

News from the Past

Historic Walk Opened



Some magnificent views have been opened up with the clearing of an ancient cattle track east of Markinch beyond the railway track. It can be accessed via the Cuinan Hill path and is part of

the proposed Core Paths Network. It includes the long overgrown Braes Loan with the Brunton Mill lands shown above. A potted history of the walk is set out on page 8.

Storm uncovers Balbirnie Coal Seam

A reminder of Markinch's coal mining past was uncovered recently when a fallen tree revealed a seam of coal beside the Burn that runs through Balbirnie Park (see photo below). There were once many pits dotted across the Balbirnie estate and some of their lost names were recently preserved in the street names granted to a new housing estate.

Coal mining using bell pits and open cast methods has a long history in Markinch. Some recent discoveries are examined more closely on page 10.



EARL'S LETTER GIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO BUILDERS REPLACING CHURCH TOWER

A letter dated 1806 from Alexander Leslie-Melville, Earl of Leven, has recently been uncovered that may help to explain why Markinch Parish Church tower has such an unusual shape. Described by Jane Austin as a "tall gentlemanlike man with spectacles and rather deaf", the Earl was a Whig Peer representing Scotland in the House of Lords. Jane Austin met him and Lady Leven in London in an attempt to



secure a naval post for her brother Charles. Lord Leven's son, Lord Balgonie at that time commanded a naval warship, the *Endymion*.

A few months after the Jane Austin meeting, Lord Leven was sent drawings proposing a complete renovation of Markinch Kirk. He writes to the Kirk's Heritors as follows (continued on page 6)

QUIZ

HOW WELL DO YOU
KNOW YOUR
PARISH?

**How many of these
places are in Markinch
Parish?**

The pictures are of Cameron
House, East Fife Football
Ground, Thornton Clock, Fife
House, Glenrothes and Bandon
Castle.

**How many
other parishes
does Markinch
Parish border?**

**How many
passenger rail
stations does it
now have?**

**Is Markinch in
Glenrothes or is
Glenrothes in
Markinch?**

**(answers on
back page)**



MARKINCH VOLUNTEER MILITIA

1799 - 1802

(A WORK IN PROGRESS)

THE UNIFORM

Although in existence for such a short time, the Markinch Volunteer Militia has very deep roots within Scottish history of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Research is ongoing and the most complete part of the project, at this stage, is the uniform. The uniform is currently in freezer storage at Glasgow museums because of a moth infestation and should be available for viewing during the summer of 2012 when the Markinch Heritage Group hope to visit. The regiment was raised in 1799, under the command of John Balfour (1738- 1813), the 5th Laird of Balbirnie.



THE COATEE: The scarlet curved coatee shows four groups of two non fastening buttons on either side on the front. The faded blue/green collar and cuffs shows the cuffs being decorated with four buttons with one functioning button, the neck of the garment with two buttons and a central metallic braid. The button detailing continues around the back of the coatee, with the tails also having two groups of two buttons which end at the hem of the garment, outlining decorative stitching. At the waist line above the central division of the back vent are two buttons divided by a stitched triangle.



le. The coatee shows white short tails at thigh level with applied heart detail.



WAISTCOAT: It is made of cream coloured wool and has a short collar. The front has two pockets and ten button fastenings, marked Markinch Loyal Volunteers and crowned GR II. The back of the waistcoat is made from a natural coloured material with two ties mid to lower back which would ensure a good fit to the wearer.

THE PANTALOONS: These are narrow legged green trousers, have red edgings and two waist pockets, with three decorative metal buttons at the edge of each cuff. There are three further buttons at each side of the waist and two buttons either side of the front panel holding it in place. To the back of the trousers are central lacing holes. The pantaloons are partially lined in natural cotton.



THE SASH: This is described as being crocheted in red wool, with tasselled ends. All members who heard the talk given by Major Proctor, MBE of the Black Watch Museum in Perth, will remember that all sashes were coloured red because they doubled as bandages on the battlefield.



Other items of the uniform appearing on the Glasgow Museums Property List are, a tunic, a pair of black cotton spats and a helmet, for which no photographs are available at this time. A further helmet also survives in a private collection for which permission to print a photograph was not given.

Following more research, further articles on Markinch Volunteer Militia will appear in future newsletters. These articles will include The Acts of Parliament permitting Scotland to raise Militia Regiments, Muster and Oath of Allegiance Rolls, duties of Volunteer Militiamen and The Riots.

My thanks must go to Glasgow Museums for their kind permission to use their photographs and text, to Tracey Hawkins, Collections Research Assistant at Glasgow Museums for her help. I am also indebted to Richard from Fife Militia, Bruce Manson for sharing information, and to Neil Sutherland for his computing help and advice.

Maureen Brand

MORE FROM MARKINCH
POET ROBERT TAYLOR

The Last Newsletter contained a few extracts from Robert Taylor's epic poem and we promised to bring you more from Markinch's version of William McGonagal. The extracts are from the fifth edition of his poetry which gives some idea of how widespread his works were in the early part of the 19th century.

They were pulled together by four unnamed Markinch "savants" who included a satirical foreword on the Markinch baker turned poet. Taylor, however, had the last laugh because only his name has come down to us in the 21st century. Those who mocked him are long forgotten.

Robert Taylor was born around 1790 and died in 1838. As the poem featured in the last Newsletter showed, he worked as a baker "close to Markinch steeple", probably in Bailie's Wynd.

His epic poem turns from bad times in Markinch to morality and then meanders into a description of the local traders before wandering off across country to the banks of the Leven.....

And now I turn to another thing,
Your attention to uptake;
And that is about the Water of
Leven,
It to some people much money do
make

Betwixt Cameron Bridge and the
Gullet Bridge,
Not passing six miles in length,
And there was never a place like
it,
It is carried on by such strength.

For upon this said Water of Leven,
There is not the like to be seen,
For all kinds of work is carried on,
By strong and great machines.

There are seven spinning mills on it,
And Bleachfields there are six,
There are two paper mills and a
snuff mill,
Cameron Bridge and Loch Leven
betwixt.

There is also on the said Water,
Lint-mills and corn-mills too,
And flour mills upon the same,
Which I cannot number now

There is also an Iron Work,
Carried on upon the same,
And other things too tedious,
This present time to name.

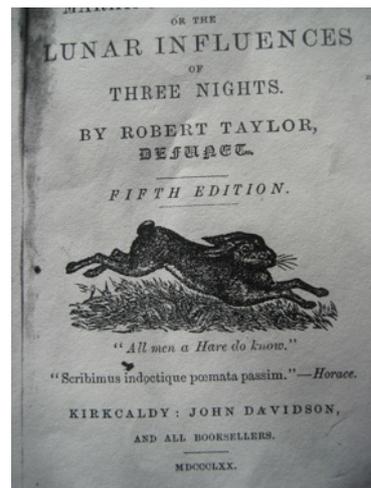
And of this Water of Leven,
I now no more will say;
But every one that comes this way,
Will see it as they pass by,

And now I turn to another place,
Which you will also see,
And that is the Steeple of Markinch,
Which standeth very high.

But I have heard some people say,
At the bottom it is not sound,
But it will never fall, I think,
As long as Markinch is a town.

But the year eighteen hundred and
seven,
Was the year it was repaired,
And for it to fall, I hear people say,
They think there is no fear of it.

Of this steeple I'll say no more,
But it stands very high,
And, indeed, it is a very great won-
der
To strangers that pass by.



Taylor's journey then takes him to the Lomond Hills and then (via a description of Hattenburn Distillery) to the evils of drink.....

The Whisky is as bad a thing,
As to this world e'er came;
For it has proved the sad ruin,
Of many an honest man.

It is as bad a thing I think,
As ever one did take;
It ruins their bodies and their souls,
And doth them beggars make.

It is the worst thing I say,
And every one doth hurt;
It bringeth them to misery,
And makes them sell their shirt.

The poem takes a detour to describe all the birds and animals that Taylor can think of before he arrives finally at Perth.

It finishes off with vivid description of the bridge over the Tay, not the ill-fated railway bridge of which McGonagal wrote, but the nine arched bridge at Perth.

Perhaps, many years later, McGonagal picked up a copy of Taylor's work and thought "Fifth edition eh? I could make money from that!"

EARL'S COMMENTS ON
PLANS FOR KIRK

(continued from page 1)

Letter from Earl of Leven and
Melville to the heritors meet-
ing 1806

*"The elevation is I believe
the same as it now is with a
new blue roof. Nothing can
look more frightful but by a
few trifling alterations (if
you're able) to the elevations
it might be corrected.*

*1st by making a correspond-
ing door (.....) may be very
useful as I observe but 2
doors for the use of 1000
persons*

*2nd By making a painted
oval or circular window over
the door between the two
windows*

*3rd By making a cornish (sic)
under the eaving of a proper
dimension so as to give a full
effect*

***And last - let me add- how
much will the whole edifice
be improved by raising a
spire on the tower or
crowning it with pinnacles
at the four corners
Indeed it has long struck
me as one of the most
loathed and disgraceful
specimens of art, that ever
was sanctioned by the
gentlemen of taste com-
posing the Heritors of the
Parish.***

*I have no objection to the
plan for the seating of the
church - it is perhaps as
commodious as the extent
admits of,*

[.....]

*The above
remarks I
have thought
it my duty to
state.*

*I am well sat-
isfied with
what is in-
tended for the
accommoda-
tion of my
family within
the church - but think that the
turning into the vault is con-
fined and awkward and I
really do not know but is
there any reason for the door
of the entrance not being to
the left?*

*Hoping to hear from you af-
ter the meeting.*

*Your obedient Lord
Leven & Melville"*

HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

The heritors decided upon a
spire plus a set of pinnacles (see
illustration also showing circu-
lar window over door) but these
were removed later in the cen-
tury, perhaps as a result of pub-
lic disapproval of the overall
design. The resulting spire
looks slightly undersized but
does give Markinch Kirk a
unique appearance.

With the plans finally ap-
proved, the battle began for
space within the church. This
was allocated to the tenants of
local heritors based upon the
rental value of the landholding.
As principal heritors, the Leslie-
Melvilles had a major say in the



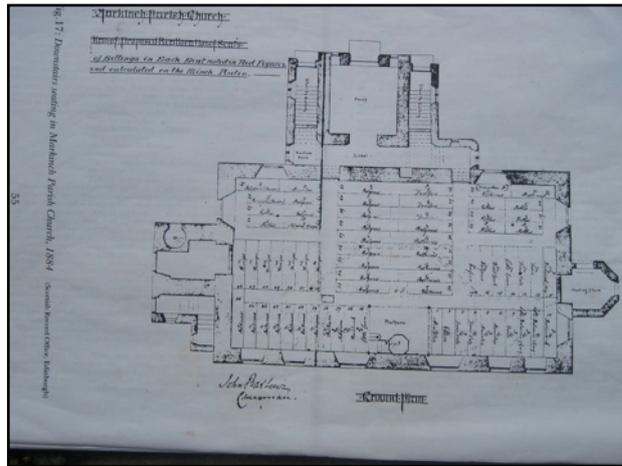
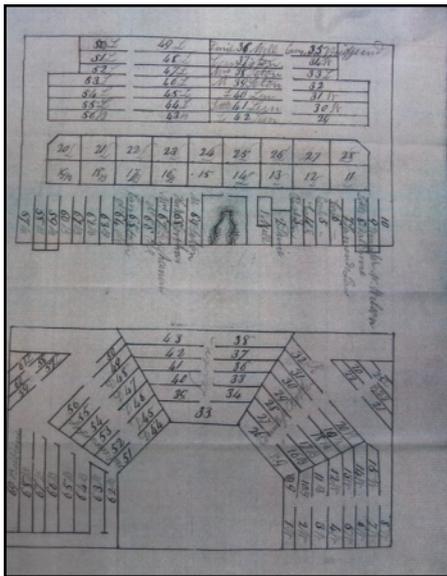
project. They did, however, lock
horns with the Pastons who
owned Brunton (later Barnslee)
and this may be why the parish
boundary was redrawn splitting
Brunton estate between Ken-
noway and Markinch. The
boundary stones can still be
seen today and were featured in
a previous newsletter.

The heritors also contributed
pro-rata to the minister's sti-
pend and to his accommodation.
Other letters in the Leslie-
Melville Papers show that he
was dissatisfied with both. The
manse roof leaked and neigh-
bouring ministers were seem-
ingly paid more. The Scriptures
called upon him to show hospi-
tality but how could he do so
with such cramped accommoda-
tion? And then there was the
price of wine. "Was the com-
mittee not aware that it has risen
to £10 in 1807?"

We must presume that this was
per annum rather than per bot-
tle, and that the supply was
wholly for communion pur-
poses.

Bruce Manson

19TH CENTURY PEWS ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO RENTAL AND RANK

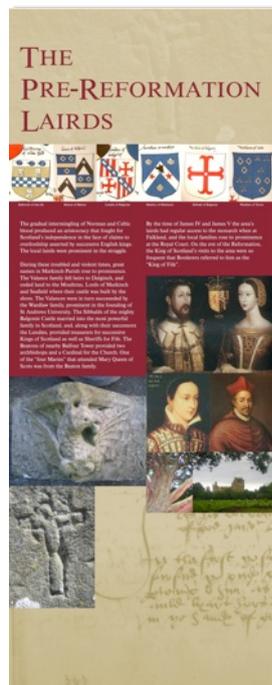
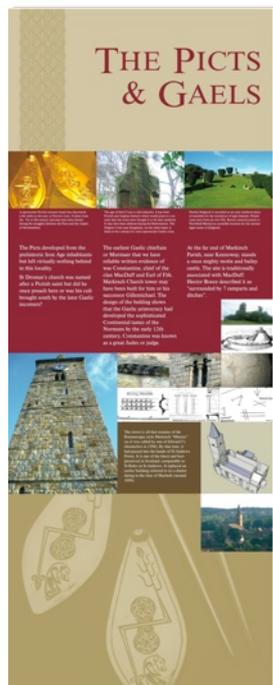
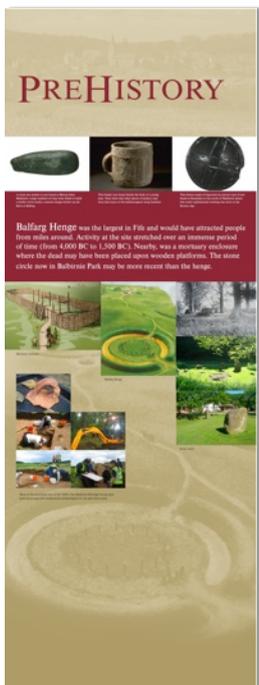


Above left. Plan dated around 1806
Right. A plan from later in the century showing extensive building works to the rear.

These two plans show how the layout of Markinch Parish Church changed during the 19th century. Unfortunately there is no plan of the mid 18th century but we know from contemporary documents that there was once a loft at the east end. It was paid

for by a group of tradesmen and merchants. The early 19th century plan indicates that there were two doors at that time at either side of the north facing wall. The minister probably entered through a door in the south wall to the right of the pulpit.

There is an excellent pamphlet available from the church session and the book by Ian Gourlay and Ken Wilkie tackles the subject in more depth.



HERITAGE GROUP EXHIBITION PANELS

As part of the preparations for the Glenrothes Museum, Markinch Heritage Group prepared a set of four panels depicting the history of the parish. The panels were produced with the help of Celebrating Fife.

HISTORIC BRAES LOAN PATH OPENED

(continued from page1)

the cemetery mound at Northhall, passes up the Cuanan path before cutting down between the old farms

its story on the rivalry between MacBeth and MacDuff, both real historical characters despite the fictional nature of Shakespeare's account. MacDuff may well have had a castle further down the stream where it joins the Kennoway burn and another MacDuff stronghold may lie unexcavated close to the now demolished Brunton House.



A cattle track and once popular walk near Markinch (see above), overgrown for years has been cleared and re-opened. Mark Gibson took the MHG committee round recently having helped clear the path of fallen trees. The historic Braes Loan runs through the ancient estate of "Brunton and Dalginch" and would once have served as a route for cattle being herded between the marshes around the burn and the estate byres known as "Bowhouse" higher up the hill close to where Dalginch Farm now stands.

The route passes Fife's ancient assembly spot of Dalginch, now thought to be

of Braes and Bowhouse to the old Brunton Mill at the foot of the hill. The mill land is now covered in conifers but once had a water lead that ran parallel to the burn, two mill ponds, a drying kiln and some bleaching greens. It got its water supply from a spring known as Samson's well that still produces water today. It returns to Markinch along the burn and across the Myres, once an extensive loch.

Dalginch was one of the most important places in Fife. People came from all parts to receive judgement probably from the Earl, chief of the Clan MacDuff. Shakespeare's play Macbeth bases

The old Celtic church held lands in the area. Charters refer to Pittenhagles, a place meaning "share of the Church," that is likely to have been close to Northhall. Church revenue measured in cheese was recorded from the farm of Breis (Braes) as early as the 12th century. A part of the old Braes farm as it existed in the 17th century still exists and can be visited with a short detour from the walk.

Dalginch (Northhall) was at the centre of a large early medieval estate that stretched along the north bank of the Leven from Cadham in the west almost as far as Kennoway in the east. It included the Loch of Balfarg, now known as Star Moss. It is most likely that it was owned originally by the MacDuff Earls of Fife and we have indications from a 12th

century charter that the Earl of Fife was on a hawking expedition with the Earl of Huntingdon, brother of King William the Lion. It was feued to knights of Norman stock, Ness of Dalginch and later Sir William de Valoniis, (Valance) probably in return for military support to the Earl.

When the male line of the Valoniis dynasty came to an end, one of the daughters, Christina married Andrew Wardlaw. Their son went on to found St Andrews University. Christina later occupied Brunton House with her second husband James Cockburn, a great favourite of the King. Cockburn's son moved to nearby Treaton and the Wardlaw family took up residence at Brunton.

At this time Markinch was a sub-Barony of Dalginch and was feued out to a line of knights who styled themselves Moultray, Lords of Markinch. The Moultrays seem to have developed coal mines as early as the 15th century but may have been carrying on a tradition of surface coal exploitation that went back to the monks of the 12th century or even earlier. Northhall was exploited for both coal and sandstone and may once have been the source of the ashlar blocks used to construct St Drostan's church in the 12th century.

After the Reformation, both the Catholic Moultrays

and the Wardlaws fell on hard times and their land of Brunton, Dalginch and Markinch was bought by James Law, the Episcopalian Bishop of Glasgow. His son must have found favour with Charles II because that monarch formally granted him the barony of Dalginch along with the Burgh of Markinch in 1673. The Law family tenure, however, did not last long as William of Orange, a new monarch with a new religion swept away the old order. The appointed Secretary of State for Scotland was George Leslie-Melville and the land was allocated to his second son David. The Leslie-Melvilles, Earls of Leven chopped Markinch up into small strips that were rented out to the townsfolk but the fertile slopes of Brunton and Dalginch were cut into much larger north-south landholdings before being sold off on the national market.

The strip including Brunton which had once been a small piece of land surrounding the house, inside the much larger barony of Dalginch was sold off and later came to be known as Barnslee. The strip to the east of it was sold as Bowhouse. It was bought up by an ambitious member of the Arnot family, a military man who seems to have been keen to

re-establish a lost family pedigree. He renamed it Dalginch, conscious possibly that the name had an ancient and noble resonance. Sadly, the line of Arnot of Dalginch lasted but a single generation. When his son died without issue the land was split between close relatives William Glass and Thomas Arnot. East and West Dalginch was sold on yet again to a Dr Towers and a Dr Prescott before being bought by the Balfour family. They built a house close to the old steading of Braes, using Bowhouse as outbuildings. They called the house Dalginch after the landholding, unaware that the original Dalginch lay, in all probability, much closer to Markinch beside the burn at Northhall.

It is ironic that in the modern era, a housing developer has borrowed the name yet again, transporting it this time to the far side of Markinch where it has become a marketing name for a housing estate at Balbirnie Bridge.

Bruce Manson



Evidence Surfaces of Medieval Coal Mining

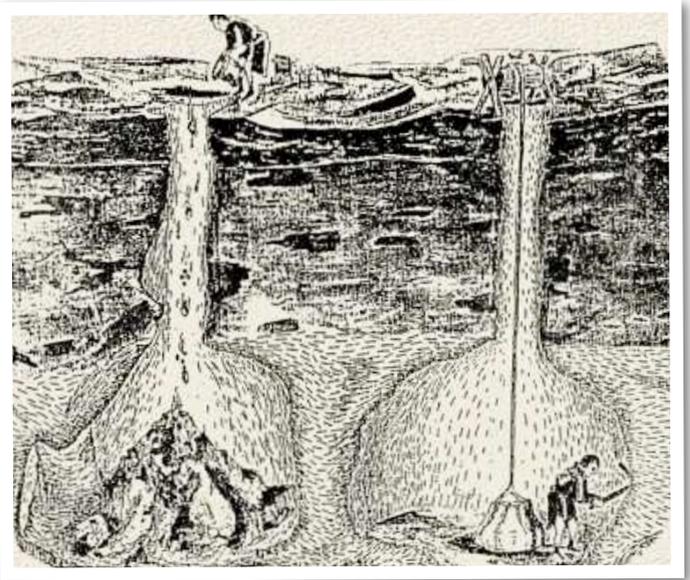
The recent landslide that revealed a coal seam beside the Burn in Balbirnie Park reminds us the estate was once peppered with small scale coal mines. These were all productive mines in the 19th century but do we have any evidence of even earlier activity?

One early charter referring specifically to local coal is in Latin and dates from 1504 when Thomas Dickson, the Vicar of Markinch was involved in a dispute with Andrew Lundy of Balgonie, son of Isabel Sibbald over £17 11s 6d representing tithe revenue from the mines of Balgonie and Sythrum. By this time, coal production in Fife was in full swing and a few years later the historian Hector Boece writes about “the great quantity of black stone suitable for burning” being mined. Limestone was also extracted at Sythrum. The Lundies had been granted the lands of Shythrum (Sythrum) and Cadham by the King in 1471 with a feu duty of “firm white limestone”.

There is no early charter evidence for Markinch itself but it is clear that the Moultray family, Lords of Markinch were, like their neighbours the Lundies, very much involved in mining activity. They had shares in both Sythrum and Cadham and modern geological maps show that an outcrop of surface coal ran through the core of their barony centred on Easter or Kirk Markinch. The outcrop stretched in a straight line from Bighty to Balbirnie caravan park, through old Markinch and along Northhall Road to the cemetery where it turned and continued to Newton returning in a loop through the Balbirnie estate.

In a charter of 1512, the King confirms that the barony comprised the lands of Easter and Nether Markinch along with Bichty, Inchunie, Pittenhaggles, and six acres of Dalginch. Easter Markinch seems to have been bounded on the west by what is now the wall of Balbirnie estate north of the Dixon Park gates, running south to the Leven along a burn that once flowed along the edge of the

Park. On the east it was bounded by the Markinch Burn with Brunton and Dalginch barony on the other side. It is no surprise that the early Moultray charters mention



Easter Markinch and Nether Markinch. However, they are also careful to mention what must have been “penticles” or outlying pieces of land also in Moultray ownership. The location of Bichty is well known. Inchunie (mentioned in the Burgh Charter) has been identified with the land on which the caravan park now stands. It would have been just over the Easter Markinch border and worth a special mention. Coal has certainly been mined here and there was an Inchunie Pit in the 19th century. The “six acres of Dalginch” seems to have been an old field unit on the left hand side of the Cuinan path, slightly detached from Easter Markinch and in line with the coal outcrop before it loops north and west. Pittenhaggles has long been lost as a place name but may well have been between the six acre field and Easter Markinch, making all pieces of land contiguous. This would locate it at what is now called the “Green Wood” at Northhall on the east side of the Burn but further evidence is required before we can be sure.

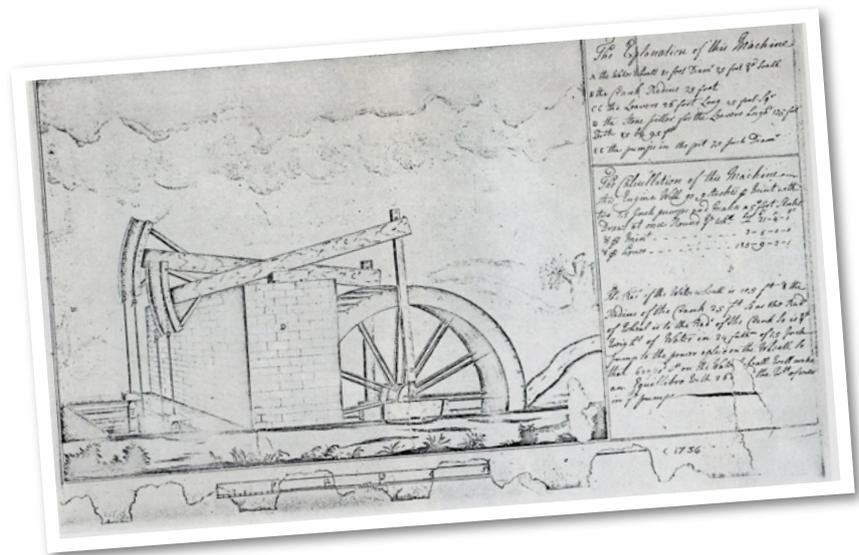
Northhall was certainly a surface mining area as well as a stone quarry. Waste coal

Evidence of Medieval Coal Mining in Markinch Parish (continued)

was picked up here in living memory but the bulk of the accessible coal was probably worked out long ago. This caused the occupier of the land David Dewar to come up with an imaginative plan in 1715. He set out, along with his neighbour John Landel of Balbirnie Burns to channel Markinch Burn across the north side of the Playfields, giving it enough force to drive a pump that was designed to extract water from a pit located beside the stream (a similar engine from the Rothies estate is shown opposite, courtesy of Bill Fiet). The stream now passes under the railway line. The likely remains of this pit can still be seen at the far end of Northhall cemetery, just

across the wall beside the tunnel. The presence of horses tail ferns is further evidence that coal mining waste once covered the land close to this spot.

It's worth a visit.



IS COAL MINING MORE ANCIENT THAN WE THINK?



13th Century Vicars haggle over Pittenhaggles

Early records suggest that Pittenhaggles in Markinch was important to the church, being contested in the 1290s between Simon, Vicar of Markinch and the Vicar of Kilgour near Falkland who was representing the inter-

ests of the Earl of Fife. Perhaps part of its cain or revenue was in the form of coal. There is a record of Simon witnessing a charter on lands in distant Livingston belonging to Soutra Hospital south of Edinburgh. Medieval monks and their technology were highly mobile. Some years later, there is charter evidence that the monks of the hospital held a share of coal revenue from both Balgonie and Schethum (Sythrum). St Andrews Priory even owned a brewery in Markinch at that time!

Balgonie means “the farm of the Smiths” in Gaelic and it is clear from geological maps

that the castle (which must be built close to the original farmstead) is located directly on top of several outcrops of surface coal. It is also significant that, apart from Dalginch, the only Gaelic names in Markinch to survive into the later medieval period are Pittenhaggles, Schethum and Inchunie, all with signs of early mining activity. The presumably English-speaking monks of the 13th century would have inherited the land from their Gaelic speaking predecessors, perhaps indicating an even earlier use of coal in Markinch than had previously been assumed.

BM

MISS MAIDIE COOK

In August 2009 Markinch Heritage Group was contacted by a woman from Canada requesting information about an artist from Markinch called Maidie Cook. She enclosed a copy of a recently discovered charcoal drawing of her grandmother done by Maidie Cook in about 1914. The sitter was Elizabeth Hay, a domestic servant whose parents worked on South Parks Farm. She married James Jack in 1914 and emigrated in 1926. She returned for a visit in 1959 and visited Maidie Cook. The connection between Miss Cook and Mrs Jack is not known. No other work by this artist has been found so if anyone knows of other works by her please let us know.

Following extensive enquiries I established that the artist was Miss Cook of Brunton, born Mary Emma Maidie in 1894. She was the daughter of Lt Col. Walter Cook of the Indian Army (died 1947) and his wife Mary Cuncliffe Simpson of Brunton (died 1935). She had a brother Cpt John Cook of the Nigerian Political Service (died 1937). The Simpsons had lived at Brunton for a number of generations. In its heyday Brunton house boasted some fine paintings and artefacts collected from world travel, especially in India. There was a large walled garden, orchard and croquet lawn. They also are reputed to have had a town house in London. The Cooks were a very pleasant family. Maidie was an extremely intelligent and well educated woman, having been educated abroad, especially in France. Passenger Lists show the family travelled extensively. Her manner of dress was rather eccentric, with a long flowing cloak and a hat or scarf wound round her head.



She always carried a bag or basket. As children we were rather afraid of her as she walked around the streets, believing her to be a witch. She was obviously an accomplished artist, as the drawing shows, because she would have just been about 20 when she drew the portrait. This may have explained her manner of dress. She was an early member of Glen-

rothes Art Club. She was also interested in music and was a Patron of Markinch Operatic Society having encouraged it from its early beginnings. She was a friend of Miss Graema Guthrie, the well known Markinch music teacher. She went to church every Sunday, sitting upstairs in the Brunton pew in St Drostans Church. She enjoyed her garden and grew both flowers and vegetables. In her



younger days she was a friendly person, and the lads from the Northhall area went to her for apples. She made friends with some of the women in Northhall and when she visited she would take along a bunch of flowers or a bag of apples. John Gourlay, one of our more senior residents, remembers being given sixpence when he made the weekly delivery of 5 gallons of paraffin on his bike from Ritchie's Plumbers and Ironmongers. He believes that all cooking, heating and lighting was by paraffin at that time (1940's). As she grew older she became more withdrawn and eventually was a virtual recluse. A local woman, Mrs Westwater, did what she could for her, but the property fell into decline and on her death was quite dilapidated. Brunton House had to be demolished. Maidie Cook died in 1972 aged 78 years. Her ashes are buried in the family grave in the Old Cemetery (Northhall).

I acknowledge the information gained from informal chats with the following residents of Markinch: Mr John Gourlay, Mrs Jean Welsh, Mr Jim Westwater, Mr Ian Thomson, Mrs Jean Rigden. The photograph of Brunton House is reproduced with the permission of Bill Fiet.

Mima Magna
16th July 2011

Last Minute News

Station Talks Underway

Talks are underway with Network Rail and other potential funders aimed at refurbishing the historic Markinch Railway Station. MHG, MEAG and the Community Council are working together to rescue the station for community use. If you have any ideas, please get in touch.

Markinch Included in Successful Lomonds Funding Bid

Local organisations working in partnership have been awarded a significant boost to their campaign to protect, promote and enhance some of Fife's most iconic landscapes.

A recent announcement by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) could see The Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership deliver lasting benefits to communities' wildlife and conservation. HLF has given a first-round pass to The Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership which could result in a £1.8 million grant. The Partnership has been given funding to help with the submission of a fully-developed application along with a Landscape Conservation Action Plan. Markinch Heritage Group will be working to collect historical information that will, it is to be hoped, ensure a successful final bid.

Actual projects that link the town to the Lomonds will follow.

Answers to Quiz :

Q. 1 - all of them - except East Fife football stadium. However, had the team played there in 1890, it would have been within the Parish boundaries (although perhaps on the beach). Innerleven or Dubbieside was a detached part of Markinch Parish that was allocated to Wemyss Parish in 1891. In fact, an earlier team from the area (Cameron Bridge Football Team) played in the grounds of Cameron House in the late 1870s.

Q. 2. The parish has eight other parishes surrounding it - Falkland, Kettle, Kennoway, Scoonie, Wemyss, Kirkcaldy and Dysart, Kinglassie and finally Leslie.

Q. 3 The parish has two passenger railway stations - Markinch and Thornton.

Q. 4 This is a slightly tongue-in-cheek question. Although there is now a Glenrothes Parliamentary Constituency which includes Markinch town, it is also true that much of Glenrothes is in Markinch Parish. as the new town is now split between Leslie, Markinch and Kinglassie Parishes. The Council debates take place within Markinch Parish just as legal debates must have taken place at Dalginch, at the heart of what is now Markinch Parish, eight hundred years ago at least.

The parish boundaries are still used by the Registrar General for Scotland for statistical purposes as they provide a unique record of population change over the centuries. The same can not be said for the boundaries of Markinch Burgh or even Glenrothes Development Corporation which no longer have any legal or statistical significance. The modern parish linked to the kirk is reduced in size from the official statistical unit.

2011/12 Calendar

252 Memorial Hall Betson
St. 7.0pm (except June)

updated details on
www.markinchheritage.org.uk

22nd September 2011

Archaeology Evening

6th October 2011

Markinch Operatic Society
Ian Thomson

27th October 2011

Members Interests Evening (+AGM)

3rd November 2011

Alison Sheridan, Head of Prehistory
National Museums of Scotland

1st December 2011

The Work of the Stonemason
Colin Sweeney

12th January 2012

Quiz Night

2nd February 2012

The Tay Rail Bridge Disaster
Stuart Morris of Balgonie

1st March 2012

The Fife and Forfarshire Yeomanry
Sir John Gilmour

5th April 2012

(Speaker to be confirmed)

10th May 2012

Polish Evening,
Helena Szulakowska

7th June 2012

Castle Talk
Simon Taylor, Place-name Expert

Committee Dates (members welcome)

29/9/11, 24/11/11, 26/1/12,

31/5/12, 28/6/12

Contributions to next
Newsletter

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