

Exploring the effects of the past on the present and future of our community

# Bonnyseen



The magazine from Greenhill Historical Society

Issue Number 10 April 2015



*Photograph courtesy of EGIP Alliance*



# Introduction

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It hardly seems credible that this is edition ten of Bonnyseen. When we published the first one, five years ago, we had eight pages and three hundred copies. Now we have sixteen pages and one thousand copies! That we are still publishing is a huge credit to our readers from far and wide who share their precious memories and photographs with us. Not least, is the continuing financial support we enjoy from individuals, companies and organisations from the local area and throughout the world where Bonnybridge people and their descendents have settled. By the way we would like to know if anyone has a collective noun for Bonnybridge folks. We can't use "Bairns" as that belongs to Falkirk. If you can think of a suitable one please get in touch!

Were you a child growing up in Bonnybridge in the sixties, seventies or eighties? We would like to hear your stories and see your photographs. Were you a member of the Gala Queen's Entourage? did you go on expeditions with the Scouts? was Outward Bound a part of your school experience? All of these aspects of life are part of the rich social history of our town. We are also interested in hearing from families with Italian or Polish heritage: how did your ancestors arrive in Scotland: what work did they find, how many cultures merged?

Also, does anyone have any information about famous people from the town, those who have excelled in their chosen field, be it music, sport, film, theatre, television etc., regardless of their age. History after all is anything that happened yesterday!

The outer cover depicts the bridges over the railway at Greenhill which will be demolished in April 2015 to allow electrification of the line. We are grateful to EGIP Alliance for their superb photograph which was taken, as you have no doubt noticed, from the middle of the tracks which would be impossible for a member of the public to do!

**Phil Swierczek**

### WHERE TO FIND US



**GREENHILL  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

[www.greenhillhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.greenhillhistoricalsociety.org.uk) or  
[greenhillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greenhillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

**Meetings** The Society meets every Friday in the Bonnybridge Library from 2pm till 4pm and all are welcome to join us.

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Greenhill Historical Society

# The Reverend JAMES MALCOLMSON

By Marlene (Lees) Fleming



I remember with great affection the Reverend James Malcolmson. He was a caring, compassionate man who was dedicated to promoting a community spirit among his "flock" in St Helen's church, High Bonnybridge. He organised concerts in the church hall in which we children, as we were then, all had a starring role. As well as his ministerial duties he was the local scoutmaster and also took an interest in the guides. We would go on rambles in the countryside and hold singsongs round a campfire.

At Christmas time I recall him taking us carol singing and rewarding each child, for their efforts, with a bag of chips purchased by him from the local "chippie." On another occasion, we were treated to an excursion to see the Christmas pantomime in Glasgow. This was a rare treat for us children in those days and again courtesy of the Reverend James.

Rev Malcolmson made frequent visits to members of his congregation and was sure to visit anyone who was ill or in hospital. I recall my mother telling me of a rather humorous incident which occurred when he visited her in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He often wore a kilt and on this occasion he was also wearing a raincoat. A patient in the ward had apparently become alarmed because there was a man in the women's ward "sans culottes."



I'm sure that the spirit of this true man of God, who passed on years ago in the Black Isle, where he ended his earthly days, will have a quiet chuckle at having caused such consternation.

The Reverend Malcolmson married Danny McPherson and Betty Leiper in St. Helen's Church on the 12 March 1955. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in March 2015 in Bonnybridge Golf Club. In the photograph are the Bride and Groom with their Bridesmaid Sadie Leiper, Best Man George Proffit and Flower Girl Agnes Daisley.

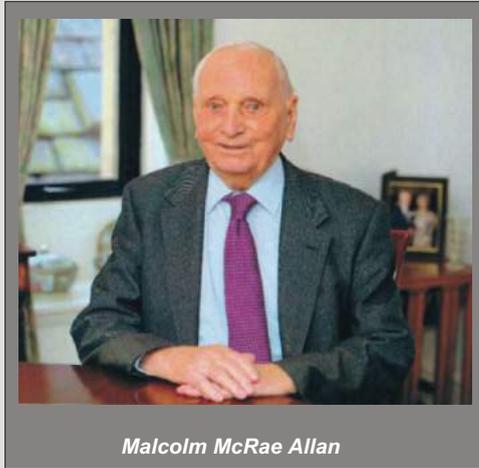




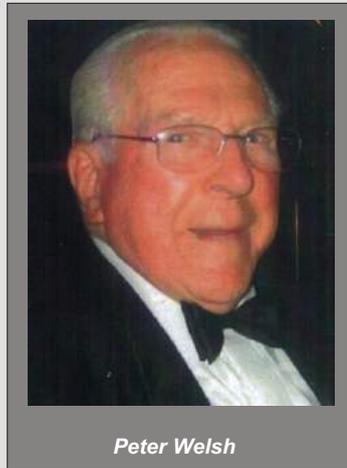
# OBITUARIES

By P Swierczek

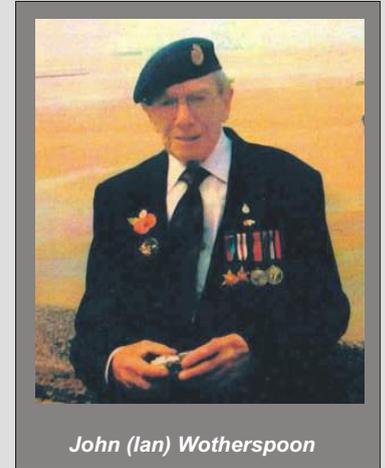
*It is with sadness that we note the passing of four of our friends and supporters of Greenhill Historical Society. They are Peter Welsh, Campbell Duguid, Malcolm Allan and Ian Wotherspoon. We offer our sincere condolences to all their family and friends.*



Malcolm McRae Allan



Peter Welsh



John (Ian) Wotherspoon



Campbell Duguid

**Campbell Duguid** celebrated his one hundredth birthday in Holland where he lived with his daughter and her family. As we were preparing to report on this special occasion we heard of his death aged one hundred years, one month and one day. His daughter Fiona has kindly given us permission to share their memories of the wonderful time they had celebrating Campbell's birthday. He received a congratulatory card from the Queen as well as letters from David Cameron, the King and Queen of the Netherlands and the governor of the province of Limburg where they live. He also received a letter, flowers, a



cake and a personal visit from the Mayor of Meert. In the accompanying photographs you can see what a happy celebration they all had. The portrait of Campbell and his wife was painted by their niece, Hilary Heath, who is the daughter of Campbell's sister Nellie. There will be a memorial service later in Scotland when Campbell's ashes will be buried beside his wife.



Campbell's 100 Birthday Party



Campbell thanking his guests



Portrait of Campbell and his wife

# RETA'S MEDAL



By Margaret Huxtable



Many readers of "Bonnyseen" will remember Mrs Reta Stalker who lived her entire life in Bonnybridge, but fewer will be likely to know the story of her medal. Reta was born in the flat above the Cornhill Inn in January 1912 and attended Bonnybridge School. It was while she was a pupil there that she was awarded a very special medal. I first heard of it when I was about to leave Bonnybridge School in 1953 when she told me that she had won a medal there but it was not until I retired that I learned the full story.



One day while having tea with her I noticed that she was wearing the medal. Assuming it was a Dux Medal I said that when I was at school that medal was known as the Spence Memorial Medal and I asked her what hers was as I believed that Mr Spence would still have been alive when she won it.

"Oh," she replied, "mine wasn't a Dux Medal. I got it for being the top pupil in Stirlingshire in the Control Exams"

I asked to see the medal. If I had been impressed before, I was even more impressed when I read the inscription.

**Margaret Esplin, Bonnybridge. 1st of 2590 Pupils Control Examination, Stirlingshire, 1924**

"No," she repeated "mine wasn't a Dux Medal. The head master came into the classroom and told us what had happened. The teachers clubbed together to buy it for me because they were so pleased that somebody from Bonnybridge was top in the exam. When I went home and told my mother and father they were so pleased too (as well as surprised) and my father bought me a gold chain so that I could wear it."

Reta went on to college in Glasgow after leaving Denny High School and eventually worked in Smith and Wellstood's office. Right to the end of her life she took an active part in the life of the community. Her Medal was well deserved.

## What do YOU know about the History of Bonnybridge?

By William Parker

Answers to be found on Page 14

1. Which Army Regiments were most associated with the Territorial Hall in Bonnybridge?
2. Who was Flannelfoot?
3. Bonnybridge had four railway stations,. Which one was built first?
4. Cowden Hill overlooks Bonnybridge. What does the word Cowden mean?
5. A row of houses in Bonnybridge was actually called Windy Blaw. Where were they?
6. How old is the Royal Hotel in Bonnybridge?





# Ruby (Bonnybridge Juniors) Connell

By P Swierczek



Ruby would have said she was just an ordinary person but her contribution to Junior football in general and Bonnybridge Juniors in particular was extraordinary. Born in Grangemouth 1924, Ruby Strachan was dux of both her primary and secondary schools. She was certainly capable of obtaining a degree if she had gone to university but, as with many talented young people then, there was no money in the family to support her through higher education. When she left school she went to work in the research laboratory in Mains of Camelon testing components for their range of domestic cookers.

At the outbreak of World War 2 Ruby decided to do what she could to contribute to the war effort and left Mains to join the land army. She went to work at Bonnyside Farm where her fluency in German was very useful in communicating with the prisoners of war who were billeted and worked at the farm. On one occasion a German officer came to check up on the prisoners and was very derogatory in his remarks about the farm and the Scots working on farm. Ruby let him finish his diatribe then lambasted him fluently in German. The look on his face was very satisfying and Ruby obviously never suffered fools gladly, even as young lass! One of the prisoners, Martin Hoffman, was so grateful to Ruby for taking him under his wing that in later years she and her husband visited him in Germany and they were greeted as celebrities and applauded as they arrived in his village. After Martin's death, his daughter visited Ruby and gifted her an inscribed tankard to thank her for all her kindness to her father.

Davey Connell was a local farmer from Drum Farm who supplied milk in the surrounding area. On occasions, he did not have enough milk to meet the demand so he would go to Bonnyside Farm to buy extra supplies from there. The rest is history as they say! Davey met and fell in love with Ruby and they married in 1944. Their first son, also David, was born a year later when Ruby was 19 years old followed by Peter, Victoria and Jane. Ruby and Davey had both beef and dairy cattle at Drum and Ruby was kept busy milking cows, managing the business side of the farm, raising her family and cooking her fabulous cuisine using a Raeburn stove.

When David came home from Broomhill Primary School and told his mum that Miss Nicol wanted to start a football team but had no funds for strips for the boys, Ruby set about raising the money. She very quickly reached her target and the strips were duly purchased. Ruby spent many years washing and drying the same strips! She formed a lasting friendship with Miss Nicol, who was held in high esteem by pupils and parents alike. Miss Nicol trusted Ruby to such an extent that she often called upon her to step in and take classes to cover for absent teachers!

When Ruby was a child her dad was a director of Falkirk football club and took Ruby with him to Brockville most Saturdays. She was a dedicated Falkirk fan but her busy life as a farmer's wife and mother kept her away for many years. When Davey took her back to Brockville in 1956 her enthusiasm for the game was rekindled and she faithfully followed Falkirk. She had never even seen Bonnybridge Juniors play when she heard, in 1965, that financial difficulties meant the Club was heading for closure.



Ruby had always given donations to the juniors so she went along to an extraordinary meeting to try to persuade everyone to keep fighting on. She left that meeting as vice president of the club! Over the next thirty years she and the Connell family kept Bonnybridge juniors alive. Ruby was appointed some time later as President of the juniors and the organisation and running of the club became a real family affair. Ruby did everything for the club apart from playing in the team! Both David and Peter played for the team; dad Davey kept the park in good order; Vicky and Jane helped with the business side of the club as well as laundering strips, feeding the teams and generally being indispensable; Peter later coached the team. The family were ably assisted by Neil Menzies whose financial support played a huge role in keeping the club afloat. Neil was later appointed as President of Bonnybridge Juniors.

Ruby was a legend in the football world, was held in high esteem by people at all levels of the game and was a close friend of Sir Alex Ferguson. Every year a Christmas card would come from old Trafford. Ruby was also appointed President of the Fife and Lothian Junior Football Association and made a life time member of the Scottish Junior Football Association. She was an accomplished speaker and wasn't in the least put out when, as a guest at a football celebration dinner, she was asked to step in at the last minute for the keynote speaker who had not turned up. Ruby was a regular speaker at local Burn's suppers and she was always delighted to deliver the Address to the Lassie which she did with flair and gusto!



As Ruby became less inclined to travel to various meetings and dinners associated with junior football Victoria took over and represented her mum at these events. The family gave up control of Bonnybridge Juniors in 1995 but David continued a career in football as a player with several teams, as a coach and as manager of both Kilsyth Rangers and East Stirlingshire. All this while helping to run the family firm of ten haulage lorries and maintain the farming side of the business! Ruby was a larger than life character who inspired not only her own family but generations of other young people through their love of football. It is not unusual for women to hold high office in football these days but Ruby was a true pioneer of women's liberation in the beautiful game. (I'll bet she even knew the offside rule!)

Ruby passed away in 2009 aged 85 years but her legacy and fond memories of her strength and character will last for a very long time.

## Ruth Connell

While we were compiling information about Ruby, the Falkirk Herald published an article which highlighted the success her granddaughter, Ruth, who is an actor. Ruth moved to Los Angeles to further her career and after a three year wait landed her dream role as Rowena the Scots witch in an extremely popular television series!

Ruth is quoted as saying that the part was made for her as she has never forgotten her Scottish Roots and that her accent was perfect! The directors and producers agreed with her and Warner Brothers have picked up the television series for a full season. Well done Ruth and we wish you every success in the future.





# POLICE STATIONS in the Bonnybridge Area

By Thomas Rintoul



*Police Panda Car used by Stirling & Clackmannan Police Force from 1968 onwards. They were used in and around the Falkirk area.*

The original Police Station in Bonnybridge was situated on the west side of Dunure Street where the flats now stand. About 1974/75 just after I came to Bonnybridge, I was on holiday with my family in Cullen when I met a man whose name I cannot remember, but he told me that he had been the sergeant in Bonnybridge at the turn of the last century and at that time the Police Station was at the aforementioned location.

This would appear to be true as research shows that the ground in that area belonged to Stirling County Council and that there were a number of buildings on it.

A new Police Station was then built in Bridge Street, Bonnybridge, where Tesco's store is now situated. It was opened in 1908 and had two offices and a number of cells and there were two houses attached to it, one of which was occupied by the local Police Sergeant.

The Police coverage in the area continued to expand and a second Police Station was also situated at High Bonnybridge. It could be found on Broomhill Road just after passing under the railway bridge. The house was rented from the local authority, Stirling County Council, and the police station itself was a hut in the garden of the house. The last officer at High Bonnybridge was Constable Tom Stewart and he moved to a house at Bridge Street when the High Bonnybridge Office was closed in 1966.

As time progressed two new Police Houses were built in Dunure Street, ironically on the opposite side of the street where the first Police Station had been situated. The Police Station at Bridge Street was closed and a new Police Station was built in High Street just to the west side of the bridge over the river Bonny. It also had two houses attached to it. This police station comprised of a main Office, a cell, a sergeant's office and a luxury – a canteen, all with central heating. This was opened in 1970.

I believe that the first sergeant in the new Police Station was Sergeant Nixon. He was followed by Sergeant Wisdom and I was the last sergeant when the Police Station closed in 1979. At that time I had 5 constables and a cadet. The constables covered the area from 8 am to 2am and to 4 am on Fridays and Saturdays. I was on discretionary duties which in effect meant that I was available 24 hours per day and the phone was switched through to my house at all times. The constables who stayed

In the Police houses were also available to be called out at any time. A restructuring of the force meant that I was latterly responsible for the Police Station and Officers at Longcroft. There were two who lived adjacent to the Police Station and a third who was in lodgings. The two at the Police Station worked shifts but were to be available 24 hours per day.

When the officers were out their wives were expected to answer the telephones and also deal with callers at the door. They were in fact unpaid servants of the Police authority and increased the Police staff free of charge.

We also had up to eight special Constables at different times, being stationed at Bonnybridge and Longcroft. These Special Constables worked mainly at the weekends but also came out for



*Inside of a Cell*



duty at events such a gala days and important football matches in the high days of Bonnybridge Juniors. The special constables were people like Tommy Martin, Charlie Brandreath, Ian Jamieson and Bob Finlay and others who I cannot remember.

In an era of “**progress**” the Police Station at Bonnybridge and Longcroft were closed and all officers were moved to Denny, although the officers continued to reside in the police houses in the respective areas. Denny was the Inspector’s station for the area and this effectively increased the staffing at Denny by 1 sergeant, 8 constables and 1 cadet. I subsequently became the Inspector at Denny.

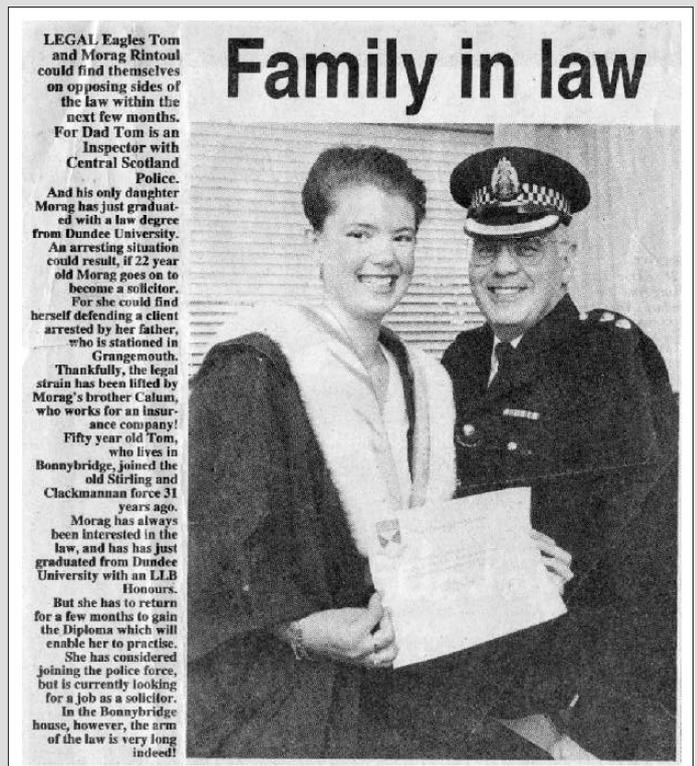
As **progress** continued in the Police service all the Police houses were sold off at the market value, no discount being made as with council tenants, and the police station at Bonnybridge was demolished. The one at Longcroft was sold along with the house.

The ground where the Police Station had been in the High Street is still owned by the Police Authority and it was kept with the

Intention of building a new Police station should it be required but no one can see this being done now. The Police station at Denny was closed in 2008 and all officers were moved to a new Police station at Stenhousemuir.

**Progress** means that we now have no identifiable officers who we can speak to at any time as all contact has to be made through a contact centre based somewhere in Scotland under the new Police Scotland system. Sadly this brought to a final end the situation where a Police Officer was known to the Public by name and vice versa.

The officers who stayed in these areas became part of the community and were integrated into it. They were accepted by the community as a person and their wives and families were also treated the same as anyone else. This changed my perspective on life and policing as I had come to Bonnybridge from Stirling and there we were just an unknown person with a Police Uniform which is what has happened now, not only in towns and cities but also in villages like Bonnybridge.



Inspector Tom Rintoul with daughter Morag on her graduation with a Law Degree.



# DUNCAN STEWART PARK

*By Irene M Ryan*

Duncan Stewart Park, locally known as Jenny's park, was gifted to the people of Bonnybridge, by the family of Duncan Stewart for the people of the village to enjoy for now and the future.

A ceremony was held in Jenny's park in August 1935 and many of the people from the village crowded on to the hill to watch. On the stage was Mr John Stewart representing the family of the deceased Mr Duncan Stewart, as well as members of the council, headed by Councillor Mann. After speeches, the title deeds to the park, which extends to about 7 acres, was handed over to Councillor Mann for the council to maintain from then on. Mr John Stewart said 'from that day the park would now be known as Duncan Stewart Park'. Many suggestions were put forward for use in the park, for example a model yacht pond or an open air swimming pool. Councillor Mann assured the gathering that those and many other suggestions received would be considered by a committee.



Mr Duncan Stewart was born c1870, the son of a stonemason from Buchlyvie. He set up his building company at age 24 in the Bonnybridge area where he met and married a Bonnybridge girl, Mary Brown. They were married at Bonnybridge Parish Church in February 1897, the ceremony being conducted by the Reverend James Steel. The Stewarts set up home at Elmbank Cottage Bonnybridge where they started their family. Mr Stewart soon had a thriving business which gained a renowned reputation throughout central Scotland. The first recorded application for planning permission, held at Callander House, is dated 1900, for Tenements and Dwelling Houses in Bonnybridge and Denny.



The construction company grew large and there are many examples of houses around the village built by Mr Stewart's Company. Although a very busy man, Mr Stewart was an active member of the church. His sport of choice was curling. He was an enthusiastic member of Bonnybridge Curling Club and was skipper of the club several times.

Mr Duncan Stewart died in February of 1933 aged 64 and his funeral was held at Bonnybridge Church and although Reverend James Steel had retired many years before, he took the ceremony. The cortege was one of the largest and most impressive ever seen in the area.

Duncan Stewart Park has been enjoyed by the people of Bonnybridge since that day but recently there has been concern that the park was being renamed. A plinth and plaque was erected at the High Street entrance and on the plaque was 'Queen Elizabeth Field' 'Fields in Trust', Diamond Jubilee 2012. The Greenhill Historical Society found that in 2012 the park was given Legal Protection as a Site of Merit. 2012 marked the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, so to celebrate, a total of 2012 parks across the country, (United Kingdom), were selected to receive this award. The honour for the park is to act as a permanent living legacy of the historic event, which was launched on behalf of the Queen by Prince William.

The benefit of the award to Duncan Stewart Park is that it will be protected forever. It secures access for the public and safeguards the park and playing fields for the future. It will always be called Duncan Stewart Park and the council cannot change the park or playing fields, unless to make improvements. So Duncan Stewart Park is preserved for the people of Bonnybridge.





## FEEDBACK

*By Ann Ferguson Niven*



In the Bonnyseen Magazine of April 2012 I was interested to see a picture of my Grandfather, Andrew Niven (1876-1960). He was born, educated and lived his whole life in Bonnybridge. He worked as a Grate Fitter in Smith & Wellstood's.

I thought you might be interested in this earlier photograph of my grandparents and their two young children. My grandmother was Helen Niven, nee Ferguson (1878-1954) who was also born in the village. The boy standing is my father, Andrew, who was born in 1902 at Heathfield, Larbert Road. The baby is Margaret, born in 1906 in Wellpark Terrace, where I think this photograph may have been taken. The family later lived in Rosevale and finally in Prices Street beside the canal. The clothes well reflect the fashions of the last century!



## FEEDBACK

*By Alex Anderson*

In a recent issue of the Bonnyseen Magazine, I noticed an entry regarding the loss of a soldier whom I knew during the fighting following D Day! The soldier was Jim Campbell, who was a boy-hood friend of mine and the article in Bonnyseen was written by Jim's nephew, also called Jim Campbell.

The Campbell family lived a short distance from our house on Bonny Road and Jim lived with his parents and older brother, Graham. Jim himself was probably 2/3 years older than I was.

Jim's father was a joiner with the Chattan Foundry of Mitchell Russell, at the top of Bonny Road. When the Cowden Hill was covered in snow, the local boys went sledging there. We had some very ordinary sledges but Jim was always able to appear with a beautiful stream lined sledge made by his father.

After leaving school, Jim went to work in the Shipping Office of the Columbian Stove Works, part of Smith & Wellstood Ltd. Sometime after, Jim left his job and joined the Merchant Navy as the war had been raging for some years. On one of his voyages, Jim's ship was torpedoed and badly damaged but managed to limp back to port. The repairs to the ship were going to take some months, so Jim joined the Army and was posted to the Royal Armoured Corps as part of a tank crew.

The last time I saw Jim, he was home on leave just prior to D Day. I was leaving my grandfathers house when I met Jim, who was very smart in his uniform, with his black tank corps beret. Jim and I had a talk and he was on his way to visit his aunt, a Mrs Hight, who lived in the house next door to my grandmother in Bonny Road. Mrs Hight was a well-respected school teacher, who taught at Bonnybridge Primary School.

Jim's loss was very sad and came in the tank battles which took place in Normandy in July 1944, around the French town of Caen. Jim's death in action was reported in the Falkirk Herald at That time.

The article in Bonnyseen was written by Jim's nephew, also called Jim Campbell, who was the son of Jim's older brother Graham. Graham had also served in the Forces during the war and after demob he had married and settled in Falkirk. Jim's nephew is a Minister of the Church of Scotland and had a charge in Fife. He had been requesting any information regarding his Uncle Jim and after I got in touch with him by telephone, he came to visit me. I was able to recount to him all my memories of Jim, and we spent a very interesting time together. (The Rev. Jim Campbell had been born and brought up in Falkirk and although he had a charge in Fife, he had retained his original family home in Falkirk.)



# MY MEMORIES of Greenhill and Thomson's Shop



By Mae Blackwell

My grandfather, James Thomson, was born in Markinch, Fife on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1874.

The family moved to Cumbernauld area around 1880 where his father was employed as a railway porter. He started work in Smith & Wellstood's Foundry aged 19 in the fitting shop, and worked there until his retirement in 1950, having completed 56 years with the Company. He died in 1952, aged 77, after a short illness.

By 1899 he had met my grandmother Isabella Hopkins. She was born in Ayrshire but was now living at Lochdrum Farm, Greenhill. They were married in Haggs Parish Church in 1899. They went to live at Glenyards, Greenhill, before moving some years later to the house and shop at Railway Buildings where the family business was established. This was about 1910/11 and they remained there for the rest of their lives and brought up their family of seven sons and three daughters.



I remember the shop from the early forties and Mary, the eldest of the three daughters, was the shopkeeper. The shop was probably known as a General Provision Merchants. All basic foods were available – butter, cheese, sugar, bacon, bakery goods, biscuits, confectionery, newspapers, cigarettes and tobacco. The bakery items were delivered from Swords and Beatties (does anyone remember these famous bakeries?). Newspapers came by rail and were collected at the railway station, then sorted out and delivered by Isa and Cathie, the two younger daughters. Isa delivered the papers (by bicycle) to the Seabegs area, and Cathie did the Glenyards route. On Saturdays my grandfather, with his Gladstone bag, could be seen going to Glasgow by train to purchase toys, games and novelty items for the shop.

When my grandmother became a semi-invalid and needed help, Isa became the housekeeper but also assisted Mary in the shop. Meanwhile another shop was opened in Seabegs Road and this was run by Cathie (or Kate as she was known).

War time brought big changes – the introduction of ration books with everything in short supply. Many provisions came in bulk and had to be weighed out to customers' requirements. For example, biscuits came in large square tins and were weighed out and bagged for the customer, sugar came in sacks and also had to be weighed and packed in strong brown paper bags. The shop was used as a communication point as very few people had a telephone at home and would phone the shop and have one of the family deliver whatever the message was to the friend or relative.

Greenhill, although part of Bonnybridge Parish, was a village in itself, and people were very sociable and helped one another to make it a happy community. Social activities would take place in the Maxwell-Muller Hut (latterly the SWRI hut) or the Railway Hall, which was situated at the back of the railway houses. On some occasions whist drives with tea afterwards would be held in people's homes.

After my grandfather died, his son Douglas (Dougie), took over the running of the business. Douglas had been working at Greenhill station as a porter. Mary and Cathie were both married and had moved – Mary to Torwood and Cathie went down south to Essex. Douglas's niece Isobel also helped out in the shop at this time. My grandmother died in 1960 and soon afterwards the house and shop were sold and a new shop built at Leapark Drive. Sadly this was short-lived as Douglas died very suddenly, in 1962, at the age of 51 and the business was sold.

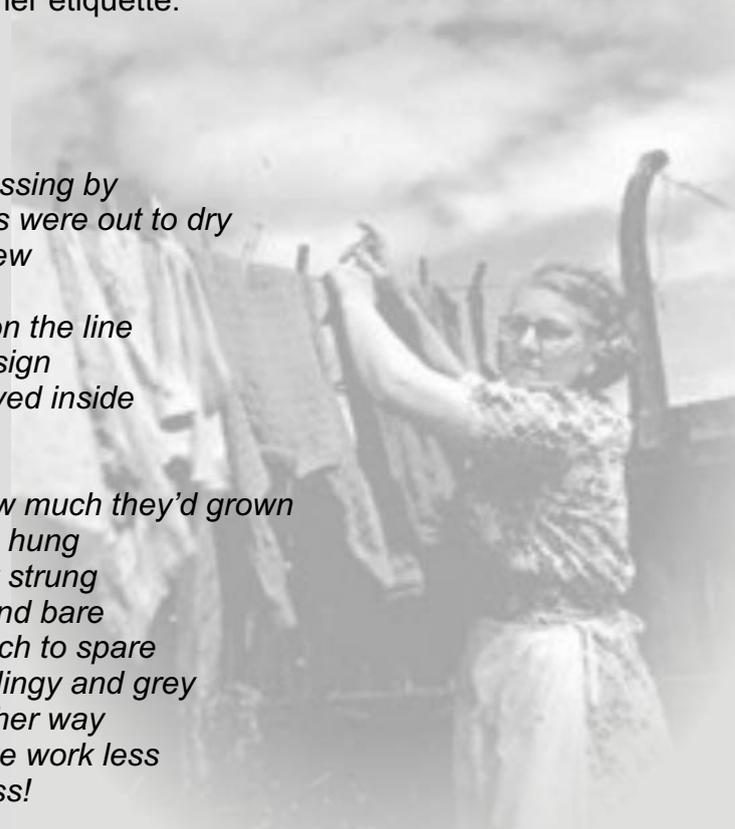
# WASHING LINE ETIQUETTE of BYGONE YEARS

*Anonymous*

Hang socks by the toe not the top. Pants by the waistband. Wash the entire clothes line with a damp cloth before hanging out the wash. Always hang 'whites with whites' and hang them out first. Hang shirts by the tail and never the shoulders. Wash on a Monday, never at weekend and especially NOT on a Sunday. Hang large items on the outside to hide the unmentionables. Hang wash out even in winter –it will freeze dry! Always take the clothes pegs off the line-pegs left out looked 'tacky'. Where possible share the pegs between items of clothing-saves space and pegs. Take the wash in before dinner and fold neatly into the basket ready for ironing, IRONING?! Well that's a whole other etiquette.

## **Wash day poem**

*A clothesline was a news forecast to neighbours passing by  
There were no secrets you could keep when clothes were out to dry  
It also was a friendly link, for neighbours always knew  
If company had stopped by, to spend a night or two  
For then you'd see the fancy sheets and towels upon the line  
You'd see the 'visitors' table cloths with intricate design  
The line announced a baby's birth from folks who lived inside  
As brand new infant clothes were hung with pride  
The ages of the children could so readily be known  
By watching how the sizes changed you'd know how much they'd grown  
It also told when illness struck as extra sheets were hung  
Then nightclothes and bathrobes were haphazardly strung  
It also said 'on holiday now' when lines hung limp and bare  
It told 'we're back' when lines sagged with not an inch to spare  
New folks in town were scorned upon if wash was dingy and grey  
As neighbours raised their brows and looked the other way  
But clothes lines now are of the past for dryers make work less  
Now what goes on inside a home is anybody's guess!  
I really miss that way of life it was a friendly sign  
When neighbours knew each other best by what hung on the line.*



## **Answers to Bonnyreen Edition No. 10**

1. The Argyll and Southern Highlanders and the Kings Own Scottish Borderers.
2. A well known burglar in the district during the 1950/60's.
3. High Bonnybridge Railway Station.
4. Cowden means "a forested hill", so it translated as Forested Hill hill.
5. Just behind the left side of the Cornhill Inn.
6. 222 years old. The base of the original wall can still be seen today and building work started in 1793.



# What do YOU know about the History of Bonnybridge?

By William Parker

Answers to questions in Bonnyseen Edition No.8 will also be available in the library. (Please check the questions in edition 8 published in spring 2014, on our web site)



1. "The Geggy" was the nickname for Harris' Picture House.
2. The Speedway/Scrambling Track was behind Dougalls Brickworks.
3. There are no statues or head busts in the Bonnybridge at all.
4. There are four tunnels/pends/underground walkways under the canal.
5. There is one complete War Time Anderson Shelter in the garden at the beginning of Waverley Crescent in High Bonnybridge.
6. Malcolm Allan - the Butcher.
7. Black and white vertically striped jerseys.
8. Once just past Anderson Park, when the bank burst and mainly flooded the fields.
9. The very famous and brilliant Mrs Ruby Connell.
10. Allandale and Normandale - the two sons of J Stein, the Brickwork owner. The Post Office said it could only have one name, so Allan, the elder son was given the privilege - hence Allandale.
11. 27th Stirlingshire, their neckerchief even today is still Red and Grey.
12. The Club was the Bonnybridge Grasshoppers who played at Pate Grants Field where the Community Centre is now. Pate Grant owned the Mill at the Pend and loaned his field to the football team.
13. The Motte and Baillie Castle was behind Antonine Primary School and the mound it stood on is still there and is a scheduled site which can't be built on.
14. Seabegs comes from the Gaelic word meaning a small fortlet or hamlet.
15. The Foundry was built in such a haphazard way it was a Puzzle as to how it actually worked or operated successfully - but it lasted about 60 years.
16. The Battle took place on the 25th April 1820, on the hilltop near Rollos' Engineering Works in High Bonnybridge. There is a small roadside monument commemorating the event and its outcome.
17. The word "Chattan" comes from the Clan Chattan - the Clan of the Cats which was a confederation of the Celtic Clans bringing strength and unity and working together. The Dun Na Bais again are the old Gaelic words meaning the Hills of Dunipace where the Cemetery is and of course Dunipace.
19. It was a small clay mine in the little wood behind Glenyards, Greenhill. You can still see the remains of it today.
20. Maxwell Muller was a well know musical composer/writer and father of Mrs Leonora St John who started the Womens Rural Institute in the Max Muller Hall in Greenhill. He owned the hall and gave it to his daughter for local community use. The old lovely wooden hut was demolished and a house now stands on the site.

## RECIPE for GRIST BREAD

1 lb	Coarse Strong Brown Flour	1 tsp	Salt
½ oz	Fresh Yeast	1 tbs	Black Treacle
½ pt	Warm Water		



Place flour in a warm bowl and make a hole in the centre of the flour and sprinkle salt round the edges. Cream yeast with 1 tsp of sugar and mix in with ½ of the warm water. Place in the centre of the flour and leave in a warm place for 5 mins. Add the treacle mix with the remaining water and bring together to a smooth dough. Leave to rise for 30 mins. Place in a greased and floured loaf tin and put in oven Gas Mark 5 for 25 mins.



*Photograph courtesy of Phil Swierczek*

(In recognition of the wonderful cultivation of the canal towpath initiated by the late Andrew Muirhead.)

