

1866 - BURGH CENTENARY SOUVENIR - 1966

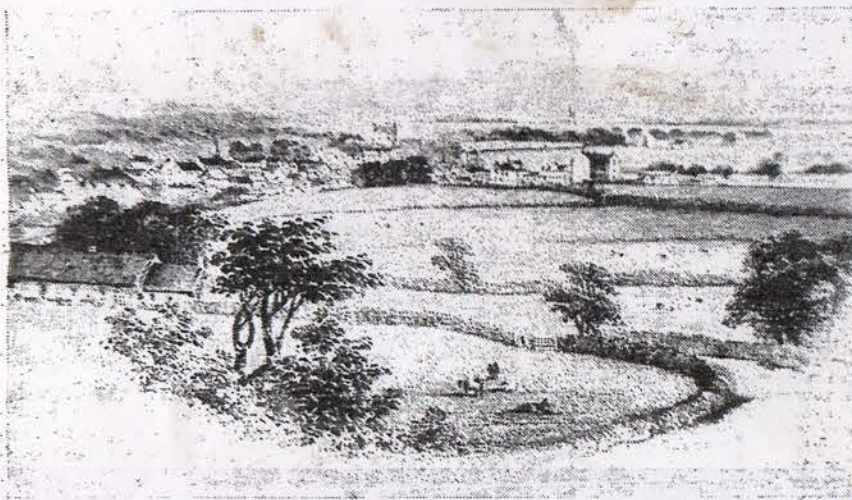
ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO TOMORROW, on the 10th day of December, 1866, the first meeting of the newly elected Commissioners of the Police Burgh of Cumnock was held in the Parish School. There was not a full attendance and the meeting was adjourned for three days to ensure that everyone would be present. Accordingly, we decided to incorporate our own Centenary Review in this issue of 9th December, the nearest possible date to the original meeting.

Collecting all the information for these twelve pages has been a labour of love — and a task of extraordinary interest. Looking over old issues of a local newspaper like ours for specific items of news, statistical or otherwise, calls for considerable self-discipline. Time and again one finds oneself engrossed in some article or report quite irrelevant to the search in progress — and time does fly "wi' tentless heed."

Hunting for old photographs has been a particularly intriguing occupation, and not infrequently the ultimate quarry has been tracked down in completely unexpected quarters. From time to time we have appealed for our readers' help in some specific line, and we have been most grateful for the innumerable offers of direct help, or direction to a possible source. In consequence, our souvenir issue embraces no fewer than 120 photographs of individuals who, in one way or another, have been associated with our town over the past 100 years. Inevitably, some of the photographs, either through old age, or fading detail, are not to our normal standard of reproduction, but we feel that any shortcomings in that direction will be accepted as unavoidable.

The list is in no way as complete as we had hoped, but all things considered it is still, we believe, a commendable result. The strangest thing about it is the occasional notable omission — the absence of the Rev. John Warrick's likeness for instance, despite diligent enquiry — and there are others. Then again, some folks shun publicity of any kind, and we, of course, have respected that opinion, though we may have regretted the necessity to do so.

Since this issue coincides with the publication of the "New History of Cumnock," it might prove a useful addendum to that excellent volume, particularly in respect of our photographic coverage which, quite naturally, is far outwith the scope of Dr. Strawhorn's book. We fancy many copies will be folded away to take their place beside the New History, and if that be so we will rest content with our labours.



Cumnock 160 years ago, looking past Shankston Cottages, and over the grass parks of the Dumfries Arms (Heid Inn's) Hotel to the Pottery Row and the town.

FORMING THE POLICE BURGH.

This week, 100 years ago, Cumnock was accorded Police Burgh status, with competence to elect its own Commissioners and look after its own affairs in very large measure.

But that assumption of democratic order was not entirely the beginning, but rather the continuity of a saga set in motion away back in 1509, when Cumnock was granted a Royal Charter establishing a Burgh in Barony, at the hands of King James 4th.

Charter Granted 1509

In the presence of Alexander, Archbishop of St. Andrew's, Chancellor; William, Bishop of Aberdeen, Keeper of the Privy Seal; Andrew, Bishop of Caithness, Treasurer; Archibald, Earl of Argyll; Matthew, Earl of Lennox; Andrew, Lord Gray; Master Gavin Dunbar, Archdeacon of St. Andrews; Master Patrick Pauntere, Secretary; and Richard Colville of Ochiltree—at Edinburgh, on 27th September, 1509, and the twenty-second of the King's reign—the Great Seal was affixed.

The Charter granted Cumnock a Market Cross and the right to establish weekly markets and Fair Days, to which merchants could come from any distance in pursuit of trade.

As the centuries rolled on, Cumnock grew and experienced all that was common to other small communities hoping to benefit from their newly acquired nobility.

The story is unfolded in most readable style and with a wealth of detail in Dr. Strawhorn's new "History of Cumnock," due to be published this week, so we will leave the telling to him.

In course of time, there were those in the town who thought they should avail themselves of the provisions of the Act of 1862, which permitted "populous places" to adopt the "police system" and become new Burghs. This would enable them, among other things, to bring into the town a gravitational supply of water, create a systematic method of disposal of refuse and sewage, look after pavements, and the safety of the populace in general.

Rates would be chargeable to householders, and those who paid £10 or more in rent would be able to elect a town council to carry the necessary business through.

The Worthy Nine

A petition signed by nine local men was presented to the Sheriff of Ayr and he, after due consideration, declared Cumnock to be a populous place within the meaning of the Act—and called a meeting of £10 householders in the yard of the Dumfries Arms Inn on 2nd November, 1866.

Opposition was strong and organised, and on a vote an Amendment that the Act be not adopted was approved. The petitioners were prepared for this, and demanded a poll and this was scheduled for the 5th of November.

Fearing heavy assessment, despite the careful prognostications of the petitioners, meetings were called to denounce the whole idea of township as nonsensical.

The result of the poll was victory for the petitioners by 35 to 32—a small majority, but all that was needed.

The Decisive Poll

For adoption of the Act—John Templeton, shoemaker; Daniel King, dyer; William

Ettershank, banker; John Allan, grain dealer; James Paterson, draper; David Earle; William M'Lachie, wright; Alex. Muir, grocer; Thomas Barrowman, miner; John Rankin, painter; George Samson, grocer; Duncan Ballantine, printer; Dr. Lawrence; Rev. William Hutton; John Ballantine, photographer; James Murray, innkeeper; Anthony M'Clymont, writer; Hamilton Rose, writer; James Dalgliesh, millwright; David L. Scott, teacher; Andrew Murdoch, mason; Andrew White, banker; David Crichton, baker; Hew Crichton, W.S.; William Dalgliesh, draper; John Drummond, millwright; William White, farmer; George Alexander, carrier; Robert Dalgliesh, dealer; John M'Cowan, innkeeper; David McLeod, wright, and William M'Gavin, miller. 35 Votes.

Against the Adoption—William Johnstone, grocer; James Hutcheson, wright; William Crawford, fletcher; Alexander N. Moore, watchmaker; Robert Bain, innkeeper; James Ramage, grocer; William Hyslop, saddler; Andrew Jardine, dealer; John Moodie, agent; Henry Merry, smith; John Baird, draper; William Lamont, farmer; William Lamont, jr., farmer; Samuel Galbraith, grocer; James Howat, grocer; William Wilson, innkeeper; James M'Clannachan, innkeeper; William MacKinnell, draper; James Weir, innkeeper; John Kay, grocer; John M'Gavin, baker; James Boswell, farmer; George Findlay, innkeeper; George M'Kervail, shoemaker; Hugh Chimie, fletcher; Thomas Crawford, draper; William Blyth, fletcher; Hugh M'Kerrow, dealer; David Shaw, draper; Robert Walker, grocer; James Livingstone, grocer; and William Kay, grocer. 32 Votes.

The following were the Voters:—

- Livingstone, Hugh.
- Nicol, James, Glaisnock Street.
- M'Kerrow, John, Barrhill Road.
- Eadie, William, Glaisnock Street.
- M'Geachin, James.
- Barrowman, George.
- Vallance, David, Little Chungno.
- Campbell, Robert, Lugar Street.
- Crawford, William, Ayr Road.
- Howat (Kelly) John.
- Wallace, William, Ayr Road.
- Ross, Daniel, Lugar Street.
- Howat, Margaret, Townhead St.
- Millar, Agnes, Baird's Place.
- M'Millan, Ellen, Townhead Street.
- Gilchrist, Mary, Strand.
- Millar, Mary, Townhead Street.
- Armstrong, John.
- Anderson, Robert, Ayr Road.
- Muir, George M'Cartney, Burnside Works.
- Kerr, Grace, Waterside Place.
- Hodge, Jane, Tanyard Lane.
- Martin, Grace, Lugar Bridge.
- Templeton, Marlon, Lugar Street.
- Munn, Charlotte, Holmhead.
- Baird, Margaret, Townhead Street.
- Stewart, Catherine, 10 New Bridge Street.

- Davidson, John, Roadside.
- Lennox, Eliza, Townhead Street.
- Mackay Isabella, Glaisnock Street.
- Matheson, Agnes, Tower Street.
- Muir, Isabella, Burnside Works.
- Hunter, Elizabeth, Meadow Cott.
- Murphy, Ann.
- Davidson, Margaret, Elbow Lane.
- Dunlop, Peter, Grimsgrew Cottage.
- Findlay, George.
- Hutcheson, James.
- Crawford, Alexander.
- Ferguson, Walter, Townhead St.
- Anderson, Elizabeth.
- M'Intosh, John.
- Wilson, Hugh, Glaisnock Street.
- Hutcheson, John.
- Robb, Elizabeth.
- Wylie, Alexander, Glaisnock St.
- Ritchie, David, Elbow Lane.
- Ross, Ellen, Glaisnock Street.
- Brown, Agnes, Ayr Road.
- Halliday, James, Tanyard Lane.
- Howat, Harris, Townhead Street.
- Innes, Jane.
- Lennox, Agnes, Strand.
- Templeton, Mary, Roseburn.
- Main, Sophia, Ayr Road.

- M'Kinnon, Duncan.
- Bain, George, Glaisnock Street.
- Bryan, Janet.
- Colville, Annie, Elbow Lane.
- Millar, Violet, Townhead Street.
- Young, James.
- Brown, Mary, 42 Barrhill Road.
- Tannahill, Andrew, Changin' Cott.
- Latta, John, Darmulloch.
- Ritchie, James, Elbow Lane.
- Brown, George, 42 Barrhill Road.
- Richmond, George, Kilholm Pl.
- Barrowman, William.
- M'LeLland, William, Ayr Road.
- White, David, Ayr Road.
- Lorimer, John.
- Bannatyne, Charles, Tower Street.
- Hutcheson, Alexander.
- Samson, Grace, Waterside Place.
- Murphy, James.
- Henderson, Mary, Boreland Mill.
- Millar, James, Glaisnock Street.
- Smith, Henry, Tower Street.
- Hannah, Mary, Elbow Lane.
- Livingstone, Janet, Lugar Street.
- Shankland, James, Boyes.
- Hutcheson, Mary, Ayr Road.

First Commissioners Elected

- Vallance, Elizabeth.
- Urquhart, Alexander, Ayr Road.
- Steel, Matthew, Netherton.
- Steel, John, Netherton.
- Anderson, Alexander, Ayr Road.
- Richmond, William, Townhead St.
- Wylie, Robert.
- Anderson, James, Glengyron Row.
- Crichton, Charles, Lugar Street.
- Weir, Robert, Barrhill Road.
- Stevenson, Robert, Changue.
- Stevenson, Alexander, Changue.
- Cameron, Charles, Long-rigg Cott.
- Howat, John, Townhead Street.
- Colquhoun, Andrew, Strand.
- White, Thomas, Townhead Street.
- Simpson David, Horsecleugh.
- Davidson, John, Townhead Street.
- Weir, Alexander, Tower Street.
- Hodge, John, Holmhead.
- Wightman, David.
- Wilson, Robert, Glaisnock St.
- Ferguson, Robert.
- Davidson, Andrew, Barrhill Road.
- Gilchrist, James, Strand.
- Smith, Douglas, Tower Street.
- Crawford, John.
- Rogerson, James.
- Millar, John.
- Vallance, Grace.
- Hutcheson, Margaret, Ayr Road.
- Samson, Margaret, Ayr Road.
- Lennox, Margaret, Strand.
- Brown, Margaret.
- Steel, Agnes.
- Hyslop, Jane, 1 New Bridge St.
- Gillespie, Elizabeth, Townhead St.
- M'Gee, Agnes, Tanyard Lane.
- Crumbin, Margaret.
- Weir, Ellen, Barrhill Road.
- Kay, Ellen.
- Urquhart, Margaret, Ayr Road.
- Rogerson, Janet.
- Armstrong, Elizabeth.
- Richardson, Jane.
- Richardson, Maggie.
- M'Farlane, Thomas.
- Davidson, James, Roadside.
- Davidson, George, Roadside.
- Mackie, John, Avisyard.
- Begg, Ellen, Roadside.
- Crawford, Agnes, Roadside.
- Cree, Marson, Ayr Road.
- Crawford, Hugh, Strand.
- Green, William.
- Hillicott, Thomas.
- M'Naught, Jane, Donaldson Braes.
- Hannah, William, Elbow Lane.
- Gibb, John, Tanyard Lane.
- Gibson, John, Woodend.
- Chimie, Hugh, Tower Street.
- Templeton, William, Holmhead.
- Mackay, William, Glaisnock St.



Mr William Dalgliesh.



Mr David Scott.



Mr Daniel King.



Mr Thomas Barrowman.



Mr John M'Gavin.



Mr Duncan Ballantine.

On the 7th of December, 1866, at a meeting of the householders, the Commissioners were elected thus:—

Votes	
William Dalglish, draper,	20
David Lawson Scott, teacher,	20
William M'Letchie, wright,	20
Daniel King, wool manufacturer,	20
Thomas Barrowman, contractor,	20
William M'Gavin, miller,	18
John Drummond, engineer,	18
John M'Cowan, inn keeper,	18
Duncan Ballantine, printer,	16

Senior Magistrates — Wm. Dalglish and John M'Cowan.

Hatred and Ill-feeling

Describing the situation following the Poll — Provost James Richmond recalled at the December meeting of the Council in 1916:—"Only those who had come through it had any idea of the hatred and ill-feeling which had been raised at that time. People left shops and churches because the owner or the minister had voted for the Burgh. The day of the election was one of the most turbulent in the history of the town. Those in favour of the Burgh were groaned and hissed at as they passed through the streets, and if any of their family ever went near the window, they were forced to go back by those in the street making faces at them, and annoying them in every way possible."

Water Introduced

"Following the introduction of water to the town, the Burgh had commenced to grow. At that time, in Glaisnock Street, there were no houses above the Pottery Row; in Barrhill Road there were none above the graveyard on that side of the road, and none past the block above Baillie Miller's studio on the other. In Ayr Road there were no houses further down than New Bridge Street, and there were no houses in The Holm."

A Prophecy

In the same address, the Provost jocularly remarked that he had half expected a *deputation of visionaries to call on him with a Provost's Chain*—a prophetic allusion which was to come true sooner than he thought — the following year, in fact, when Cumnockian Mr Alexander Gemmell, of Bradford, presented the Provost with the handsome chain which we illustrate below.

THE FIRST COUNCIL MEETS

The first meeting was held on 10th December, 1866, in the

Parish School—but, as there were apologies for absence from several commissioners—it was considered expedient to adjourn for three days.

The meeting was reconvened on 13th December, in the School, when Mr Duncan Ballantine proposed that Mr William Dalglish be appointed Senior Police Magistrate. Mr T. Barrowman seconded—and the motion was unanimously approved. Messrs Daniel King and William M'Gavin were appointed Junior Magistrates. At the next meeting, on 24th December, Mr Ballantine proposed, seconded by Mr M. M'Latchie, that Mr David Smith, Inspector of Poor, be appointed Inspector of Nuisances at a salary of £4. It was then proposed by Mr Barrowman, seconded by Mr M'Latchie, that Mr Andrew White, Agent of the Royal Bank, be appointed Clerk and Collector at a salary of £15. Both motions were agreed.

On August 19th, 1867, the Sanitary Committee was instructed to make arrangements to have the town lighted with gas lamps. Lord Bute was written to, offering £5 per annum for the water proposed to be taken from the Borland Burn. Special conditions were laid down for water supply to the Dumfries Arms Hotel, The Pottery and Ballantine's Studio.

On 9th September, David Richmond was appointed scavenger at 16/- per week.

On 14th October, erection of gas lamps reported and Mr Thomas Shields was appointed as Treasurer at a salary of £3 10/-.

On 9th December, 1867, Conveners were appointed — Water and Bye Laws—Thos. Barrowman; Sanitary—Wm. Dalglish; Finance—Duncan Ballantine.

November 14, 1870 — Wm. M'Latchie plans for building Waterside Place approved.

May 10th, 1871 — population of the Burgh announced — 1472 males, 1431 females; total, 2903.

April 14th, 1873 — Mr Arch. Brakenridge appointed Burgh Treasurer.



Mr Alex. Gemmell, donor of the Chain.

May 14th, 1877 — Senior magistrate expresses sorrow on the death of Mr Duncan Ballantine, a Commissioner since the Burgh's foundation in 1866.

May 1st, 1879 — 30 local gentlemen agree to become members of the fire brigade.

December 8th, 1879 — Mr Arch. Brakenridge appointed Clerk and Collector on death of Mr Andrew White. Mr Brakenridge also appointed Clerk to the Court.

January 12th, 1880 — Mr D. Smith, Inspector of Poor, appointed Treasurer.

February 13th, 1882 — The Clydesdale Bank presents plans for new Bank in Lugar Street.

January 8th, 1883 — Lord Bute approached on the subject of a new Hall for the town. He replied, offering a free site and £500 towards its erection. His Lordship's gift accepted with thanks.

December 9th, 1884 — John M'Callum appointed Hall-keeper and Sanitary Inspector for £30 per annum.

January 12th, 1885 — Arrangements made for opening concert in new Town Hall. Lord and Lady Bute officially received.

September 15th, 1887 — Flushing Pond made at Townhead to keep the Glaisnock Water clean in dry weather.

February 10th, 1890 — Dr. Lawrence appointed medical officer of the Burgh. Salary £5 5s 0d.

December 14th, 1891 — Roads and highways within the Burgh to be taken over.

July 13th, 1894 — Hugh Morrison's offer of £109 to take water pipes up Barrhill Road accepted.

December 10th, 1894 — The Secretary of State for Scotland written concerning union of Holmhead with the Parish of Cumnock. Ratified 12th August, 1895. Mercat Cross accepted as insignia of Common Seal for the Burgh.

February 11th, 1896 — Dr. Kerr appointed Burgh Medical Officer in succession to Dr. Lawrence.

March 10th, 1896 — Fire brigade reorganised. Captain, Andrew Harvey.

May 11th, 1896 — Plans for new Free Church considered.

February 8th, 1897—Agreed to appoint Burgh Surveyor and Hallkeeper at £65 per annum. September 13th, 1897 — The Queen's Jubilee Fountain in Square planned. Completed January 10th, 1898.

February 14th, 1898 — Celebrated "Picture" row between Parish and Town Councils gets going. Parish Council ultimately removes from Town Hall to Ayr Road.

September 12th, 1898—Site for Fever Hospital at the "Clay Slaps" finally settled. March 13th, 1899 — Motion by Thomas M'Gauchie to light streets and other establishments with electricity.

April 9th, 1899 — Plans for Old Church Hall in Barrhill Road passed.

December 11th, 1899 — Dr. C. R. M'Donald of Ayr appointed Medical Officer of Health on Dr. Kerr's resignation.

April 11th, 1900—Reported that water rose above the highest point at Barrhill—26 feet.

May 24th, 1900 — Provost Andrew moved expression of great satisfaction at the relief of Mafeking.

December 12th, 1900—Sheriff dismisses the great Barrhill Pavement Rails case and awards expenses against the pursuers.

January 30th, 1901—Council sends address of deep sorrow to the Secretary for Scotland on death of Queen Victoria. All business ordered to cease on Saturday, 2nd February, for funeral service.

February 8th, 1901—Case of smallpox notified and Council agrees to pay vaccination charges.

March 27th, 1901—Mr D. A. Adamson appointed Burgh Prosecutor, replacing Mr Arch. Brakenridge.

May 13th, 1901—Mr George Begg appointed Treasurer.

June 10th, 1901—Dean of Guild created.

August 12th, 1901—Council records expression of regret at the death of Frederick of Germany. Councillor John Walters, Crawford resigns

later he founded "The Cumnock Chronicle."

Fifty Years — 1901-1951

On 9th November, 1951—we published in our special Jubilee Edition details of all the important events in the Burgh and district from November, 1901—thus bringing the Burgh story up to date for another fifty years.

First Officials

The first meeting of the Council was held in the Parish School on 10th December, and William Dalglish was appointed Senior Police Magistrate.

Andrew White, Royal Bank Agent, was appointed Clerk and Collector; David Smith, Inspector of Nuisances; Thomas Shields, Burgh Treasurer. A year later the three retiring Commissioners — Drummond, M'Cowan and Ballantine — were re-elected. The first year's assessment at 8d in the £ brought in £140 on a burgh valuation of £4,280. The new Police Burgh was well on its way.

Sewage disposal was difficult and releasing the flood water from the Flush went some small way to keep the Glaisnock Water reasonably, if not wholly sweet, in the dry summer seasons. Close on sixty years were to pass after the scheme for burgh drainage was first suggested, before it became an established fact.

Mercat Cross Lamp

When the streets were lit by gas lamps the Council, little concerned with ethical considerations, abused their ancient mercat cross by placing a standard lantern fitting on its crowning orb. The indignity was unchallenged until 30 years had elapsed and the lantern was taken down in 1911.

Electricity Arrives

Electricity was now available as a means of street lighting — St. John's R. C. Church had already its own private generator—and when the Ayrshire Electricity Board sought new customers, Cumnock agreed to contract for a supply and by the early '30's the town streets and many private houses and shops were using the switch-on illuminant.

Water Supply Difficulties

The story of the search for an adequate source of fresh water over the years has been well documented in our columns from time to time, and all the problems and solutions attendant on the inability to get the water up the Barrhill in dependable quantity. It was, in fact, an impossible task with the head of water available and a continuously increasing demand.

Indeed, it was not until the linkage by another route altogether, with the county supply as boosting element, that the trouble was removed, and those endless letters from irate householders ceased. The impending further association with the County Council and the Loch Bradan scheme should end all problems of adequate supply in the foreseeable future.



MERCAT CROSS.—With street lamp on the ball, and side view of the new church and The Square.

New Town Hall

Another of the early triumphs of the young council was the erection of the Town Hall, which was opened early in January, 1885.

Looking at the brochure for the "Grand Bazaar," held ten years later, to clear the outstanding debt on the hall — it is evident that every lady in the town who could help had been roped in to act in one capacity or another. The target was reached and there were congratulations all round — not least for the Marquess of Bute, who gifted the land and subscribed £500.

The Hall and its lesser rooms have been used for all kinds of jobs and occasions. It has housed schoolrooms, billeted soldiers, been an emergency depot, met unexpected accommodation demands in two World Wars and, of course, has been the mecca for every club, society, association, and religious body, at one time or another, in its 80 years of usefulness to date. In a steadily growing community, it is nearing the end of its usefulness for the really great occasion, and plans are in the air for more commodious and more modern suites of halls in the next decade of town development, in the Tanyard area.

Streets and Pavements

The Council minutes towards the end of the century indicate their preoccupation with the roads and pavements within the town, which became their responsibility about 1890. The road surfaces were made of chipped whinstone, bound with earth washed in by the water cart. The dusty conditions can be imagined in dry summers. The "crown of the causeway" always seemed to

be raised by constant top dressings and we recall the regular "clautings" of "purple glaur" by "The Bammy" and his merry men — which noisy exercise delighted our boyhood ears.

As swift motor traffic increased, the clouds of dust raised in dry days or the splashing from the rain-soaked muddy surfaces reaching half-way up the windows in the Gorbals and other narrow thoroughfares were ill to thole. At last the load complaints fell on sympathetic ears and effective scarifying brought the road surfaces once again below pavement level.

The asphaltting of the entire town road system by the Hill-house Quarry Company finally removed the age-old problems—and then further enactments returned the major or classified roads to the care of the County Council. Ratepayers long maintained they were robbed over that legalised acquisition of the best roads the Burgh had ever possessed.

Municipal and S.S.H.A. Housing.

Since house building as a local authority undertaking began, the figures for the Burgh and Landward are as follows:—

The Burgh and town schemes	1425
Scottish Special Housing Association—	
The Burgh,	40
Landward—	
Craigens	214
Netherthird,	431
Logan,	143
	588

Grand total to date—2264



The handsome medallion (with the Town Hall and date of 1866) suspended from a "Mercat Cross".



Cumnock's Provosts of the Past Century

Senior Magistrates

1866-78—William Dalgliesh.
1878-81—John M'Cowen.
1881-87—George T. Samson.
1887-90—William M'Latchie.
1890-93—John Bannatyne.

Provosts

1893-96—Thomas Hunter.
1896-99—James Richmond.
1899-02—John Andrew.
1902-05—Thomas M'Caughie.
1905-08—James Richmond.
1908-11—William Hill.
1911-17—James Richmond.
1917-19—David Smith.
1919-22—Andrew Miller.
1922-25—Charles Taylor.
1925-28—Allan M'Call.
1928-31—James Neil.
1931-34—John Carruthers.
1934-35—Emrys Hughes.
1935-47—Nan Hardie Hughes.
1947-54—James Holland.
1954-57—John Edgar.
1957-60—John Weir.
1960-63—Harry Turner.
1963-66—Keir M'Turk.
1966—Thomas Finn.



David Smith.



Andrew Miller



Charles Taylor.



Allan M'Call.



James Neil—the first to wear the new Provost's hat and robes.



John Carruthers.



Emrys Hughes.



Nan Hardie Hughes.



James Holland.



John Edgar.



John Weir.



Harry Turner.



Keir M'Turk.



Thomas Finn.

Town Clerks

1866—Andrew White.
1879—Arch. Brakenridge.
1903—John Hume.
1923—R. D. Hunter.
1941—R. D. Hunter, Jr.



Andrew White.



Archibald Brakenridge.



John Hume.



The late R. D. Hunter.



R. D. Hunter.

Burgh Chamberlains

1866—Thos. Shields.
1873—Arch. Brakenridge.
1879—David Smith.
1901—George Begg.
1908—John Henderson.
1922—R. D. Hunter.
1923—John Allan.
1930—R. B. Lorimer (first full-time official).



John Henderson.



R. B. Lorimer.

Burgh Inspector of Nuisances

1866-73—William Thomson, with first scavenger, Peter Healy, who had a cleek instead of a hand. He was supplied with a brush, a shovel and a barrow. This was the burgh equipment until 1903 when a horse and cart were acquired. In 1867, David Richmond succeeded as lamplighter-scavenger and continued in service for 32 years.

In 1899 he was succeeded by Andrew Harvey, who was affectionately known as The Bammy. Andrew also became Captain of the Fire Brigade, making do with the most rudimentary of fire-fighting equipment, with fire-hoses worked by gravitational pressure. Andra was plagued by leaky water-hoses, and when one of these leaks developed he grabbed whatever was handiest to tie round the faulty canvas. On the occasion of the spectacular blaze at Parker's Garage in Ayr Road the writer lost his school cap which Andra whipped off unceremoniously as the handiest stopper for yet another hole in his rotted hose. The only time we ever saw Andra speechless was when he was officially presented with a gold watch in 1917 by a few well-wishers on the occasion of his golden wedding.

Burgh Engineers

1901—Thos. Goldie.
1907—Thos. Small.

Burgh Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Hallkeeper

1907-1915—Thomas Small.

Midway in his period of service Mr Small was relieved of his hallkeeper responsibility, and Col. Sgt. Instructor M'Alister was appointed. When Mr M'Alister emigrated to Toronto, Canada, Mr Robert Forbes, who was appointed Burgh Surveyor in 1915, was

asked to resume the hallkeeper duties. He continued as surveyor until 1956 and was succeeded by Mr Robert Forret.

Burgh Surveyors

1915—Robert Forbes.
1956—Robert Forret.



Robert Forbes.



Robert Forret.

Clerk of Works



John Mochan.

Burgh Foremen

Hugh M'Lelland.
Andrew Harvey, 1899.
Joe Handley—1905-1942.
W. M'Millan.
Charles Laidlaw.
John M'Ginnelly.



John Black.

Sanitary Inspector and Town Hall Keeper

1884—John M'Callum.
1897-1907—Tom Goldie.

Town Hall Keeper

(Full Time Appointment).
1923—David Hyslop.
Milton Moore.



Robert Hood.



Thomas Hunter.



James Richmond.



John Andrew.



Thomas M'Caughie.



William Hill.

Burgh Prosecutors

1901—Arch. Brakenridge.
1901—David A. Adamson.
1903—Hugh Black.
1917—James Wilson.
1939—R. B. Lorimer.



Hugh Black.



James Wilson.

Clerks to Burgh Court

1901—Thomas Andrew.
1916—R. D. Hunter.
1941—R. D. Hunter, Jr.

J.P. Procurators Fiscal

1901—Arch. Brakenridge.

1941—R. D. Hunter, Jr.

Clerks to J.P. Court

1901—Thomas Andrew.
1916—R. D. Hunter.
1933—John Graham.
1940—J. D. S. Macmillan.



J. D. S. Macmillan.

Municipal Bank Treasurers

Jas. Gibb.
1947—R. B. Lorimer.

Cumnock Sub-Division — Ayrshire Constabulary

1893—Supt. Robt. Cunningham
1919—Inspector John M'Intosh
1925—Inspector Wm. Meiklejohn.
1933—Inspector Chas. Lobban.
1937—Inspector John Douglas.
1947—Inspector John Paterson
1952—Inspector J. C. Jolliffe.
1954—Inspector R. Borthwick.
1961—Inspector Wm. Cook (Promoted Chief Inspector 1963).
1963—Inspector Hugh White.



Supt. Robert Cunningham.



Inspector John M'Intosh.



Chief Inspector Wm. Cook.



Inspector Hugh White.

Registrars

1854-1887—D. L. Scott.
1887-1907—Adam Urquhart.
1907-1943—John Allan.
1943-1956—Wm. Watson.
1956—Ed. M'Dermid.

Inspectors of Poor

David Smith was appointed in 1866 (in succession to Archibald M'Cowan). In 1906 Mr John Allan followed and continued in office until 15th May, 1930, when the last meeting of the Parish Council was held in the office in Ayr Road. (The writer recalls vividly the last meetings of the Councils here and in Auchinleck and New Cumnock, which he had reported over the years).



Archibald M'Cowan.



David Smith.

The Local Government Act of 1929 had given the Parish Councils the coup-de-grace and so Mr Allan's services as Inspector of Poor, Clerk to the Council, Collector of Rates, Clerk to the Cemetery Committee and Registrar were transferred to the County Council, with new District Council quarters at Millbank, Cumnock, where, in addition to his duties in the administration of Cumnock Parish, he became the first District Clerk and Clerk to the newly-created School Management Committee for No. 5 Area of the County. Mr Allan, on retirement, was succeeded by Mr Wm. Watson, joint Inspector of Auchinleck and Ochiltree. Following on Mr Watson's death the present District Council Clerk, Mr E. F. M'Dermid (Dalmellington), was appointed in 1956.

Parish Council Chairmen

James Gray (Riverside), 1895-1904.
David Reid (Milzeoch), 1904-1910.
Robert Livingstone, 1910-1919.
George M'Turk, 1919-1920.
George Bridges, 1920-1925.
John Craig (Guilt), 1925-1928.
George M'Turk, 1929.

In 1916 the Parish Council office removed from the Town Hall to their own premises in Ayr Road.



James Gray.



David Reid.



Robert Livingstone.



George M'Turk.



George Bridges.



John Craig.

PARISH COUNCILS GO.

The final meeting of Cumnock Parish Council was held in the Council Room at Ayr Road, on 15th May, 1930. Mr George M'Turk presided, and there were also present—D. Smith, G. Milne, J. Carruthers, T. M'Millan, J. Hughes, E. Hughes, A. Douglas, G. Bridges, A. Arthur and Mrs Nan Hardie Hughes. So ended the work which the Parish Councils, in 1895, had taken over from the Parochial Boards — these latter having been established under the Poor Law Act of 1845.

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL EMERGES.

With the passing of the old Parish Councils, their work was taken over by the newly created District Councils, and at Cumnock the first meeting of the new body was held on 23rd May, 1930, under the chairmanship of Mr John Nicol of Bank School. Similarly the School Management Committee was re-constituted. The old School Board had disappeared in 1919 under the new Act. The School Management Committee now took over and the first meeting was held on the 27th June, 1930, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Jas. Hill, B.D., Auchinleck. The following year — 1931 — Millbank House was purchased from the Livingstone family and became the District Council and School Management Committee offices.

Clerks to District Council and Education Sub-Committee, No. 5 Area

1929—John Allan.
1943—Wm. Watson.
1956—Edward M'Dermid.



John Allan.



William Watson.



Edward M'Dermid.

Chairmen of District Council.

1930—John Nicol, New Cumnock.
1932—George M'Turk, Cumnock.
1935—Archibald D. M. Cook, Catrine.
1938—William V. Stoner, Auchinleck.
1940—James Harper, Mauchline.
1945—Alex. Stewart, Ochiltree.
1949—Charles Hamilton, New Cumnock.
1957—Walter Hall, Logan.

School Management (and Education Sub-Committee) Chairmen.

1930—Rev. James Hill, B.D., Auchinleck.
1939—George M'Turk, Cumnock.
1946—William Bushell, Mauchline.
1955—Ex-Provost James Holland, Cumnock.
1962—John M'Innes, Cumnock.

Parish Medical Officers

Drs. M'Kinnon and M'Glashan, 1851-1877.
Dr. Lawrence, 1877-1895.
Dr. Kerr, 1895-1907.



Dr. M'Kinnon.



Dr. Lawrence.



Doctors in General Practice

1901—Dr. J. G. Kerr, Dr. Jas. M'Queen.
1904—Dr. Wm. Armitage.
1929—Dr. A. M. Campbell.
1933—Dr. J. R. M'Clure.
1946-62—Dr. Alex. Mack.
1948—Dr. James M'Millan.

1953—Dr. R. J. I. Boyd.
1962—Dr. D. S. Tucker.



Dr. James M'Queen.



Dr. William Armitage.

Cumnock Postmasters

Arch. Slimman is the first to be mentioned as conducting post office business in Lugar Street. A Mr Shields is also named in this connection. Various shops were used throughout the town until the office settled in Ayr Road. During Mr Stoddart's reign the new premises were erected in Lugar Street and occupied in 1911.
1830-1917—George Stoddart.
1917-1919—Walter Dickson.
1919-1926—William D. Geddes.
1926-1929—Frederick Lang.
1929-1933—John Samson.
1933-1945—D. Clark.
1945-1948—E. P. Watkinson.
1948-1949—H. Burnside.
1949-1961—Chas. Marshall.
1961-1962—Fred Lewis.
1962—Ian Gray.



George Stoddart.

At his retirement presentation on 5th January, 1917, after 36 years' service, Mr George Stoddart, Postmaster, said:—"Fifty years ago the Post Office in Cumnock was simply a side-line in an ironmongery shop, and the post runners had to sort their letters on a corner of the shop counter. This shop was the corner one in The Square, now occupied by Mr Wm. Hunter. A little later a division was made in these premises in order to give a separate office for postal work, and it was there that he was first appointed as postmaster. ... Later, new premises were found in a new property built by Mr William Wilson in Ayr Road. ... Taking over the telephone and other work demanded still larger premises, and the move was made to the present office in Lugar Street in 1911."



John Samson.



David Clark.



Charles Marshall.



Ian Gray.

Cumnock Stationmasters.

Old Cumnock — Mr Dinning, Mr R. Dickson, Mr W. Kerr, Mr J. M. Reid, Mr John Inglis (also in charge of Cumnock

A. & C.); Mr Thomas Sinclair, Mr John Rogerson, Mr John Goodwin, Mr Douglas Gibson, Mr Robert Ross. Passenger train service suspended, 4th December, 1965. Station closed.

Cumnock A. & C. — Mr J. M. Reid, Mr George Downie, Mr James M. Barr, Mr James Young. Then linked with Old Cumnock Station under Mr John Inglis and successors.

Representatives on County Council

Following the 1929 Act, when Cumnock became a Small Burgh, the Council was entitled to send a Burgh Representative to the County Council meetings, and the Council members have been:—

James Neil (1929-1932). Emrys Hughes (1932-1946). James Holland (1946-1952). John Weir (1952).

Insignia of Office

On 12th August, 1929, Provost Jas. Neil was the first to sit in the new Provost's chair and wear the hat and gown presented to the town by his old friend, James Richmond, son of the former lamplighter. James had emigrated to Australia where he had prospered.

The old Burgh Seal.



The Mercat Cross.

Burgh Coat of Arms

Over a period of years a replica of the "Old Mercat Cross" had been used as the Burgh's insignia and seal, but in 1959, to celebrate the 450th anniversary of Cumnock's elevation as a Burgh of Barony, the Lord Lyon granted a coat-of-arms, heraldically based on the arms of the Dunbar family, whose association with the living dates back to 1368



in the reign of David II. The motto registered with the arms is "Prompt in Progress," which adequately describes the Burgh's activities, particularly in the past fifty years.

A year later, 1960, the Burgh's original nomenclature as "Burgh of Cumnock and Holmhead" was shortened, and the official term is now the simpler one of "Burgh of Cumnock."

Burgh Staff

In 1866, the Burgh staff consisted of one official, David Richmond. The 8d in the £1 assessment yielded £140.

In 1965/66, with a rate of 20/10, it was reckoned that the Burgh had a staff of 64 and it cost £6340 a week to run the town, or £329,680 annually.

Voters' Roll

In 1866 there were 67 on the voters' roll under the £10 valuation requirement; to-day the Voters' Roll stands at 3649.

Burgh Extension

The Burgh originally contained 268 acres. In 1937 the first addition was 73 acres. Again in 1955 there was another increase of 157 acres and the last one to date of 85 acres in 1963 brought the total to 583 acres.

Burgh Cleansing

The disposal of burgh refuse has been a constant problem. For years, the Bank quarries were spoiled in this fashion.

Then a new place was found and filled at Garrallan. Next came Gilminscoft and again a second return to the quarries at Mauchline.

The Burgh had its own sewage disposal system latterly at Bankend, but now there is a joint arrangement with the County Council in their modern disposal plant at Underwood.

EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES FROM TOWN COUNCIL RECORDS FROM 1866.

1866

Cumnock formed into a Burgh.

William Dalgleish appointed Senior Magistrate (1866-78).

David Smith appointed Inspector of Nuisances; salary, £4.

Andrew White appointed Clerk and Collector; salary £15.

1867

Water Supply considered; Black Loch water analysed.

Town lighted with gas.

Thomas Shields appointed Burgh Treasurer.

1868

Complete valuation of land and premises within the Burgh undertaken.

Marquis of Bute presented with Address on Coming of Age.

1869

Court for criminal offences instituted.

Andrew White appointed Clerk of Court.

Archibald Brakenridge appointed Prosecutor Fiscal.

1870

Fire Plugs arranged throughout the Burgh.

Water introduced by iron pipes.

Decided to drain the town. Job finished 1871.

1871

Rateable value of Burgh assessed at £5,040.

Population of Burgh—males 1472, females 1431; total 2903.

1873

Archibald Brakenridge appointed Burgh Treasurer.

1877

Death of Duncan Ballantine. First break in the original Body of Commissioners.

1879

John M'Cowen appointed Senior Magistrate (1879/81).

1880

Death of Andrew White, Clerk and Collector. Arch. Brakenridge appointed in his place.

1881

Death of Thos. Barrowman, an original member of Council. George T. Samson appointed Senior Magistrate (1881-87).

1883

Lord Bute gives £500 and a free site for the erection of a new Town Hall. Estimated cost, £2000.

1884

Lord Bute opens new Town Hall.

1886

Death of James M. Nicol, former member of Council.

1887

Captain Campbell presents a Union Jack for flag staff. William M'Latchie, Chief Magistrate 1887-90.

1890

John Bannatyne, Chief Magistrate 1890-93.

1893

Thomas Hunter appointed Provost (first to hold this title).

1895

Death of Dr. Lawrence, Medical Officer of Health for the Burgh.

Roads and Streets of the Burgh taken over. Cumnock and Holmhead joined.

1896

James Richmond appointed Provost 1896-99.

1898

Queen Victoria Fountain erected in The Square. Site chosen for Fever Hospital.

1899

John Andrew appointed Provost, 1899-1902.

1900

Death of Lord Bute.

1901

Death of Queen Victoria. Service in churches.

Death of William Kay, long a member of the Council.

1902

Council presents address to Marquess of Bute on his coming of age.

Thomas M'Caughie appointed Provost 1902-05.

Whole Council formed as a Dean of Guild.

John Hume appointed Deputy Town Clerk.

1904

Health of the Burgh "Excellent"—M.O.H.

1905

James Richmond appointed Provost, 1905-08.

1906

Death of Hew H. Crichton, Hillside.

Death of John M'Callum, late hallkeeper.

1907

Death of George Begg, late Treasurer and Auditor of the Burgh.

Death of Ex-Provost Thos. M'Caughie.

1908

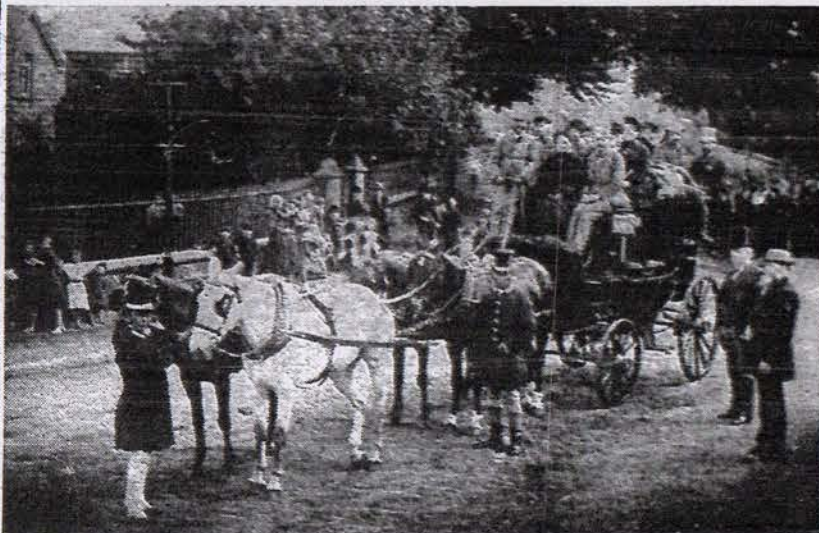
New water main from Reservoir.

William Hill appointed Provost, 1908-11.

Appeal of Murdoch v. Council case dismissed (no expenses to either side).

1910

Death of Thomas Goldie, late Burgh Surveyor.



Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermline-born multi-millionaire American industrialist, on one of his two Scottish tours, visited Cumnock. Holding the reins, he stands beside Mrs Carnegie at the junction of Car Road and Ayr Road. Mrs Hill and her sister look on through the railings of Hartfield house. In the foreground, Headmaster Scott and Mr Murray, mine host of the Dumfries Arms.

1911 James Richmond appointed Provost, 1911-14.

1912 James Neil proposed Cumnock's first housing scheme.

1914 West U.F. Church v. Council case decided for Church. James Richmond re-elected Provost, 1914-17.

1915 Robert Forbes appointed Burgh Surveyor. Provost Richmond refers fittingly to the death of Thomas Gilchrist, first fatality among the soldiers from the Burgh in World War 1.

1916 Death of John Walters Crawford, late member of the Council and Editor of "The Cumnock Chronicle." Death of Thomas Andrew, Clerk to the Court.

Jubilee of the Burgh held over on account of the war.

1917 Death of Ex-Provost John Andrew.

Alexander Gemmill, Bradford (and of Cumnock), presents the Burgh with a Provost's chain of office.

1918 Death of Provost Richmond immediately after being nominated for the fifth time (December 17th). David Smith appointed Provost, 1917-19.

1918 Enlarged photograph of Provost Richmond hung in Council Chamber.

Death of John A. Bingham, ex-member of Council.

1919 Andrew Miller appointed Provost, 1919-22.

1920 Housing Scheme at Glaisnock Street approved.

1921 Council affiliates with Scottish Home Rule Association.

1922 R. D. Hunter appointed Treasurer of the Burgh. Charles Taylor appointed Provost, 1922-25.

1923 Death of John Hume, Town Clerk. R. D. Hunter appointed Town Clerk. David Hyslop appointed hallkeeper.

1925 New streets within the Burgh named. Allan M'Call appointed Provost, 1925-28.

1926 Final arrangements made for installation of electricity in Burgh. Arrangements concluded with Commercial Bank to widen street at Square/Glaisnock Street Corner.

1926 - 1966 This more recent period is adequately covered in our files but we select some of the more outstanding items.

1927 Rev. J. Douglas M'Clymont, B.D., Glasgow, elected minister of Cumnock Parish Church in succession to Rev. J. Spence Robertson, retired after 52 years' ministry.

Mr James A. Wales, New Cumnock, honoured by Headmasters' Club on retirement after 37 years' teaching. Mr John Rodger, headmaster, Glenbuck, and Mr John Cowan, head-

master, Bank, also received retiral gifts.

1928

Burnockhill Colliery closed; 900 workers displaced. Electric current turned on in Cumnock without formal ceremony (29 years after first suggestion to light streets electrically).

Bonfires at Lugar and Muirkirk for wedding of Mr R. L. Angus, Ladykirk, and Miss Penelope Sheppard, Berks.

Mrs Agnes Murdoch, a native of Auchinleck, celebrates her 105th birthday in Glasgow.

1929

Presentation of Civic Robes and Hat to Cumnock by Mr James Richmond, Hamilton, New South Wales (a native of Cumnock).

Murray Park, Cumnock, opened by Mrs Hyslop, Bank.

Cumnock U.F. Church (Continuing) inaugurates new congregation in Lesser Town Hall services.

1930

Model Pit, New Cumnock, closed; 100 men displaced. The "Talkies" introduced to Cumnock Picture House.

Parish Councils say "Farewell" at valedictory meetings throughout area. First meetings of Cumnock District Council (23rd May).

1931

First pithead baths opened at Barony Colliery.

Five Burns Memorial Cottages opened at Mauchline by Mr George Ian Burns, great-grandson of the poet.

Mr James Brown, D.L., M.P., loses seat to Capt. J. O. MacAndrew in General Election.

Mrs John Cullen, daughter of Mr John M. Reid, stationmaster, wins £30,000 in the Irish Sweep.



Looking along Ayr Road from Georgeville garden, eighty years ago. Hartfield on the left and beyond, the U.F. manse and church. In the background, the belfry and roof of the Parish Church in The Square.

1932
 Rev. Father Martin Meagher of St. John's, Cumnock, elevated to Canonhood of Diocese of Galloway.
 Grasshill Pit, Glenbuck, closes; 200 men displaced.

1933
 Cumnock Town Council let 56 houses at Herdston Place and plan other 80 at Barr's Park, Barnhill Road.

1934
 After Public Enquiry by Mr Wylie of the Scottish Department, Cumnock Town Council's compulsory purchase of 12 acres for home building, from Lord Bute, affirmed.

1935
 A year of fiery Town Council meetings, with threats to "call the police."
 Cumnock school's first trip to London.
 Sir John Latta presents £500 to provide "Dux Medal" for Cumnock Academy.
 Mrs Nan Hardie Hughes elected Provost, with her husband as Senior Bailie.
 General Election sees Mr James Brown returned for South Ayrshire — defeating Major M'Andrew with a 4,804 majority.
 Rev. Wm. Scott retires from Arthur Memorial Church, New Cumnock, after 48 years' ministry.

1936
 Death of King George V.
 Severest snow storms in district for 20 years. All country roads blocked with 8-10 feet drifts.
 Provost Mrs Hughes opens Cumnock Swimming Pool and Mrs R. D. Hunter opens new Municipal Tennis Courts — at Woodroad Park.
 Link up with Afton Reservoir ends Cumnock's water-scarcity problem.

1937
 Coronation celebrations for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.
 Cumnock Juniors win three cups in five days — Ayrshire, Western League and Vernon Trophy.
 Seventy-six applications for one Council house in Cumnock.
 Mr Wm. Kirkpatrick, Coachworks, Cumnock, has greeting from Their Majesties, on celebrating 100th birthday.

1938
 Barony Church, Auchinleck, completely destroyed by fire.
 Five New Cumnock men killed and 20 injured in runaway hatches accident in Bank No. 6 Mine.
 Mr A. D. M. Cook, Chairman Cumnock District Council, and Rev. James Hill, B.D., Chairman S.M.C., retire from these bodies.

1939
 27,000 gas masks delivered for the No. 5 Area.
 Mr James Brown, M.P., dies, aged 77 years. Later, Mr Alexander Sloan retains seat for Labour against Dr. Catherine Gavin—majority 4,800.
 Cumnock's U.F. Church opened and dedicated in Glaisnock Street.
 30,000 Orange men and

women parade at Netherthird Farm, Cumnock.
 Memorial bust to J. Keir Hardie unveiled at Town Hall, Cumnock.
 War declared against Germany on 3rd September. Cumnock Company of the R.S.F. leave for headquarters.

1940
 Blizzard of snow (20 feet drifts) blocks roads and railways in Cumnock district.

1941
 Ochiltree Curling Club celebrate 100th anniversary.
 Gas explosion in Bank No. 6 Mine. Three men died and others injured.
 Four hundred and sixty-one evacuees from Clydebank and other Glasgow blitzed areas arrive in Cumnock.
 R. D. Hunter appointed Town Clerk, Burgh Police Clerk and Procurator Fiscal in J.P. Court, in succession to his father, the late R. D. Hunter, Cumnock.

1941
 1st Auchinleck B.B. dedicated at Barony Church service — Captain H. H. Russell.

1942
 Restored Barony Church reopened for public worship.
 Two hundred officers of a famous regiment and members of sergeants' mess temporarily billeted in Cumnock area, celebrate Waterloo anniversary in Cumnock Town Hall.

1943
 First of the new colliery canteens opened at Knockshinnoch, New Cumnock, by Mr Alex. Sloan, M.P.
 Rev. Selby Wright — The Radio Padre — conducts impressive Drumhead Service in Holm Field, Cumnock.

1944
 Mr James Finn, Emrys Avenue, Cumnock, receives from Lord Traprain, certificate for long and faithful service—61 years at the coal-face.
 A year of intense activity by every war charity, society, club and association raises thousands of pounds for soldiers' comforts and postal orders — and for our own service hospitals.

1945
 May 8th — V.E.-Day celebrations throughout the entire district. Similar jubilation for end of war later in year.
 Mr Alex. Sloan, M.P., retains his seat for South Ayrshire against Lt.-Col. Mathew by 7,853 votes.
 Record price of 2,700 guineas paid for yearling bull at Lessnessock, Ochiltree.
 100% Labour Town Council returned after November election.

1946
 Bailie Emrys Hughes holds South Ayrshire against Robert Mathew, with 8,729 majority, in Bye-Election following death of Alexander Sloan.
 One hundred families housed in pre-fab scheme at Back Rogerton, Auchinleck.
 Death of Sir John Latta, Bt., London, supporter of many good causes in Cumnock, his native town and district.

1947
 Mr Emanuel Shinwell, Minister of Fuel and Power, accepts the coal mines for the nation on vesting day—1st January. Symbolic unfurling of N.C.B. flags at coal pits throughout the area.
 Death of Marquess of Bute at Mount Stuart. Lady Bute died three weeks later. Earl of Dumfries succeeds to the title.
 Death of Provost Nan Hardie Hughes in Ballochmyle Hospital. James Holland appointed Provost.
 Six months-old bull calf sold for 3,500 guineas at Bargower annual draft sale.

1948
 Dorothy Stevenson, Cumnock, crowned Scottish Coal Queen at Miners' Rally in Edinburgh.
 Cumnock Carnival breaks all records.
 Messrs John Foster & Son's new fur fabric factory opened at Bankend (25th August).

1949
 Recently re-decorated Old Parish Church, Muirkirk, partly destroyed by fire.
 Death of Mr Robert L. Angus, Ladykirk.
 Union of Crichton Memorial and West Church congregations, Cumnock, and Muirkirk Old and Wellwood congregations consummated. West Church, Cumnock, officially closed as a place of worship on 16th October.
 New world record of 9,000 guineas for six months old bull calf, "Bargower Crown Diamond," at Bargower annual sale, which totalled over £82,000 in two hours.

1950.
 Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P., returned for South Ayrshire with 7,567 majority over his Conservative opponent, Mr John C. George, at the General Election.
 Passenger train service between Auchinleck and Muirkirk withdrawn. Commodity and Lugar stations closed to passenger traffic.
 Second World War Memorial unveiled in Cumnock Cemetery by Col. A. D. M'Innes Shaw, D.S.O.
 Thirteen men lose lives in Knockshinnoch Castle Colliery disaster. 116 men saved in epic rescue operations through gas-filled escape mine.

1951
 Census reveals 30.6% increase in Cumnock Burgh population.
 Messrs D. Park and A. Houston invested with George Medals at Buckingham Palace for their part in heroic rescue work at Knockshinnoch.
 Mr Emrys Hughes returned M.P. for South Ayrshire, beating Mr Derek M. H. Smith by majority of 7,836.

1952
 Death of H.M. King George VI (6th February). Queen Elizabeth the Second proclaimed from Cumnock Town Hall by Provost James Holland.
 Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, M.P., and Mrs Barbara Castle, M.P., address Keir Hardie Demonstration in Cumnock.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visit Cumnock in 1956, during a tour of Ayrshire. Provost John Edgar and Town Clerk R. D. Hunter look on as the Queen signs her commemorative portrait.

Glaisnock Residential School opened under headmastership of Major John Weir, D.S.O., M.A.

1953
 Death of Her Majesty Queen Mary (24th March).
 Death of ex-Provost John Carruthers (15th August).

1954
 Cumnock's new £80,000 S.M.T. garage opened at Ayr Road.
 Hon. Treasurer John Edgar, M.A., appointed Provost.
 Food rationing ends when meat comes off the coupon (5th July).
 Death of ex-Provost Allan M'Call (26th August).
 Cumnock's new primary school, Greenmill, opened by Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P.
 Death of ex-County Councillor and former Parish Council Chairman, George M'Turk, O.B.E., J.P.

1955
 Ex-Provost James Holland receives portrait in oils in recognition of 25 years' service to local government.
 In General Election Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P., re-elected with increased majority for South Ayrshire.
 St. Ninian's new hall-church opened at Netherthird, Cumnock.
 First "Cumnock Chronicle Parish Reunion" held in Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, Canada (24th July).

1956
 Cumnock A. & C. Station closed to traffic — destroyed by fire.
 Plaque unveiled at 2 Holland Crescent on 1000th house built by Cumnock Burgh.
 New offices of Ministry of Labour opened at Ayr Road, Cumnock.
 Mr Edward M'Dermid, Dalmeilington, appointed District Clerk at Cumnock in succession to the late Mr Wm. Watson (26th June).
 Mr Robert Forbes receives retirement gifts from Town Council and others after 41 years as Burgh Surveyor.
 Visit of Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh to Cumnock (3rd July).
 Five hundred exiles at 2nd "Cumnock Chronicle Parish Reunion" at Niagara Falls, Canada.
 Death of Marquess of Bute in his 50th year (14th Aug.).
 Memorial bust of J. Keir Hardie handed over to Mr Speaker in the House of Commons, for erection in Westminster.

1957
 Netherthird's new Community Centre opened 28th June. Cost £10,000.
 Rev. G. A. M'Cutcheon unveils commemorative stone at the Auchinleck Community Centre (29th September).
 Interim Rotary Club of Cumnock constituted in Dumfries Arms Hotel (1st Oct.).
 Seventeen miners killed in an explosion in Kames Colliery at Muirkirk (19th Nov.).

1958
 Gales of 100 m.p.h. sweep the district (8th January).

Cumnock Rotary Club receives its Charter (4th March) — main speaker, Rev. Dr. Selby Wright, Edinburgh.
 Rev. Hamish A. M'Intosh, M.A., inducted to charge of St. Ninian's Church, Netherthird (27th March).
 Relief fund of Kames Colliery Disaster, on 19th November, 1957, closes at £29,000 (31st March).
 Cumnock O.E.S. Chapter open new premises in Lugar Street.
 Dr. H. C. J. Maclean, M.B., Ch.B., opens Auchinleck's £35,000 Community Centre.
 Ex-Provost John Edgar, J.P., M.A., succeeds Mr And. Martin, M.A., B.Sc., as Rector of Cumnock Academy.
 Over 600 miners and members of general public attend protest meeting in Auchinleck against pit closure decisions for Scotland.

1959
 Former presidents of Cumnock Burns Club join in celebrating 200th birthday of Robert Burns. Special celebration dinners generally throughout the district clubs. We publish excerpts from local club minutes of centenary meetings in our 30th January issue.
 Death of Dr. William Armitage, M.B., Ch.B., for many years family doctor in Cumnock district (9th January).
 Cumnock Town Council agree to take 1000 Glasgow overspill families.
 New £6000 Church Hall for Lugar Church opened at Logan.
 Cumnock Juvenile Court removes from Millbank after 21 years to new premises at Cumnock Council Chambers.
 Mr John H. M'Innes, M.A., F.E.I.S. (Bank School), appointed headmaster of new Netherthird Primary School, Cumnock (14th April).
 Mr Emrys Hughes returned to Parliament for South Ayrshire, defeating the Unionist Candidate — Cumnock-born Mr W. H. Hunter, by 10,669 votes (9th October).
 Messrs John Foster & Son announce £200,000 extension to their Bankend Factory in Cumnock. (12th October).
 £35,000 Community Centre opened in Drogan.

Auchinleck Road, Cumnock, School, which cost £106,000, opened on 21st August.
 "Cumnock Chronicle" celebrates Diamond Jubilee (11th November).
 Rev. I. M. Tweedie, B.Sc., Lugar parish minister, takes over additional charge of St. Ninian's, Netherthird (20th December).

1962
 Cumnock Burgh is runner-up in Saltire Society's award for alive communities.
 Rt. Hon. Michael Noble opens new Howford Bridge, Mauchline; cost, £294,000 (28th September).
 Four men die in attempt to clear fallen material after No. 1 Shaft falls in at Barony Colliery, Auchinleck (8th November). Six days later, the pithead gear of Shaft No. 2 collapses into shaft. One thousand miners and families attend memorial service in Auchinleck Community Centre.

1963
 Whitehill 3/4, "Gariaff Mine" closed, making 63 men redundant (2nd July).
 Death of Mr Robert Forbes, for 40 years Burgh Surveyor of Cumnock (2nd July).
 Plans published for Cumnock development over next 15 years — also for the new Academy in Ayr Road (13th March).
 Logan Toll's new £90,000 school opened on September 16th. Headmaster Rowan of Lugar School moves over with his pupils.
 Work on new shaft sinking begins at Barony (4th Oct.).
 Saltire Society award to Barshare Housing Scheme for best housing design in 1963.
 Death of Ex-Provost Chas. Taylor (25th October).
 Many meetings of protest throughout the year concerning threat to close Ballochmyle Hospital.

1964
 Cumnock Burgh extension of 85 acres granted.
 Progress on Barony replacement shaft and other phases of repair work engage much attention throughout the year.
 Bata Shoe Company, Ltd., Tilbury, Essex, announced to take over Board of Trade factory at Skerrington, Cumnock, to employ 300 people (27th February).
 Bishop M'Gee, Diocese of Galloway, opens new church of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Patrick at Auchinleck, taking place of Birnie Church (June 23rd).
 New F. & G. Sykes Chicken Hatchery, (£60,000) opened on Auchinleck Road by the Marchioness of Bute (14th Oct.).
 In General Election (15th October), Mr Emrys Hughes returned for South Ayrshire with a 12,403 majority over Unionist W. H. Hunter.
 Announced in House of Commons — Cumnock to get one of 9 advance factories scheduled for Scotland (18th November).



CUMNOCK MOTTO WARE.—It was the pleasant custom of the proprietors of Cumnock Pottery Company to present Cumnock merchants with a suite of the celebrated Cumnock motto ware on the occasion of their marriage. The articles in the picture were presented to the Editor's mother on her wedding day — September 30, 1898.

1960
 Cumnock Town Council signs agreement with Glasgow Corporation to take 1000 overspill families (11th Jan.). Later, on 24th October, they agree that the town be "Burgh of Cumnock" dropping the "and Holmhead" from the former title.

1961
 Rev. George S. Young ordained and inducted to the charge of Cumnock Crichton West Church (3rd May).
 Death of Mr Andrew Martin, M.A., B.Sc., for 29 years the Rector of Cumnock Academy (5th July).
 Cumnock Burns Club annual commemorative supper televised by the B.B.C. from Dumfries Arms Hotel. Mr Robert Currie presides.

1962
 Police Judge Thomas Finn, M.A., appointed headmaster of St. Conval's — new R.C. Junior Secondary School, Auchinleck (1st Oct.).

services in most of the district churches.

760 Girl Guides take part in a District Rally at Woodrood Park (4th July).

Killoch Colliery, Ochiltree, with over one million tons output, is top production unit for Scotland for year (2nd September). Two months later, Secretary of State Mr William Ross visits the colliery.

Provost M'Turk opens the Working Men's Club in handsome new premises at Townhead Street (8th October).

1966

The Bata Shoe Company announce that they will extend their factory at Netherthird to give work to a further 200 (9th March).

Mr Emrys Hughes returned for South Ayrshire in Parliamentary Election with a majority of 12,053 over Conservative opponent Mr Christopher Graves (31st March).

Chemstrand — American synthetic fibre corporation — announce they will open factory in Cumnock with jobs for 70 people (8th April).

Mr Thomas Finn, M.A., appointed Provost in succession to Provost J. K. H. M'Turk (6th May).

Cumnock Burgh Centenary celebrations begin with Church service from the Old Church — Rev. J. D. McClymont officiating. Lessons read by Marquess of Bute, Provost T. Finn and Ex-Provost Keir M'Turk (5th June). Week of general celebrations follow, including Cumnock's last Carnival Day of the long series (11th June).

Board of Trade announce a fourth factory for Cumnock's industrial estate at Caponacre with prospect of 500 jobs, mainly for men (13th June).

Forty-two houses in Cumnock flooded when Lugar and Glaisnock spill over banks in worst flood ever recorded. (Aug. 13/14).

Mr George Vallance, well-known local Burnsian presides over annual general meeting of the Burns Federation in Troon (10th Sept.).

Mr George Darling, Minister of State at the Board of Trade forecasts "Bright future for Cumnock" in visit to

Burgh. He discloses that Messrs William C. Gray & Co., Ltd., Scottish carpet manufacturers, would be the first of several new factories at the Caponacre industrial estate (14th Oct.).

Ayr County Council announce "go-ahead" plans for Auchinleck's new million pound school near Knockroon Farm (28th October).

Impending closure of Glenafton Hospital announced (4th November).

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

When our Century opened, there were two public schools in the town—the Parish Public School at Broombrae, Barrhill Road, where Mr David L. Scott was headmaster and the Free Church School in Ayr Road, where Mr Robert Brown presided over the larger of the two establishments. These had 144 and 220 pupils, respectively.

In 1872 the Education (Scotland) Act placed the responsibility for schools and schooling on the then newly-created Parish School Boards and the two headmasters were retained in their posts while plans were made for the erection of the new Public School in Barrhill Road. The Board was also responsible

for two small country schools at Garrallan and Benston (R.C.).

New Barrhill Road School

On 19th August, 1875, with full masonic honours, the foundation stone of the new public school on the lower Barrhill Road was laid, and fourteen months later the pupils from Broombrae changed over, to be followed, eight months later by the pupils from the Ayr Road Free Church School.

Early Staff & Pupil Teachers

Mr Brown recorded in the Register that Mr Frederick James Allan was assistant teacher in 1876 and in subsequent years the following pupil teachers' names are noted—William Stewart, John Brown, John Smith, Andrew Murdoch, H. B. Wilson, Jane R. Gibb, Mary Stewart, Cath. Stewart, Agnes Murray, Isab. Murray, James Campbell, Robert Stevenson, David Raeside, David Clark, Margt. Kay, Robert Laurie, Geo. Clark, Margaret Stoddart, Diana M. M. Dickson, Marion Brown, Robina Stewart and Janet Henderson.

First Admission Roll

It will interest most Cumnock folks to look over the appended list of names and addresses (where available) of the first roll of admissions to the register of the new Cumnock Public School in Barrhill Road in 1874, when the two schools were amalgamated under the joint headmastership of Messrs Scott and Brown.

- Bain, Robert, Glaisnock Street.
- Good, John, Caponacre.
- Crichton, Hugh, Lugar Street.
- Murdoch, Jane, Ayr Road.
- Kay, William, Elbow Lane.
- Simpson, Thomas, Horsecleugh.
- Richmond, James, Kilnholm Pl.
- Murdoch, Andrew, Ayr Road.
- Hamilton, Thomas, Townhead St.
- M'Intosh, John.
- Halliday, Thomas.
- Livingstone, Robert, Barrhill Rd.
- Howat, William, Townhead Street.
- Fulton, Robert, Gibb's Close.
- Brown, Margaret, Ayr Road.
- Fulton, Robert, Gibb's Close.
- Brown, Margaret, Ayr Road.
- White, Hugh, Glaisnock Street.
- Richmond, Alexander, Townhead Street.
- Riggans, James, Tower Street.
- Hutchison, James, Ayr Road.
- M'Millan, Robert, Townhead St.
- Smith, Elizabeth, Manse Lane.
- Watson, Elizabeth, Elbow Lane.
- Chmie, Andrew, Tower Street.
- Kerr, Alexander, Barrhill Road.
- Finn, Hugh.
- Gillespie, James, Townhead St.
- Smith, James, Tanyard Lane.
- Ealrd, Thomas, Townhead Street.
- Brown, James, Ayr Road.
- M'Intosh, Mary, Gibb's Close.
- M'Kinnon, Isabelle, Ayr Road.
- Ronald, Elizabeth, Tower Street.
- Purdie, Marion.
- Cross, Margaret, Tower Street.
- Richmond, Elizabeth, Kilnholm Pl.
- Hilcott, Margaret.
- Nicol, William, Glaisnock Street.
- Smith, Andrew, Waterside Place.
- Murdoch, Edward, Townhead St.
- Murdoch, John, Ayr Road.
- Smith, Mary, Bridge End.
- Richmond, Elizabeth, Glaisnock St.
- Stewart, Mary, 10 New Bridge St.
- Cameron, John, Longrigg Cottage.
- M'Lanahan, John, Square.
- Riggans, William, Tower Street.
- Simpson, William, Horsecleugh.
- Kay, John, Elbow Lane.
- Campbell, James, Lugar Street.
- Baillantine, James, Glaisnock St.
- Gibson, William, Barshare.
- Murphy, John.
- Baillantine, Janet, Glaisnock St.
- Howat, William, Townhead St.
- Black, Elizabeth, Square.
- M'Ge, Mary, Tanyard Lane.
- Millar, Elizabeth, Elbow Lane.
- Anderson, Janet, Ayr Road.
- Shankland, John, Bowes.

21	3	52	Gunderson James	Quarrier Charles	Townhead St
22	3	52	Cowan Henry	Cowan Henry	Polinhob
23	3	52	Brown Charles (1)	Brown John	Kilnholm Pl.
24	3	52	Simpson George	Simpson George	Glaisnock St
25	3	52	Kenny James	Kenny Adams	Ayr Road
26	3	52	Dickson William	Dyphson John	Barrhill Road
27	3	52	Samsom George J	Samsom George J	Broomhill
28	3	52	Baillantine Duncan	Baillantine M	Glaisnock Street
29	3	52	Kennedy Alexander	Kennedy John	Gibb's Close
30	3	52	Stoddart George	Stoddart John	Townhead Street
31	3	52	Mudloch James	Mudloch Andrew	Ayr Road
32	3	52	Boistown Robert	M'Gowan John	Strand
33	3	52	Cuthbertson James	Cuthbertson James	Barrhill Road
34	3	52	Cydes John	Cydes William	Tower Street
35	3	52	Brown Charles (2)	Brown Charles	Ayr Road
36	3	52	M'Gowan John	M'Gowan Joseph	Kilnholm
37	3	52	Born William	M'Cutcheon M	Townhead St
38	3	52	M'Michael David	M'Michael James	Townhead St
39	3	52	Murray John	Murray James	Townhead St
40	3	52	McArthur James	McArthur David	Townhead St
41	3	52	Gillespie Henry	Gillespie M	Townhead St
42	3	52	Brown William	Brown William	Broomhill
43	3	52	Murray James	Murray William	Elbow Lane

A section of the copper-plate writing typical of many pages registering new pupil entrants to the new public school at Barrhill Road.

- Kerr, Alexander, Waterside Place.
- Findlay, William.
- Barrowman, James.
- Wallace, Christina, Ayr Road.
- Moore, Elizabeth, Burnside Works.
- Cross, Isabella, Tower Street.
- Hyslop, Elizabeth.
- M'Donald, Mary.
- Russell, Elizabeth.
- Kay, John, Crichton Rows.
- Brown, George, Bridge End.
- Latta, Thomas, Kyle.
- Clark, James, Tower Street.
- Vallance, Robert, Little Chantry.
- Calderwood, James.
- Armstrong, William.
- Livingstone, Robert, Lugar Street.
- M'Kinnon, James, Ayr Road.
- Fulton, James, Gibb's Close.
- Wilson, Hugh, Kilnholm Place.
- Howat, James, Townhead Street.
- Richmond, John, Townhead Street.
- Arthur, James, Bridge End.
- Vallance, Georgina, Glaisnock St.
- Robertson, Agnes, Townhead St.
- Stevenson, Andrew, Change.
- Samson, John, Waterside Place.
- Hunter, William, Roseburn.
- Howat, Elizabeth, Townhead St.
- Hilcott, Jane Ann.

- Brown, Elizabeth, Glaisnock St.
- Smith, Janet, Tanyard Lane.
- White, Andrew, Glaisnock Street.
- White, Thomas, Glaisnock Street.
- Latta, Robert, Darmalloch.
- Kay, David, Crichton Row.
- Shankland, Matthew, Bowes.
- Richmond, George, 48 Barrhill Rd.
- O'Callaghan, John, Waterside Pl.
- Kirkland, Annie, Railway Station.
- Clark, Mary, Tower Street.
- Templeton, Annie, Lugar Street.
- Wilson, John.
- Murdoch, William, Townhead St.
- Wardrop, David, Garlaff.
- Murdoch, Adam, Waterside Place.
- Wylie, James, Glaisnock Street.
- Bain, James, Glaisnock Street.
- Moore, George Nicol, Tower St.
- Smith, John Spence, Barrhill Rd.
- Brown, John, Bridgeend.
- Vallance, James, Glaisnock Street.
- Cuthbertson, David, Tower Street.
- Smith, George, Tower Street.
- Wardrop, Ellen, Garlaff.
- Stevenson, Christina, Change.
- Templeton, Agnes, Lugar Street.
- M'Kend, Jessie.
- Baird, Wilhelmina, Glaisnock St.
- M'Callum, Margaret, Ayr Road.
- Brown, Robert.
- M'Kend, Peter.
- Lennox, William, Strand.
- Brownlee, John, Townhead Street.

Joint Headmasters

Messrs Scott and Brown became joint headmasters and this unusual situation continued until 1882, when Mr Brown took over full charge on Mr Scott's retiral. In 1899 Mr John Dick became headmaster and a steadily increasing roll, accentuated by the raising of the school leaving age from 13 to 14, a few years earlier, obliged the Board to erect the new building for infants in the playground behind the school and adjacent to Broomhill House. This was also designed to accommodate cookery and laundry rooms and when the infant classes moved from the old parish schoolrooms to their new quarters, the old school was kept in being as an arts and science department.

In 1905 the school was raised to Higher Grade status and began to bring in pupils from Muirkirk and New Cumnock. Four years later the Board acquired Hillside House



Robert Brown.



James T. Cree.



John Dick.



John W. M'Innes.



Andrew Martin.



John Weir.

across the road from the Public School, and from which the 143 Higher Grade pupils were ceremoniously marched in 1911, to what were then considered their sumptuous new quarters.

ent dimensions. On the retiral of Mr John Dick, Mr Andrew Martin was appointed Rector in 1930 and eighteen years later Cumnock Academy was the largest school in the county, with a roll of 1443.

Largest County School

This emphasised yet again the need for additional accommodation and new primary schools have been built at Greenmill (Ayr Road), Netherthird, and Logan making it possible to designate Cumnock Academy as a purely secondary school.

Mr Martin retired in 1959, and Ex-Provost John Edgar, who joined the staff in 1940, became rector.

Originally planned to start in 1961, late last year the new Cumnock Academy began to take shape beside Greenmill School, which it will incorporate. It is anticipated that it will be opened early in 1968 and should then have an estimated roll of 1,450 pupils and 75 teachers. It will cost close on £800,000.

Over the years the Further Education centre at Cumnock Academy, held in the evenings, has increased enormously and last year enrolments in over thirty classes numbered fully 600.

Roman Catholic Schools

The first R.C. School in the parish was provided by the Marquess of Bute at Benston in 1867.

Full provision has always been made for Roman Catholic children in the town. St. John's School opened in 1886. Miss Kate M'Carriack and Miss Kate Malloy were the first teachers. The school was taken over in 1890 by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. It was rebuilt 21 years later and has had its share of growing pains. These culminated in the opening of the new High school — St. Conval's — at Broomfield, in 1961. This considerably eased the accommodation problem in St. John's, which continues as a primary school. Senior secondary pupils continue to travel to either Ayr or Kilmarnock.

In this brief centenary year survey it is essential to record that the headmaster of St. Conval's, Mr Thomas Finn, is Provost of Cumnock, and Mr James Cree, the headmaster of Greenmill School, was accorded a civic reception before completing his term as President of the Educational Institute of Scotland.

Finally, it would be noted that in all the schools of the town and its immediate landward area, including Glaisnock Rural School, there are at present close on 3000 pupils enrolled under the care of 120 teachers.

When the School Board was created it took over the two main schools in the town with their handful of teachers, pupil teachers and 364 pupils — they rated for £250. In the estimated accounts for the year 1965-66, the County Council requisition on the Burgh for Education is a nice round sum of £116,000.

SCHOOL JANITORS

- 1876-99—Matthew Smith.
- 1899—Andrew Dunlop.
- Bob Montague.
- Edward (Ted) Read.
- Tom Allardyce and Tom Gillan.
- John Maclean.



Andrew Dunlop.



New Parish School, Barrhill Road, opened 19th August, 1875.



Edward Read.



Rev. J. Douglas M'Clymont.



Rev. Stewart R. Scott.

During Mr Warrick's ministry, the present Crichton Memorial Church was built. 1931-49—Rev. Donald Budge

CRICHTON-WEST CHURCH

1950—Rev. John H. Millar
1961—Rev. George S. Young



Rev. J. H. Millar.



Rev. J. C. Drife.



Rev. William Barrie.



John Maclean.

In 1809 a Mission Hall was erected at the foot of Barrhill Road and in 1911 a Mission Hall was built for Skares and Garrallan.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

(Subsequently West. U.F. Church).

The congregation asked for a "Supply of Sermon" in September, 1773. Open air meetings were held until 1775 when the old meeting house gave the adherents a roof over their heads. Then, in 1831, the new church was erected in The Tanyard.



Rev. Hugh Agnew.



Rev. Douglas Briggs.



Rev. G. S. Young.



Rev. Matthew Sullivan.

CUMNOCK ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

The Old Church was built in 1754 and restored 70 years later, when the gallery stairs were erected. The building was demolished in 1864 and the present Church was opened on 17th November, 1866.

The Ministers

- 1776—Rev. George Muir
- 1777—Rev. Thomas Miller
- 1819—Rev. John Frazer
- 1830—Rev. Ninian Bannatyne
- 1843—Rev. James Murray
- 1875—Rev. J. Spence Robertson
- 1927—Rev. J. Douglas M'Clymont

The Ministers

- 1777—Rev. James Hall
- 1788—Rev. David Wilson
- 1823—Rev. Robert Brown
- 1848—Rev. Matthew Dickie
- 1857-6—Rev. William Hutton
- 1871—Rev. Alexander Macdonald.
- 1913-22—Rev. Stewart R. Scott.
- 1922-30—Rev. Hugh Agnew.
- 1930—Rev. Douglas Briggs
- 1935-49—Rev. Hugh Lang Hall.



Rev. Ninian Bannatyne.



Rev. James Hall.



Rev. Hugh L. Hall.

In 1949 the Rev. H. L. Hall demitted the West Church to make way for the union of the Crichton and West congregations. Later the West Church was sold to the County Council and has since been used by that authority as an equipment store.

In 1950 the Rev. John Hastings Miller was inducted to the Joint Charge of what was now named the Crichton-West Church in Ayr Road.

In 1961 the Rev. George S. Young succeeded to the charge and is the present minister.

CUMNOCK FREE CHURCH.

Following the Disruption and the departure of so many members from the Established Church in 1843 — a Free Church congregation was formed and a new church erected in Ayr Road.

The Ministers

- 1843—Rev. Ninian Bannatyne
- 1873-82—Rev. Alexander Adamson.
- 1883-1931—Rev. John Warrick



Rev. James Murray.



Rev. William Hutton.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The congregation was formed in 1838 in the Black Bull Hall and the old parish school in The Square was subsequently acquired and adapted as a church in 1847.

The Ministers

- 1840-42—Rev. Sime
- 1844-53—Rev. P. W. Grant
- 1854-65—Rev. John M'Auslan
- 1866-72—Rev. Thomas Brisbane
- 1873-76—Rev. John Murray
- 1877-81—Rev. Francis Lamb
- 1882-84—Rev. A. N. Scott
- At this point the old church was sold to the Clydesdale Bank—and a new church built at the Auchinleck Road - Woodroad triangle on the town side of the Stepends hearth. The church was opened on 18th February, 1883.
- 1884-1913—Rev. William Mathieson
- 1913-1934—Rev. Mark N. Robson.
- 1934-1950—Rev. J. C. Drife
- 1951-1955—Rev. W. M'Gill Thomson
- 1955—Rev. Matthew Sullivan



Rev. William Mathieson.

BAPTIST CHURCH

The church was founded in 1876, with the Rev. J. Houston as their minister; after several moves, in 1887 the present building was erected. In the first fifty years of its existence there were no fewer than ten short ministries.

Ministers

- 1900—Rev. Thomas Jones.
- 1910—Rev. Harry Meikle.
- 1916—Rev. Thos. Connelly.
- 1919-33—Rev. J. Stewart
- 1933—Rev. Austin Stirling
- 1938-47—Rev. James Malcolm
- 1947—Rev. William Barrie.
- 1956—Rev. Thomas Lannigan
- 1963—Rev. John Martin



Rev. Harry Meikle.



Rev. Thomas Lannigan.



Rev. John Martin.

ST. NINIAN'S HALL CHURCH

With the advent of the housing schemes in the Netherthird - Craigens area, a new congregation was created in 1954. The following year the St. Ninian's Hall Church was built and dedicated under the ministry of the Rev. I. M. Tweedie.

Ministers

- 1958—Rev. H. Macintosh.
- 1962—Rev. R. M. Brown.
- Rev. I. M. Tweedie.



Rev. H. Macintosh.



Rev. Thomas Connelly.



Rev. R. M. Brown.



Rev. J. Spence Robertson.



Rev. Alex. Macdonald.



Rev. Donald Budge.



Rev. Mark N. Robson.



Rev. J. Stewart.



Rev. I. M. Tweedie.

ST. ANDREW'S U.F. CHURCH

The Free Churches of Scotland re-united with the Church of Scotland in 1929 — but there were still those who held to their own opinions in that matter and a Continuing United Free Church of Scot-



Rev. J. F. MacDonald.



Rev. J. W. Watt.



Rev. J. R. Gowans.



Rev. J. Merriman.



Rev. S. M. Walker.



Rev. R. Brown.

land was formed. In Cumnock, meetings were held for a time in the Lesser Town Hall. In 1930, the new denomination ordained their first minister—and nine years later the new U.F. Church of St. Andrew's was dedicated.

The Ministers

- 1929-31—Rev. J. F. MacDonald
- 1931-34—Rev. J. W. Watt
- 1934-37—Rev. J. C. Walker
- 1937-39—Rev. J. R. Gowans
- 1939-42—Rev. J. Merriman
- 1943-62—Rev. S. M. Walker
- 1962—Rev. R. Brown

ST. JOHN'S R.C. CHURCH

The congregation first met in the chapel built at Birnieknowe, Auchinleck, under Fr. John O'Dwyer. Subsequent priests were — Father John M'Ginnis, 1873; Father Patrick A. Wright, 1874; Rev. John O'Neill, 1882; —

The Cumnock members became a congregation in their own right in 1882, under Father Daniel Collins, and in their new and present Church of St. John's erected by the Third Marquess of Bute.

In 1885, Father Collins was succeeded by Father John Hourigan (1885-1889). Father Henry Stuart Laverty (1889-1890). Then came Father Charles J. A. O'Malley, who was succeeded for short periods by Fathers Daniel Keogh and Henry J. Langley. Then came Father and later Canon Martin Meagher, who ministered for thirty years, from 1906-1936. He was succeeded by Father Martin Doyle (1936-1938), Father Hugh Minnagh (1938-1950), Father George M'Cafferty (1950-1965), and Father Nicholas Murphy (1965 - —).



Fr. Hugh Minnagh.



Fr. George M'Cafferty.



Fr. Nicholas Murphy.

Mother Superiors of the Sacred Heart Convent & Bute Hospital.

- Rev. Mother Laura.
- Rev. Mother Romana.
- Rev. Mother Lelia.
- Rev. Mother Albina.
- Rev. Mother Rita.
- Rev. Mother Rosa.
- Rev. Mother Leonie.
- Rev. Mother Marguerita.
- Rev. Mother Geraldine.

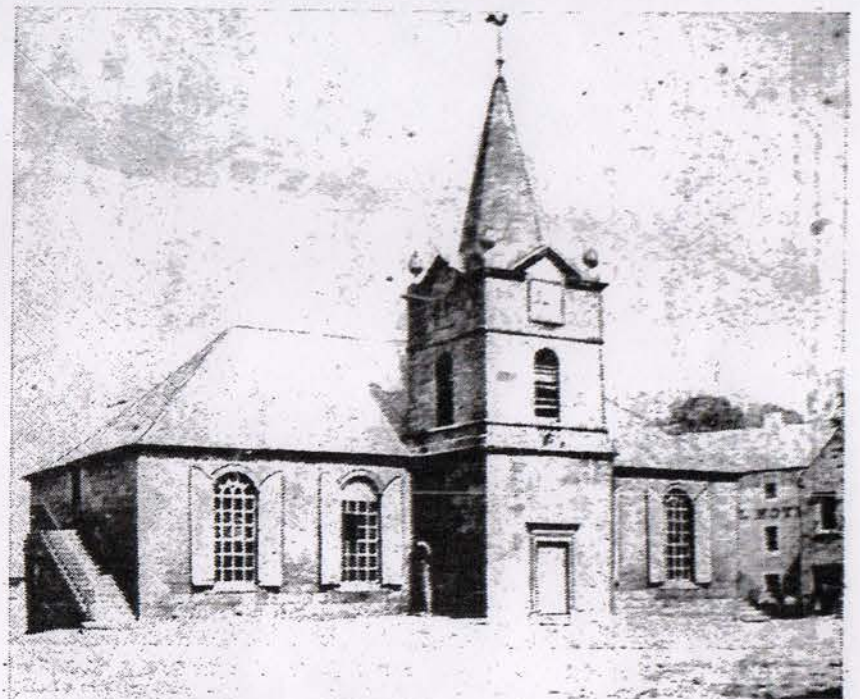
The Railway Saga

One hundred and sixteen years ago the first railway train arrived in Cumnock. It was the 20th of May and this was the advent of the G. & S. W. Railway after that army of Irish navvies and black-faced colonials had completed the last great gap between Glasgow and the town—the thirteen-arched, 175 foot high viaduct over the Lugar from Templeland to Old Cumnock station.

In all those passing years, the railway served us well, providing us with our iron-linkage to every part of the world. It was a great event in our boyhood days to be taken on that wonderful trip to Glasgow, learning all the station names by heart, and arriving in that great crystal vault of a place, St. Enoch — which, even as we write these words, is closing its portals for ever, having outlived its day and generation—a victim to stern accountancy and budget balancing such as we all have to contemplate from time to time.

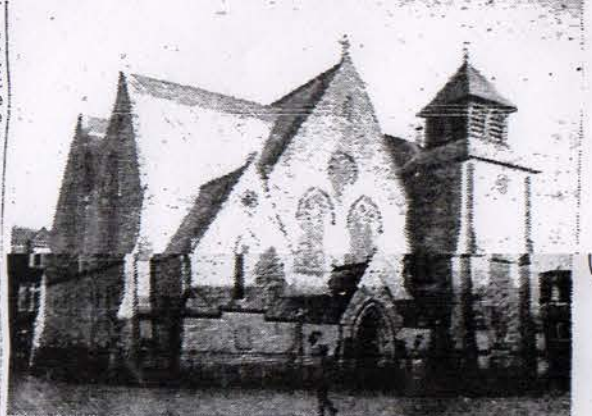
New means of communication, by road and by air, always improving, always faster, always more competitive, cut the demand for a passenger service bit by bit until it was no longer profitable to retain a booking office staff for all they had to do. And so in 1964, the Ayr and Cumnock railway was condemned in entirety. The bridges were destroyed, the lines removed, the stations demolished. And then, early this year, our local stations ceased to function as passenger entities, our goods traffic was concentrated at Auchinleck, and the only passenger stop between Kilmarnock and Dumfries was at Kirkconnel.

Thinking back to that war- (Continued on next Column).

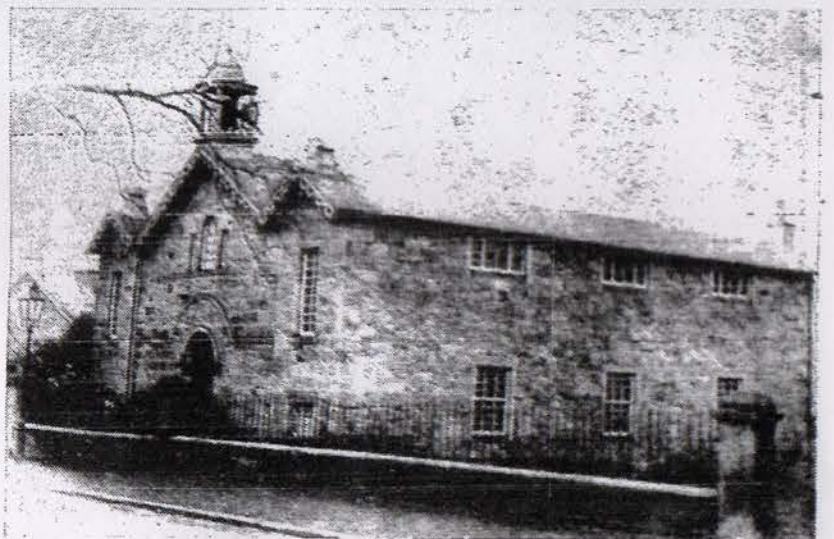


THE OLD CHURCH.—The building with the outside gallery stair - belfry - steeple, and the weather cock. The ancient "Jougs" for punishment were fastened to one gable end. Demolished to make room for the new church 102 years ago.

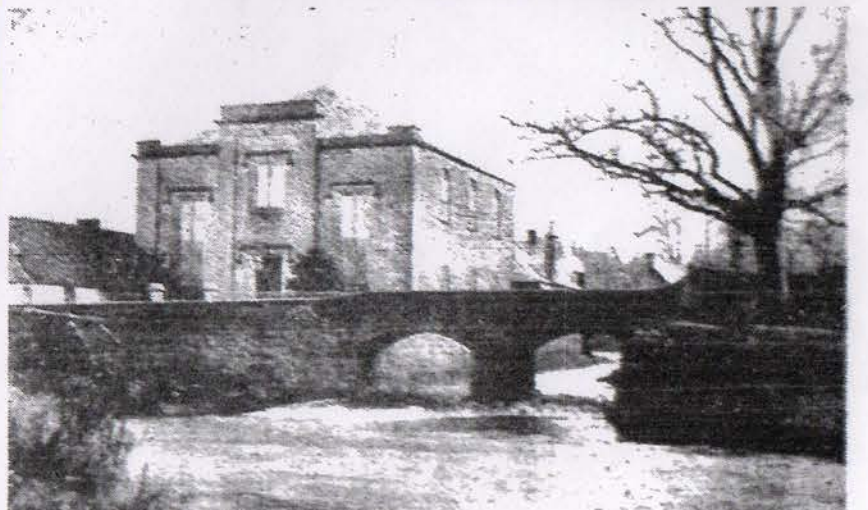
time period when, in 1916, the "Tin Lizzies" first made their appearance — the amazing Henry Ford box of tricks that brought motoring to the millions and ultimately the £98 car — we recall the stories and the incidents. These referred in the main to the heyday of the sixpenny fares to Skares and to Lugar, especially on a Saturday night. The passengers hung on to the bodywork of those tireless Fords, and many a one dropped off unnoticed to fall asleep by the roadside. For there was big money in the pits those days, and no shortage of drink in the pubs, and business boomed as the exhaust pipes of the "Tin Lizzies" sizzled to a white heat. The buses were yet to come, those



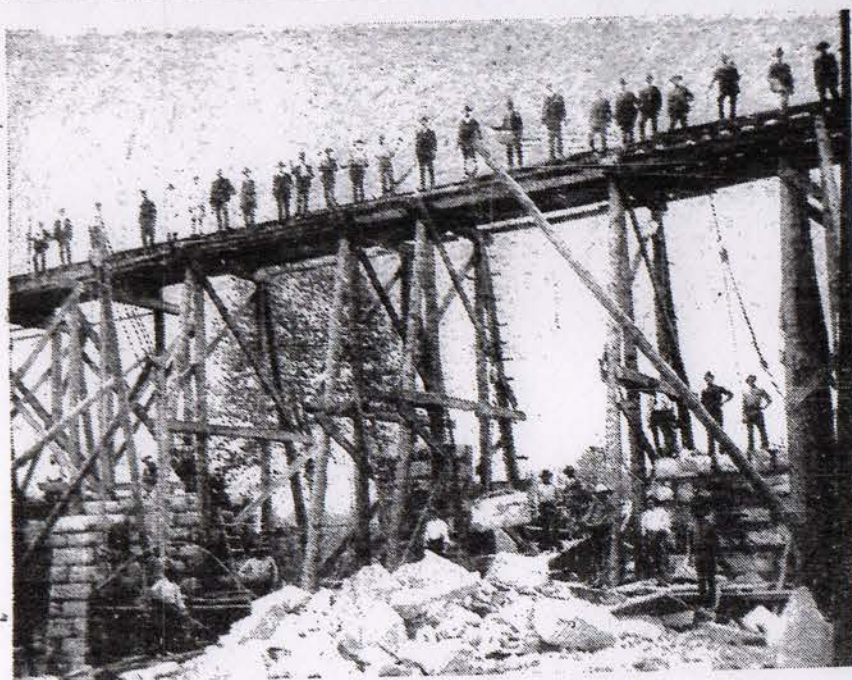
The recently "cleaned and renovated" Old Church in The Square — photographed last week.



The Free Church erected in Ayr Road when the Rev. Ninian Bannatyne, his Session and many of his congregation left the Parish Church at the Disruption. The gable end of "Coila" is on the extreme left of the picture.



The U.P. Church (West) with, behind, the white-washed cottages of "The Toonfit." The old bridge has now been replaced with a modern and much wider structure.



An interesting picture of 114 years ago, or thereabouts, when the G. & S. W. Railway was being built to link Glasgow with Carlisle. It shows a few of the hundreds of Irish navvies—and some coloured men too—building the viaduct to span the River Lugar.



Lord Bute.

end of the third decade of this century, to be associated with coming-of-age, marriage and birthday celebrations at Dumfries House.

In the early thirties, consequent on the difficulties arising out of the compulsory purchase of land for housing, this cordiality somewhat cooled. In more recent times, however, the present and sixth Marquess, who inherited the title in 1956 when he was twenty-three, has restored in some measure the old relationship, as witness his very real contribution to the recent centenary celebrations within his home in Dumfries House. When he married in 1955 the Town Council was associated in the wedding presentation of a replica in silver of Cumnock Mercat Cross. He was then the Earl of Dumfries.

Ex-Provost and Member of Parliament

Emrys Hughes was elected to the Council in 1927, passed through the Provostship and continued as a member until he succeeded Alexander Sloan as Labour Member of Parliament for South Ayrshire in

After the war, and following the depressed period in the mines and the '21 and '26 strikes—the political climate had changed completely and neither Liberals nor Tories were "in the hunt" so to speak. James Brown of Annbank had won the seat for Labour in 1919 and held it until 1929, when Captain M'Andrew won for the Tories. Two years later, James Brown was back at St. Stephen's until his death in 1939, when he was succeeded by Alexander Sloan, on whose death, he, in turn, was followed by Emrys Hughes in 1946. And ever since, the seat has been regarded as a safe Labour counter, with Emrys Hughes the sitting Elder Statesman after 20 years in the House—the same number of years he spent round the Cumnock Town Council table.

In the last two years, the Liberal Party locally has re-entered the lists and in consecutive local elections have won two seats from the Labour Party monopoly control of the Town Council. Another change in the political scene is the creation of a Cumnock branch of the Scottish Nationalist movement.

BURGH CHIPS

When the old church in the Square was demolished in 1864, the weather-cock was retrieved and re-erected at the Dumfries Arms stables. There, for over 100 years, it was consulted daily to see how the wind blew. And then the stables, too, vanished to make room for a new business development, but once again there was a friendly hand to retrieve "The cock at Munn's Brae." At a little ceremony in the Rotary Club in 1965—Rotarian Chas. Ancell handed over "the cock" to Rotarian James Livingstone for preservation in the Baird Rooms Museum.

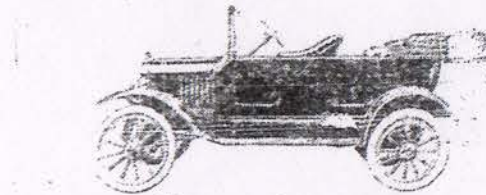
grammes emanating from Cumnock are less uncommon. In 1932, with Rector Andrew Martin, we accompanied over 100 Cumnock Academy children on their first-ever corporate excursion to London. That adventure has been repeated and much more since, with continental capital trips by sea and land every summer, a regular feature of the school holiday programme.

In 1940, one well-known servant of the Department, in Edinburgh, rather put a spanner in the works when he advocated, with some success, the new town of Drongan—contrary to the original intention to expand Cumnock to a township of 21,000. To-day, that ambitious idea is probably nearer than it ever was, indeed, the powers-that-be safely conjecture that the original 21,000 might be doubled by the 1980's.

There were recorded three great miners' strikes—in 1869, 1921 and 1926—and in all of them the town and parish councils took a sympathetic view, especially with regard to their ability, under the law, to keep the suffering families in reasonable comfort.

The Pottery works closed down in 1910. George M'Cartney's Burnside Works, which had been taken over by Charles and Andrew Taylor in 1901, closed down in 1933. In 1858 James Drummond had hied off from M'Cartney's to make mills and other implements on his own—but his successors also gave up the struggle about 1924 when the business was transferred as a garage and milk haulage concern.

The local Volunteer movement was always popular in the town, with strong leanings towards the R.S.F., especially following the building of the Drill Hall a month after the opening of the new



The first of the famous series of "Tin Lizzies"—the cheap touring cars built by Henry Ford in U.S.A. They flooded our district in the early '20's. Henry quipped—"You can have them in any colour provided it is black."

"The Cumnock Chronicle," founded in 1901 by John Walters Crawford, is now carried on by Duncan Maclean Ballantine, who has been editor since 1929 and proprietor since 1947. Founded in 1869, "The Cumnock Express," a localised edition of the "Ayr Observer," ceased publication in 1909, while "The Cumnock News," which was a localised edition of the "Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald," ceased publication about 1912.

An effort to re-establish "The Cumnock Express" in



The original solid-tyred buses of the Ayr and District Motor Services—"The Stoorie Aggies"—a "Tin Lizzie" and some other vintage cars in The Square in the early 1920's.

"Stoorie Aggies" of the Ayr and District Motor Services, which beat the old double-horse brake off their time-honoured run from Cumnock to Ochiltree to Auchincloch and Cumnock once again—and even more adventuresome—Hendry's brake from Cumnock to Ayr.

The services increased in number, the buses improved out of all knowing, the fares were far below the railway ticket charges. The writing was on the wall. The railways, as a local passenger service, were doomed, and have assumed their latterday place as long-distance conveyances in ever-improving style, comfort and convenience.

Incidentally, Cumnock had its first sight of airmen in action when, on the 28th of July, 1911, two monoplanes, taking part in an around Britain race, flew over the town, occasioning considerable excitement.

Fifty-five years later, Provost Thomas Finn was dropped off from a parachute helicopter at a display in Woodroad Park, having been picked up in his playground in St. Conval's School!

Public Parks

In 1907 the Marquess of Bute handed over to the town, Townhead Park. Twelve years later it became known that the

Misses Murray had left the wherewithal to acquire a public park; the legal tangles were unravelled and the Murray Park was opened.

The Woodroad park and woodlands were acquired from Templand Farm in 1935. Later, in 1937, Lady Talbot gifted the old Stepends Heath, and the town's requirements were complete.

The new Broomfield playing fields, for encouragement of football, rugby, hockey and cricket, were acquired and opened in 1962, and plans for a pavilion on ambitious lines are now finalised.

Newspapers



J. Walters Crawford.

1934 was abandoned after five issues.

"The Chronicle" was one of the first Scottish weeklies to install the new electronic block-making apparatus, and with the building of a new newspaper press the establishment has completely automated its printing processes, far in advance of most weekly newspaper offices, notwithstanding its modest circulation of 8,500 copies.



D. M. Ballantine.

The House of Bute

Relations between the Town Council and the Land Superiority of the House of Bute have generally been cordial, as witness the concern of our civic fathers, until at least the

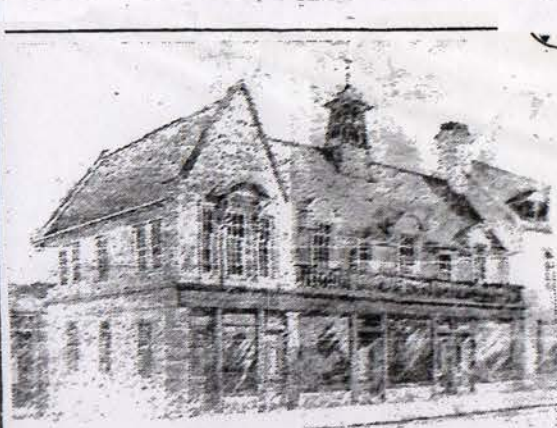
1946. His years of service as M.P. now equal his 20 years as Town Councillor.

ELECTION FEVER

Spirited Parliamentary elections have been fought down the years. Our constituency was for long a Liberal preserve, and the pre-war elections fought between William P. Beale, K.C., for the Liberals and T. W. M'Intyre for the Tories were bitter affairs, carried into the school playgrounds with some assiduity as we well remember. In the outstanding fight of 24th January, 1910, the blue and red rosettes were courageously worn and stoutly defended. Beale held the seat for the Liberals with a 2,040 majority.



James Brown, M.P.



The Masonic Temple as it was built originally in Ayr Road.



Mr Andrew Goldie, a prominent Free Mason in that era, took an active part in the raising of the funds to build the Temple.

Lodge St. Barnabas, No. 230 in the Masonic Order, must be one of the older lodges in the district, having been founded in 1809. The jubilee was fittingly celebrated in the fine Masonic Temple erected some fifty years ago in Ayr Road.

Active local representation keeps the Cumnock image in the forefront of our National dailies from time to time. Television programmes by the B.B.C. occasionally feature Cumnock, notable examples being the Diamond Jubilee Dinner of the Cumnock Burns Club, and two services from the Old Church in connection with the Burgh Centenary Celebrations. Radio pro-

The "No Licence" campaign in Cumnock occasioned a great deal of heartburning one way and another. It all culminated in an 85 per cent. vote at the Temperance Poll on 7th December, 1920, when the result was declared—No change, 785; No licence, 434.

BAIRD ROOMS.



John Baird.

In 1891 the Baird Institute—reading and recreation rooms—the gift of the late Mr John Baird, architect and draughtsman, were opened in Lugar Street. Originally there was a museum of rare articles collected by Mr Baird, and stuffed animals presented by Mr John Ballantine, photographer, who was responsible for many of the old photographs in this review. He was also an original Trustee of the rooms and



a Town Commissioner like his brother, Duncan Ballantine. The rooms are still providing a most useful focal point for our young men, who enjoy the games facilities supplied.

LOCAL HOSPITALS.

The Bute family had looked after the welfare of the Bute Cottage Hospital for over 37 years, but on May 30th, 1920, they intimated their withdrawal from that much appreciated sponsorship. Public meetings were held and regular sources of revenue from miners' pay packets, other trades' guilds, all kinds of associations and charitably inclined societies, etc., were organised. With a source of income fairly well established a committee of management was appointed on 4th November, 1921, until the operation of the National Health Services and Hospital Boards took over the committee's work and the hospital became the Sacred Heart Convent.



Mr W. D. Wardrop, Riggs, was for many years chairman of the Bute Hospital Management Committee.

The Fever Hospital on the outskirts of the Burgh gave notable service to the area in that capacity for many years. The need for such an institution greatly diminished with improved medical knowledge—and the function of the hospital changed. For some years past it has been geriatric in use.

TOWN COUNCIL HOT SPOTS

The writer reported Town Council meetings from 1916 to 1946 and, in those thirty years

there were four major periods of bitter controversy culminating on occasion in behaviour not altogether in keeping with municipal dignity.

The state of repair of the old Mercat Cross came under discussion. One member was rash enough to suggest that it would serve its most useful role now if broken down for road bottoming. The fat was in the fire with a vengeance.

Dr. James M'Queen, the Rev. John Warrick, and many other public-minded gentlemen rallied to the protection of our ancient monument; petitions were presented, and a special "crisis" ratepayers' meeting was called and packed the Town Hall. A suggestion of mis-reporting was repulsed on our reading of the relevant passage from our notebook. A vindicated "Chronicle" made lively reading with supporting letters to the editor and some piquant versification. "The Mercat Cross," as a Scheduled "Ancient Monument," is now safe from any further threat, ribald or otherwise.

Tempers were frayed badly when Emrys Hughes pushed through his drive for the demolition of old properties as unfit for human habitation. The campaign culminated in a Public Inquiry in the Lesser Town Hall to hear the case for and against the compulsory acquisition of land at a reasonable figure from Mountjoy Ltd. (Marquis of Bute). This serious division of opinion round the Council table was heightened by the fact that Provost Carruthers at that time led a minority Moderate viewpoint. The Inquiry supported the Labour group contention, and as a side consequence, several of our town streets bear the names of prominent personalities taking part in the Inquiry.

This was, in effect, the beginning of a bitter period in our Council's record. Senior Bailie George Bridges, by all the rules of use and wont, was due for promotion to the Provostship. But the Labour group bypassed the Bailie and appointed Emrys Hughes who, in membership of the Council, was several years the Bailie's junior. The air was electric when Mr Hughes assumed the chair. There was little "peace in the home" in the years that followed. The Bridges-Hughes battle waged hot and vituperative, and we recollect several occasions when the meetings were adjourned to permit of a "cooling-off" interval. On one celebrated evening, Councillors Bridges and M'Call engaged in a slanging match in which Provost Hughes' desk was sent flying with all three and Mrs Emrys Hughes (Nan Hardie) on their feet at the same time, and all within arms-length of one another.

Despite vocal threats of "gub-slapping" and violently unorthodox exit via the window—the storm was again weathered without bloodshed, and the National Press

chortled over another morning headline.

The following year, Emrys Hughes elected to face George Bridges at the ballot box and Mrs Hughes, who had been returned to the Council unopposed with two other Labour candidates three years earlier, was appointed Provost. Bridges scored 942 votes against Hughes's 887, and the battle was rejoined with further interim adjournments. It looked as though a three years' war of attrition was unavoidable. And then George Bridges was removed from the scene of conflict on his appointment as headmaster at Kilbirnie—and that was that!

There was a further difference of opinion with public feeling in the early stages of the war, when the Council refused to participate in a series of special savings drives instituted by the War Cabinet for the purpose of purchasing weapons of war. The impasse was resolved when Cumnock District Council took over the sponsorship—and under the guidance of various chairmen and District Council Clerk John Allan—some record figures were achieved in successive years.

The Labour group has continued in control of Town Council affairs and much has been done for the general well-being of the lieges. Noteworthy was the slum clearance programme.

Outstanding in the amenity field was the decision, after public plebiscite, to create an open-air, heated swimming pool at Woodroad, which had, that year (1935), been purchased for £500 from Templand Farm to create a public park. The following year, Provost Mrs Hughes declared the Pool open. It cost £5,500 or, as Emrys Hughes put it, "the price of a box of matches a week to every ratepayer." There has never been any doubt in most folk's minds that this was a job well done.

Housing Programme

Improving the housing conditions within the Burgh has been the Council's main concern since 1914, when Urbana Terrace was built. The policy was continued, if somewhat slowly, by successive Councils, and according to our files the 250 mark had been passed by 1933, when Labour gained control. Speeding up the programme considerably the total was reaching towards 650 when the Second World War shut down building activity for six years. Thereafter, the work was resumed with enthusiasm in scheme after scheme all over the town, and in 1956, at the late Councillor Gilmour's home in Holland Crescent, a plaque was unveiled commemorating the tenancy of the 1000th house built by the Council under the various Housing Acts.

Still the demand for new homes continued unabated, and three years later Sir Robert H. Matthew, a distinguished architect, was appointed to design and landscape the

town's most enterprising programme so far—the erection of 500 houses at Barshare. This project brought the first Saltire Society award for outstanding design and execution in 1963. A further Saltire commendation for clever adaptation of a difficult site was awarded this year for houses built at Richmond Terrace, in Barrhill Road.

Prior to the advent of Sir Robert H. Matthew, the Burgh Surveyor (the late Mr Robert Forbes) had been responsible for the designing and planning of the Burgh's housing schemes and their lay-out. Many of the schemes were built by direct labour, but latterly the policy has been to return to normal contractual tender.

To accommodate all the houses, the Burgh has been extended periodically and, as it passes its hundredth birthday and approaches its two-thousandth house, further extension would appear to be inevitable.

The provision of adequate domestic water supply bedevilled the Council for half a century, until a mutually satisfactory arrangement between the Town and the County Council allowed the augmentation of supply from the Borland Reservoir by junction as required with the County water source at Glenafton.

The latest step in the right direction regarding the provision of all the water the Burgh will require for its houses and existing and future industrial projects, is the creation of a single Water Board for Ayrshire with a catchment area at Loch Bradan. This should meet all demands for many years ahead.

EARLY INDUSTRIES.

One hundred years ago in their day famous box-making and tweed-weaving businesses were giving way to coal, and over the years ever so many smaller concerns have come and gone.

The famous millwright firms of George M'Cartney at Burnside Works and Drummond's at Barrhill Road, and latterly the smaller firm of Montgomery & Howat in Waterside Place, built and maintained Cumnock Threshing Machines for a flourishing home and expanding foreign market. M'Cartney trained engineers found their way to many strange and profitable corners of the world.

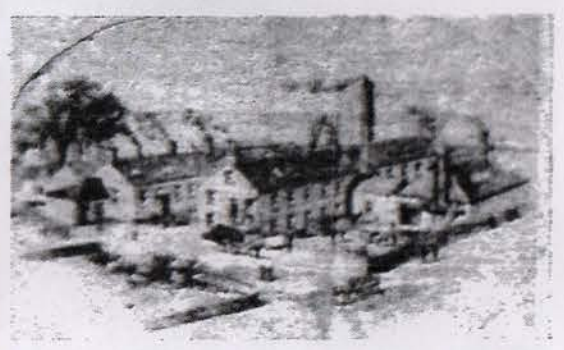


Mr George M'Cartney, millwright, founder of the firm.

The brothers Charles and Andrew Taylor took over M'Cartney's and, in addition to the normal, mill-building activity, added a new interest in electric switchbox manufacture under the trade name "Orb." Both partners took their share of public life, Charles in the municipal field and Andrew in the work of



Mr Andrew Taylor.



A view of M'Cartney's Works at Greenbrae, as they looked 130 years ago.

the Public Library, the Literary Guild and the amateur stage productions presented under Guild auspices. These were of a highly diverting and always topical nature, bringing in many of the business and professional people of the town. The scripts were largely Andrew Taylor written or inspired—although in the later works Mr George Connell also had a hand in the game.

Cumnock Pottery Works, behind the Pottery Row, flourished for close on a century, until about 1910. To-day, Cumnock glazed pottery ware are collectors' pieces and might yet have considerable scarcity value. Most of the old families in Cumnock have a few select specimens in their display cabinets.

Then there were the jam and sweet factories, a bicycle building enterprise, Andrew's Lemonade Works, Brown's Laundry, King's Mill, Brown's Mill, the Creamery, the Coachworks, various stabling and hacking establishments, dress-making and millinery businesses galore, seedstores, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, tin-smiths, flourishing building trade concerns (several of these happily continue with us).

At one time there were three printing establishments—now there alone remains the "Chronicle" Office, employing twenty printers, reporters and office staff.

There used to be three jewellers and watchmakers—now there is one; three chemists—now two, if we include the new shop opened a few days ago in Townhead Street. We still have five banks, several insurance offices, a great variety of shops, many businesses catering for the ever-growing motor trade, but no longer a cattle market—and no longer any Cumnock Fairs or travelling shows (the last visit to The Square was 1923); cinemas or penny-geggies. Our Picture House has been going now for 53 years though television and radio keep more folks at home for their entertainment of an evening.

The Present Social Picture

And, on the subject of social life, we must have almost every kind of club that one could name if it is a current interest. Football, rugby, athletic, swimming, running, walking, canoeing, golf, curling, billiards, tennis, fishing, beekeeping, dogs, birds, flowers, bowls, cycling, motoring, art, camera, rambling, shooting, badminton, bridge, homing pigeons, Masons, Rotary, Round Table and associate Ladies' Circle, Women's Town, Professional, Rural, Guild (Co-op, and Church), Darby and Joan, Senior Citizens, Working Men's, British Legion, Old Folks, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Boys' Brigade, Life Boys, stamps—the list is endless and grows every week with some new fancy or other—and inevitably news of these infinitely varied and ever-fascinating interests, and pursuits, find their way into the columns of our newspaper at one time or another to record for another historian one hundred years from now, how the people of Cumnock, young and old, worked and played—just indeed as Dr. John Strawhorn has done in the engrossing and meticulously detailed and infinitely readable "New History of Cumnock," which he has the pleasure of seeing published this week.

The New History



Dr. John Strawhorn.

We have been privileged to have a galley and a page-proof reading of the work and have found it invaluable as a check to our own researches for this short summary of the Burgh's first hundred years. This book will be the definitive historical reference book of Cumnock until another one is compiled perhaps fifty years hence like the Rev. John Warrick's earlier effort before the turn of the century.

WELFARE IMPROVEMENTS

It is interesting to note that in the early decades of this century there was still a need for a "ragged weans and barefoot" fund. A barefooted child we never see to-day—from dire necessity that is—and the spectacle of a boy going obliviously happy to school with shirt peeking from holed breeks must indeed be rare.

There is no comparable want or hardship to-day thanks to our affluent society and our welfare consciousness, and there must be many of our older folks who look upon our young mothers marching with their handsome prams or, more appropriately, baby carriages, to the child welfare clinic in the other half of the Public Library building at Millbank—and sigh to themselves—you don't know how lucky you are! There was none of that for me! Free this and free that, or reduced price for this or that other vitaminised food or beverage. Indeed, a mighty change for the better.

COUNCIL SNIPPETS.

When the Labour Party dream of nationalising the coal mines was realised, it was a fitting gesture to the memory of James Keir Hardie, M.P., who fought for that, and many other Socialist ideals, that his daughter, Provost Nan Hardie Hughes, should unveil the flag commemorating Vesting Day at Highhouse Colliery, in January, 1947. James Finn, Cumnock, the oldest worker (and uncle of our Provost), unfurled the flag at Whitehill Colliery.

Incidentally, in August, 1939, a bust of James Keir Hardie, cast in bronze by the celebrated Russian-born artist and sculptor, Benno Schotz, R.S.A., and the gift of the Keir Hardie Memorial Committee, was accepted by his daughter at the site provided by the Town Council in front of the Town Hall.

The Council has a long record of members who gave many years of service in the management of the town affairs, but only one has been



THE BATTLE OF THE PICTURE.—A reproduction of the photograph of the first Parish Council. This was the picture which occasioned quite a storm before it was removed from the Town Council Chambers which originally also accommodated the Parish Council. The personalities are:—Back Row—Thomas M'Caughie, William Dalglish, David Reid, Charles Thomson, James Moodie, William M'Geachin, Matthew Smith; Middle Row—Fr. Charles O'Malley, David Smith (Inspector of Poor), Hunter Bowie, James Gray (Chairman), Andrew Murdoch, Alexander Simpson. Front Row—James Howat and Robert Hyslop.



Provost Nan Hardie Hughes unveils bust to her father, James Keir Hardie, M.P. With her, James Maxton, M.P.

honoured by the Council with a Burgess Ticket. This was presented to Ex-Provost James Holland in 1963, who, at the same period, was presented with his portrait in oils.

COAL.

Throughout the century, coal, in large measure, provided the sinews of the town's prosperity, although all the smaller undertakings on the town's perimeter and within the Burgh, had closed down by 1866, leaving only the several bings and the bogey-inclines at Barrhill and Templeland as reminders of their former industry.

By the early 1880's the town's ironstone pits which fed Lugar furnaces, ceased operation, and ten years later Stepends was abandoned. The parish association with coal getting was not, however, over, and at the turn of the century there were several active undertakings in the Garrallan - Skares area, under Wm. Baird & Co.'s control. But by the early 1930's these and the Carriden Coal Coy.'s Garrallan colliery had been closed. The sole survivor in the Skares area was Whitehill which continued working until 1965. The greater number of our mining families are now employed in Auchinleck and Ochiltree parishes, at Highhouse, Barony and Killoch collieries, and it is reasonable to suggest that the Burgh's practical interest in mining will continue for many a year to come, despite the general shrinkage of the industry.

OUR NEW INDUSTRIES.

The last of the one-time busy weaving activities at Townhead had closed down in the first decade of the new century, but forty years later, in 1948, Cumnock's interest in textiles was revived, with the establishment at Bankend Mill of a branch of John Foster, Sons & Co., Ltd., from Queensberry, Yorkshire. The opening ceremony took place in an atmosphere of tempestuous wind and rain, so stormy, in fact, that the Provost's speech was whipped from his hand in the gale. Nevertheless, the Black Dyke Mills Band, which is sponsored by the Yorkshire firm, played in the new factory nobly, despite their own difficulties with the capricious elements.

Six years ago, Cumnock Knitwear Factory added to our revived interest in the garment manufacture in their new factory behind the S.M.T. Garage in Ayr Road, while the occupation of the first of the town's advance factories (provided by the government) by Messrs Bata Ltd., "Shoemakers to the World," has provided a great asset in the number of jobs available. Those undertakings give employment to close on 170 staff and employees.

The coming of the internal-combustion engine, and its application to passenger-carrying services brought into being the Ayr and District Bus Service in 1923 and this company was absorbed by the Western S.M.T. in 1932. The modern undertaking, in its new garage quarters in Ayr Road, opened in 1954, employs 232 management, maintenance, driving and conducting staff.

Another new business was established in October, 1964, when "Sykes Chicks" opened their up-to-date hatchery on

the Auchinleck Road, just out-with the Burgh boundary, giving employment to some 12 staff and employees.

A feature of the town's commercial activity recently has been the advent of branches of multiple firms, with the likelihood of more to come as the town's commercial activities expand.

Stevensons' Dairy Farms

Administratively centred in the Burgh, but producing and handling 720,000 gallons of milk a year from Changue, Bankend and Crofthead farms on the burgh's perimeter, John and James Stevenson have nursed the astonishing growth of their dairy empire. The business was founded in 1936, with a modest turnover of £5,000. Since then they have opened shops, acquired, expanded and modernised a fine hotel in the town and established a near monopoly in milk sales to homes, schools, canteens and factories. Every day of the year 18 delivery vans cover 700 miles delivering bottled milk throughout Ayrshire—and the modest turnover of the 1936 milk-bar has swollen to £350,000 a year and a pay-roll of 100 employees enjoying the best of social welfare provision. Within recent months Mr John Stevenson has taken over the business in its entirety in his own name. Incidentally, the Stevenson family have farmed Changue for a hundred years.



A. B. TODD (Adam Brown Todd), born near Mauchline, a tilemaker, began to write, became editor of "Cumnock Express." Published poems and several books related to the Covenant and Covenanting times. Was prime mover in the erection of the Alexander Peden monument in the Old Churchyard. A noted Burnsian, he presided at Cumnock Burns Club on several celebrated anniversary occasions.

14 Hour Working Day.

For his work in the spring of 1838, as a "washer-off" in a Galston tileworks, Mr Todd recalls in his autobiography that he was paid six shillings and sixpence a week for a 14-hour day, and as the tile-moulders were paid by the thousand tiles, they made slaves of themselves and greater slaves of their boys.

ANNIE RANKINE AND BURNS.

In his autobiography, Mr A. B. Todd wrote—"A grandson of the 'rough, rude, ready-witted Rankine' of Burns (John Rankine of Adamhill, Tarbolton)—Hugh Merry by name, and as great a wit too, as his grandfather, who once came on a visit to me when

I was living at Welhill Tile-work, New Cumnock, and which visit he prolonged to the long period of seven years, told me that he heard his grandfather say that Burns was the kindest-hearted and the best-natured man he ever knew. It was his daughter, Annie Rankine, the mother of my dreich visitor, who was the heroine of that capital song of Burns, beginning 'It Was Upon a Lammas Nicht.' She died at Cumnock so recently as 1843, at the age of eighty-four years, so that she was born in the same year as Burns."

Again—"My mentally great and most excellent mother had a distinct recollection of having seen Burns with his two horses, at the limeworks, and of his gentleness to them. Though standing at a distance, they would come up to him at his call, when he would gently rub their eyes, of which all horses are exceptionally fond."

Mr Todd quoted many acquaintances who had known Burns personally, including his own father, who knew him well—and none of whom had ever heard him "utter an oath, saw him angry, or saw him intoxicated."

A. B. TODD ON "ELECTIONS."

In the course of an autobiographical introduction to his "Poetical Works"—Mr A. B. Todd referred at some length to his fifty years and more of journalistic association with the "Ayr Advertiser," "Ayr Observer," "Cumnock Express," numerous other weekly journals, and the national press.

In this chapter, "The Town and the Newspaper," he described the sort of conduct one might expect in earlier election times and went on to write:—"Previous to the ballot being introduced at Parliamentary elections, the conduct of the rowdies was generally bad everywhere and in no place was it worse, or, perhaps, more so, as in the town of Old Cumnock, and it was like going through a campaign in an enemy's country for a Conservative to go to the poll and record his vote. On one occasion, in addition to the local police and special constables, thirty picked constables were brought from Glasgow to keep the peace and protect 'The Tories,' who, generally, driven to the poll in carriages, and intending to return by them to the committee rooms, were mostly unable to do so; for, when attempting to enter the carriage, they were driven by the number and weight of the mob past the carriage door in spite of all the police could do, when they were hustled into The Square, spit upon, pricked with awls, brogs and nails; pinned up to the walls or to the Market Cross by the pressure of the roughs, and used in the most shameful fashion; more than one individual being knocked down and trampled upon and never being well afterwards, their deaths, beyond a doubt, being due to the dastardly conduct of those whom the late William Buchanan, at one time minister of the parish of Kilmaurs, then editor of 'The Ayr Observer,' thus addressed:—

'O! rowdies of Old Cumnock, Enlightened SANS CULOTTE With knives and nails for arguments,

To teach us how to vote!' (which, apart from its telling imagery, was not bad for one typical sentence).

CARNEGIE IN CUMNOCK.

Mr A. B. Todd, in his autobiography, wrote:—"With that extraordinary man, Dr. Andrew Carnegie, I have met on three occasions; twice in Cumnock and once in Ayr. The first time he was driving from the South of England to the North of Scotland, and was accompanied by his venerable mother, to whom he was devotedly and beautifully attached. The second time, he was accompanied by his charming wife and winning little daughter. On this occasion he did me the honour of sending me an invitation to meet him at the hotel, which I did, and was delighted by his strong good sense, and the extent of his information on

literary men and matters. His own cultured style, and also the far-reaching political wisdom which shines out in his works, surprise me more than his great wealth; especially in one whose life has been so long and so largely devoted to business. He has done me the honour of sending me numbers of his published works which I value highly."

Literary Pursuits

Cumnock always had its library—sometimes public, sometimes sectarian, sometimes at a price, more often free. Sixty years ago and more it was the Athenaeum; then there were the penny readings. There always seemed to be a library of sorts in the Town Hall and we had a hand in more than one effort to revive flagging interest before the commercial twopenny-a-read and then the free County libraries, in their own most elegant and efficient buildings, opened the flood gates of free and limitless choice to all who cared to call and choose.



In the pre-motor days, horse transport to the surrounding villages and to the railway stations supplied leisurely lines of communication. The Square was the normal stance.



AND THE MODERN WAY.—Provost Finn arrives by helicopter from St. Conval's playground, at Woodroad Park, during the summer Centenary Celebrations.

There was a vogue too for many a year for the social outing to listen to a world-renowned or local celebrity on his own specialised subject of study or enterprise. Those Literary Guild nights had their fascination, especially when illustrated with excellent slides, but they too have gone the way of all flesh—victims of the goggle-box and the electronic age, apart from the occasional and still appreciated travel talk and colour-slide show, which can still take one imaginatively into distant or, for one reason or another, slightly inaccessible lands.

SIR JOHN LATTA.

Sir John Latta was born at Darmalloch in Cumnock parish. He was closely associated with the London shipping firm of Lowther, Latta and Co., Ltd., and had his home in Portland Square in the West End of the city. Despite his great wealth and his importance in the international shipping world, he never forgot his early schooling in Cumnock. He founded the Sir John Latta dux medal for Cumnock Academy, and was benefactor of many organisations in the town and district.

Following the public inquiry into the town's difficulties in securing building land from the Marquess of Bute (Mountjoy Ltd.), other than by compulsory purchase and an



Hillside House, the home of the Crichton family, was during Mr Dick's headmastership, was taken over as Cumnock's first Higher Grade School.

Cumnock Guide

In 1915 Mr James P. Ballantine printed and published the first local guide to Cumnock.

Fire Brigade

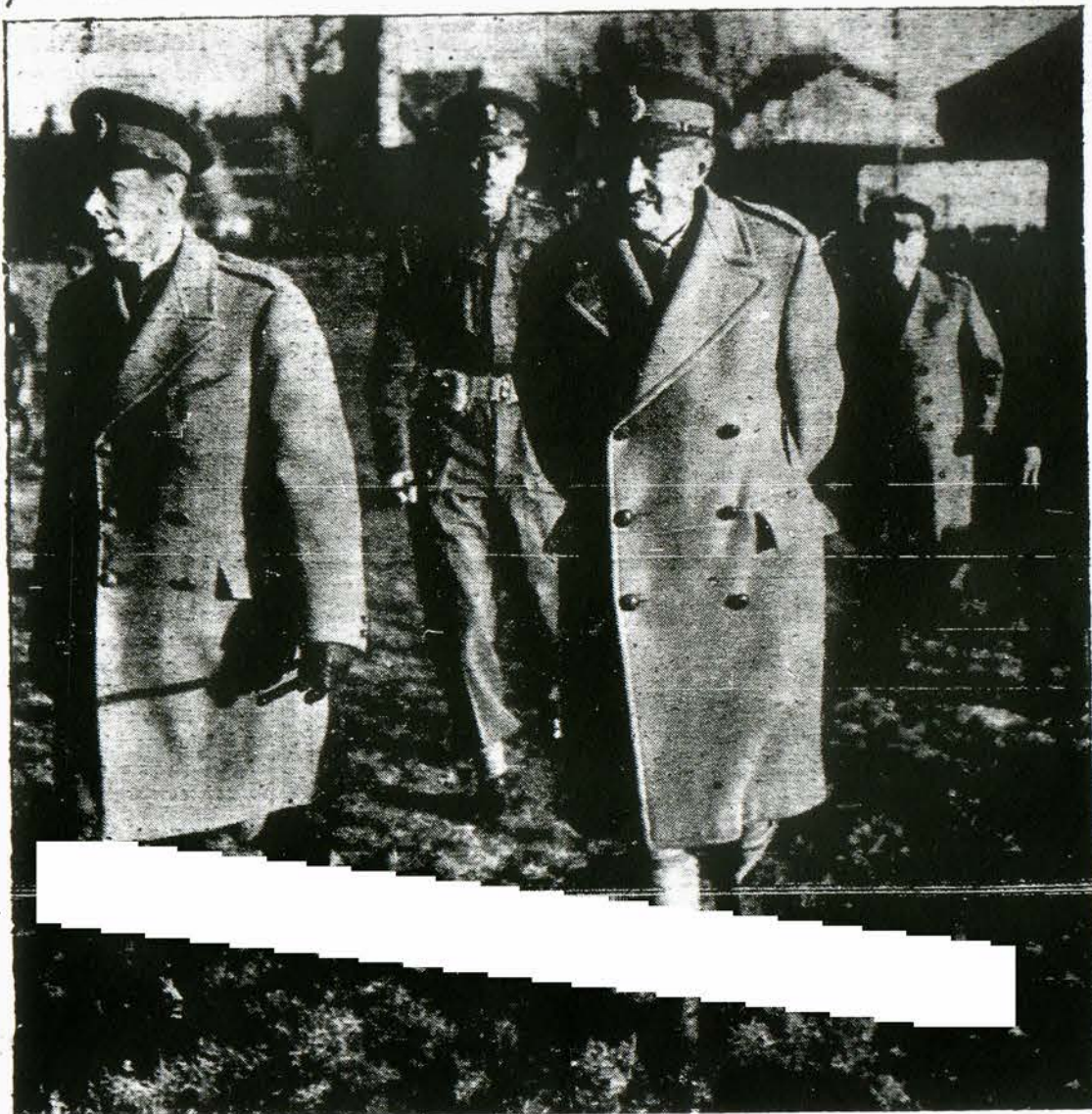
After many ups-and-downs with the problems of Burgh Fire Fighting, an efficient local service was provided from a Fire Station established in 1910 in the Tanyard. This was superseded by a modern Fire Station with two engines for the area, built at the old Coachworks on Glaisnock Road.

Appreciation

Following the public inquiry into the town's difficulties in securing building land from the Marquess of Bute (Mountjoy Ltd.), other than by compulsory purchase and an



Mr Hew Crichton, in memory—and that Sheriff brother—the Marquess of Bute's Crichton of Hillside gifted the Crichton Memorial Church in Ayr Road. This replaced the old one erected at the time of the Disruption.



THE KING IN CUMNOCK.—H.M. King George VI. and Major General W. R. Clutterbuck, M.C. watched army river-crossing exercises at The Holm, during their visit to Cumnock on 18th February, 1943.

adjusted valuation, two of the officials from the Department are commemorated in the town's street names, viz. Michie Street and Wylie Crescent.

World Wars

In the First World War, 1914-18, 117 Cumnock men lost their lives. In the Second World War, 1939-1945, the supreme sacrifice was paid by 37 men. All of their names are enrolled on the War Memorial erected in the New Cemetery.

Queen's Visit

In July, 1956, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh were greeted in Woodroad Park by Provost John Edgar, the Burgh officials, a party of distinguished guests and thousands of school children, whose enthusiasm gave the Royal couple the greatest thrill of their entire Ayrshire tour.

Coal Pits in the Town and Parish

The Townhead Ironstone Pit had been sunk 6 years before the Burgh was established. This and the pit at Shankston were closed by 1884. Eight years later Stepends shut down after a life of 32 years. Glenkyron closed in 1905, Knockterra nine years later and Hindsward No. 1 in 1925. Garrallan, after several fits and starts, closed finally in 1931, though a privately-owned colliery bearing the same name, and opposite Garrallan School, continued production until 1960.

Whitesmuir and Hindsward No. 2 followed, and Whitehill never opened again after a flood.

For this year the N.C.B. contemplated opencast mining in Hindsward.

So Cumnock miners found work within the parish in the

highly successful new ultra-modern development at Killoch in Ochiltree, in Highhouse, and the re-opened and revitalised Barony Colliery in Auchmleck.

The workers' dependence on the mines for employment is not now inescapable, though excellent jobs will be found in the pits we have mentioned for many a long day. The advent of oil as a power competitor, and the exploitation of enormous accumulations of natural gas from North Sea borings, are new and potent factors, but there is little doubt coal will be needed during the lifetime of our readers, though it may cease to be used in the wasteful manner we adopt today.

New Factories

The factories already established in the town, and referred to elsewhere, will soon be augmented on the industrial scene when the world-famous American synthetic fibre firm of Chemstrand open up in 1967, and the fourth Board of Trade factory announced in June of this year will give employment ultimately to another 500 workers, mainly male. The story of Cumnock's industrial expansion does not end there.

Enquiries for further possibilities are constantly being followed up by our Burgh officials, who are unceasingly "on-the-ball" in this endless search for new and worthwhile avenues of employment for our own townsmen and those Glasgow buddies who will come to Cumnock one day in fulfilment of our promise to take 1000 overspill families to help a little in solving the city's population explosion.

All this at present adds up to a positive 1000 jobs for men, women, boys and girls—and many more to come.

In short, our community which, for generations, indeed one might say for centuries, has been based on coal as our economic mainspring, will be much more healthily diversified in the industrial field while preserving and adding to its already considerable amenities.

A New Accessories Shop for Cumnock

A new shop has been opened at Glaisnock Street in premises — opposite Cumnock Picture House — formerly occupied by the Gas Board. Having redecorated the interior of the building, Mr Robert Findlay, proprietor of the "Central Garage," has opened a new motoring accessories shop. Here can be found the hundred and one gadgets and extras that go to make for more comfortable and more interesting driving.

Mr Findlay's large stock includes such items as car rugs, anti-dazzle glasses, touch-up kits, steering wheel gloves, etc. In addition, his window display includes an impressive range of Moulton mini-bikes. The colourful and eye-catching window and interior display has certainly brightened up this part of Glaisnock Street.

Licensed for Lotteries

Cumnock Town Council have agreed to applications for registration under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act by Cumnock Academy Athletic Club and the Cronies Burns Club.

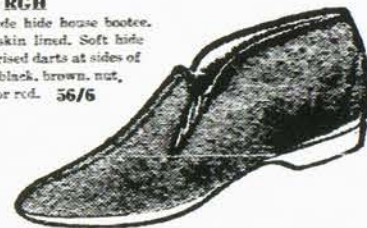
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