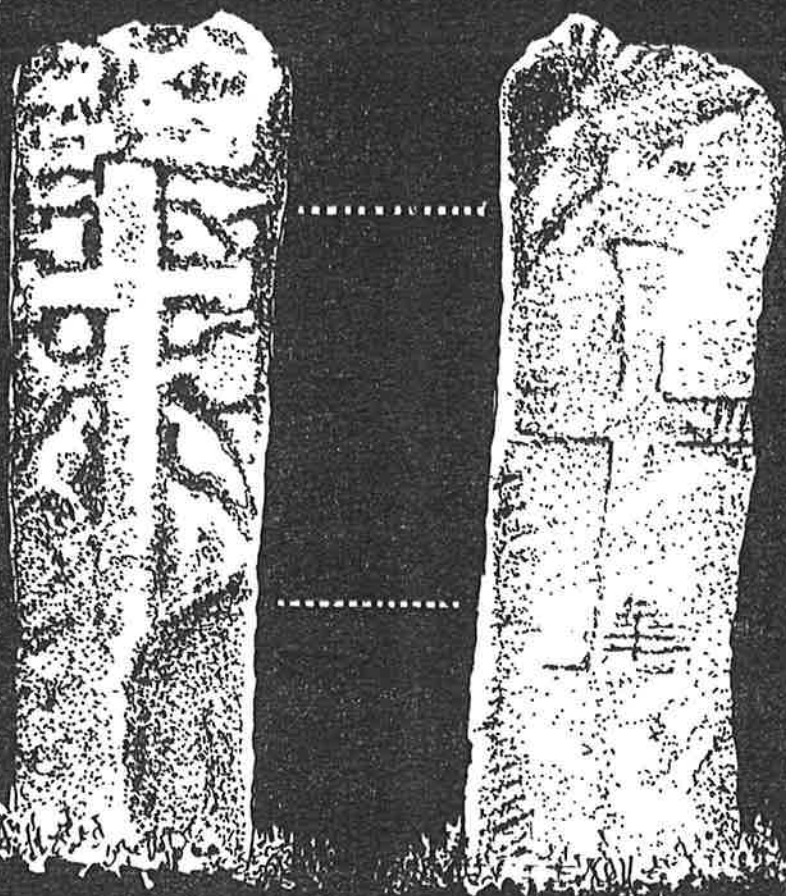


Cross at Kilmory Oib



The KIST 35

# T H E K I S T

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

President: Miss Campbell of Kilberry, F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot.

.....  
NUMBER THIRTY-FIVE: Spring 1988

Editor: F.S.Mackenna, MA, MB,BCh, BAO(TCD), FSA, FSAScot.

## CONTENTS

<u>Argyll's Rising: 1685 and After</u>	
Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot. ....	1
<u>Two Old Letters</u> .....	5
<u>Note on the Cover Drawing</u> .....	8
<u>The Fairy Isles Nature Reserve</u>	
Mr G.V.Turner, B.A., F.R.Met.S. ....	9
<u>An Unpublicised Link With The '45</u>	
F.S.Mackenna .....	10
<u>The Gardens at Kilmory: History and Development</u>	
Mr Mervyn Kessell .....	13
<u>A Latin Word-square</u>	
Mrs A.O.M.Clark, M.A.Glas., B.A.Cant. ....	18
<u>Glendarroch Distillery, Ardrishaig</u>	
Communicated by Sir Ilay Campbell, Bt. ....	20
<u>Stray Items from the Kilberry Castle Archives</u>	
Miss Campbell of Kilberry, F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot. ..	23
<u>Book Reviews</u> .....	27
<u>Another Long-finned Tunny</u> .....	29
<u>Our Library</u> .....	29

Hon. Secretary for Membership and Publications

Mr E.S.Clark, M.A., F.S.A.Scot. Northlea, Tarbert,  
Argyll. (Tel. 793)

Price: 60p (post extra).

## ARGYLL'S RISING: 1685 AND AFTER

Marion Campbell

The Editor's paper in Kist 34 roused me to study the Depredations on Clan Campbell and compare it with The Commons of Argyll, by D.C. MacTavish (Lochgilthead 1935). Commons (hereafter C) gives 'A List of Rebels in Argyll Shyr and Tarbert Shyr', a Court return of livestock forfeited at Inveraray in October 1685, and some lists of men denounced as rebels or craving indemnity as pressed men. It ends with a 'List of the Fencible Men in various Parishes', of 1692, which enables us to trace some survivors of the Rising. C, based on Sheriff-Court papers, is mainly arranged by parishes while Depredations (D) is less regular, but they can be collated in part. D names around 400 victims (some areas are entered in bulk); C gives some 1100 'Rebells' and 2000 Fencibles, of whom about 200 are identifiable ex-rebels, or raiders.

Men aged between 16 and 60 were liable for 'Home Defence' service under ancient Statutes, which set penalties in cattle for absence. Some 1685 plundering may thus have had a shade of legality, in that stay-at-homes had neglected both Argyll's and Atholl's calls to arms. D shows some people plundered by both sides and at least one (Campbell of 'Lernahunseon', now Ashfield, Loch Sween), both robbed and robbing. Widows and orphans (even of executed rebels), old men and 'ane creple' were held to have special rights, perhaps as exempt from service. Atholl's own courts gave judgment against some of his own men as early as autumn 1685 (Kist 34, 28, where the date must be 1685 because Boyle of Kelburn died that year).

D is unique in showing the victims of war claiming redress in civil actions for damages, some citing witnesses or asserting that the crimes were aggravated by commission 'under cloud of night'. It appears to have been drawn up in 1687-8 by local informants whose returns were collated by a young Ewing of Bernice (Loch Eck) with admirable fairness although he himself had been robbed while serving under Atholl.

The background to the Rising is sad stuff. From Mary of Guise's Regency, if not sooner, government policy was to weaken the Highland clans by inciting feuds; in James VI's words "garring ae deil dang anither". To give only

a few examples, Colkitto MacDonald invaded Mid Argyll in 1618 and his son Alexander 'left not a fruit-tree nor a fishing-net on Loch Fyne ' in 1643; Argyll burnt 'the bonnie house o' Airlie' in 1641; one need not remind readers of the MacGregors' fate. Each campaign had its element of religious persecution; Charles II's 'Merrie England' years are known in Scotland as 'the Killing Times'.

In 1681 some toleration was offered to ministers and others who made oath to 'treat of no matter, civil or ecclesiastical', without the King's consent. Some of the Episcopalian clergy resigned, and the Earl of Argyll could only take the oath with express reservations. For this he was convicted of treason, and escaped death by flight to the Netherlands where he joined other refugees. They were presently joined by Charles' son the Duke of Monmouth.

When Charles died, on 6 Feb. 1685, the exiles dusted down old plans for their return. Monmouth was unpopular in Scotland, not least as the victor of Bothwell Brig, but was confident of English support; Argyll was equally sure of Scotland, for had not his father the Marquis died for his devotion to the Covenant? Plans were formed for a joint invasion, although the leaders were at odds among themselves and oblivious to the activities of spies who reported their plans to the new king's son-in-law William of Orange. A meeting at Rotterdam on 17 April papered over the cracks and on 2 May three ships sailed for Scotland; Monmouth was to start a week later. Putting in to Orkney on 5th, Argyll lost several advisers who were captured and sent to Edinburgh, thus giving the Government up-to-date news of his progress.

He reached Kintyre in mid-May and on 27th was at Tarbert, where 1200 men had assembled. The Marquis of Atholl, who had been given charge of the Earl's estates, was at Inveraray to collect his Whitsun rents, and there received the Privy Council's instructions:-

'Destroy what you can to all who joined with Argyll...  
'All men who joined and are not come off on your or  
'Breadalbane's advertisement are to be killed or dis-  
'abled from ever fighting again ... destroy Inveraray  
'and all the castles ... burn all houses except honest  
'men's ... Let the women and children be transported to  
'remote islands ...'

There was no Standing Army in Scotland, but loyal subjects

were summoned to help suppress the insurgents. Atholl was joined by the Duke of Gordon and Lord Strathnaver, by Camerons, Stewarts, MacDonalds, by Islesmen from as far afield as Benbecula, and by Campbells from North Lorne. Meanwhile, Argyll had brought plenty of arms, but could not rally his men (Monmouth had the men but lacked arms for them). Argyll's colleagues urged a move to Ayrshire where they might expect to join up with the hard-core Covenanter resistance, but when the force tried to march towards Glasgow they barely escaped a pincer-movement and scattered as they tried to cross the lower Clyde. Argyll was captured at Inchinnan on 18 June; some of the Lowlanders reached the Renfrew hills but were rounded up; a few lucky ones got back to Holland. Argyll was executed on 30th, under the old warrant. Monmouth was beheaded on 15th July.

On the day of Argyll's capture, Atholl issued an Act of Indemnity for any who claimed to have been pressed into Argyll's army and soon afterwards the royal forces were ordered home. Most of them 'took up a collection' as they went, often in face of protections obtained from Atholl; D is careful to note losses suffered after the collapse of the Rising or despite guarantees. Trials and executions continued; some convicted rebels were transported to the American colonies as indentured labour, others were imprisoned or beggared by fines. Smaller tenants were brought to court and fined, whether or not they had been plundered earlier. The three men named at Ardifuir-castle (Kist 34), who had already lost 10 horses, were arraigned with two others and fined, in all, 15 cows and another horse; the point being that the raiders lived within 4 miles of their victim. McAlister of Kenlochkeilsport (now Lochead) and Campbell of Ashfield, were scarcely farther away. In the same spirit Glenshira men went through Glenarary, while in Campbeltown a belligerent indweller robbed merchants.

The numbers of livestock taken are huge - sometimes 'the haill souming' (all the ground could carry). 4778 head of cattle, 1667 horses and 4923 sheep and goats were lifted at the season of lambing and calving ('great coues' were in calf). These were the most valuable possessions the people had, reared under the same roof as the owners. They are no doubt correctly counted, unlike the 'household

plenishings' which are often given round figures (like many insurance claimants, the victims could only recall a few of their losses).

There were worse cases. On Locheckside, Christian Ferguson and her six children lost 'their wearing cloaths grof they were utterlie stripped naked, with yr plaids, beds and haill household furnitor and 40 lib of money'; no Ferguson is listed among Dunoon parish rebels in C, and the exceptional barbarity is unexplained.

In April 1686 James VII issued a general indemnity to all who had followed Argyll. Young Ewing must have begun work soon after (the latest date he notes is November 1686). Some lairds had already obtained decreets against their plunderers; other lawsuits ran on for years. In 1701 Campbell of Barbreck got £5800.11.8d, with £400 for damages and costs, for the 'hershhip' of his tenants and himself, from Stewart of Ardsheal, who sued his own followers for their share. The Earl of Argyll's son was restored to title and estates in August 1689 by William III, and entered a suit for £60,000 sterling for losses and damage. These huge sums, and other losses never compensated, must have contributed to the notorious debts of many Highland chiefs, often dismissed as 'a new taste for the luxuries of civilisation' by historians. Certainly political attitudes changed; Atholl, Gordon and Strathnaver all turned against King James in 1689, although Atholl returned to his old allegiance after snubs from the new King William.

All in all, the brief upheaval of 1685 was to have far-reaching influences into the next century throughout the Highlands, whenever military activity was proposed by interested parties of whatever persuasion.

...oooOooo...

#### MORE CURIOUS BIRD BEHAVIOUR

In Discovering Lewis & Harris Mr Shaw Grant tells of an instance of curious bird behaviour, quoting from Peter Cunningham; '....a water-rail - rare in the Hebrides - walked in the back door and gave itself up, exhausted by the unusual exertion for a walking bird of having flown the Minch. Rested and refreshed it took off after a good night's sleep on Peter's table where it aroused, as he puts it, 'wonder and amusement'.

## TWO OLD LETTERS

These two letters (one incomplete) may be of interest to Kist readers as most of the locations are in our area. Unhappily they have to appear without the customary civility of source-acknowledgment. It is now many years since the originals were offered to the Editor for transcription and eventual use, but now that the occasion presents itself all memory of their source has gone. If the kind friend who produced them should now see them it is hoped that this explanation and apology will be graciously accepted.

The Editor can however give thanks to our President for a great deal of help with locations and interpretations.

Craigenterve Cottage (1)

Kilmartin

Jan. 20th 1891

Dear Brother

I take the opportunity of writing to you to let you no that we are all well. Helen Ann was up at the New Year and Mary went to Ardifure (2) to keep the New Year with the young couple. I suppose that you would here that John got married to Kate Mactavish. They both was married before and I think that they will suit together. Duncan Campbell Slugan (3) his house took fire one night and was burned to the ground. Some spark came out of the chimney and caught hold of the thatch and burned the house down they had time to run out they got one chest out of the house all that was in the house was burned fifty hens was roasted. Archd Campbell Ballachlavin Islay (4) died on the 28th of December he was 53 years of age. Admiral Campbell Barabreck (5) he is away in London he was poorly with Dropsy the old rascal that put my father out of Kin-traw (6). John Campbell the Admiral's Brother came home from Canada he has got a farm there - he came over to see my father and was very glad to see my father.

- .....
- (1) NM842012 On left of A816 just north of Ford junction
  - (2) recte Ardifuir NR 789969
  - (3) In Barbreck Glen NM83?07?
  - (4) NR373675
  - (5) NM 832064 recte Barbreck, at head of Loch Craginish
  - (6) NM830050 On A816, overlooking Loch Craginish

Mr MacIachlan the writer Lochgilphead got married to a lady in Glasgow named Bessie Mackintosh last week he got £20,000 with her. Little katie at Oban is getting better is able to walk about and all the rest are all well. The harvest was very wet the last year. Alex Sunclair Largie (7) put about 20 Acres into the mudden. A number of people died last year Donald Gillies the taylor Craigenterve Mhor. potatoes is very dear 15s the bag potatoes was very Cheap last year they were selling them for £1 the ton. We have heavy snow just now the ground is all covered. There is no land to let except Robert Laurie he is given up Finachern (8). The Admiral Campbell has got nearly all the lands on his own hands. John McArthur barabreck he is always asking for you. Duncan Jackson the taylor got married to an English Cook she went away and left him he is now down in Knabdale. Kate Lachan got married to a man the name of McLellan. Duncan Munro that we had at Kintraw got married and he is a Shepherd in Kintyre. All the cottars house at Kintraw are pull down. Duncan Gillies Salachary (9) got no place last year. He has a house down at cairbaan (10). Bella is always at home with themselves. Archie McClarty that was fishing at Craignish with you is allways asking for you. Big Archie Maclean died last year. Mary Jeasie that we had in Kintraw died last year and Duncan McNicol went away to Glasgow. Coals are very Dear just and scarce just now £2.10 the ton. I have no more to say to you father and mother and brother with kind respects to you

I am  
Your affectionate brother  
Donald Jackson.

Ardifuir  
12th Feby 1894

Dear Brother

I received your letter of the 5th September and Hugh's letter together and your last of the 8th of January which gives us great pleasure to learn that both of you arrived

- .....
- (7) Probably Upper or Nether Largie, Kilmartin.
  - (8) On Loch Awe NM898043
  - (9) NM848046 At top of Bealach mor above Loch Craignish.
  - (10) recte Cairnbaan.



safe at your destination I would have wrote you some time ago but as all friends were well I had no news worth writing But now I consider it incumbent to write you to lrt you know that we are all well at present hoping this will find you all the same the rest of your Brothers & Sisters are well Janet is getting better Andrew & Barabra only left Bronport (11) in the latter end of November and looking as well as I have mind of seeing him. I had a letter from them few days ago and they are all well mention that they wrote two letters and got no answer he is coming to Ardifuir in the beginning of March to work a headstone I got from Mr Parker (12). We had a very disagreeable harvest with rain in some parts of the Country they lost the most of their crop you would see plenty out about Martinmas and a good deal of hay was thrown into muddens everything is dear Meal is £2.10 the load potatoes is from 6/- to 7/- the barrel straw is 6d to 8d the stone. Ryegrass is as high is 1/6 the stone I got my shearing (13) over in three days I had sixty three shearers at Ardifuir & Forty (14) at Salachary and got it housed the following week their was a great deal of my hay that I did not cut all and some of this I only made bedin of it I never was so much afraid of the winter as I was this year as we had the most of the time frost & snow but the whole of my Stock is in good condition yet we had high prices for cattle through the country before the Markets I sold to Robert Laurie twenty of the best of my two year olds at £8.15 which was the highest I got since I came to Ardifuir I bought a score of the same kind from John McPherson Gartcarran (15) at £7.10 and sold at Kilmichael at £8.4 but although I gained so much

(Here ends the existing text)

- (11) There are several Brainports in Mid Argyll.
- (12) None of the Jackson stones at Kilmartin can be equated.
- (13) i.e. mowing
- (14) The large numbers of 'shearers' available reflects the much greater population of cottars and poor people before the relentless clearances. In 1685 there were two townships at Ardifuir - 'Ardephourchlad' (ich - indicating a site near the shore) and 'Ardephourcastell'
- (15) Probably Gartocharn, near Dunbarton.

### The COVER: Cross at Kilmory Oib

This slab, 4 feet 3 inches high and carved on both sides, standing over the cross-filled well at the abandoned settlement of Kilmory Oib (NR 781902), presents some highly unusual details. The east face, which is the plainer of the two, has an incised cross with an expanded upper end and a ground-line. In addition there are four sets of incised strokes - one at the end of the right arm, a second at the junction of the shaft and the base-line on the right, another (and with much the greatest number of incisions) towards the left edge of the slab, and a few, deeper than any of the others, across the top. These two last groups could well have resulted from an habitual sharpening of domestic or agricultural tools, but the other two are not capable of such an interpretation.

The 'back' of the slab has a highly unusual and deeply-carved design in false relief, the main item of which is what appears to be a patriarchal (double-armed) cross, which, if so, entitles it to a place amongst an extremely small group of such crosses in Britain and Ireland. But such a 'reading' of this particular cross is not fully accepted - some authorities regard the second pair of arms as part of the subsidiary design. What is certain, however, is the presence of two pairs of birds, each facing towards the cross and probably there in allusion to a mediaeval legend linking birds with the Christian crucifixion. Here again is a circumstance of greatest rarity. Earlier reports on this cross-slab tell of a saltire cross below the left-hand bottom bird, but the remaining vestiges of this 'cross' show that it had been a mis-interpretation of flaws in the stone.

By using our method of sponging the surface with lime-paste and then carefully photographing, we can now reveal with startling clarity many details of carving which had been considered too weathered to afford any definition, without causing the least damage to the surface - the lime-paste washes off completely by the use of water in a garden spray at the conclusion of the investigation. It was from two slides taken by Mr Colin Fergusson in July 1987 during a Society 'outing', when the lime-paste procedure was demonstrated, that the drawings on the cover were derived.

The FAIRY ISLES: A SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST NATURE RESERVE  
G.V.Turner

The Scottish Wildlife Trust was established in 1964 and so celebrated its 21st anniversary in 1985. Its policy is to acquire and manage a wide range of reserves, and it is presently responsible for 75, amounting to 41,300 acres, some of which are owned outright and some leased.

Near the head of Loch Sween is one of these Reserves in an area long known as the Fairy Isles - a group of six small islands in an inlet on the east side of the Oib Peninsula. In June 1982 this area of about 52 acres became a Wildlife Reserve when it was leased to the Trust at a peppercorn rent by the Forestry Commission. In addition to the islands the Reserve includes a narrow coastal strip from Rudha nan Stuir, at the entrance to Caol Scotnish, round to Rudha nan Sgarbh.

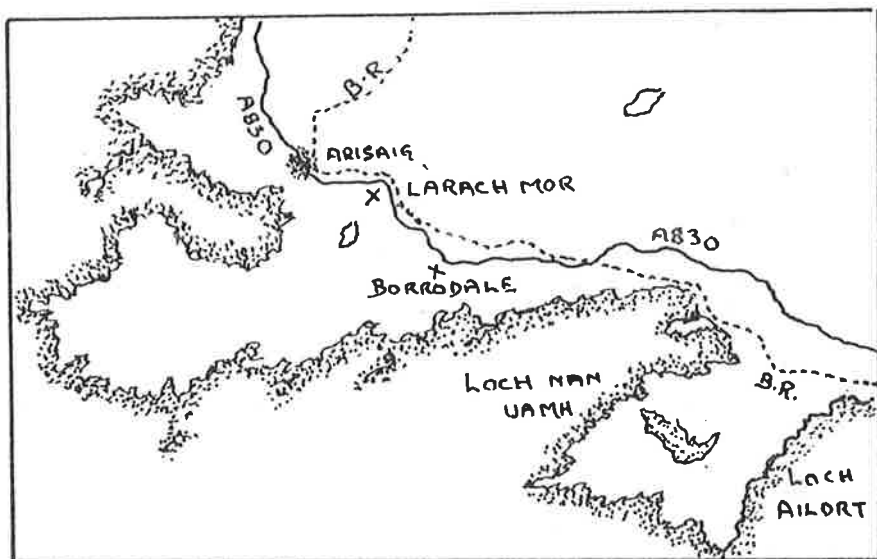
As a remnant of the woodland of mixed oak, birch, hazel and rowan that once covered much of Western Scotland, the Reserve is important for the cover it gives to small animals and plants associated with such a habitat. The nature of the plant life is particularly influenced by the mild oceanic climate of the area, and together with the surrounding mud flats and salt marsh, a wide variety of wildlife is supported.

The Reserve is looked after locally by a small management committee of volunteers, responsible to the Clyde Area Branch of the S.W.T. and established in 1983. One of this committee's objectives is gradually to eradicate the rhododendrons and Sitka spruce that have invaded the area in past years, to the detriment of the native habitat. Access to the Reserve by foot is by a long walk on a forest track from the car park on the B8025 at NR784907.

...oooOooo...

IRELAND in 1798

John Campbell of Kilberry (grandfather of the Diarist) writing to his Lawyer from 47 Capel St. Dublin on 14th May 1798 says:- "We are in a dreadfull state as to politicks - You can have no conception of it from newspaper accounts. Military violence is here however somewhat curtailed. I daily wish myself safe at home." Kilberry Castle Archives.



### AN UNPUBLISHED LINK WITH THE '45

F.S.Mackenna

A combination of scenic beauty and historical interest makes the forty-eight miles of road from Fort William to Mallaig one of the most acclaimed of our 'roads to the Isles'; writers and artists have recorded, it seems, every event and scene along its length until it might be concluded that nothing fresh remained. Yet so far as the present writer knows, the 'link' of our title has not been published. Although in itself of miniscule importance, it does add something to any attempt at bringing alive that troubled time - the 1745 Rebellion, which had its practical beginnings on Loch nan Uamh, near Arisaig, on this delectable 'road to the Isles'.

In setting the scene for our small item of information we must give an outline of the events which followed the arrival in Loch nan Uamh of the French vessel Dutillet carrying Prince Charles Edward Stuart on Thursday 25th July, 1745 and its anchoring close to the north shore. The Prince landed for a short time that day and on the following days, the final one being on 5th August. The ship departed early on 8th August. (The perceptive may

detect variations here from some published accounts of the episode, but dates given are from the ship's log and cannot be questioned. It is remarkable how the reports, even of those who were involved in the landing, vary in chronology, and much confusion has resulted.)

Immediately on the Dutillet's arrival important visitors began to appear on board, including Young Clanranald, who was promptly sent off to Skye to urge Sir Alexander Macdonald of Sleat and Macleod of Dunvegan 'to do their duty'. The ship, having moved to the mouth of Loch Ailort, spent the nights of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (29th to 31st July) unloading arms, ammunition and stores. On Monday 5th August the Prince finally disembarked and lodged in the farmhouse of Borrodale (which still stands) belonging to Angus Macdonald, a cadet of Clanranald.

Young Clanranald returned empty-handed and dispirited from Skye - neither Macdonald nor Macleod would agree to give any support, although both had been thought to be thoroughly Jacobite in sympathy. From a careful reading of some of the Culloden Papers it seems that the emissary had shown prudence on his mission by concealing the fact that the Prince had actually landed. This disappointment impelled Clanranald to advise most strongly the abandonment of the whole scheme, but unhappily his voice remained unheeded. Yet such was the power of Charles' personality that eventually Clanranald and all the Macdonalds who were present yielded to his pleas and agreed to proceed.

The final outcome of the Rebellion is common knowledge. Clanranald was amongst those who suffered ruin and exile for their loyalty, which brings us, at last, to the 'link with the '45' of our tale. Less than a mile from Arisaig the road, closely accompanied by the railway, takes a right-angled bend round two sides of a steep wooded declivity to the left, known locally as Larach mor - the Big Steading.

Early in the present century a Glasgow businessman named John A. Holms was the owner of a property at Formakin near Bishopton, where he created a fine garden. One of his main interests in this direction was in rhododendron cultivation, but as these 'difficult' plants require much more specialised conditions than those afforded by Bishopton, it became obvious that another site must be found. We have been told that a prolonged and thorough search for such a location involved the despatch of agents to various

parts of Scotland, charged with recording climatic details in relation to rhododendrons' needs. Of all these reports the most completely satisfactory one came from the Arisaig area and a decision was taken to lease the Làrach mor ground and to commence the formation of a specialised garden. Cost was disregarded and stories still abound of the train-loads of materials and plants which came in unending succession to Arisaig Station, not only for the actual garden but also for the house which was to be built. Holms died in May 1938, before the house walls were completed - they remain to this day - and although there had been slight signs of a lessening of enthusiasm, the garden, by the time of Holms' death, had become one of considerable importance and range. The advent of war soon afterwards was a crucial factor in the subsequent neglect of what had been achieved. Just before the onset of hostilities a plant sale was arranged and a fair proportion of carefully collected specimens found new owners; what was left was further depleted by individual sales and by depredation. One of Holms' gardeners, Brennan, lived on in a wooden house and between then and his death in 1959 many specimens were sold to visitors (amongst whom the writer was a considerable beneficiary).

After Brennan's death the 28-acre site was taken by a group of experts from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, who have carried out magnificent feats of restoration and development, but the garden is not open to the general public.

It was from Brennan that the details of the Holms era came to us, together with the information which forms the 'link' to which we have so repeatedly referred. For he asserted that during the formation of the Holms garden it had become apparent that a small part of the ground had already been cultivated as a garden - they found remnants of box-edgings, and other signs fully confirmed this. Enquiries were set afoot and eventually it had been established that it had once been Clanranald's garden, but that all memory of it had vanished as it reverted to nature after the Rebellion. So here is a link with that doomed enterprise and one of its victims.

...oooOooo...

## The Gardens at Kilmory: History and Development

Mervyn S. Kessell

The gardens at Kilmory Castle are still somewhat of a mystery to most of the residents of Mid Argyll. It is only recently that the District Council has managed to have a Thistle Emblem Sign erected on the main Inveraray to Lochgilphead road to draw attention to these fascinating gardens. The only reference I have managed to find in which they are specifically mentioned in horticultural text occurs in The Scottish Gardener No.4, MDCCCLV. Since the account is historically interesting I have taken the liberty of reproducing the text at the end of this paper. Seeing the gardens today it is hard to believe that the collection of hardy ferns and alpine plants rivalled that of Edinburgh, but I have certainly no doubt that this was the case and in places there is still just a vestige of its previous grandeur.

The Kilmory Estate was offered for sale in 1910 by Sir Arthur J. Campbell Orde, Bt. of Kilmory and North Uist. At that time the total policies extended to 4,000 acres and included in the Descriptive Particulars were details of the game bag for 1907, which read as follows:-

Grouse 400; Blackcock 20; Pheasant 440; Woodcock 60; Snipe 30; Wild Duck 31; Hare 15; Rabbit 800; Roe Deer 1; Golden Plover, Pigeons etc. 30.

The Particulars also included photographs showing the gardens as they were at that time, many parts of which are still recognisable today.

The area of the present Walled Garden, which I believe is certainly not as large as the original, now amounts to about 16,000 square metres and is bounded by a stone wall which in places reaches 3.5 metres high. A highly significant feature not only of this walled garden is the extra protection afforded from the winds and the radiated and retained heat which the thermal store effect of a wall mass produces. The Manpower Services Commission scheme which started in 1981/82 not only encompassed the restoration of the plant material and footpaths but spent considerable time on the refurbishment of sections of the wall itself which had fallen into disrepair. We were extremely lucky to have the services of one of the best stone masons in Argyll whose repairs were not only immaculate but gave

the impression that some of the work had been carried out 20 or 30 years previously.

The reconstruction also included the conversion of an old frame yard into a Herb Garden and the potting sheds and bothies upgraded to an acceptable standard. It was also felt that the functions of the gardens should include the provision of information and education. The beds within the Herb Garden were built in some cases on the bases of the old frames and raised to a level whereby disabled people could reach out and touch the plants from wheel chairs. The surfacing was laid out in reclaimed clay bricks which immediately made the areas appear to have been constructed somewhere around the turn of the century.

The first major task to be undertaken by the squad was the removal of most of the old trees and shrubs growing in the herbaceous areas. In practice 20-30 years of neglect has meant that the task was considerable and several months work was involved. Once the area had been completely cleared, the weeds were sprayed several times with Glyphosphate (Round Up or Tumbleweed) and the area rotavated. The idea was to leave the ground fallow for a year to allow sufficient time for the majority of the perennial weeds to be totally eliminated. This worked reasonably well although of course there were still considerable quantities of weed seed present in the soil. One plant which we were careful to avoid spraying was Erinus alpinus which thrives in the lime mortar of the walls.

Unfortunately when the work was being carried out we did not have even the few records which are now in our possession and we had to guess at what the layout of the original herbaceous and shrub borders was like. In fact the principal hazard to our re-planting programme has been the super-abundance of rabbits which happily chewed considerable quantities of herbaceous material. Even now, notwithstanding all the walls having been repaired and the gates fixed in position, there still appears to be some problem despite a programme of eradication. Around the peat wall area, which replaced the overgrown shrubs, we erected a small temporary rabbit-proof fence to allow the plants time to establish, but fairly recently, when we opened the section to allow the public access, the rabbits re-emerged and caused considerable damage.

The peat wall area has been highly successful and is



divided into two main sections. That to the north-west contains a mix of dwarf and small rhododendrons inter-planted with primulas and various bulb species. The growth of the primulas and rhododendrons has been outstanding and I put this down principally to the extensive preparation which the soil received prior to planting. In effect the original soil was in good condition and we added large quantities of tree bark and some seaweed, which provided good drainage combined with excellent moisture retention. Provisionally we have given considerable mulches of pulverised tree bark and this has helped to maintain the weed population at a relatively low level.

Regeneration of plant material, especially primulas, has been outstanding and this in itself is an indication of the excellent conditions. The peat walls to the east have been planted up again not only with primulas but also with a mixture of trees and shrubs, the majority of which should not grow particularly large, although we do recognise that some will have to be moved in three or four years. The paths throughout the garden were re-built and edged with the old road barriers which the Region removed some years ago. This proved to be a first class cheap source of edging material and the tree bark surfacing I believe has been used sympathetically to provide a soft and moderately durable finish which is inexpensive and relatively easy to maintain.

Our biggest weed problem has been the persistence of Polygonum cuspidatum, imported from Japan originally for its ornamental effect and its ability to retain soil especially on railway bankings. Unfortunately its introduction to the ornamental garden proved one of the unmitigated disasters of modern times and while it is certainly ornamental, especially in flower, it is almost impossible to eradicate. The highly persistent root system will go down 3 to 4 feet and it seems to be resistant even to several applications of Glyphosphate.

Unfortunately however, attempts at building a Rose Border have been a total failure. I put this down principally to two reasons - the predilection roe deer have for the young shoots of many rose species and the fact that the aforementioned Polygonum, despite every effort to eradicate it, continued to grow within the rose border. Roses, however have proved to be very susceptible to the Glyphosphate

and consequently have suffered. At the present time I am giving consideration to the future of this particular border and any suggestions would be welcomed.

A Shade Border has also been constructed as a demonstration area for those plants which will grow in very shady conditions. In the last year a Heather Garden has been laid out with many cultivars of Calluna and Erica interplanted with various conifers, the idea being to provide colour and interest throughout the year. Many of the original trees and larger rhododendron species still form an interesting structure to the garden. The Yew Walk (Taxus baccata fastigiata - the Irish Yew) remains as shown in the Sale Catalogue, and no major changes are contemplated here. The Campbell Orde graveyard was cleared and provides interest for visitors.

There have been a number of disappointments and worries: In the last year we appear to have had some determined thieves who managed to remove at least two large rhododendrons in full flower, one being about 2 feet across and 18 inches high; obviously very attractive and no doubt now in some garden in Mid Argyll.

Since the M.S.C Scheme does not support provision of staff for garden maintenance a great deal of hard work may be wasted as there is yet no definite sign that a permanent full-time staff will be available.

The gardens are open to the public seven days a week throughout the year, and a Guidebook is available at 25p.

## ALPINE PLANTS AND FERNS AT KILMORY CASTLE.

Being lately on a tour through the western part of Argyllshire, and having often heard of the rich collection of Alpine plants and Ferns cultivated by Sir John and Lady Ord, at Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, I called, and was politely received by the gardener, Mr Archd. Brown—a very intelligent man, and an enthusiastic cultivator of such plants. My time being limited, I could only take a hurried glance through the grounds, which are very tastefully laid out, without any of those pretensions of introducing high art where Nature reigns in all her natural simplicity. The place is well wooded—the surface undulated and grotesquely broken by deep gullies, through which some of those little mountain streams so peculiar to this part of the Highlands, come tumbling and tossing over the rocky bottom, forming little pools and cascades, while the banks are richly

clothed with luxuriant Mosses, native Ferns, and other indigenous plants, luxuriating under the shade of the drooping Birch and other native trees. These rivulets, much to the credit and taste of the proprietor, are left quite in their natural state—to have done otherwise would have been a species of Vandalism. In the open glades, and in spaces cut, as it were, by stealth out of the jungle of low growing trees and bushes, are found little mounds of broken rock, chiefly micaceous, between the fissures of which, to the stranger's astonishment, are found growing, in great profusion and variety, Ferns, indigenous and exotic, Alpine plants, covering square feet and yards, and of sorts which we in general find in gardens confined to a six-inch pot, and carefully protected in a pit or frame. I will not attempt to enumerate them here, as I hope Mr Brown will ere long furnish a list of them himself for the pages of the *Scottish Gardener*, to which he informed me he was a subscriber.

It would be an ungracious omission, however, were I not to state that the collection of hardy Ferns and Alpines is, with the exception of the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh and that at Dalkeith Park, the richest I have seen in Britain. Through the woods many such natural mounds as we have noticed above are planted, and, as it were, fraternising with the indigenous herbage, the rarest of Alpines and Ferns assuming quite a natural character: space for their extension being, from time to time, made by the partial pulling up of the indigenous herbage, but so nicely done that no appearance of its removal is manifest. In other places are found, in the hollows, little pools of water richly furnished with aquatic plants; and in spots sufficiently damp are found most of our curious and rare bog plants. Along the sides of a broad gravel walk leading to a considerable extent of lawn, I observed several Acacias and other New Holland plants of considerable size, growing in boxes, and kept there during winter, with the mere protection of a few fronds of Fern or Spruce branches placed over their tops during the frosts of winter. The ground may be from 80 to 100 feet above the level of the sea, and within a quarter of a mile of it. On the lawns I observed several of the new Coniferae, and many rare and generally considered half-hardy trees, shrubs, and plants, growing in the greatest luxuriance. By the edges of one of the clumps of shrubs, I observed that rare and generally considered greenhouse plant, *Houstonia oerulea*, escaping from the border into which it had been originally planted, and establishing itself on the grassy lawn. Notwithstanding the great taste displayed by Lady Ord for Alpine plants, we did not observe one grown in a pot, nor on what is generally called a rock-work, artificially formed, except in one instance towards the back of the Castle, apparently recently formed, and, I should think, more with the view of forming a screen to hide some object, than for the absolute cultivation of the very interesting plants set upon it. Any attempt, farther than affording a screen, as this is presumed to be, in a place abounding with natural rocks, may be questionable. Killmory is a truly interesting place to the botanist. My visit to it will not be readily forgotten.

C. M.

# A LATIN WORD-SQUARE

Mrs A.O.M.Clark

S A T O R     The Latin word-square printed in Kist 34 trans-  
 A R E P O     lates as 'Arepo the sower carefully holds the  
 T E N E T     wheels' which is a sentence exhibiting good  
 O P E R A     grammar but not particularly good sense; more-  
 R O T A S     over the name 'Arepo' does not seem to occur  
                  elsewhere. This aroused the suspicions of  
 scholars, who eventually demonstrated that the letters of  
 this apparently harmless and ingenious word-square could  
 be arranged about the central N in quite a different man-  
 ner, thus -

	A		They can form an equal-armed
	—		cross made of the opening
	P		words of the Lord's Prayer
	A		in Latin; this arrangement
	T		leaves four extra letters,
	E		AAOO, which are set at the
	R		four points of the cross.
A	P A T E R N O S T E R	O	A and O are the Latin equi-
	O		valents of alpha and omega,
	S		the first and last letters
	T		of the Greek alphabet. In
	E		the Revelation of St John the
	R		Divine, ch.1, v.8, occurs
	—		'I am Alpha and Omega, the
	O		beginning and the end, the
			first and the last.' It

has become generally accepted that the word-square is a Christian cryptogram used as a sign, like the chi-rho and the fish, at a time when Christians were liable to be persecuted - that is before the Edict of Constantine in 313A.D. made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

The word-square is found twice in the ruins of Pompeii, destroyed in 79A.D. by the eruption of Vesuvius of which Pliny the Younger has left such a vivid eye-witness account. It was therefore current before 79A.D. It also occurs in Christian contexts at Dura Europos, a city on the Euphrates which was sacked by the Persians in 256A.D. As far as Britain is concerned, an example exists scratched on the wall-plaster of a house in Roman Cirencester. The house has not been preserved - it was discovered in the last

century - but the relevant piece of wall-plaster can be seen in the museum at Cirencester. The plaster has been tentatively dated, from its quality, to the second or third century A.D. In 1978, when the civilian settlement outside the Roman fort at Manchester was excavated, a piece of broken amphora was recovered, from a second-century rubbish pit, on which the first three lines of the word-square were incised - all that is necessary if one knows what the square indicates.

The practical need for secret symbols which would indicate where Christian support could be assured ended after 313 A.D., but the symbols remained in use, especially in France, into mediaeval times. It may be of interest to explain the origin of two of them which are very familiar to us on many of our carved stones - the chi-rho and the fish. Chi and rho are the first two letters of 'Christ' in Greek, and are written XP; these became a monogram ✝, which appears in many forms. The fish originates in a different code; the initial letters of the Greek words ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΘΕΟΥ ΥΙΟΥ ΕΩΤΗΡ are ΙΧΘΥΣ, which is the Greek for fish. The words mean 'Jesus Christ, son of God, saviour'.

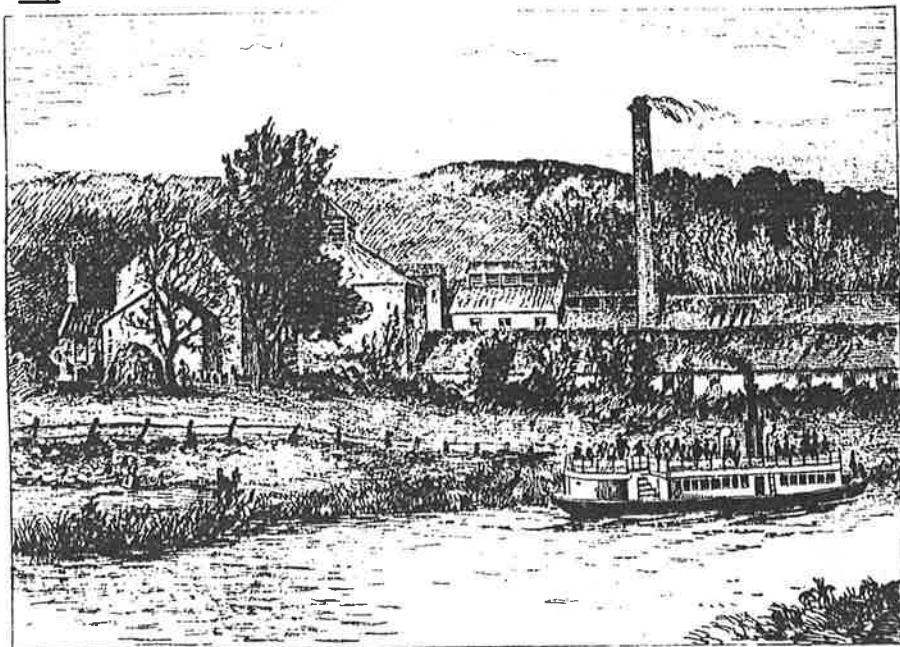
It is only fair to state that acceptance of the word-square as a Christian symbol is not universal. Peter Salway in The Oxford History of England, 1A Roman Britain, p.718 dismisses it as "highly unlikely" and gives a reference to Francis Clark The Rise of Christianity in Open University A29; Units 13-16 (1974) 21f. These are the only dissentient voices of which I know, and I have not seen the O.U. publication (but hope to do so).

If a word-square is just a piece of Latin ingenuity of the first century, the coincidence of the possible rearrangement of the letters in a Christian context is rather remarkable, but it is possible to see some difficulties. Michael Grant, in Cities of Vesuvius, says it is "not necessarily Christian".

.....  
Editorial Note: The response to the Word Square note in Kist 34, particularly from Mrs Margaret Smith of Fife and Minard, has clearly shown that the Editorial finger was dabbling in a pool of fearsome depth. So a swift withdrawal has taken place - after all the subject is not in our range. But we now know the origin of the Fish Symbol.

## GLENDARROCH DISTILLERY, ARDRISHAIG

(The Editor is indebted to Sir Ilay Campbell Bt for the text from which the following extracts originate. It appeared in The Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom - no date. but obviously late 19th century)



We left Greenock on the morning of the 26th of July by the "Columba", one of Mr David MacBrayne's swift passenger steamers....The boats on this route are fitted up with every imaginable convenience and contrivance for the comfort of passengers. On board there is a post office with telegraph and money order departments; a daintily stocked fruit shop, bookstall and a magnificent dining saloon. In addition to the "Columba" there is the "Iona" and "Grenadier". (Here follows an ecstatic description of the scenery along the route.)

We reached Ardrishaig at one p.m. and after securing quarters at the hotel, made our way to Glendarroch, distant about half a mile. The Distillery is planted on the banks of the far-famed Crinan Canal and is quite an object

of curiosity to the thousands of tourists....on board the celebrated little canal steamer "Linnet"....It is built at the foot of the Robber's Glen....once the haunt of smugglers....From the back walls of the Distillery the ground rises in the form of a steep thickly-wooded hill. (Here follows a fulsome description of the Glen - ferns bluebells hawthorn, lilac, all at the end of July and a "vast stretch of the waters of the Loch"....)

We....were courteously received by Mr Hunter, the manager, who conducted us over the works. He informed us that the barley is brought to the Distillery by canal.... Water from Achnagbreach Hill....is used for distilling purposes and that from the loch and Darroch burn for driving power....the Granary and Maltings....are on the left of the quadrangle. They consist of a lofty two-storied building measuring 131 feet by 48 feet (with) a fine concrete Steep capable of wetting 66 quarters of barley at one time....the larger portion (of the upper floor) is for storing the barley. At the end of this building there is a new Kiln....51 feet square, floored with wire cloth and heated with peats only, dug from the neighbouring moors. The malt is delivered by a steam hoist to the Kiln floor....the dried malt is thrown through a hoist direct to the floor of the Malt Deposit (in the adjoining building) and the lower storey is used for No.3 Bonded Warehouse. Next through a doorway direct on to the top floor of the Mill Building, which forms the Grist Loft, 50 feet by 30 feet. Underneath is the Mill which contains a pair of metal rollers driven by steam; here also is the engine department. The pulverised malt is lifted by elevators to the Grist hopper above. (In) the next building....there are two timber heating tanks, each holding 5,000 gallons....Descending to the ground floor we come to the Mash Tun, a vessel 17 feet in diameter and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep; enclosed within it there is a treble acting stirring gear driven by the water wheel....under the floor is the metal Underback,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet in diameter and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  deep ....and underneath this vessel is the box of the Wort Pump, the only one in the premises, all else, besides pumping the worts, being done by gravitation.

All the old-fashioned coolers have long since been done away with, and the worts are now pumped up to a Miller's Refrigerator, fixed in the roof of the neighbouring build-

ings and copper pipes run the worts direct from thence into the Fermenting Tuns. The switches....are driven by a second water-wheel to keep the liquor in motion during the process of fermentation. The Still House....is 65 feet long, 40 feet broad and 60 feet high; its walls are painted white and it is lighted by eleven large windows. At the eastern end....is the Wash Charger....to which the wash runs by gravitation. On the floor....are three "small Pot Stills", a Wash Still holding 4,726 gallons and two Low-wines Stills....the Worm Tub....is raised on piers and fed by a continuous stream of cold water from the reservoirs....We now ascended...to a large gallery overlooking the canal....here there are placed two Feints Receivers ....and two Spirit Receivers. Besides the Safe and Sampling Safe, we noticed a portable fire engine and other appliances. Following the course of the Whisky, we proceeded to the Spirit Store....which contains a Spirit Vat and an Ullage Vat, the weighing apparatus and an office for the Excise clerks. There are four large Warehouses ....and others at Waterloo Street, Glasgow. We next visited the Engine Department; it contains a very handsome 25-horse power engine and a steam boiler.

The Whisky made in the Glendarroch Distillery is pure Highland Malt, and the annual output is 80,000 gallons.

Glengilp House, the residence of a former proprietor of the Distillery, is now occupied by the manager and the large old-fashioned garden, crowded with fruit trees and flowers, which stretches down to the canal banks, has been divided between that gentleman and the two Excise officers, Mr Gillies having provided these latter with picturesque houses opening into same. In the park there are also eight houses for the workmen, each with a small plot of ground. The delightful meadows which skirt Glengilp House are in the occupation of Mr Gillies, and produce unusually heavy crops of hay of fine quality. The house of Glendarroch, which has lately been acquired by Mr Gillies, and used by him as a summer residence, is on the other side of the waterfall. It stands in lovely grounds and is almost hidden by trees.

...ooo0ooo...



STRAY ITEMS from the KILBERRY CASTLE ARCHIVES

---

Marion Campbell

We are often told that 'in the old days Highland communities were self-sufficient', but it may surprise readers to know that little over a century ago there was not only a shoemaker but also a tailor at Kilberry. In 1862 the laird's widow was preparing to go abroad with her younger children, while her eldest son John (the 'Old Kilberry' of the Diaries) joined the 93rd Highlanders in India. The three accounts below must have been rendered for the final tidying-up before the family dispersed.

Gretshengan May 5th 1862

Mrs Campbell of Kilberry

To Malcolm Martin Tailor

For Mr John a pare of trawsters

For Mr William two pare of trawsters and a coat

For Mr Archd. Seven Jackets Seven vests two kilts

For Smith a Jacket and a pare of trawsters

Whole amount £2.17s. 6d.

Paid to Account for Malcolm Martin £2. R.C.

( R.C. was Mrs Campbell. John was aged 18, William 14 and Archd. 6. Ed.)

Carse. May 28th 1862

To Mrs Campbell of Kilberry

For making 6 Shirts at 1/- each 6s.

Margt Walker

John Walker.

Editorial intervention. The third account, from the shoemaker, is too long to reproduce line by line, so it is given here collectively under the name of each member of the family who had dealings with the shoemaker during the period it covers - Oct.2nd 1861 to May 5th 1862. Between these dates there are 49 entries, the longest interval being 17 days, so Colin McIsaac (known locally as 'Bachals' - Gaelic bachall, an old shoe) was much relied upon for keeping the family properly shod. It will be

of interest to give details regarding some of the entries in the account. Miss Campbell thinks that the 'Mr James' who appears once as buying a pair of boots, must have been an adult kinsman. It is to be remembered that all the boots and shoes supplied were hand-made. The 'Highland shoes' were perhaps for dancing; the late laird had been a notable Highland dancer and had taught all his children. 'James Smith' was presumably a manservant. 'Mr Campbell' was probably William, a brother of the late laird - the others were abroad. 'Bronze Bezel' perhaps an ornament for the front of a slipper. 'Miss Campbell' would be Rosa, the eldest daughter. (Oddly Anne, the next elder, then aged 17 is not mentioned - she may have been away.)

Mrs Campbell of Kilberry

To Colin McIsaac

Mrs Campbell

sorting boots 1/6; to Cordovan leather 4d; red leather 1/6; to Bronze Bezel 1/6; to thread 1/-

Miss Campbell

(Rosa, then aged 20)  
repairing boots 1/6

Mr John

(aged 18)  
repairing, mending and sorting shoes 6d; 1/-; 1/-;  
1/6; 1/6; 1/6; 5/-

Miss Mary

(aged 15)  
to 1 pair boots 14/6; to boots 9/6; sorting boots 1/6

Mr William

(aged 14)  
Highland shoes 15/-; a pair of shoes 11/6; to mending shoes 3/-; 3/6

Miss Emily

(aged 12)  
A pair of boots 9/6; mending and sorting boots 6d; 1/-;  
to red leather 6d.

Miss Edith  
(aged 10)

A pair of boots 9/6; soling boots 2/-; 2/-; sorting  
boots 1/-; sorting shoes 6d.

Miss Alma  
(aged 8)

A pair of boots 7/6; a pair of shoes 6/-; sorting  
boots 1/-; sorting shoes 6d.

Mr Archd.  
(aged 6)

boots 6/6; 7/6; 2 pairs Highland shoes 2/- each pair  
mending boots 2/6; mending repairing and sorting  
shoes 6d; 1/-; 1/-; 1/6; repairing Highland shoes 1/6

Mr James

to a pair of boots 18/-

Mr Campbell

a pair of boots 13/6

James Smith

a pair of shoes 9/6; mending shoes 3/-; 3/6

Un-named

2 pair of Boots sorted 1/6

Total £11.2.10

(The account is receipted with Colin McIsaac's signature)

.....

A Packet of Three Letters labelled 'Infanticide 1853'

Editorial Note: These letters were elicited by Kilberry's intervention to save a local woman from the gallows. (He was the Diarist's father). They throw light on social conditions at that period, when transportation to a penal colony was still a judicial weapon. Banishment to Australia was a fate which many of the victims thought worse than hanging, and indeed there are documented instances of convicts murdering a fellow-sufferer in order to ensure the relief of the gallows.

One of the most powerful single factors in bringing the conditions of convict life to public notice was Marcus Clarke's For the Term of His Natural Life, based solidly

on official reports (including cannibalism). Public reaction was such that the book was banned, but an Australian edition of 1892 enabled its message to remain clamant. The present Editor of Kist has his father's copy of this excessively rare volume. It need hardly be said that a television series in 1987, ostensibly based on this book, was indeed very much an adaptation and by no means a visual reproduction.

Miss Campbell perceptively remarks that the letters, being holograph, indicate that even Officers of State attended to their own correspondence in 1853.

The Duke of Argyll to John Campbell of Kilberry  
London, Jan. 14th /53

My dear Kilberry -

The moment I recd. yr. letter last night I sent off the Petition with a letter to Ld. Palmerston - as a Petition to the Queen can only be sent thro' the Home Sec. -

I have today recd. a note from Ld. Palmerston saying that he had already decided on commuting the sentence on official recommendation to that effect.

I fear, however, that it was a very bad case of Infanticide in the child being six weeks old.

She is to be transported for life, I believe.

I suppose you are having little or no Cockshooting this Winter - no frost, and if as with us - deluges of rain.

In haste

Yours very scly

Argyll

The Earl of Breadalbane to the same:

Brighton. Jany. 18th 1853

Dear Kilberry

I have attended to your letter regarding the unfortunate woman \* \*, But as the Queen is entirely advised by the Home Secretary in the exercise of Her Prerogative of Mercy it was to him I applied, and as you will perceive by the enclosed note successfully, at least as far as the capital sentence applied.

In haste Very truly yours  
Breadalbane.

Lord Palmerston to the Earl of Breadalbane

C.G. 17 Jan'y 1853

My dear Lord Breadalbane

I felt myself Justified on a full Consideration of the Case in commuting the Capital Sentence passed on \* \*, into Transportation for Life, though the Case was a very bad one, and the Murder of her Child of six weeks old by drowning was without Excuse and I fear premeditated.

Yrs Sincerely  
Palmerston.

\*\*\*\*\*

### BOOK REVIEWS

EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC LANDSCAPE: Ian & Kathleen Whyte; drawings by Molly Hutchings.

John Donald, 1987. Paperback, £9.95

This is a Guidebook with a difference. Eighteen Trails from Galloway to Orkney explore and explain the partnership of man and country. The routes vary from 12 to 52km by car, with optional short walks. Map and road numbers, distances and grid references are given, and each section has an excellent sketchmap. Iona and Lewis are the west-coast areas, and Iona, like Glasgow, Edinburgh, and St. Andrews, is explored on foot. Each section addresses one major topic (mining at Wanlockhead, land-reclamation in the Forth valley) with cross-references to other sections for different aspects of the past. One may quibble over a visit to Athelstaneford that omits any reference to the battlefield, or over the description of David I as 'Anglo-philie', but detailed history is not the object of the book. The reviewer can sympathise with some slightly 'old-fashioned' archaeology, given the feverish rate of change in theories. Overall this is a splendid book, ideal for winter reading and summer carrying. The Whytes deserve our thanks and our admiration. M.C.

DISCOVERING LEWIS & HARRIS. James Shaw Grant

John Donald. 1987. Paperback. £7.50

This reviewer, taking the title literally, began by expecting a guide book aimed at a reader seeking guidance as to where to see what, but it soon became apparent that

the 'Discovering' was part of a series-title. Having made the necessary mental adjustment it was possible to concentrate on what proved to be a detailed and authoritative history of the social evolution undergone by the indigenous population battling under the odds of climatic problems and the unremitting exploitation of landlords, so that when the final pages were reached one was aware, perhaps for the first time, of an understanding of the factors which have played such an important part in the formation of the Islesmen's character. The author is a widely-recognised authority on his subject and there is in consequence a welcome bonus of finding Gaelic placenames in their correct form. Two items on the debit side suggest themselves for notice - it is difficult to detect any plan governing the choice of illustrations, many of them being irrelevant; and the sketch-map is inadequate.

F.S.M.

COUNTRY LIFE IN SCOTLAND: OUR RURAL PAST. Alexander Fenton  
John Donald. 1987. Paperback. £7.50

This can be unreservedly commended. The lively text and abundant illustrations cover three hundred years of survival, change and development. If you have farmed all your days, you will find here new insights into the whys and wherefores of your work or your grandfather's ways. If you have never heard the ring of horseshoes on frosty cobbles or the hiss of warm milk hitting the pail, then here is your key to another world. There is no whimsical embellishment but a lot of sound sense, plenty of humour and an immense amount of research most faithfully deployed. What makes the book stand out is not so much that the author is the head of the Queen St. wing of the Royal Scottish Museum and the man who for years has set up their display at the Highland Show; it is that when it comes to farming ways, Sandy kens. M.C.

KINTYRE COUNTRY LIFE. Angus Martin.  
John Donald. 1987. Paperback. £12.

This reviewer has seldom reached the end of a book with greater regret. The prodigious amount of meticulous research and careful recording could well have resulted in an indigestible production, to be assimilated only by those of professional outlook; in fact it has given us a wholly

human and intensely absorbing account of every factor which has affected the lives of Kintyre folk, past and present. For those unsure of the location, a glance at any map of Scotland will suffice to show the extent to which Kintyre is isolated from the rest of the country. This induced a degree of self-reliance and freedom from outside influence which had a marked effect on the ways of the people. The eleven chapters range from agricultural activities to 'Festivities, Customs and Sports'; indeed every aspect of the lives of the people has been exhaustively dealt with, and in a way which is never pedantic or boring. One detail which will be appreciated by those who are unfamiliar with and possibly alarmed by, Gaelic words, is the provision of a faithful translation of each as it occurs. In a word, we have a work of outstanding interest and importance which it is difficult to foresee being superseded at any time in the future. Where everything, including the production, is so praiseworthy, it may not seem unreasonable to point out that text references to all the fifty illustrations except the last, are rendered ineffective by the absence of plate numbers. F.S.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### ANOTHER LONG-FINNED TUNNY

A Long-finned Tunny reported in Kist 20 (Autumn 1980) as having been found at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert was the fourth of its kind to have been identified on the Scottish West Coast in 40 years and the ninth for the United Kingdom. An additional specimen was found at Ard-rishaig early in August 1987 and illustrated without identification in the local press, an omission which your Editor promptly rectified. This latest example was of approximately the same age and size as the preceding one, but unlike it, was not retained for preservation.

#### THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

The Library is now located in the Community Centre, Lochgilphead, where we hold our Winter Meetings. Books can be borrowed on these occasions or by arrangement with the Hon. Librarian, Miss Fiona Campbell, 5 McLullich Buildings Lorne Street, Lochgilphead (Tel. 3631 after 5 p.m.).

A Book List is available, price 20p (by post 38p)