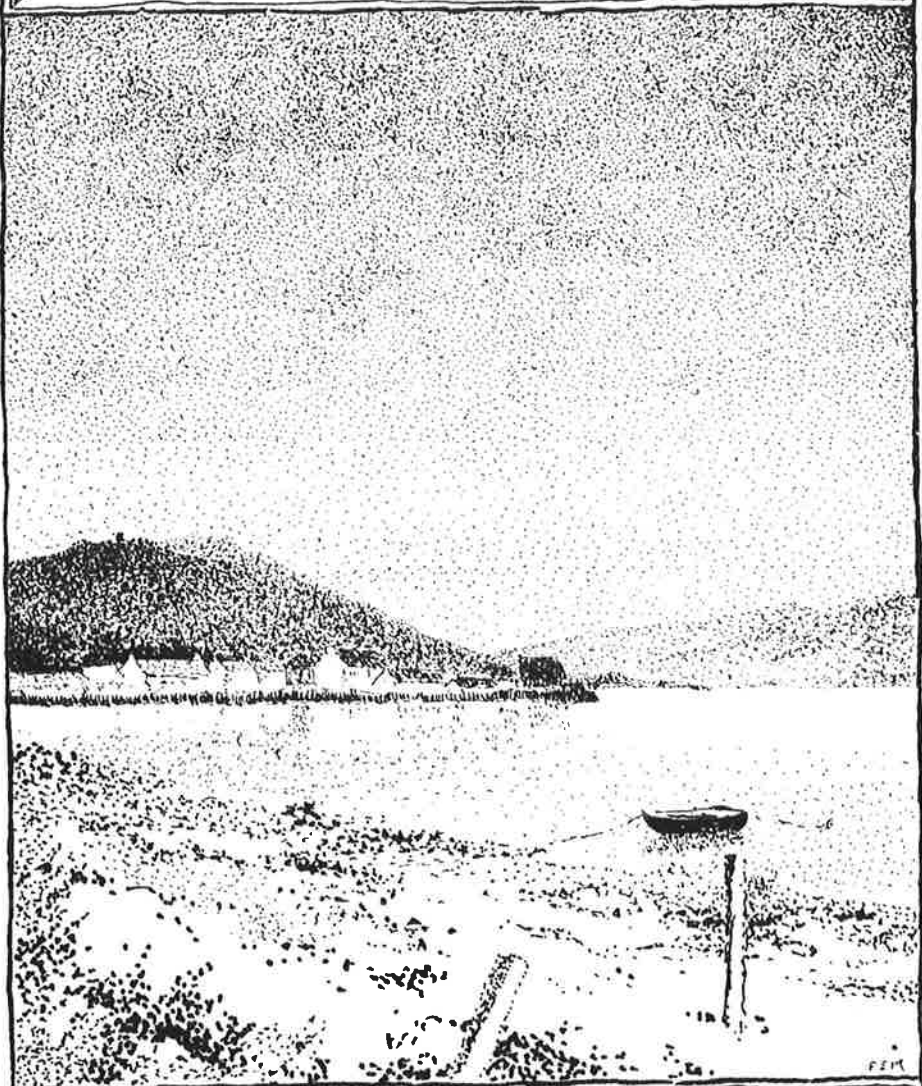


Inveraray



The

KIST

45

T H E K I S T

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THE NOTABLE DESCENDANTS of JOHN MUNRO.

Duncan Beaton.

There was a John Monroe born on the 14th November 1774 at "Salachruidh" in the Parish of Glenaray. His parents were Malcolm Monroe and Lily Bell. Not very notable or remarkable so far: both Munro (the usual spelling favoured by the Inveraray families although clerks have also recorded Monro and Munroe at times) and Bell were common surnames in the district. The origins of the Munros on Lochfyneside have been dealt with at length in previous articles. The Bells mysteriously appear about 1764 in the Parish Registers of the combined parishes of Inveraray and Glenaray, but this was only because they had previously been recorded as McIlvoile or McIlvoyle. This name is from the Gaelic MacGille-mhaoil - "son of the bald man's gillie", usually thought to refer to the servant of a tonsured monk. The name Macmillan has the same root, and indeed the Bells in Glenaray were descendants of Macmillans from Loch Arkaig in Lochaber who had sought protection from the House of Argyll after a clan dispute. The Munros were mainly based on the farms of Tullich in Glenaray and Stuckagoy in Glenshira, and the Bells tenanted Sallachray in Glenaray as well as sharing Tullich with the Munros. It was only natural therefore that the two families should intermarry frequently.

Returning to John Munro; when he was three years old his family moved to Auchindrain, then a small crofting community and now a world-famous museum of farming in past times. They were one of five families of the name Munro living in Auchindrain at the time of the 5th Duke's census of 1779. It is as well to state here that our John Munro had an unremarkable life. He worked as a shepherd and land griever on the Argyll Estates. However he married twice and had a total of fifteen children, and it is with his descendants that the notability lies. His first wife bore the same name as his mother, Lily, or Liliass, Bell. She was almost certainly a daughter of Allan Bell and Sarah Munro in Sallachry, but her baptism has not been found. They married in 1803 and had six children: Mary born in Auchindrain in 1804, and Allan also born there, in 1806; Sarah born in Stuckscardan in Glenshira in 1808, and Liliass also born there, in 1811; Malcolm born in Ladyfield in 1813, and

Donald also born there, about 1815. It is believed that Mrs Lily Munro died giving birth to Donald, or soon after, as this child's baptism was apparently not recorded and she disappeared from record at about this time. How John looked after his young family is not known but he continued to live at Ladyfield. He married Anne McArthur (1792-1879), a redoubtable woman from Lochaweside, on the 2nd April 1818. They were to have a further nine children, all born at Ladyfield: Neil in 1819; Duncan in 1820; Jean in 1821; John in 1823; Elizabeth and another Jean in 1825; Peter in 1826; Anne in 1829; and Dugald in 1832. John Munro died sometime between the baptism of his son Dugald in 1832 and the census of 1841. His widow was to remain at Ladyfield, and we shall encounter her again later.

Although at least seven of the children are known to have reached adulthood we shall concern ourselves here with only three: Allan, Donald and Ann. The eldest son Allan was a ploughman at Dalhenna in 1851, married to Janet Smith from the island of Gigha, but by that time they had been living in Greenock and Glasgow. By 1853 the family was back in Glasgow, and in 1861 they were living at 35 Renfrew Street in the city. Allan was then a Venetian blind warehousman, an occupation he still had in 1871 when he was living with his family at 7 Granville Street, near Charing Cross. The significance of this occupation becomes apparent when his brother Donald is found in the P.O. Directories as a partner in "Anderson & Munro", Venetian blind makers, 128 Bothwell Street. In the 1861 census he was living with his family at 34 Claremont Street. It is obvious that his older brother had come to the city to work for "Anderson and Munro".

The third member of John Munro's family to feature in this article, Ann, does not seem to have ventured to Glasgow, and in the 1861 census was a laundrymaid at the manse in Inveraray. Two years later, on the 3rd June 1863, she gave birth to twins while lodging at Crombie's Land in the burgh. The baby girl died, but the son survived and was named Neil.

"Anderson & Munro", which provided the two Munro brothers with a living, was a firm listed as Venetian Blind Makers in the P.O. Directories up to 1871. By 1881 they were also Telephone Engineers, and later Electrical Engineers. They were to become pioneers of the new skills in the next two

generations, operating right up to the post Second World War period, with premises in Perth, Dumfries and Troon as well as in Glasgow.

Donald Munro, partner in the firm, was listed as employing twelve men and three boys in 1861. At that time he had a seven year old son called John McIntosh McKay Munro, whose mother Jessie Kent had apparently died not long after his birth. Donald had remarried in Tradeston on the 16th March 1858, and his new wife was Margaret Munro, daughter of John Munro, tailor, and Agnes McPherson. This family does not seem to have been connected with the Inveraray branch of the clan. By 1881 Donald Munro was again a widower, now living at 50 Great Western Road with his unmarried sister Lily and his married son John. John had married Margaret Dunlop Smeaton from this address in 1876. About this time he first appeared alongside his father in the P.O. Directory.

Allan Munro and his wife Janet Smith had eight children, and since his featured siblings had only one each it is as well to list them here: John, born about 1837; Agnes, born about 1839 in Greenock; Robert in 1841 in Glasgow; James in 1843 in Dalhenna; Allan in 1845 in Dalhenna; Donald in 1847 in Dalhenna; Duncan in 1850 in Dalhenna; and Lil(1)ias born about 1853 in Glasgow. John married Elizabeth Hamilton, daughter of the deceased merchant David Hamilton and his wife Anne Bailey on the 14th March 1865 in Anderston, Glasgow. Their daughter Elizabeth Hamilton Munro (1868-1955) moved back to Inveraray and married Donald McArthur (1856-1934). They have descendants about Inveraray today. Agnes was a domestic servant in 1861, Robert was a commercial clerk in the iron trade, James an apprentice grocer, Allan junior a commercial clerk in the leather trade, Donald was a teacher in 1871, and Duncan was an engine fitter in 1871.

Neil, the son of Ann and cousin of the above, was brought up in Inveraray until his mother married Malcolm Thomson, governor of the Inveraray Jail. He spent time with his grandmother at Ladyfield, remembered in his novel Gilian the Dreamer. After leaving school at the age of twelve he entered the office of William Douglas the Sheriff-clerk of Argyll. An omnivorous reader, he stuck at this job until 1881, when he left Inveraray and embarked on a career of journalism. This career was to reach a peak with the job of editor-in-chief of the Glasgow Evening News in 1918, but it is of course for his writing that Neil Munro is remembered

today. Starting with The Lost Pibroch, a collection of stories published in 1896, there followed a variety of fictions, poetry and histories. His tales of a puffer captain, a commercial traveller and a Glasgow waiter in the News were published in book form after his death in 1930, and now Para Handy, Jimmy Swan and Erchie are his most famous creations.

John McIntosh McKay Munro, born in Glasgow in 1853, was educated at Glasgow Academy and the Andersonian College (now Strathclyde University). He may have been a pupil of Sir William Thomson, later Lord Kelvin, and was mentioned in connection with him on several occasions. He became interested in telegraphy, and was to revolutionise the little firm founded by his father, an Inveraray wheelwright, in 1840. One of the earliest entries in the P.O. Directories gives "Anderson & Munro", Venetian wire gauze, sash Venetian and spring-roller window blind manufacturers, 128 Bothwell Street: works, Douglas Street. Under John M.M. Munro they became early manufacturers of telephones and pioneers of electrical science. Between 1882 and 1892 John patented many inventions, one being a fire alarm system in use in Glasgow and other towns at the turn of the century. One claim, that the firm installed the first domestic electric lighting system in the world, was hotly disputed in a long correspondence carried out in the columns of his cousin Neil's Glasgow Evening News in May 1906. It was finally accepted that "Anderson & Munro" had indeed fitted the first electrically-lit dwelling house in the world (the town residence of Sir William Thomson), the first electric street lighting in Glasgow (outside the Glasgow Herald office in Buchanan Street), and the first country mansion in Scotland to have electric lighting throughout as sole and normal illuminant (Murdostoun, the residence of R.K. Stewart Esq.).

In 1894 John M.M. Munro became an FRSE; he was also an Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and in 1905 was a founder member of the Scottish Section of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. That same year he was also chairman of the new Scottish Section, and was succeeded the following year by Lord Kelvin. By 1885 John had moved to Covepoint House, Gourrock, where his second son Ion Smeaton Munro was born. His elder son Donald Smeaton Munro had been born at the Glasgow address, and there was also a daughter Elsie, later Mrs Bilsland. It was at Covepoint

that his father Donald died on the 5th October 1885.

We return to the family of Allan Munro, the Venetian blind warehouseman, and his son Robert who was baptised in Glasgow on the 1st August 1841. Robert was listed as a commercial clerk in the iron trade in the 1861 census but soon turned to paint to make his fortune. By the time of the 1871 census Robert was living at 22 St. Vincent Crescent and was working at Alexander Fergusson & Co., Paint, Lead Manufacturers (a company still operating at 59 Ruchill Street, Glasgow, G20). This company was run by Alexander A. Fergusson, who lived at 11 Grosvenor Terrace, Great Western Road and "The Lodge", Douglas Pier, Loch Goil. Any theory that Robert started working for Fergusson because of his Argyll connection was quickly dispelled; Fergusson was of an old Glasgow mercantile family. His father of the same name was a merchant in 1823 and his grandfather William Croom was a Merchant Warehouseman at 22 Trongate (living at 58 Charlotte Street) that same year. Robert Munro was listed as the manager of lead and paint manufacturing in 1871. He had married Agnes McInnes, from Kilbrandon in Argyll, at Anderston on the 22nd July 1869. By 1881 he was at 54 St. Vincent Crescent, but a closer inspection of the building today shows that he had not moved; an extra block had been built and the houses re-numbered. In 1891-2 Robert and his family were living at "Penlee" in the residential suburb of Bearsden, to the north of Glasgow. The P.O. Directory for 1892 contains his last entry. In all this Glasgow Directory includes three grandsons of our Inveraray shepherd John Munro who had made good in the city: cousins Robert, Neil and John M.M. Munro.

However, being manager of a paint firm was not the way to fame and fortune, and the next note of Robert and family is in Montreal, Canada, with their own paint business. With his sons he founded the Canada Paint Company, which was later sold to the Sherwin Williams Paint Company with Robert becoming Managing Director. His son Allan John Munro was listed in a trade directory of 1915 as the owner of the Color Company. In 1911 Robert was living at 40 Crescent Street North, and Allan John was on Metcalfe Street, Westmount, both in Montreal.

The family success in the paint business in Canada encouraged other members out from Scotland to work in Montreal. One such person was Nicol Munro from Inveraray, whose late father had been a second cousin of Robert Munro. Another

was Duncan, the youngest brother of Robert. An engine fitter in 1871, he had continued in this trade, and it was at his house at 27 Nelson Street, Greenock, that the father Allan Munro had died in 1890. Not long afterwards he took his family to Canada. There were, almost inevitably, disputes, with Nicol leaving to start a long career with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Duncan going back to engineering with Dominion Bridge. Robert Munro died on the 22nd May 1915, and Allan John Munro on the 15th November 1926. Robert had other children, and there are descendants of them, as well as of Nicol and of Duncan, in Quebec Province today.

With the passing of Ann Munro, mother of Neil Munro and widow of Malcolm Thomson, at her son's house in Gourrock in 1906, the family of John Munro, shepherd, was no more. With John McIntosh McKay Munro the remarkable pedigree was to continue in the male line with his two gifted sons, Donald Smeaton Munro and Ion Smeaton Munro. Donald, born at 50 Great Western Road on Christmas Day 1879, was for a time manager of the "Anderson & Munro" Edinburgh branch before taking over the firm in 1912. Like his father, who passed away on the 29th December 1925, he took a leading role in the Institute of Electrical Engineers and was chairman of the Scottish Section, in 1928. He was also editor of The Scottish Electrical Engineer from its introduction in 1930. As well as inventing and patenting a variety of electrical devices and appliances and being a member of various industrial associations and societies, he had a deep love of things Scottish and Highland. He was a founder member of the Clan Munro Association when it was formed in 1937. He died suddenly on the 8th July 1950 while on a fishing holiday on Loch Awe.

His brother Ion was born at Covepoint House in 1887. He was a journalist, author and soldier. After serving with a Territorial unit during the First World War in France, Gallipoli and Egypt he embarked on his career in journalism. From the position of sub-editor at the Glasgow Herald he moved to the foreign staff at the Morning Post in 1922. He was their Rome correspondent until this newspaper merged with the Daily Telegraph in 1937, when he moved to the Daily Mail. Still in Rome he was appointed press attaché at the British Embassy in 1938 and then, on Italy's declaration of war, he was posted as head of the Italian section at the Ministry of Information. He rejoined the army in 1941 and

served on Wavell's staff in India. When the invasion of Italy was being prepared he flew to North Africa, later entering Rome with the liberating army in June 1944. He was a chief press officer during the Italian campaign, and when demobilised he became press liaison officer in the Foreign Office conference department specially concerned with UN affairs in London. In the 1946 New Year Honours List Lieutenant-Colonel Munro was awarded the OBE(Military) for "gallant and distinguished service in Italy". Ion was the author of Through Fascism to World Power (1933), Beyond the Alps (1934), Youth of Yesteryear (1939) and co-edited a record of the War service of the 17th HLI (Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Battalion). He died in London on the 2nd December 1970.

My thanks are due to Mr Charlie Munro, Rosemere, Quebec, Canada for his assistance in researching this article.

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References to several Inveraray families in past times may be found in articles by Mr Beaton in Kists 25, 28, 29 and 31. The article on the origins of the Munros on Lochfyneside to which he refers here appeared in the Clan Munro Magazine no. 18, 1988-89, pp. 39-47. Ed.

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FURTHER NOTES on the WEST LOCH FERRIES.

Duncan MacDougall.

Some of the jobs for the ferrymen crossing the loch were

- 1) Taking the minister of Kilcalmonell and Kilberry - the church was, and is, at Lèrgnahension - across the loch and back every second Sunday.
- 2) Taking old Dr Thomson, who lived in Clachan, over to see Admiral Campbell and other patients.
- 3) Delivering telegrams. These came to the post office at Clachan and were taken to the ferry at Portachòillan by the postman on his bike. The ferryman took them across the loch to Ardpatrik where they were picked up by the postman from Kilberry and duly delivered. [The Kilberry telegraph office was not opened until 8th Dec. 1897].
- 4) Taking the Irish labourers then employed on drainage

work to the pub at Lergnahension. [Was Clachan 'dry'?]

- 5) Ferrying numbers of passengers with bicycles - a very awkward cargo on a sailing boat such as the 16ft. Ardpatrik-Portachoillan ferry if a strong wind was blowing up the loch.
- 6) Frequently taking the gauger (the exciseman) over to Torinturk to an old thatched cottage where the old man made the whisky. The cottage was about fifty yards from the road, down at the side of the burn. When there was whisky for anyone going down the Kilberry road the ladder for thatching the roof was up, and when it was down there was no whisky.

There were other tasks for the ferrymen on either side of the loch to carry out. They had to take passengers and all kinds of material off the Islay steamer when required. The passenger boat from Islay to West Loch Tarbert from about 1830 was the Glencoe, a steam-driven ship, and then the paddle steamer Pioneer until about 1930. When the ferry on the Clachan side was required the steamer put up one flag; when the Ardpatrik ferry was required, it was two flags; and when both ferries were needed, it was three flags. On its way into the loch the steamer called at the Clachan side first, on its way out, at the Ardpatrik side first.

The ferries were also responsible for the farm cargo coming from Islay. This was put aboard MacBraynes' West Coast cargo boat in the Clyde, and taken round the Mull of Kintyre to Port Ellen, where it was transferred to the Islay boat to be dropped off at Portachoillan. It consisted mainly of cattle feed, artificial manure, empty rabbit-hampers from McKinney and Rafferty, and draff from the Islay distilleries for animal food. Most of these goods were for the farms north of Tayinloan; it was easier to transport them by the ferry than to cart them from Campbeltown. Taking the goods ashore was carried out in this way: the 16ft. ferryboat could carry one ton, and one ton was a handy load for two carts; the boat was taken in to the sandy bit beside the jetty till she caught the ground; the two horse-drawn carts were backed out into the water, one on either side of the boat till the water was up to the horses' bellies; as the cargo was put into the carts the boat floated into shallower water and the carts followed. If the horses were not used to the shore they got a bit restless, and the cart

wheels would sink in the sand. It was as much as the horses could do to drag the half-ton load up the brae to the road.

The ferry from Portachoilan was run by Malcolm MacPhail from about 1800, then by his son John MacPhail from 1830 to 1860, then by his sons Neil and John till 1915 - three generations of MacPhails. Duncan MacDougall and his family ran the ferry from 1915 to 1922. Mrs MacDougall, the sister of Neil and John MacPhail, knew all about the working of the ferry.

At the Ardpatrik side, one ferryman before 1840 was Alan MacLean; after him there were two old bachelors Alastair and Archie MacAllister, till about 1920. They did a bit of lobster-fishing. After 1920 Duncan Henderson took over the ferry and the lobster-fishing till about 1930. From then Duncan Thomson's father, himself and the rest of his family did the ferrying and the lobsters.

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PORTINNISHERRICH FERRY, LOCH AWE.

Mary McGrigor.

The ferry which used to run across Loch Awe from Portinnisherrich on the south shore to New York on the north, a distance of 870 yards, is of great historical importance. A glance at the map shows how Loch Fyne, with its network of ferries, was linked to Loch Awe by the drove road which crosses the Lecken Muir from Auchindrain to Durran. Once across Loch Awe by the Portinnisherrich ferry the route to the north and west then continued via the 'Streng of Lorne' to its terminus on the west coast. The 'Streng of Lorne' divides on the north shore of Loch Scammadale; one branch heads NW to Kilmore, south of Oban, the other W to Kilninver. About 1 mile NE of Kilninver a natural pier of rock jutting into Loch Feochan is known as Carraig nan Marbh, Rock of the Dead; traditionally it was from here that the coffins of the early Scottish kings were shipped for burial on Iona. Dunadd was probably the capital of the Scottish kingdom of Dal Riata, founded c. 500 AD, and it is therefore conceivable that funeral cortèges went across Loch Awe and thence overland to this point of embarkation for Iona. It was certainly a main route by the 13th century when Cailean Mor, chief of Clan Campbell, was killed by the MacDougalls at the Red

Ford on the 'Streng of Lorne' in 1286.

The ferrying rights pertained to the Campbells of Loch Awe, and the first documentary evidence is found in the Innischonnell Inventory in HM Register House, Edinburgh. A charter of 8th April 1571 was given by Archibald, 5th Earl of Argyll, "in free alms for the salvation of his soul in favour of Iain Dow MacGeilbreid MacKachray for the half merkland of Portinnisherrich, to be holden in free alms for ever, conform to ancient mortification for annually upholding a ferry boat for the superior's use when required, and for upholding the same for the common services of the parishioners of Kilchrenan, they paying yearly nane to use and wont".

The bay of Portinnisherrich, on the south side of Loch Awe, is a natural harbour. The name probably derives from that of the beautiful little island of Sea-Ramhach (of the Six-oared Galley) which protects it from the westerly winds. The island's denomination in itself suggests that galleys were anchored here from very early times. Innis Sea-Ramhach was the scene of one of the legends of Ossian; more factually it was connected in mediaeval times with the castle, first built in the 13th century, on the neighbouring island of Innischonnel. The chapel, of 15th-16th century date, lies within a burial ground, which was in use until comparatively recently.

Timothy Pont's map of 1560 shows "Inischonell", with a drawing of a castle, and also "Incherry". Two buildings are shown on the adjacent loch shore, one marked as an inn, an indication that travellers found sustenance here on their journeys. Innischonnell Castle was granted by a charter of King Robert the Bruce to Colin, son of Sir Neil Campbell Bruce's strongest supporter in Argyll, in 1315. Subsequently his descendant the 1st Earl of Argyll (1453-1493), who made Inveraray his principal residence, appointed a hereditary captain of Innischonnell, which was thereafter kept mainly as a prison. By 1629 Donald MacLauchlane, then holding this post, had been granted the rights of the ferry and also those of malt and brewstery, which must have helped trade at the inn!

In December 1644 the Marquis of Montrose, in command of the Royalist army, and his lieutenant Alasdair MacColla, made a pincer-head attack on Inveraray. Montrose advanced from the north-east while Alasdair with his Irish contingent

crossed the drove road from Durran to Loch Fyne to approach the town from the south-west. The Royalists left Argyll some six weeks later, but in the following September Alasdair MacColla returned on a war of attrition against the Campbells. In the summer of 1646 when the Royalists, disbanded by Charles I, were termed rebels, he committed a terrible atrocity in Glen Euchar by setting fire to a barn at Lagganmore where local people seeking refuge were all, with the exception of two who escaped, mercilessly burnt to death. On news of this tragedy reaching Inveraray a force was immediately despatched. The soldiers crossed Loch Awe by the Portinnisherrick ferry, but on coming to the scene of the massacre found that the enemy had gone. The ferry was much used, however, as local resistance increased. In June 1647, when the army of the Covenant marched from Edinburgh to Argyll, Alasdair was defeated in Kintyre.

Following the Jacobite Rising of 1715 many forfeited estates were offered for sale by the government. The lands of the Scrymgeour Lords of Glassary (who had been proscribed in 1668) on the north shore of Loch Awe were bought by the York Buildings Company - originally a waterworks at York House in the Strand - and thus the name of New York was given to the hamlet erected by this notoriously fraudulent enterprise at the northern terminus of the ferry.

The ferry itself then prospered thanks to the influx of newcomers, and also because travellers prior to the opening of the Crinan Canal in 1801 preferred the land route to the north to the perilous voyage up the coast. Boats built large enough to carry both horses and carriages also took many of the great herds of cattle heading from the West Coast and the Isles to markets further south. By 1749 the Portinnisherrick ferry had become so valuable that Donald Campbell "tacksman of Innisharick" agreed at Inveraray to pay £60 annually for its rent. Trade continued to prosper and in 1813 the road across the Lecken Muir to Loch Fyne, described as "fit for carting but in some places too steep for wheeled carriages" was considered inadequate for the amount of traffic then heading to and from the ferry. Consequently an improved line from Loch Fyne to terminate on Loch Awe at a point closer to the ferry was surveyed. But the advent of steamers on the West Coast in the 1820's caused the great majority of travellers to forsake the overland route, and, largely for this reason, the new road

failed to materialise.

Portinnisherrich was sold by the descendants of the Mc-Lauchlans of Innischonnell to the Malcolms of Poltalloch c.1830. This family, whose fortunes were founded in Jamaica, then continued to buy land on the south side of Loch Awe until, in the 1870's, they commissioned the building of the road (now the B840) to link the whole of their estate from Ford to Portsonachan.

Portinnisherrich in the 19th century was a typical West Highland township with tradesmen among its inhabitants. The Minute Book of the Argyll Court of Lieutenancy of 1801-1805 shows that a shoemaker, a smith and two ferrymen, Donald and Duncan Turner, were there. The Poltalloch Rent Book of 1822 lists a ferryman, a blacksmith and an innkeeper; the National Census of 1841 gives three families, numbering twenty-eight people in all. In 1861 the innkeeper James MacLauchlan had a wife, five children and two servants, while Peter Sinclair the smith had a wife, three children and four lodgers. James MacLauchlan (possibly descended from the family of Innischonnell) seems to have been prosperous, for the half merkland of Portinnisherrich, recorded as £1-13-4 in the Valuation Roll of 1802 was given as £27-10-0 by the time of his death in 1868. He, or his heirs, probably built the white-washed and slated house which, with various additions, stands above the stone pier today, to replace the earlier thatched inn of the 16th century map.

The advent of regular steamer services on Loch Awe in the later part of the 19th century proved disastrous to the ferry, and on the 4th May 1870 the Clerk of the Road Trustees read a letter from Mr Martin, factor to the Malcolms of Poltalloch, requesting its immediate closure. A local protest was organised and a petition presented to the Clerk of the Road Trustees by the Rev. Neil MacKenzie, minister of Dalavaich, and other inhabitants of Lochaweside, begging that the ferry be continued. John MacIntyre of New York then offered to run it for £10 annually, and was accepted by the General Road Trustees, who contributed £5 yearly on condition that the Trustees for the District of South Argyll found the same.

John MacIntyre died in 1902, and the absence of further records proves the subsequent closure of the ferry.

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A TOUR of SOME OLD SETTLEMENTS and RUINED BUILDINGS
in the PARISHES of KILMARTIN and GLASSARY.

Allan Begg.

Perhaps the north end of Kilmartin Parish is the best place to begin. Here at Kintraw there was once a meal mill, which is now part of the farm buildings. The mill lade came from the burn beneath the present road bridge, and the track can still be seen. There is an ancient stone bridge here which, it is believed, carried the original road to Kilmartin across the burn. Along from Kintraw on the shore are the ruins of three houses, which are called Curachan. We go up the Bealach Mor, and a road into the hill on the left takes us past Dun na Ban-Oige and the ruins of Upper Kintraw beside the burn. In the 18th century Nether Kintraw, Upper Kintraw and Salachry were owned by Robert Campbell of Kintraw.

Return to the road and go back towards Kintraw farm, but take the old track towards Ormaig. This went through the hill past Loch Druim an Rathaid and down to Ormaig but the track is now in the forest. In the glen near the loch was a ruined house, possibly a shepherd's dwelling; this is also in the forest. We come to Ormaig and find the original house is now demolished, and a new modern bungalow erected on the site. I am glad I managed to obtain a photograph of it prior to its demise. In the 18th century it was owned by Archibald Campbell. (Gravestone in Kilmartin).

Uphill from Ormaig is the ruin of Strone; only the gable can now be seen from the forest. I knew a man Hugh Sinclair who lived here as a boy. Strone was owned by the Malcolms (MacCallums) of Poltalloch in the 18th century. About two miles on from here is "Old" Poltalloch. Once the road from Strone went through the "Big Wood" as it was known and to the grounds of the old mansion house. Here there is the ruin of this house and ruins of workers' cottages, and further along the remains of the great walled garden whose walls are still in good condition. Uphill from the garden is the ruined farm steading with coach-house and stables, built by George Malcolm around 1799. This date, with George Malcolm's name, is engraved on a stone above the arched entrance. Nearby is the ruin of MacVean's cottage, where my grandfather and my uncle had tea and oatcakes in 1893; my uncle was seven years old then. Alexander MacVean died in 1895, and his wife Ann

in 1894 aged 73.

Leaving here we go up to Bennan, a most beautiful place, and my favourite old ruined settlement. It is not easy to get to, and one should not go alone in case of mishap. The last tenant, as far as I know, was John Campbell, who left in 1914 and died at Duntroon in 1917. On a ridge above the glen known as Garbh Sron is the ruin of a very old dwelling with remains of another alongside. The ruins are on a flat area with a well not far away. They are not visible from below, and it was by chance my walking companions and I found them. The house, a single apartment, has very thick walls and rounded corners. We can return down to the road from Old Poltalloch and cross to the old settlement of Carnassariemore. This one is very old also: I found records of Terlach MacIver, Patrick MacKellar and Duncan MacTerlach who were charter witnesses in 1436 at Carnassariemore. There are ruins and traces of buildings all around - I counted about sixteen. Downhill is the ruined croft of Carnassariebeg; there are old records which mention Campbells here in 1748. Nearby the old meal mill stands beside the burn. In 1817 the miller was Peter Smith, who is buried in Kilmartin. Further up the bank of the Kilmartin Burn are the ruins of Craigenterive Cottage, once the home of the MacLachlans of Craigenterive estate. The ruin of the miller's house was here but is now demolished. From here we can go up to the ruins of Creagantervemor. There were a number of houses here, and in one of them my great-grandfather died in 1891. His name was Hector Clark, and my grandfather Duncan Clark was a shepherd here at that time. We can now descend into the Pass of Craigenterive and go along to Glenan. In 1240 it was owned by Gillascop MacGilchrist, and in 1751 by Alexander Malcolm of the same Malcolms as those of Poltalloch, I believe. There were five families here in 1841. We go now towards Ford, and pass Craigenterivebeg where stands the ruin of the old farmhouse; among its former tenants were Hugh MacLachlan who died in 1814, and Neil McNair who died in 1835; their gravestones are at Kilmartin.

As we go towards Ford, opposite the gates to Achaneilean House just above Loch Ederline are more ruins. What they were once called I don't know, but they could have been the original Achaneilan in view of their being opposite the island in the loch. There are gravestones in Kilmartin for Deors of Achaneilan dating from 1716 to 1801.

In the forest above Ford lie the ruins of the croft of Echlie; a tenant in 1825 was John Campbell. My thanks are due to Angus Beaton of Ford who showed me where this place was, and also directed me up on Dun Dubh to a corrie with ancient dykes at each end where there is the ruin of a little bothy. As this is just above the old drove road which came across from Salachry it is possible that there was a resting place for cattle here, and the bothy provided shelter for the drovers. It is only a theory I have, as I cannot think what other purpose it would have served up here.

From Ford go along to Torran and here take the original road to Inverliever. Near the hill called Dun Toiseach, but down from the road lies a ruined croft with a wonderful view on to Loch Awe. Ian Cummings of Inverliever referred to this place as "MacIntyres' ruins" because it was reputed that generations of MacIntyres had lived here. There once was a place called Culcharra about here, and this could be it, as there is a large rock face rising at the back of the house. Further along is another old house in ruin; then we come to Tobar na Bile (The well of the Holy Trees), a very ancient well, this one. Here there is the ruin of Inverlievermore, and traces of other ruins; I have a feeling that once there was more here, perhaps even an old burial location, but I am not aware of any records of such a place. Now we go on to Arinechtan where there are the ruins of the old farmstead, probably the farmhouse, another house and the remains of the steading. A one-time tenant James MacKechnie died in 1843. (Gravestone in Kilmartin). There is a fine view from Arinechtan down Loch Awe.

We now go back to Ford and along the Lochaweside road past the ruin of Fincharn Castle; two miles on and up from the road is the ruin of Ardary. There were MacEwans here in 1857, and MacNaughtons in the 1880's, one of whom was Sarah born here in 1887; I remember her very well. We have now to go back to Fincharn and up the hill past the ruined mediaeval church of Kilneuir, now in a sad state because of lack of funds to maintain it. Between Kilneuir and the farm of Glasvaar lie the ruins of Garbh-allt; there are five ruins above the road here, and down beside the burn are more which seem to have been the farm steading. I visited this place on a beautiful day in November 1989 and got some good photographs. I sat at one of the houses to have my lunch, and in truth it was more like a summer day. We go

on now to Glasvaar and Stroneskar; past Stroneskar by the roadside is another ruin which I heard old folks of Ford district refer to as Gort, or Gart, an Abhainn (field, or enclosure, by the river); the name certainly fits.

So we come back to the Ford road junction at Ath-an-a-Clar, where when I was a boy there were two houses, both occupied, by Smiths and Browns. Both houses are gone now. We go on to Kilmartin; at the end of the village beside the burn was Achabhan. There are still two ruins on the north side, and there were eight on the south side which are all gone. In the 18th century a meal mill was operating here; the miller in 1800 was John Lindsay whose gravestone is in Kilmartin beside that of his son Donald - a cooper - who died in 1808 aged 27. In 1755 the miller was Archibald MacArthur. Up in the glen above Kilmartin and at the back of the hill called Barr Mor was the croft of Bailebrad, whose tenant Donald Gillies died in 1839. The graves of these two men are in Kilmartin.

Next we cross the glen to Largie where once there stood a mansion house known as Largie House or Kilmartin House, reputed to have been built by Dugal Campbell of Kilmartin in the 18th century. There is no trace of it now, but the great walled garden is still in existence. When Kilmartin Estate was sold about 1825 it was bought by Neil Malcolm of Poltalloch (Old Poltalloch) and included Largie House. I have heard many tales of when the house was demolished and why; but I found out that William Martin, Factor, Poltalloch Estate, died at Largie House in 1866, so it appears to have been there at that time. I dare to ask "Was this the man responsible for the iniquitous evictions at Arichonan in Knapdale in 1849?"

From here we go up to the ruins of Glenmoine. Two houses were here once, where Gillies', Leitches and MacDiarmids lived. The gravestone of Elizabeth MacPherson or MacCalman who died here in 1877 is in Kilmartin, and that of Isabella MacLeven or MacAlpine who also died here, in 1867, is in Glassary. Go on to Slockavullin and up to Raslie where there are numerous ruined buildings. In a rent book of Poltalloch dated 1798-1799 it is recorded that four tenants shared the land of Lower Raslie with rents ranging from £8 10s. per year to £11 15s., and one tenant held Upper Raslie at a rent of £26 18s. I have records of the deaths of Raslie folk dating back to 1850. One man whom I remember very

well from my boyhood was Sandy Gillies, one of the best dry-stone dykers in the area, who died in 1938 at the age of 84. Much of Sandy's work can still be seen around Kilmartin district. We cross the burn here and go over to the ruined village of Achachrom, where once there were eight houses and other buildings most of which have gone, although traces still survive. In 1802 four tenants shared the farm; as late as 1871 there were eight households. Gravestones in Kilmartin record the deaths of the MacVicar family from 1829 to 1849, and of MacColls, Campbells, MacLeods, McFadyens and a Gillies family from 1839 to 1849. When I was a boy in Kilmartin school four of these thatched houses were still occupied. On the hill above Achachrom are the ruins of two houses once known as Braighe Baile. Up from here is Glenacharn, where also there were eight buildings; this was a farm owned by Campbell of Kilmartin in 1825; in 1841 there were four households here. There is a gravestone in Kilmartin for Neil Graham, Glenacharn, who died in 1830.

Leaving here we go across the hill to Brenport; there is no road. There is a number of houses which do not appear to have been very good dwellings, and the land round about was poor. Old Maggie Brown of Duntroon told me that her grandfather said that crofters from near Ardifuir were evicted from the good crofts at Culchonich and Tilligar in the 18th century and given some land at Brenport. Poverty forced some to emigrate; I met a descendant of the MacIntyres who once were in Brenport, a lady from Illinois in U.S.A.; she had all the data about what happened to her forebears. I was able to show her the gravestone of a MacIntyre from the same family in Brenport. I find Brenport rather depressing, but some people like it. At the back of the hill of Creag-a-Beannan which rises above Brenport, in a little glen, lies the ruin of a very old croft with a fank, one of the oldest I have seen. This may be the ruin of Gil-a-Cheo, which was somewhere in this area.

We go along the shore now to Ardifuir and the remains of the settlements of Ardachy, Culchonich, Feorlin and Tilligar, or Gil-a-Gearr as old John Brown of Duntroon and Sandy Gillies called it. John was born at Culchonich, I believe, and Sandy on Eilean Macaskin opposite Brenport. John's forebears were in the area for generations, and so also were Sandy's people - his father was a shepherd on the island, and the ruin of his house is still there.

At Duntroon are the remains of two thatched cottages; a cousin of my grandmother lived in one of these. Across the loch on a hill is what was once a farm; it is usually called Crinan Farm, but the Browns of Duntroon spoke of "Baileuraigen" - and forebears of Maggie Brown farmed here once. In 1802 the tenants were James Fisher and Donald Mc Callum. In Kilmartin gravestones for MacCallums date back to 1832. Across the Moine Mor are the ruins of Dalnashashaig, whose last tenant Hugh MacCallum died in 1976, and across the river is Tighantraigh, once a croft, and nearby some ruined houses at Dalvore. In one of them once lived Peter Campbell and his wife Mary Fisher, who died here in 1857.

(to be continued).

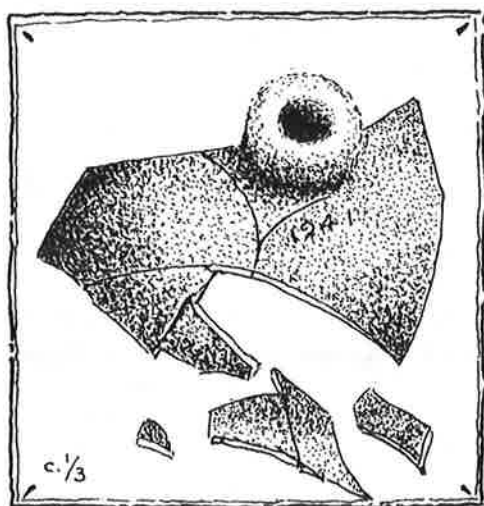
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Editorial note: Mr Begg's itinerary is of course the product of a number of expeditions. The area is covered by the O.S. Landranger map no. 55 (Lochgilphead and surrounding area) 1:50,000, or by O.S. Pathfinder maps nos. 377 and 366 (Kilmartin and Ford) 1:25,000.

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Beldarroch.

The site has now been scheduled by the RCAHMS. This means that for further work, beyond keeping it tidy, official permission must be obtained in advance. During the summer more clearing was carried out, in the course of which fragments of a "whisky jar" were recovered among cobbling at the entrance to one of the houses. Several of these fragments fitted together to form the neck



section illustrated. It is hoped that more may be found, in particular the side of the neck opposite the number 1241 which may have a maker's name. Bracken clearing was again carried out, with the aid of a devoted strimmer-operator, and further enclosure walls were revealed.

On a very wet weekend in August nine members of the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists surveyed the site. They have produced a general plan and plans and elevations of all the houses, and a detailed drawing of the corn-drying kiln. These will be incorporated in a later report.

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CUP-AND-CONUNDRUM MARKS.

Marion Campbell.

More ink has been spilt over cupmarks than over most prehistoric puzzles. We can date the 'main crop' roughly within 2000 years, ending about 1500 BC if we judge by association; but that is no very exact date, and simple cupmarks are found with Neanderthal burials, vastly older. Cupmarks appear where suitable rocks exist, worldwide; there is no way of knowing if similar marks were carved on wood. There they are, simple hollows or elaborate linked circles, always striking, commanding attention; "they must mean something", but NOBODY knows what they meant to their carvers. A Victorian relative of mine was assured by Brahmin priests that the carved rocks he had found in Northern India were "carved in honour of the Gods" - and indeed all the more accessible markings had been altered into tridents and other emblems. Our former President the late Dr D.L. MacNab told me similar patterns are made by people suffering from certain types of mental illness. Persons who - like my great-uncle - devote themselves to cupmark studies may become alarmingly detached from lesser matters; I must hope not to imperil the entire Society by advancing a couple of baseless theories.

First I must own to having launched one already. Just after 1945 (when those as ancient as myself will recall that rationing became more severe than in wartime itself) I was visited by a professional archaeologist with two friends in

tow. Happy as I was to have company (for I was living alone) they did pose problems involving my week's stock of food. In such crisis I was in no mood to discuss distant problems, and replied rather curtly to a question on cupmarks that perhaps they had been copper-miners' maps, marking the depth of shafts by adding a ring for each rope-length. Some years later I was appalled to hear a learned voice pronouncing that "Some people consider they were associated with primitive Mining..."

But let us clear the ground. Cupmarkings are prehistoric, carved on rocksheets, boulders, standing-stones and grave-slabs; rarely on rough or naturally grooved surfaces; on some rocks, readily made, by first pounding the spot and then deepening the mark by grinding. From their presence in or around graves one must suppose a serious purpose. Ducking such non-solutions as 'ritual' or 'magic' (both short for "Don't know") the possibilities seem to be: writing, figuring, board-games or obsessive doodling. Someone is now setting up a computer study to see whether groups of symbols occur often enough to suggest a form of writing; there are some groups of dots that suggest numerals (11, 13 and 8 for example) and one stone in Renfrewshire appears to bear a Pythagorean triangle of 3, 4 and 5 dots among other carvings. Zulu herdboys used to play a sort of chuckiestanes, flipping pebbles across concentric rings - but would Bronze Age herdboys have covered all Achnabreck with their games? And would they have been allowed access to stones prepared for a grave?

At this point I abandon guesswork and take to fiction. Imagine yourself a learned astronomer of 2000 BC, charged with the duty of averting panic and ensuring prosperity in your tribe. You are aware of the possibility that an eclipse of the moon may occur, for you know (of course) that when the full moon rises at a certain point of the horizon an eclipse will occur some weeks or months later. (Naturally you have learnt such things, and only Bronze Age half-wits have failed to notice that the moon changes her rising-point as she wishes). It is your business to verify such matters; you cannot take your almanac and your pocket-torch to the hill, because you have not invented either of these aids; nor can you light a fire, which will obscure the horizon and dazzle you. No, you have other resources. They are tangible rather than visible, and they cover the sur-

face of a special rock. You have only to visit the site in daylight, and carefully pack any unwanted markings with clay, while brushing tonight's data clear of mud and debris; and then at dusk you seat yourself in an impressive manner and dismiss the laity to a safe distance. You place the fingers of one hand in the first step of the equation, and move on as the celestial phenomena unfold, controlling your speed of movement by the recital of suitable mantras. (Long after, mediaeval cooking-recipes required one to "stir well for the duration of" specific prayers recited at church pace, quite as effective as waiting for the pinger to go off). By the end of the pattern you should either be assured of success, or else have to return another evening; you might even utter a loud cry of triumph, to be taken up by waiting musicians and signalled to another observation post for a second opinion. And that brings me to another theory.

'Figuring' need not mean numerals. A piece of music may also be 'figured', with a very limited range of dots and strokes to convey anything from Beethoven to the Beatles. Was Achnabreck an Albert Hall? It is no more fanciful a notion than those put forward in the Argyll County Council List of Monuments, 1915 (a valiant pioneer effort that deserves to be remembered). Achnabreck was reported as a place of assembly, the muster complete when every cup held a spear-butt, and "carved in the manner of a family tree, with gutters for the blood to run down". (The second suggestion may reflect the first or its likely outcome; the first idea seems rather like counting a flock of sheep by totalling the legs and dividing by four).

There might even be another possibility. At Balephetrish in Tiree there is a 'Ringing Stone' or 'Kettle Stone', an erratic boulder perched on rocks above high-water-mark. It is many years since I saw it, and I am indebted to the Royal Commission's Argyll Vol.3 for details. It is "granite, and measures 3.4m x 2.4m x 1.8m, bearing 53 or more cups and ovals, 20 of them large, up to 230mm x 150mm x 60mm deep". I can testify that if respectfully tapped with a beach-pebble, the stone emits a resonant clang.

Drumstones are known elsewhere; cupmarked ones in Nigeria 'musical stones' in China and the Lake District; while according to John Purser (Scotland's Music, Mainstream, 1992) there is at Port Appin a stone "full of cups and hollows", traditionally used to call out local clans. (Unfortunately

it is not in RCAHMS Argyll Vol. 2). Purser also mentions Balephetrish, and two stones in Aberdeenshire.

Why should not some cupmarkings, like the uncommonly deep ones at Balephetrish, serve to 'tune' stones by altering their resonance, as one tightens a drumhead? Why should not some of our cupmarked boulders be drums? It might be difficult to test them; after so long a silence, they would have to be brought carefully back to life. Though earth-fast or overgrown, they must not be roughly cleared or scraped (and indeed, if they are in Guardianship, they must not be meddled with at all). If struck, it must be gently done with a padded stick, not a chunk of rock or a spanner. Be further warned - by all accounts a drumstone in full working order makes an almighty rumpus and arouses strong emotions; you may get a bigger audience than you expect, the Fire Brigade as well as the Police. But one little tap - ? I wish I could just try ...

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Kist 39 contains an article by Col. P. Fane Gladwin on a possible origin for cup and ring markings. Ed.

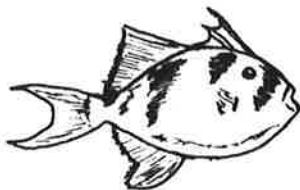
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INDICATION of CLIMATIC CHANGE?

Our youngest contributor ever sent Kist the following account, accompanied by a clear drawing which unfortunately could not easily be reduced in size. A small sketch has been substituted.

A TRIGGER FISH.

Alexander Ascherson (aged seven).



I was digging a watercourse on the sand and then I found this fish which turned out to be a Trigger Fish. It was dead and it had two spines on its back. The spines are locked, but you can unlock them by putting the little spine down. It was nine

inches long. It was at Crinan Ferry.

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Editorial note: Alexander's fish was identified at the Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory. The trigger fish is a warm water fish, essentially a Mediterranean species. According to an article in the Times of Aug. 24 1992, over the last five years increasing numbers of warm water fish are being reported from Cornwall, Devon, the Irish Sea and the west coast of Scotland; examples quoted include the red mullet, the sea-horse and the basking shark, as well as the trigger fish. Marine biologists quoted in the article suggest this may indicate climatic change. A trigger fish discovered at Machrihanish in November 1958 was considered to be such a rare specimen - the last one seen had been in 1827 or 1828 - that it was presented to the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh. An account can be found in The Western Naturalist vol.III pp.83-86, in the Society's library.

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CROSS-SHAFT from KILLEVIN BURIAL GROUND, CRARAE.

Anne M. Kahane.

This early Christian cross-shaft was illustrated and described by Dr Mackenna and Mr Colin Fergusson in Kist 30 pp. 20-21. They recorded its location in the wall of Killevin burial ground beside Crarae Gardens. In 1991 it was found to have fallen out of the wall, and was lying on the grass, vulnerable to damage by grass-cutting machinery, or to theft. Thanks to the intervention of Mr Murdo McDonald, the archivist, it was taken into safe-keeping initially by Argyll and Bute District Council. After a good deal of thought about the best way to ensure its future safety and accessibility the happy solution was found of installing it in Cumlodden Church, with the support of the Minister, Dr Roderick McLeod, and the Kirk Session, and with the help of Historic Scotland whose masons have set it up in such a way that it is secure and still visible from all sides.

The RCAHMS Inventory of Argyll vol. 7 (Mid Argyll and

Cowal, Medieval and Later Monuments) gives a detailed account of the cross-shaft (no. 63: 1), as well as drawings and a photograph, and suggests that it is of 8th or 9th century date. The only observation to add is the suggestion that the topmost of the carvings - the head, shoulders and arms of a human figure - although carved in a Celtic style, is possibly derived from Mediterranean antecedents showing the bust of Christ dominating the cross, such as the ampullae from Monza, dating to the end of the 6th century, which contained oil from churches in the Holy Land, and the 7th century mosaic in the church of Santo Stefano Rotondo in Rome featuring the saints Primus and Felicianus.

Dr Mackenna draws attention to the significance of the Killewin site in prehistoric times, with a neolithic chambered cairn (RCAHMS Inventory of Argyll vol. 6 no. 13) less than 100 metres west of the graveyard wall. On the highest point of the graveyard are the roofless remains of a rectangular stone building which has the date 1727 on the lintel of a blocked doorway, and a panel erected in 1874 to Archibald Campbell of Knockbuy and other members of the Knockbuy and Kilberry Campbells. What lies underneath this structure is unknown. A curious detail is that two or three rows of 18th century and later gravestones lower down the slope towards Loch Fyne form a shallow curve round the rise on which the building stands.

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THE BUFF TIP MOTH.

Peter Wormell.

In September 1992 Mrs Anne Kahane brought some rather spectacular caterpillars for identification. She had found them feeding gregariously on beech. They were larvae of the Buff Tip moth Phalera bucephala of the family Notodontidae; this family includes a number of interesting insects such as the prominents, some of which have curiously shaped humped larvae, and the puss moth Cerura vinula whose caterpillar, also humped, is particularly spectacular, bearing a strange pair of anal appendages with red flagella which are extruded and waved when it is alarmed. By comparison the buff tip larvae are quite conventional; the head is black

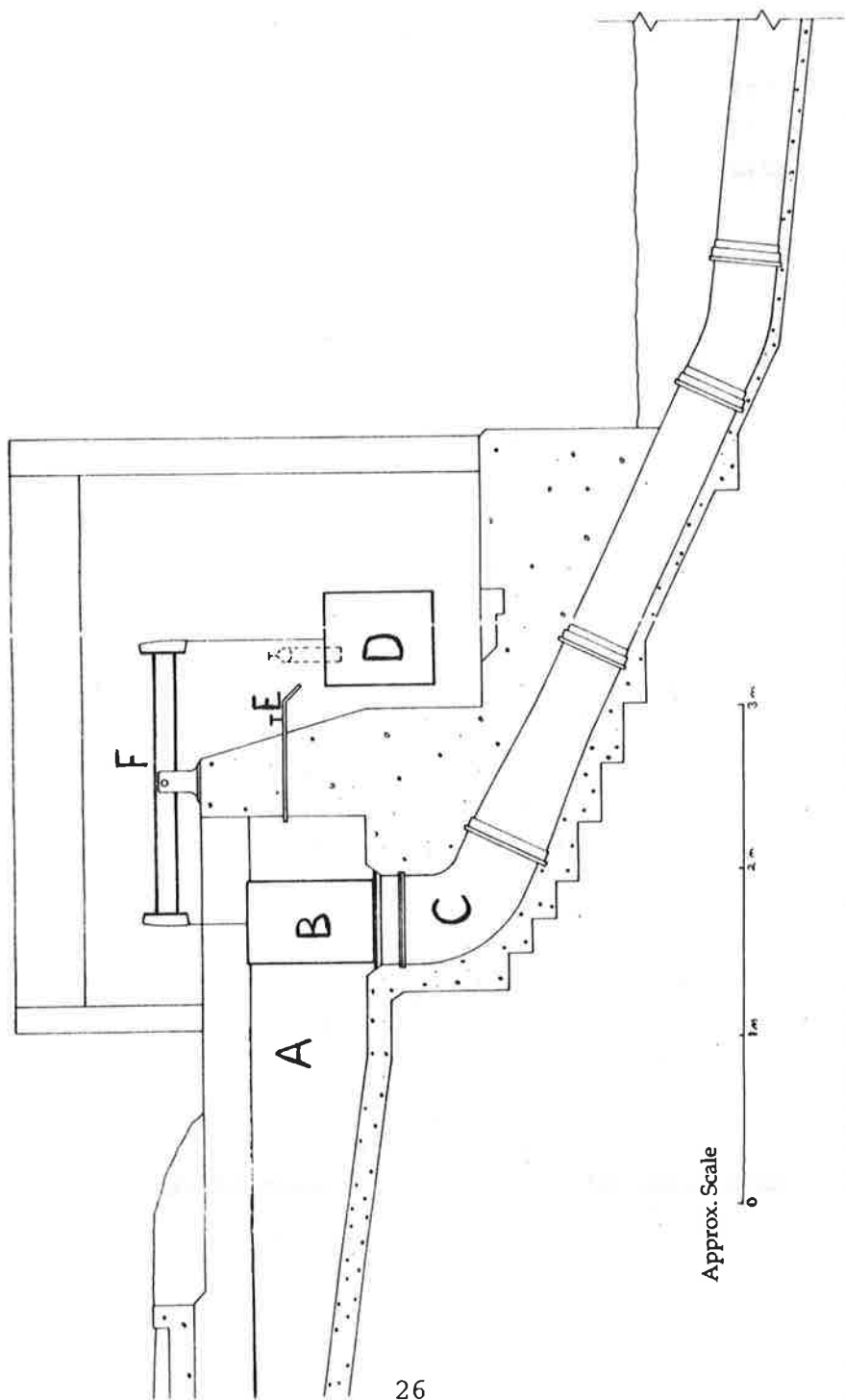
while the body is yellow with longitudinal stripes of grey and black broken between segments. There are tufts of fine short hairs on all segments. Various deciduous trees and shrubs are accepted; I even found a batch feeding on Eucryphia on Mull one year. They cause substantial defoliation, and continue to feed as a group until their final skin-change before pupating when they become solitary and crawl to the ground. Each one builds a chamber in the soil in which it pupates. There is no cocoon.

The moths, which have a two-inch wing span, emerge in May, June or July and are rather local in Scotland generally, though abundant in the western oakwoods. As with many moths the buff tip has developed a camouflage strategy for survival; at rest it bears a remarkable resemblance to a hazel twig broken off at each end, the buff-coloured thorax and wing tips simulating the broken wood, and the rest of the forewings curved into a cylindrical shape round the body looking exactly like the silvery bark.

The buff tip is often host to a range of hymenopterous parasites. Ichneumons and calcids of various species lay their eggs into caterpillars and the larvae feed internally on their host until they are full grown, when they break through the skin and pupate in a cocoon on the now dead caterpillar. Until this year, however, I have never come across a parasite which develops inside an egg emerging as a fully developed insect. A batch of buff tip eggs found on the underside of a grey willow leaf on the Isle of Rum in June all turned out to be parasitised in this way. The adults which eventually emerged were sent to Dr Mark Shaw at the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, who was able to say they were Scelionid parasites of the superfamily Proctotypoidea. He is almost certain they belong to the genus Telenomus but has not yet been able to ascertain the species. Very little work has been carried out on this group of parasites in Britain. The buff tip always lays its eggs in widely scattered batches, never all at once. Perhaps this is a safeguard against this parasite ensuring that some batches have a chance of escaping detection.

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AUTOMATIC WATER WASTER



The year 1993 marks the 200th anniversary of the passing of the Crinan Canal Act which gave permission for the construction of a canal from Crinan to Loch Fyne. Kist has from time to time contained articles concerning the Canal, to which the following description of a little-known but essential element in the operation of the Canal is a welcome addition.

THE AUTOMATIC WATER WASTER.

Alec Howie.

The 'Auto-Waster' between Lock number 4 and Oakfield Bridge on the eastern reach of the Crinan Canal is a unique engineering structure and has been the subject of much interest since it was first conceived in June 1892. The function of the device is, as its name suggests, to exhaust surplus water from the east reach to the sea, and thus maintain a safe working level in the canal at all times.

This is done by means of an ingenious but simple method utilising two tipping buckets connected to each other by a chain running over a lever arm. The water from the canal enters the waster shed via a grid in the canal bank and flows into a concrete chamber (A) in which hangs the first bucket (B) - this is in fact the 'plug'. When the 'plug' is in the closed position its bottom rests in the outlet pipe (C) effectively sealing it. However, as the canal level rises, either due to rainfall or craft locking down from Crinan, the flow from the canal increases via a grid situated approx. 30m. downstream and the water is piped direct to the second bucket (D). As water flows via this pipe (E) the second bucket fills and increases its weight until a point is reached when it is heavier than the 'plug' bucket. When this happens the system is tripped, and the weight of the now full second bucket pulls the first upwards by means of the lever arm (F) and chain, thus opening the end of the waste pipe and allowing water to gush out to sea. As the excess is reduced in the reach the flow into the waster mechanism is reduced, and water no longer flows from the pipe to the second bucket. The clever part is that this bucket has a small hole at its base and, therefore, empties slowly, since no water is flowing into it from the overflow pipe. As it empties it also becomes

lighter, allowing the 'plug' bucket to drop back and seal the outlet pipe.

Travellers between Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead will no doubt have noticed on occasion a strong flow of water gushing out into Loch Fyne from an outlet below the road - the Water-Waster at work. This clever system has over the decades given sterling service maintaining the level in the east reach night and day, despite some severe rainstorms.

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SUMMER EXPEDITIONS 1992.

Although the weather was not so generally kind as in some previous years the expeditions were as interesting and enjoyable as ever. The following brief accounts are compiled, as before, mainly from notes made by Lorne McEchern.

18th April. Inveraray Town. Led by Mrs Kahane.

We heard a fascinating account of the 3rd Duke's (and his household's) nightmare 5-week journey from London to reach his inheritance, of the conditions that met him in Castle and town, of his planning of the new Inveraray, and how at the time of his death in 1761 his new Castle was almost complete and his new town with Great Inn, Town House and elegant housing (slate roofs, no thatch) was well on the way; his successors carried on the work (despite many construction problems) so that today the town conforms to its 18th century plan. We walked along Front St., studied the late mediaeval cross, walked up Main St. N. to the church, built originally for two congregations, Gaelic and English, inspected in Main St. S. the tenement blocks of Arkland - the elegant side - and Relief Land - the less elegant side (smaller windows, no dressed stonework) built for labourers' families; then a glance at Crombie's Land, and the Court-house and Jail, and lastly a brisk walk up to the Fountain House at Bealach an Fhuarain.

23rd May. Castle Dounie. Led by Mr Morton & Mrs Kahane.

In brilliant sunshine a large number of members and friends packed into as few cars as possible at the foot of the forestry road and, pursued by clouds of dust, enjoyed a drive with spectacular views up to high ground south of Ardnoe

Point. From there we walked on a previously cleared path south towards Castle Dounie, seeing much of interest on the way, including two turf-grown structures which may have been shielings. The dun has a wide entrance, later partly blocked; the walls rise to almost 2.5 m. at their highest point, and are up to 4.8 m. thick; there are three chambers in the wall thickness; where the wall is of double construction the backs of the chambers are the inner skin of the outer wall. A straight joint in the wall may indicate gang-building.

13th June. Lismore. Led by Mrs Kahane.

Our bus left Tarbert at 6.30a.m. picking up members on the way to Oban. Despite prior arrangement, the bus could not be loaded on the ferry. Had not our vice-president Mr Alan Campbell and Mrs Campbell come to our rescue with their camper van, and a Good Samaritan (on Lismore) provided transport we should not have been able to see as much as we did. Arriving at Lismore we walked along the shore path among the abundance of wild flowers that grow in the fertile lime-rich soil to the broch of Tirefour, with its narrow entrance, high hollow walls and intra-mural passage. Christianity was brought to Lismore in the 6th century by St Moluag; his pastoral staff, the Bachuil Mor, is in the hereditary keeping of the Livingstone family. By courtesy of Baron Livingstone we were privileged to see it at his home. Then, after lunch at the Guest house, we went to Port Ramsay to inspect the huge lime kiln, then back to Kilmoluaig to see what is left of the 13th century cathedral; the present parish church is in origin the Cathedral choir, and parts of the old construction can be seen.

18th July. Glasvaar. Led by Mrs Kahane.

We met at Stroneskar Farm and walked up to Glasvaar, where a large cup-marked boulder is incorporated in a field wall near the farm buildings, and another, not so big, on the other side of the wall. A much ruined cairn still over 1m. high and 22m. across lies 90m. away and may be the source of these. We saw other sets of cupmarks and a rock-cut basin on rock-sheets; and one large erratic boulder has 15 cupmarks on its level top; it is sometimes referred to as 'the Covenanters' communion table'. We also visited a small lime kiln, and an elaborate sheep fank with a large holding area, smaller compartments and an installation for dipping. A sharp-eyed member pointed out a beautiful Gold Spangle Moth (*Autographa bractea*) settled on the fank wall.

19th August. W. Loch Tarbert. Led by Mr & Mrs Clark.

We met at Torinturk - Torr an Tuirc, Hill of the Boar, one of the many settings for the tale of the Great Boar Hunt and the Death of Diarmaid. Due to the very recent installation of a deer fence this outing, despite prior cutting of paths, became something of a jungle safari. A scramble took us up to Dun a Choin Duibh, the Dun of the Black Dog, in its commanding position above the Loch. It stands among outworks, its walls are up to 2m. in height and about 3.25m. thick, and a passage with a right-angled turn, and now blocked, goes through the wall via a lintelled opening. By another steep path we reached 'Diarmaid's Grave', a small oval cairn with near-conical 'headstone', and the over-grown round cairn close by. A visit to Kilnaish (Cill an Aonghais) burial ground, with its Early Christian cross-marked stone and many 18th century gravestones, ended the tour, as Cnocan Uamhach was too distant to reach in the time.

12th September. Crarae & Cumlodden.

We met at Crarae Gardens, where we inspected the remains of the chambered cairn; the cairn material has been removed, but its 'shadow' is still there, and the massive portal stones, one facade slab, and the chambers can be seen. We moved to Killevin graveyard, studied the stones, and saw where the Killevin cross-shaft had been built into the wall (see pp.23-24). We then went to Cumlodden Church to see it in its new safe setting. We also visited the former manse garden where another cross-shaft is built into the wall.

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