



Dun Domhnail



The KIST · 51

T H E K I S T

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KILMAHUMAIG and the MYSTERY of NEW YORK

Michael Murray

"Mise, Domhnall nan Domhnuill, am shuidh air Dun Domhnuill, toirt coir do mhacAoidh air Kilmahumaig, 'o'n diugh gus a maireach, 's gu la bhrath mar sin".

Thus saying, MacDonald Lord of Kintyre and the Isles (c. 1400) granted to MacKay of Kilmahumaig the right to this farm and lands "from today to tomorrow and for ever" - a generous gesture in return for bringing an outlaw to justice. It is interesting to climb Dun Domhnuill and try to imagine the scene. Was it a fine sunny day? How many were gathered there round the base of the eminence? Did he sit on a chair, or stand and let his voice ring out across the assembly below him? How were they clothed and from how far had they travelled to hear their chieftain? What happened to the outlaw - was he summarily executed and now lies in the graveyard below?

Two hundred years later, the profits of the 'chapleynry of St Colmocus' were confirmed to Niall MacKay as heir to the Kilmahumaig estate. The chapel dedication would be to one of the many saints bearing the Irish name of Colman or its variant Colmac; other sources suggest a derivation from Cumma or Cummoc. [See Kist 32 p. 13]

The rental roll for the Argyle Division dated 4th July 1688 has Neill McKay of Kilmahumaig paying £64:8:10. The family retain Kilmahumaig for three hundred odd years from the original grant, until 1712, when "one third part of the one merkland of old extent of Kilmahumaig" is sold to Angus MacInleish or Leitch. [A merkland is an area of land related to an annual rental, not its size, valued by officers of the Crown as early as the 13th century - hence "of old extent"] It gets rather confusing as there is a disposition dated 4th November in favour of Neil MacInleish from Archibald McKay (son of Neill?), yet in 1751 in the rental roll Kilmahumaig is listed as the property of Archibald McKay and John Leitch "portioners; £5:0:0". The rentals for Ardnoc, Elvarie and Ariluig are £3:11:4, £2:10:4 and £2:2:3 respectively; these are the crofts up into the hills to the south of Kilmahumaig.

John Leitch holds Kilmahumaig until he sells it to Alexander MacNeil of Oronsay in 1771. Alexander's son inherits

the farm, and twenty-nine years later on 13th July 1798 John MacNeil sells "in all and whole the one third part of the one merkland of old extent of Kilmahumack now called Trear as also the third part of the fifth part of the whole fishing of the water of Avinadd" to John Stevenson. Stevenson was the manager of the Slate Works at Ballachulish.

This is the first mention by name of the croft or smallholding of Trear, which coincides with the marking of "Triar" on the map drawn by John Rennie in 1792 prospecting the alternative routes for the canal to cross Loch Crinan. Interestingly, the title that John MacNeil disposes to John Stevenson refers to selling him the one third of the land of Kilmahumack and describes him as already the proprietor of the remaining two thirds as minuted in agreements dated 5th April and 8th June 1791. The sum agreed was £600. In addition to the said merkland

"as used and wont with the third of the alms and offerings of the Chapel of Saint Colm commonly called kilmahumack situate upon the said lands with the whole pertinents thereof houses biggings yards tofts crofts grazings sheilings annexis connexis outsetts woods as well oak and other woods parts pendicles and pertinents of the lands fishing and others above disposed and lying in the Lordship of Knapdale and shire of argyle".

The proof of identity of MacNeil and of Stevenson is provided by John Campbell and Donald McColl, both described as "Quarriers in Trear".

There is further reference to the chapel and feu duties in that

"....as immediately lawful superiors of the same in feu-farm fee and heritage for the yearly payment to me and my heirs and successors of the sum of four shillings and five pence farthing scots money in the name of feu duty at two terms in the year Whit Sunday and Martinmass by equal portions and doubling the said feu duty for the entry of each heir to the said lands fishing and others to conform to the manner of feu-holdings and to uphold in good condition the third part of the roof of the said chapel"

Any remains of the chapel are believed to have disappeared by about 1845.

It is interesting to speculate why the manager of a slate quarry was buying up land in the area. Can it be just coin-

cidence that the witnesses to some dispositions and valuations are nearly all described as "Quarriers of Trear"? There are also ten men listed on the rental roll under Trear and a further eleven under Kilmahumaig. It is known that Stevenson or his family owned the slate island of Belnahua, so it is reasonable to deduce that he was either prospecting possibly for slate, to expand his quarrying empire; or speculating on the land value of the estate with the imminent prospect of the building of the canal; or cashing in on the building of it and supplying materials for it. [There is a slate quarry still visible on the south bank of the Crinan Canal at NR791941 which was worked in the late 18th century. Ed.]

However Stevenson only retains the whole of Kilmahumaig and Trear until 1801, three years, before selling the whole lot to Neill Malcolm Esquire of Poltalloch. Imagine the surprise on researching the disposition in favour of Neill Malcolm to find that he buys from Stevenson

"the one Merkland of old extent of Kilmohummock and Trear with the pertinents As also all and Whole the Two Merkland of old extent of Arichonan, the Two Merk Land of old extent of Lechnambaan, the Miln and Acre of Glenalvon, and Changes and Acre of Bellanoch, the one Merk Land of Ellary or Ervary, the one Merk Land of Arieluig and the one Merk Land of Ardnoa or Ardnoe extending in whole to Seven Merk land of old extent

for the princely sum of Fourteen thousand pounds Sterling money. Our John was an astute lad! He must have been buying up farms in North Knapdale over a period of about ten years; there is a minute of agreement with McNeill of Kilmahumaig and Trear dated 1791.

What we cannot yet affirm is whether the "New York" houses (still to be seen, roofless, in a small valley running up from the Canal towards Kilmahumaig) were built to house quarriers or the later canal construction workers. There is a reference to a "New York house and Bullage" in the first Comprisement drawn up by Neill Malcolm and Dugald McLachlan on 26th July 1802. McLachlan, a shoemaker from Glasgow, is the first tenant of Kilmahumaig and he takes the tenancy for nineteen years for the sum of £150 pa. What is reasonably certain is that the houses would have been built by the York Buildings Company. There are several villages and groups of houses elsewhere in Scotland known



as "New York". One in particular is a village near Strontian, and one could suppose that as both John Stevenson and the York Buildings Company were heavily involved with quarrying and mining, and considering the proximity of Ballachulish and Strontian, that it was Stevenson who ordered the York Buildings Company to build our houses for his quarriers; but the dates do not tie in. New York near Strontian had been abandoned by 1740, but the Company was still active, and the colloquial naming of so many groups of houses as "New York" is strong evidence for the identity of the builders. The actual reason for building the houses is obscure, but the conclusion would be in favour of housing quarriers, and at a time predating the canal.

There is at times confusion as to whether the name New York is used, or whether they are referred to as the Tile Houses. Thus the valuation associated with the tenancy agreement reads

"At Kilmahumaig this Tenth day of August 1802 We John Aird Mason at Ardrissaig Point and Duncan Robertson wright at Lochgilphead in behalf of Neill Malcolm Esq. and John

Vallance Wright at Prospect in behalf of Dugald McLachlan Tacks man of Kilmahumaig and Trear sworn Comprisors within the division of Argyle who being called hither to sight and Comprise the Mansion House Change House above the Bason of Portree and the Tile houses in the valley above the Canal east of the said Bason

(Portree is the name first given to Crinan. Crinan originally referred to either the loch or the Crinan Ferry peninsula). They go on to measure the Tile houses as having 8 roods of mason work besides chimney tops at £3:5: 0 per rood making a value of £26. Wright work required on the Tile houses lists "Roofing 232 yards at 3/10 per yd.; 6 windows @ 10/- each; 4 doors @ 6/-"

The rental agreement runs to six and a half pages and allows for Malcolm to grant feus and houses to be built with associated gardens plus house cows up to the number of ten, but McLachlan is not required to provide them with winter feed! There is provision for a Customs House to be built if needed at Portree, and two public houses, one at Portree and the other in the Harbour of Island Davain. It also requires McLachlan to finish the new road (once the Act of Parliament is passed affording a new road from Bellanoch to Portree) down to the Harbour.

A letter to Neill Malcolm from his factor is of interest.

Prospect the 9th April 1801

Sir,

I received yours today of 14th March. I have sent John Brodie your Gardiner to examine and count the trees spoiled by the horses jumped over the dyke in Bruchiach Raslie and the number of trees spoiled is 16 trees per his Attestation ... and you may compare that with his letter to you it is not right that people will trouble you with letters to keep you in confusion and do you no good - George Drummond is a stranger and promised good rent for your fishings and all manner of justice should be given him in order to help him to pay that rent, I mean by the spearmen coming about the Banks to inform you that they very often come to trouble your fishing in time past and if they do not keep off by words its right to try other method with them for if thirty of them come in one day they will kill fish. I made no promise to him nor does he know of it.

There is another thing that will be against him is thus for two years past I could not fish on Killmahumag side

by the canal work carried on Suppose the fishermen would save themselves from the stones flowing by Blasting they could not save the nett and Boat now these stones is lying on the Banks and a Nett cannot be rightly drawn till the banks will be cleaned again and by low spring Ebbs it is right to send or give him people to assist him to clean the banks on Killmahumag side - Mr. Archibald Campbell does not know himself how to charge for Lagan and Barin-luasgen separate from the rest of the Estates they belonged to and he cannot make it out and I told him ten days ago in Kilmartin to send me an acnt. of Arichonan for his stipends and he told me he would send it but it did not come into my hands yet - I was offering these houses about new york on the lands of Trear and Killmahumag to people they are not lett yet I am going down this afternoon to see how I can settle them by sett ...

One can just imagine a number of the itinerant construction workers setting about the river with pikes or cleeks after hours for a bit of sport or for the pot! This brings us back to the question of whether the New York houses were used for canal construction workers or not. The above letter implies that the houses were empty at the time when obviously there was still a lot of work going on. In Lindsay's "The Canals of Scotland" there is mention of a large number of labourers working to remove a part of the canal-bank known to the workmen as "New York Bay" and replace it by a straight line. Although this reference is made to the time when Telford was commissioned to direct the repairs and improvements to the canal sixteen years later, there had always been plenty of people around requiring accommodation; but there is no evidence available to link people employed on the canal to the houses.

The fact that the New York houses appear to have had a relatively short useful life may be attributed to the difficulty of access. It is very hard to see where there was any kind of track round to or over to them. It is possible that if they were built before the canal then the original access might have come round the shore and up to them. After the canal was built another route would have had to be taken higher up; it is just possible to make out where a horse and sled may have made passage round the ridges, and there is some evidence of stonework which might have been banking for a track.

The Rental Rolls provide a wealth of information. The Roll of 1815, for example, tells us that a Mrs Campbell is now resident in the Mansion House and poor old Dugald McLachlan has fallen into arrears to the tune of £234:16:1 and must have given up the lease. He now resides in a house called Glaiknacuarach of Kilmahumaig; he is paying £5 per half year, whereas other Cottars are listed with houses and potato land and paying only £1:5:0. There are eleven men listed on Kilmahumaig: two residing in Red House; Malcolm Darroch in Laggainich Croft; Duncan McDougall in Acharonich Croft; John MacLachlan in Taynafeolin. Trear is divided amongst Angus Leitch who has half of Trear and Duncan Taylor and Margaret Blue with a quarter each. Could the latter have been resident in our New York houses? Where do all the other names refer to? Regretfully, I think that information is lost. One name can be pinpointed - Tighnahaorin. This is described as "Archd McInish house at Tighnahaorin" in the comprisement of 1802 and in the list of dykes it has "220 Falls of a March Dyke running from the Canall westward to the House of Taynahaorin ... N.B. This is the March dyke betwixt Ervery and Mr McLachlan" and then further down the list "9 Falls stone dyke betwixt the Garden and the March Dyke of Ervery" so we have a transit from the Garden Wall and the canal. A Fall of a dyke is five and a half yards (quarter of a chain), and the measurements bring us neatly to Miss McVean's cottage at Crinan Harbour!

Information is sparse through the mid 1800's. The last Rental Roll of 1828-29 now lists Capt. Patrick McLachlan for the Mansion of Kilmahumaig and Trear; he pays Biannual instalments of £27:0:0. Dugald McLachlan is still in Glaiknacuarich "part of Kilmahumaig" and he is paying £7:0:0 pa. A newcomer arrives on the list a "Miss Rebecca Collins for the Two Houses lately possessed by Lieut. Colin McLachlan, Kilmahumaig". Two houses?! Angus Leitch has died by now, as his widow is listed, Mary Brown. Malcolm Darroch is still around and his arrears have been settled "in an allowance made you for fires in the New Houses at Elland avain Kil..... & Garden - also for the house built by you". Donald Graham is now listed in Ruimore (Red House?) part of Acharonich Croft Kilmahumaig; as is "Archibald Campbell for the Middle Division of Ditto".

One next has to turn to the lists of payments of "Road Money"; the 1840 list has only four names for Kilmahumaig:

one a lock-keeper; one a bridge-keeper; Duncan McLullich (all paying 12/- pa); and Duncan Bell paying £1:4:0. Whether the latter is the occupant of the Mansion House is unclear, but he is paying twice the average sum. Ariluig and Ervery are still occupied and list two men in each.

After 1850 we have to turn to the Valuation Rolls; the 1859-60 Roll has James Hunter paying £429:6:4, so he must be in the main house. Duncan McLullich is paying £10:10:0, Donald Darroch (son of Malcolm?) is paying £5:3:0) and two other men are paying £3:17:0. No names of dwellings are given, and "Trear" seems to have fallen out of recorded usage. The 1865-66 Roll lists Peter Clark as paying £235:6:3 where other values remain the same, and Donald Darroch and Duncan McLullich are still there, with the addition of Malcolm McCallum paying £32: 17:2; where he was residing that should be valued so much greater, yet not be at the highest figure is a mystery.

The advent of Peter Clark on the Valuation is of particular interest to the writer, as he was known as "Dancing Peter"; he was convicted at Inveraray Court of dancing on Sunday! [The writer is known to be an enthusiastic devotee of Scottish Country Dancing though as far as the Editor is aware he has never been arraigned for this!]. He is also referred to as such in "The Kilmahonaig Journal", which is the diary of a Dr Blatherwick who, with his family, took Kilmahumaig in the summer of 1876. It provides some fascinating comment on life at the time. [It is hoped to include excerpts in a later issue of Kist. Ed.] The family's church attendance was varied: "to Poltalloch Church by ferry and the Road walk ... to Poltalloch Church in an open Landau driven by the small black oddity who resides at Crinan Inn .. .to Bellanoch Church " where the minister apologised for being unable to preach or pray in English. There is a reference to "the wee house in the old Kirk Yard" which Sambo, the black porter at the Quay, had taken and furnished its two rooms "with loving care" in expectation of his marriage, which, alas, did not come off.

Duncan Clark remains in Kilmahumaig until 1903 when Archibald McCormick takes up the tenancy. At the removal two cottages are listed but unnamed other than "Shepherd's Cottage (slated) and "Cottage at Graveyard (thatched)". The latter is assumed to be Trear and the stonework and roof are still described as passable. McCormick holds the tenancy

for ten to fifteen years until the Ballantine family take over, and it is during their tenancy that the Malcolms sell all the land south of the Add to the Forestry Commission in the 1930's, with the Ballantines remaining in tenancy until 1975.

My thanks are due to Mr Murdo MacDonald, Archivist for Argyll and Bute, for his help with the documents quoted.

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THE YORK BUILDINGS COMPANY

From notes made on a paper read before the Institute of Bankers and Chartered Accountants in Glasgow on 19th Feb. 1883 by David Murray MA FSA and first published by James Maclehose & Sons of Glasgow in 1887.

Contributed by Mr A.K. Elliot

Charles II on 7th May granted a charter for 99 years to Ralph Backnell and Ralph Wayne empowering them to erect a water works and Waterhouse in the grounds of York House (now Charing Cross Station) so as to supply the inhabitants of St James Fields, Piccadilly with water at a reasonable cost. This was a success, and when the water tower and other works were burned down in 1690 they were rebuilt, and the proprietors petitioned Parliament in 1691 for incorporation into a Company "for raising water from the Thames in the York Buildings ... with the power to purchase alien lands and hereditaments..." The Company were to appoint a Governor and a court of six assistants to have the management and direction of the water works and all the business and affairs of the Company.

In 1719 Parliament passed an Act empowering purchasers of forfeited Estates to grant annuities on the value of the Estates; and to do this they needed a corporate body. In March 1719 the proprietors advertised York Buildings Water works for sale. This fell to the notice of a Mr Case Billingsley, a London solicitor engaged in the promotion of Assurance Companies. In October the whole stock of the York Buildings Company was transferred for £7000 to Billingsley and his partner James Bradley. The Duke of Chandos was elected as Governor.

On 27th October 1719 the York Buildings Company opened a subscription list for raising a Joint Stock fund of £1,200,000 for purchasing forfeited and other Estates in Great Britain by a fund for granting annuities over lives and for the assuring of lives. This offer was immediately subscribed in full, and they set about purchasing forfeited Estates to such an extent that at that time they owned whole parishes in the counties of Aberdeen and Banff, Forfar, Perth, Linlithgow, Berwick and Stirling. They were obliged to lease all this land to middlemen to factor it on their behalf. They became involved in coal and glass at Tranent (Earl of Winton), timber at Rothiemurchus (Grant), lead and copper (Glenesk). They also took a lease of minerals at Ballencrieff from Lord Hopetoun, and then turned to minerals in Morvern.

Sir Alexander Murray of Stanhope (Peeblesshire) had bought the lands of Ardnamurchan thought to contain lead, and he granted a lease for 30 years to Francis Grant of Monymusk and others including the Duke of Norfolk and General Wade. Sir Alexander Murray also leased in March 1727 for 38 years from the Duke of Argyll mines in Morvern and Mull. There was much activity in setting up the lead mines at Strontian - "shiploads of materials and stores arrived at Strontian almost daily ... framed houses were put together in London ... as many as 500 workmen were employed for whom a village known as New York was built".

These workings were abandoned in the 1740's and all trace of New York village has gone. [Places of similar foundation elsewhere in Scotland have kept the name, e.g. on Mull and on the north side of Loch Awe. Ed.]

The management of their Scottish properties became chaotic, and from then on the York Buildings Company was involved in endless litigation in Chancery over their debts, and in various arrangements to ward off their creditors by trying to sell off the forfeited Estates. Sir Walter Scott's father, a Writer to the Signet, was employed from 1790-1791 as their common agent when his son was apprenticed to his Law firm. (see Tales of a Grandfather for a brief summary of the York Buildings Company).

By 1818 the Company's only asset was the original water works, and their continuation was challenged by the new Chelsea Water Works; on 15th September the Company was granted a perpetual annuity of £250:18:6 in consideration

of which they undertook not to supply water as a public company, and demised their property in fee at a yearly rent of a peppercorn. As this annuity was insufficient to make a dividend payable to the proprietors, an Act of Parliament was granted on 19th June 1829 to dissolve the Company and to vest the property of the Company in Trustees with power to sell the same and divide the proceeds amongst its creditors.

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NOTE on the COVER

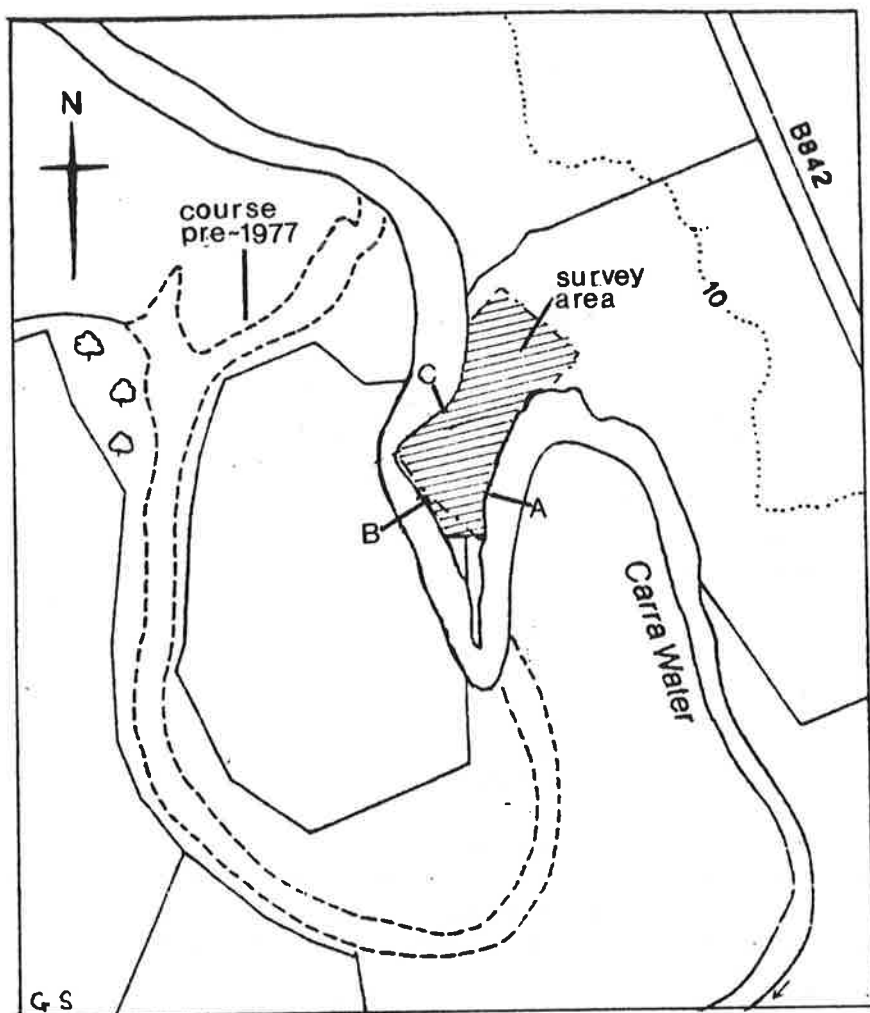
Dun Domhnuill (see p. 1 of this issue) is the 10m high steep-sided mound to be seen in a field on the left of the road from Bellanoch to Crinan at NR788935, just before the junction to Crinan Harbour. It was a moot hill, the Judgment Seat of the Lords of the Isles. The "Judge's Chair" on the summit is now marked by a few stones only, having been destroyed by vandals in the recent past. Large stones projecting from the sides may be the remains of terracing.

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ACHNASAVIL

Gloria Siggins

In 1977 a dramatic change took place in the course of the Carra Water which was to bring to light a remarkable archaeological site in the Moineruadh area of the lower glen. The change resulted from the growth over nearly a century of a large meander which, in the early OS maps, shows as a mere kink in an otherwise fairly straight section of the river. From the 1930's on two factors combined to accelerate this development greatly - the end of the management of the Carra Water for sporting purposes, followed in the 40's and 50's by the progressive planting with conifers of the catchment. The effect on the flow regime of the naturally wayward and shallow river was very marked, as the increased volume of water and water-borne debris caused more frequent obstruction of the channel, with extensive flooding and some loss of viable farmland. Particularly affected was the Moine-



The Moineruadh Meander

ruadh area where the channel swung westwards into the meander and was joined by the Rhonadale Burn. Here quantities of gravel built up, deposited by both channels, and by the early 70's the river was forced to try to find an easier passage; after some thwarted attempts, it finally succeeded. Enlarging a 'safety-valve' drain and overcoming the hastily built barrier of boulders, the river at last short-circuited the meander, leaving it to become sluggish and canal-like.

The new main stream now flowed unhindered between stony flood plain, which remained relatively unaffected, and the soft material of the undisturbed Moineruadh terrace, which quickly began to collapse before the onslaught.

Archaeology was first spotted quite by chance in December 1985, though it may have been visible for some time unrecognised. In brilliant sunshine a dark, steeply-plunging layer showed clearly in a section of the riverbank at the southern boundary of Achnasavil farmland (A). It appeared to follow the descent of a long-buried bank of a river or lochan, and was found to contain charcoal fragments of calcined bone, a hammerstone and part of a stone disc with a central hole. There were also enough sherds to make up the complete profile of a small Iron Age urn plus a piece of rim from a larger vessel. Following the line of the slope across the field above led me to the new channel, where a bag-shaped, thickly charcoaled pit was found in the undercut bank (B). As soon as permissions had been obtained and the archaeological authorities alerted, monitoring the riverbanks and recording the archaeology began.

Over the next two years a total of six pits and hearths of various shapes and sizes appeared at 'B' strung out along the section like pictures in a gallery. Most contained charcoal, pockets of burned earth and heat-split stones, and from the presence of slag and other hearth debris (there were also two pieces of iron of uncertain provenance), at least some of them were connected with iron making. The dark line of an old ground level about 40cm below the field linked the features, and continued round a promontory which had formed at a bend a little upstream, hinting at more revelations to come. When severe flooding demolished the promontory taking with it the remaining features at 'B', a group of large stones and slabs, possibly the remains of a burial cist, were left high and dry on a hard ledge of ore-stained gravel a little further on. Then, with their disappearance, postholes, slots, pits and charcoal scatters now began to show on a third side of the field (C) between the former positions of the promontory and the group of stones.

At this point renewed appeals for professional involvement brought a response from Historic Scotland's Archaeological Operations and Conservation Unit. A geophysical survey was carried out which identified a number of anomal-

ies below the surface of the field; selective excavation in early 1991 subsequently uncovered traces of cultivation, postholes and pits, as well as possible 'burnt mound' remains, all of which had survived, though much truncated, centuries of ploughing. Soil samples contained grains of barley and wheat, while radiocarbon dating confirmed cultivation in the Early Neolithic, and domestic settlement and cultivation in the Early and Late Bronze Age. So, with an Early Iron Age date already obtained for a pit at 'B', four periods of human activity were now identified for this small area of the Carra glen.

After the excavation team had departed, monitoring of the riverbanks was resumed, and soon a small, square-sectioned stone-filled pit began to show close to the limit of one of the excavated squares, and three more artefacts were found in tumble nearby - a whetstone, a small flint scraper and a piece of fired clay which was not a potsherd. The latter find excited particular interest as its shape and fragility suggested a rare fragment of a mould for casting a bronze sword; frustratingly however, as so often happened at Achnasavil, the findspot became inaccessible before a search could be made for more.

The last feature to appear at the site was perhaps the most enigmatic. It extended nearly a metre under the field at 'A', and contained closely-packed stones with gaps between them plugged by small flat pebbles as if to make the pit hold water; a very large white stone projected in situ until early 1995. Excavation in the field above showed stones neatly and firmly bedded, having somehow escaped the ploughshare. Once again throughout the pit there was dark soil, some pockets of charcoal, calcined bone fragments and one piece of pottery.

Not surprisingly, in view of river action, few artefacts were found at Achnasavil. Besides those mentioned (now in Campbeltown Museum) were a piece of stone, found on a gravel bank, shaped like a slice cut from a flan and with a spindle-like iron projection at the pointed end; and in shallow water close to the site of the promontory was the waterworn upper stone of a rotary quern. Finding this was a stroke of luck, as it stood oddly on its edge against a heavy block that had one flat surface - a saddle quern? The fragments of calcined bone in evidence in much of the site were too small for positive identification but were said to be "not

human".

Of several puzzles that accrued during the monitoring one was most satisfactorily solved. From early on I had noticed at the site and downstream lumps of a grey clayey substance which when dried turned out to be composed of compressed leaves (irresistibly dubbed 'Leafabox'). They were a clue to an important geological bonus which came to light after the loss of the promontory. As the land at 'C' retreated it was seen to overlies at a depth of more than two metres beds of clay containing plant remains - leaves in a fair state of preservation, oddments of wood, hazelnuts and acorns - lumps of which had been breaking off and washed away. The surface of the clay itself was studded in places with the hard, ore-stained concretions that formed round the roots of marginal plants perhaps as much as 6,000 years ago, and, most startling of all, the pale skeletal leaves of iris still stood to a height of some 12 cms. In deep water nearby were the dim shapes of whole tree trunks, roots and branches. Another dimension was thus added to the timescale of the site - the post-glacial environment enjoyed by the first settlers in the glen. There now followed as a separate project a survey, study and dating of the valley floor deposits from Lag Kilmichael to Port Righ to determine the very distant formation of the glen itself.

The archaeology has gone now with the part of the field that had for so long concealed and preserved this microcosm of Carradale's prehistory. The remainder of the field was sown with barley again this year, in continuance of a practice we now know goes back to the first farmers to settle here. The new channel of the Carra Water is now well established, and straight and wide enough to allow flood waters to slip by harmlessly; while the meander has become to all intents and purposes an ox-bow lake.

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- The Monitoring of an Eroding Prehistoric Site at Achnasvil, Carradale, Kintyre; Gloria Siggins and Stephen Carter; G.A.J. forthcoming
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THE CARPENTER MACPHEIGH

Translated by J.G. McKay from the manuscript collections of the late J.F. Campbell of Islay. This tale was drawn to the attention of Mr Alan Campbell by Mrs Jean Fyfe.

There was once upon a time in Scotland a carpenter who dwelt a short distance from the head of Loch Gilp. Men called him the Carpenter MacPheigh. He was the best carpenter that had ever lived in Scotland; and probably better than any carpenter that will ever come after him.

In every part of Scotland and in every corner of England, Ireland and Lochlann, men had heard tell how skilful the Carpenter MacPheigh was. It was thought in those times that the carpenters of Lochlann were far more skilled than either the Irish, Scottish or English carpenters. When the Lochlann carpenters heard it reported how expert and skilful the Carpenter MacPheigh was, a company of their best carpenters arranged together that they would go to Scotland to see him, to compete against him at whittling, and see if he really were as good as fame reported him to be.

They sent on word before them to the Carpenter MacPheigh that they were coming to see him and put him to the test, and that they would then find out whether it was the Scottish or the Lochlann carpenters who were more skilled in the art of carpentry. [They also said] that it was upon wooden horses that they would journey across the ocean and up Loch Fyne, so that the Carpenter MacPheigh would be able to recognise them when he should see them coming up Loch Fyne in that fashion.

Shortly after he had received this intelligence from the Lochlann carpenters, MacPheigh and his gillie happened to be working in the carpentry house, when upon glancing around he saw the Lochlann carpenters in the offing entering Loch Gilp, and riding upon the wooden horses. "Yonder" said he to his gillie, "I behold the Lochlann carpenters coming, and they are riding hither on wooden horses over the broad bosom of the ocean. They come to try whether it is they or we who are most expert in the art of carpentry; and I begin to fear that they will outdo us; for though we are indeed expert in some things, they will be more expert in other things. But I will tell thee what we will do. Be thou the master over me all day today, and I will be thy gillie. We will put off

our clothes and thou shalt put on my clothes, and I thine. And do thou give me orders as to what I am to do, and I will do as thou dost command me. If they tell thee that they are going to essay the strife with thee, say to them that thou hast a gillie who is nearly as skilful as thyself; that they must first outdo him, and if they can do that, then thou thyself wilt strive against them. But lay not thine own hands to the tools upon any account whatsoever, but leave all between them and me; thou art simply to remain standing, and keep the Lochlann carpenters engaged in story and converse".

The Carpenter MacPheigh then bustled about, and was ready before the Lochlann carpenters came to land. The master put on the gillie's dress, but the gillie put on a dress that was richer and better than that which his master wore. And they began to work.

The Lochlann carpenters arrived at the workshop and the gillie in the guise of master saluted them, and began to hold speech and parley with them, saying, "Hail to ye, brother craftsmen from Lochlann, I am indeed pleased to see you, and I think that I have a gillie here, who is as pleased to see you as I am".

The Lochlann carpenters saluted him, and their spokesman said, "We heard of thy fame in Lochlann, and have come to put it to the test; we would see whether thou art as good as fame reports thee, and would try whether it is thou or we that are most expert in the art of carpentry".

The [disguised] gillie said, "It is not a practice of mine at all, to do any work on the day that guests come to see me. Contend ye against my gillie, and if ye beat him today, I myself will strive against you tomorrow".

Said the Lochlann carpenters, "Then we will not do any work today either, but we shall see how thy gillie does, and will essay the strife tomorrow".

While the [disguised] gillie was thus holding speech and parley with the Lochlann carpenters, he kept glancing every now and again at the Carpenter [MacPheigh], to see how he was working. When the Carpenter had finished the thing he was doing, the gillie said to him, "Put a haft in the axe, and in the new adze also, and we will try the strife tomorrow". MacPheigh cast his eye hither and thither up and down the workshop, and made as though he were going outside; but the gillie asked him, "Where art thou going?".

The Carpenter MacPheigh answered, "I am searching for a piece of wood or chopping block upon which to do the whittling".

One of the Lochlann carpenters, mocking at the Carpenter MacPheigh, gave a laugh, and going outside found a great stone, clumsy and shapeless, which he fetched in, and setting it in the middle of the floor, said to him with a kind of contempt, "There's a chopping block for thee, see how thou canst manage with that". The rest of the Lochlann carpenters all laughed, mocking at the Carpenter MacPheigh. The Carpenter MacPheigh looked somewhat abashed on hearing this, but spoke not a word. But he took his bonnet, covered it with a handsome linen cloth, and laid it on top of the stone; then he took another axe and a wooden batten, and laying the end of the batten upon the linen cloth, began the whittling. He made a handle for the adze and drove it in. Then handing the adze to the gillie, said, "There, that's how I have done it". The gillie looked at it, and the handle had been made as exquisitely smooth as if it had been planed. "Yes", said he, "that will do; now fix a handle in the axe".

The Carpenter MacPheigh went, and put the axe in the carpenter's vice, with the eye-socket towards himself, so that he might see it. He placed the stone with the bonnet and the linen cloth spread over the top of it, opposite the vice. Then he took the batten out of which he was about to make the handle, and laid the end of that batten upon the linen cloth which was spread over the bonnet that lay on top of the stone. Then, taking another axe, he began to whittle. He kept looking every now and again at the eye-socket of the axe that was in front of him; he shaped the handle to fit the socket, and when he had finished it, seized it by its end, and threw it with all his strength, and such was the excellence of his aim that he managed to drive the handle straight into the eye-socket of the axe as tightly and firmly as though it had been driven home with a hammer. The Carpenter MacPheigh drove in a wedge to hold the head of the axe on the handle, sharpened the axe well with the grindstone, and fined off the edge well and very well, with the smoothing stone. He then went to the block, and began cutting off the tips of his finger-nails with tremendous blows of the axe. The gillie was looking at him, and said to him, "O stop, stop! For my soul's sake, stop! though I myself

do things of that sort, I would not advise thee to begin it, lest thou take off the tips of thine own fingers".

The Lochlann carpenters shook their heads at each other, spoke to each other in their own language, and then went out of doors to take counsel together. It seemed to them that if the gillie were as skilful as this, the master must needs be exceedingly skilful, and it would, therefore, be quite useless to go and compete in carpentry against him. So they went back into the carpenter's shop, and looked to see how the handle of the axe was made, and it had been made as beautifully smooth as though it had been planed. They then picked up the linen cloth that was lying on the bonnet on top of the stone upon which the handle had been made, and there was not so much as a single cut in it.

Meanwhile the Carpenter MacPheigh and his gillie had been putting new couples* up in the carpenter's shop. The purlins were also up with the holes already in them, and MacPheigh was driving the pegs into them. Every time he made a peg, he would fling it up so that its point went into the hole, then after it would he hurl the hammer so that the head of the hammer would strike the peg, driving it home up to the butt end, and when the hammer fell MacPheigh would clutch it by the haft in his hand again.

When the Lochlann carpenters saw this, they thought that if the gillie were as good as all that, there was no knowing how good the master might be. "This lad of thine", said they, "is very expert in the craft". "Indeed", said the gillie [in the guise of master], "he is aye growing better; if he remain with me till the end of a year or two, he will be almost as good as myself; tomorrow, however, it is you and I who will compete with each other".

The Lochlann carpenters put their heads together and decided that it would be useless for them to go and strive with the Carpenter MacPheigh on the morrow, for they would certainly be put to shame; that they had much better ask the master into the hostel to drink ale with them, and after

* Two rafters form a couple. They usually spring from the tops of opposite walls and meet together at the ridge of the roof. Sometimes they begin at the floor, and are then built into the walls. The purlin is a spar joining the angle made by the two rafters. The purlin is placed midway between the wall and the roof ridge.

that make an excuse that they were going for a little trip on their wooden horses by the side of the shore, to view the country for themselves; then when they had got out of sight, would go out to sea, and back to Lochlann, and never return.

They asked the Carpenter MacPheigh into the hostel to a feast. After a little coaxing, the gillie still disguised as the master, went with them. But MacPheigh remained outside. And while the others were in the hostel, the Carpenter MacPheigh went to inspect the wooden horses belonging to the Lochlann carpenters, and find out how they were made. He examined them very thoroughly, and upon finding out how they were made, took a tiny wooden peg out of each one of them, and went away and left them.

When the Lochlann carpenters came out of the hostel, they went to their wooden horses. They said that they were going for a sea-trip along the coast, and that they would be back in a short time. They never thought about looking to see whether their wooden horses were in order, but mounted them just as they were; and out to sea they went.

When they were well out to sea, the wooden horses became unserviceable for lack of the pegs that the Carpenter MacPheigh had taken out of them, and when the wind arose, the rolling of the waves drove the horses to pieces, and the Lochlann carpenters were drowned. And never again did any one come from Lochlann to trouble the Carpenter MacPheigh.

Much can be done by strength, but more can be done by strategy.

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["Lochlann" is Scandinavia. Ed.]

Correction to Kist 50

A Different Experience of Emigration, pp.15-19, passim.

Due to the Editor's misreading of Jock Black's handwriting, the name of the ship on which he travelled to South Africa appeared as "Suevic". Miss Campbell of Kilberry points out that this should have read "Suecia". The Editor apologises to any reader who may have been sent on a Ghost-ship chase.

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A FURTHER SELECTION of PRE-1855 GRAVESTONES (II)

F.S. Mackenna

Five earlier issues of Kist - 29, 30, 31, 48 and 50 - contain lists of readings of old gravestones. In 1855 it became obligatory to register all deaths, so that gravestones, along with (sporadic) Parish records, were no longer the only readily available source for research.

Cladh Mhicheil, Gartnagrenach

NR801600

Erected by ALEX and NEIL McKINVEN in memory of their father ALEX McKINVEN late tenant in KILNACREIGE who departed this life the 27th day of Aug 1808 aged 69 years.

Hear lies the Corps of MARY MUNRO daughter to MALCUM MUNRO in ALTBEA who died Novr 10th 1757 aged 16.

[On boundary wall] This is erected by JOHN RUSSELL mason in memory of his children and MARGT McNICOLL spous to ALEXANDER RUSSELL and their children 1790.

This is the Burial place appointed for DUNCAN BAXTER his wife and children. 1755.

In memory of Cap. HECTOR MACLEAN late of the 93rd Regt. who died at Gartnagrenoch on the 17th day of Sep 1840 aged 62 years.

Sacred to the memory of ANN STEWART spouse to ARCHIBALD McCallum who died at DUPIN 27th April 1837 aged 48 years. Also the following of their family viz ARCHD died [?14th] June 1827 aged 18 mo; ANN died - Dec - aged 6 days; ANN died 22 March 1830 aged 11 yr. Erected by her husband and son.

Here lys the remains of MURDO McFARLAN tenant in ARIVORE and MARGT McFARLAN his spouse 1757.

Sacred to the memory of DONALD McCORQUODALE, LONLIA who died the 3d day of May 1839 in the 69th year of his age Also his wife ANN CAMPBELL.

In memory of ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR eldest son of ALEXANDER SINCLAIR died in TOBAGO 1823 aged 42 years. Also of Ensign DONALD SINCLAIR his brother a brave and much beloved youth who was killed at FLUSHING 1809 aged 21 years.

Sacred to the memory of ALEXANDER SINCLAIR tacksman of KILCHAMAIG who died 18th June 1827 aged 84 years and of SUSAN CAMPBELL his spouse who died 12th March 1795 aged 46 years.

Here lies the corps of SARA JOHNSTON who died Octr 15 1743 aged 6. KATHRIN JOHNSTON who died Sept 1743 aged 2 yrs and half.

Here lies the Corps of ELIZABETH SCROGIE spouse to JOHN MOWAT in NEW BARNS who died Aug 1754.

Erected by DOUNCAN MACPHAIL in Memory of his Spous MAREY CAMPBELL who died 1799 Aged 35 years and Three children.

Erected by JOHN CAMPBELL baker GREENOCK in memory of his father JOHN CAMPBELL who died in GARTNAGRENOCH 18th June 1825 in the 34th year of his age. Also his brother JAMES CAMPBELL who was killed in CHINA by pirates in 1847 in the 29th year of his age. Also his beloved mother MARGARET LIVINGSTON who died 26th April 1881 aged 88 years.

In memory of DANIEL McKEICH for seven year the beloved and affectionate Pastor of the Congregational church in CAMPBELTOWN who died on the 21 September 1836 in the 38 year of his age.

Erected by JOHN DOUGLASS farmer MONYBACKACH in memory of his father ALEX DOUGLAS who died on the 15th January 1842 aged 74 years. Also AGNES McINTOSH his spouse who died at KILNACRAIG on the 7 of July aged 47 years.

Here Lies the Corps of PATERICK McFARLAN taylor who died in KILNACRAG 17th Feby 1783 Aged 63 yrs.

Here lies the corps of JOHN GOLBREATH who lived in GARTNINGRENACH and died Febr 9th 1748 aged 65.

Here lies the corps of NIVIN GOLBREATH who lived in AGHNINGLEAN and died Aug 2nd 1741 aged 78 and ANN HEMON his spous who died 1740.

Erected by JAMES CARSWELL in memory of his father ROBERT CARSWELL who died 26th Feb 1844 aged 40 years. Also his brother John who was drowned at GOVAN 8th April 1860 aged 26 years.

Erected by DUGALD TURNER Shipmaster LONDON in memory of DUGALD TURNER his Father late Farmer at GARVACHIE who

departed this life the 14th March 1839 aged 76 years. Also John Turner mariner his Brother who died the 1st August 1840 aged 41 years.

Here lies the Corps of DONALD CAMPBELL who lived in GORT-ningrenach and died March 10th 1748 aged 68.

To the memory of MARY McFARLANE who died 14th October 1831 aged 56 years. Also MALCOM McTAGGART her husband who died 19th February 1836 aged 61 years. Erected by their son ARCHIBALD McTAGGART 1839.

This is erected in memory of JOHN McALPEN and SARAH McBEN his Spous 1790.

Erected March the 18th in the year 1817. This is the Burying Place of DOUGALD McALPINE Merchant in CLACHAN and ISOBELL CAMPBELL his spouse and their children.

Erected by DUNCAN McKELLAR in memory of his mother JANET McPHAIL who died at ARIVORE 26th April 1846 aged 56 years.

Erected by GILBERT and COLIN McKINVEN to the memory of their father GILBERT McKINVEN tenant LONLIA who died 12th November 1838 aged 85 years And MARGERET McCALLUM his spouse who died 7th August 1839 aged 71 years.

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SUMMER EXPEDITIONS 1995

29th April. Crinan Woods and "New York"

A walk by the footpath made by the Scottish Woodland Trust through natural woodland. Many birds were heard and some seen, but not so many as had been hoped. A diversion was made to visit "New York", but some elected to view it from a distance. Two abandoned slate quarries were identified from the Canal path.

20th May. Danna and Keills

There were Spring wild flowers along the shores on Danna, including Early Purple orchids. We visited the Old Ferry House used as a salt store in the days of the Salt Tax, the lime kiln beside it, and saw the quarry that supplied the lime-stone. Then on by car to the stone piers at Keills where cattle were landed from Lagg on Jura to be walked by drove road to cattle trysts; the tour ended at Keills Chapel (12th

century) with its 8th century cross.

17th June. Arran

Full day trip by ferry from Claonaig to Lochranza and by coach round the island by Blackwaterfoot, with frequent stops. The reader is referred to the following article.

12th July. Barnashalg

A pleasant evening walk up from Carsaig Bay to the deserted settlement and steading. The size and substantial appearance of the buildings were a surprise; the horsegang was well preserved, even its machinery being still largely in place, though immobilised by rust. On the way back a visit was made to an older settlement, and to the graveyard at Carsaig.

19th August. Kilmichael Inverlussa

We visited the attractive parish church (1820) and admired its plain sunlight-filled interior; several interesting stones in the graveyard including an 8th or 9th century cross-slab, much worn, (Kist 31 pp. 1-3 and cover). Uphill walk to a large earthen boulder with a stone ball almost carved out of it. It was too hot to visit the lime-kiln further up the hill! Back to Achnamara and a short shore walk to see the clapper bridge.

16th September. Auchindrain

In a short talk before the party made their own way round the houses and farm, Mrs Kahane reminded them that the Society, at the instigation of Miss Campbell of Kilberry, had been largely responsible for the preservation of this unique example surviving of a multiple-tenancy farm. First-time visitors were amazed, and even old hands (even the 'Friends of Auchindrain') found new things to delight them. Those who missed this official visit are urged to make one on their own.

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ARRAN 1995

Rebecca Pine

See "Loch Tarbert" at the slipway, and the waters of the Sound Stretching coldly from Kilbrannan to the Kyles.

Take the crossing to Lochranza. Find a party pleasure bound,
Each a one-day Lord, or Lady, of the Isles.

Once gathered at Lochranza the party sets its sights
On a punctuated journey, which for most
Means the studying of Arran's antiquarian delights
And the flora and the fauna of the coast.

On an anti-clockwise circuit of the elevated shore
By "Apostles Twelve" at Catacol they pause -
Mute reminders of the clearances to 1834,
Of so many empty settlements the cause.

Past the bobbin mill at Pirnmill, once suppliers to the world,
To where burnet roses bloom at Imachar
Where they gaze up at the fulmars on their flimsy nesting curled
And admire their tailored beauty - from afar!

Then by standing stones and fallen stones and circle stones they file
As the day begins to warm on Machrie Moor;
Up to old Kilpatrick 'Cashel' trudging half an Arran mile
Where they gaze across to far Kintyre's shore.

From Blackwaterfoot by Sliddery - a curious flat-topped bing
Looking south to Ailsa's famous rocky crag -
Then the prehistoric chambered burial mound at Torrylin,
And the herons nesting high above at Lagg.

There's a reef runs out to Pladda, and the dykes run out to sea,
And the light runs by computer far away!
And the road runs round to Brodick past the old deserted quay
Whence the emigrants set sail from Lamlash Bay.

There they bade farewell to Scotland on the Lamlash village green
With a final service held in Scottish air.
Then they built a Nova Scotia, and though oceans lie between,
There's a beating heart of Scotland over there.

Here's a great deal of renewal in the villages and towns
And a feast of views to Cumbrae and to Bute;
But the glens are marked with runrigs with their corrugated crowns
And the empty land and crumbled crofts are mute.

So the final view of Arran as Lochranza's proud outline
Disappears within the island's silhouette
Is of Scotland in a capsule; and its own dividing line -
Highland/Lowland, Modern/Ancient - lingers yet.

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BOOK REVIEWS

ARGYLL. THE ENDURING HEARTLAND. Marion Campbell.
Colin Baxter Photography Ltd. £9.95

There may have been a momentary dismay on remembering that this title had already been used in 1977, but reassurance came on the title page - Second Edition, Revised by the Author; and it was soon evident that this new edition achieves the miracle of improving on its earlier version. This has been brought about in various ways, the most immediately obvious being the omission of the illustrations. If the writer be, as Miss Campbell undoubtedly is, a superlative practitioner, pictures can be an intrusion. Again, the notes, formerly a separate section, were for many readers a recurrent interruption eventually to be ignored, at least at the time of reading; now they have been incorporated in the main text, together with new items of information and advances in understanding which have occurred in the past twenty years. The Genealogical Tables are of necessity strictly factual, but here too revision has occurred, and the author declares them to be "greatly improved".

One respect in which Miss Campbell stands pre-eminent is her power of leading one to feel that one is actually experiencing the circumstances set out on the printed page. This absolute participation can result from only a few sentences of text, or may extend over an entire six-page section as in "Midwinter". Perhaps the most striking instances occur when the narrative is suddenly interrupted by a word or two of colloquial interjection. For example, in the midst of recounting the tentative early occupation of the Northlands, we are told some already established settlers see later migrants approaching ".... a strange boat entering their bay deep-laden, two-three men, women, children, sacks, bundles and - look at that now! two dumpy hand-tame beasts Well! wait here quietly now while I go down and make peace signs!" You suddenly realise that you are sharing the wonderment and uncertainty. Even in mythological matters this illusion can be created by half-a-dozen startling words: her reference to the passage in Adomnan's Life of Columba which recounts the saint's success in dealing with hostile Druids and in cowing the Loch Ness monster concludes with (in brackets) "Put that disciple down, Sir!

Bad monster!"

The only section of the book where revision has not taken place is the choice of the author's and others' poems. In this connection one realises how fully these evocative verses partake of Miss Campbell's skill in the use of words. Indeed in every part of the book we meet with this remarkable ability to make even the commonplace into a passage of lasting delight - without impairing the serious and factual aspect of the subject. One cannot read to the end without becoming much wiser in understanding of the development of our area from the earliest post-glacial era to the present day.

This new edition is a treasure for repeated reading, either as a whole or as isolated chapters, each being complete in itself. The cover deserves mention. Everyone praised the previous one, but it is to be conceded that the new one is even more attractive. The fact that the format is paperback would normally be subject for a note of depreciation, but such is the quality of the present example of a deplorable modern development that we are cheated of that excuse for making even one disparaging remark.

F.S.M.

THE STORY OF CROFTING IN SCOTLAND. Douglas Willis.
John Donald Publishers Ltd. £9.95 (paperback)

This is a welcome reprint of a book first published in 1991, and reviewed, at length and in the main favourably, in Kist 43 (Spring 1992). It is enjoyable to read, and well-illustrated with black-and-white photographs. The account of the background history which led to the establishment of crofting is, as the then reviewer wrote, "well-informed and well-balanced", with a fair amount of documentation. For those who wish a good account of crofting, without feeling it necessary to go through the detail of James Hunter's (much longer) classic The Making of the Crofting Community in Scotland, also reprinted by John Donald, this book is to be recommended. It is, moreover, written some twenty years later, and covers later aspects; though the passage of time has overtaken even one or two points in the last chapters - but minor ones. The bibliography "Further Reading" is useful.

A.O.M.C.

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KILMARTIN HOUSE
centre for archaeology and landscape interpretation

The following note has been provided for Kist by Chris Maddox of the Kilmartin House centre - an enterprise which deserves interest and support. It will be noticed that the concern expressed at the 1995 AGM of our Society that nothing was being done locally to help children with (or to!) an interest in archaeology and natural history is answered by the centre's activities for the young. Ed.

Building conversion work has started on Kilmartin House. The centre is due to open in August. During the next six months a variety of consultants and advisors will be on hand to help piece together the museum exhibition, audio-visual programme, public information area, book shop and cafe. The British Museum has informally agreed to lend a number of Kilmartin artefacts, including the Neolithic bowl from Net-her Largie South, for the permanent exhibition. Negotiations for the return of a small number of artefacts from the Royal Museums of Scotland are underway. The Kilmartin House Trust believes that showing the artefacts in context, close to where they were left, and found, will infinitely enhance their value. The museum will be free to all locals, and concessions will be available to antiquarian societies.

The library of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll is now stored at Kilmartin House. Anyone who would like to use it or any of the Trust's own reference material is welcome to drop by at short notice - office hours are 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. Photocopying facilities and workspace, alongside staff, are provided at present, but plans to turn the remainder of Meldrum House into a study centre, offices and accommodation for researchers and volunteers do include an area for private research, equipped with computer terminals.

A new Mid Argyll YOC/YAC (Young Ornithologists Club/ Young Archaeologists Club) was launched in January. Organised by Dr Damion Willcock, the Trust's education officer, the children's group meets every other weekend for a variety of activities: indoors there are slide shows, talks, making bird boxes, games; outdoors there is birdwatching, woodland and coastal walks, archaeology, treeplanting and much more. It is hoped that members of the group will continue their

interest in natural history and archaeology into adulthood by eventually joining NHASMA. Damion would appreciate the help of volunteers who can offer particular skills or knowledge and enjoy working with "children and animals".

The material generously donated to the Trust by Miss Campbell of Kilberry and Colonel Fane Gladwin was catalogued in December by Caroline Wickham-Jones, flint expert, and Ann Clark, expert in coarse stone tools. Rachel Clough is looking for volunteers to help with labelling the artefacts.

The planned opening in August depends on the Trust raising a further £30,000. A Founding Friends organisation has been established, and a limited edition print of Dunadd is being sold in aid of the Trust. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Rachel or Damion at Kilmartin House, Kilmartin, PA31 8RQ, or telephone 01546 510278.

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Membership Subscriptions

These have been unchanged since before 1980. At the Society's AGM in October 1995 it was decided that subscriptions should be raised to £4 single, £6 for a couple. In addition to the normal expenses of a society we have over the years supported enterprises and organisations involved in work which we cannot ourselves undertake. This continues.

The price of Kist has been unchanged at 60p since 1978. As we have been advised by the printers that costs have risen it will be necessary to increase this also. Members of course receive their copies free of charge.

For the present the price of all issues of Kist will be £1.