

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

Bonnyseen



The magazine from Greenhill Historical Society

Issue Number 8 April 2014



BONNYBRIDGE LIBRARY MURAL



(See back cover for details)



Introduction

Spring is here again and so is the Bonnyseen Magazine! Thanks to the generosity of private individuals and customers of various business in Bonnybridge, we are able to offer you edition eight of Bonnyseen. In fact , we have sufficient funds for one more magazine and after that we really are looking for donations in order to continue with this popular addition to life in the town. Once again we are indebted to those who share their memories, photographs and mementos with us.

This year we have arranged a series of outings for the society and so far we have visited Airth, to view Rollo’s Croftmaster tractors. These have been lovingly restored by Jim Hutcheson, who is a former employee of Rollo Engineering, We have also visited the Smith Art Gallery and Museum where there is a “portable” replica of the Stone of Destiny by the artist George Wiley, bit of artistic licence there! Also on view are the wood panels from the prisoner of war camp at Castle Rankine in Denny which depicts scenes of German cities drawn from memory by the prisoners. We have several more outings planned to the Helix, Bo’ness and Kinneil Railway, Summerlee Museum and a trip on the Seagull Trust boat on the canal to name but a few. New members are most welcome to join the society and accompany us on our visits.

As indicated in the last magazine the next edition will feature the anniversary of the outbreak of WW1 and if anyone has stories, photographs and family memories we would be delighted to share in them.

Phil Swierczek

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WHERE TO FIND US



**GREENHILL
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

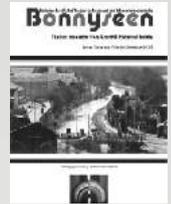
www.greenhillhistoricalsociety.org.uk or
greenhillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Meetings The Society meets every Friday in the Scout Hall at the Community Centre from 2pm till 4pm and all are welcome to join us.

What do YOU know about the History of Bonnybridge

By William Parker of Greenhill Historical Society

Answers to Questions from the previous edition



- 1 When was the Forth and Clyde Canal opened?
Started in 1766, officially opened in 1790
- 2 Where does it go from/to?
Bowling (near Dumbarton) to Grangemouth
- 3 Who were the two infamous men who were hanged for transporting bodies along the Canal?
Burke and Hare
- 4 Which famous scientist who has the Peace Prize named after him, had an explosives works near Bonnybridge?
Alfred Nobel
- 5 How many church buildings in the Bonnybridge area are still standing?
4 : Dennyloanhead, Bonnybridge, St Helens, St Josephs
- 6 There is a brass plaque on a shop-front in Bonnybridge. Whose name is on it and what was she well known for?
Agnes Henderson: Musical, Theatre and Show Producer
- 7 How many names are on the memorials in the park in Bonnybridge?
First World War **178**
Second World War **50**
- 8 What were Smith and Wellstood famous for?
Stoves, mainly ESSE.
- 9 Which famous nurse, who was in the Crimean War, was given an Esse Stove?
Florence Nightingale
- 10 How many railway stations were in the Bonnybridge area?
5 : Dennyloanhead, Greenhill, High Bonnybridge, Canal and Central
- 11 Where was the Stone of Destiny hidden in Bonnybridge after it was stolen from Westminster Abbey in London?
St. Andrews Works (Rollo's) in High Bonnybridge
- 12 Which Roman leader built the Roman Wall in Scotland?
Antonius Pius (Roman Governor)
- 13 Why is Bonnybridge Toll called this?
Where Taxes (Tolls) were collected
- 14 There is a stone pillar at the top of Cowden Hill - what is it?
A Trigonometry Point for surveyors
- 15 Do you know where the nuclear bunker and observation post is in Bonnybridge?
In the field near the courtyard on Drove Loan
- 16 When was Bonnybridge first acknowledged as a place?
Populated since the Middle Stone Age (about 300BC). Appeared on maps in 1650
- 17 What is the population of Bonnybridge today?
13,600 and rising - mainly commuters
- 18 Which well-known historical figure was John Rollo (Rollo Industries, in High Bonnybridge) a descendant of?
William the Conqueror: full name William de Rollo who defeated Harold in the Battle of Hastings
- 19 Where are the graves of Black Aggie and Hairy Mary of Castlecary?
Black Aggie: in a field, south west corner near Bonnyhill Farm at the edge of Rowantree Burn. Family tomb of Rev. J. Reid - Aggie was the servant Hairy Mary of Castlecary: in large walled tomb behind Greenhill Upper Junction Signal Box on Glasgow/Edinburgh railway line, west of Glenyards (Greenhill)

Mrs Leonora St. John



A REMARKABLE LADY

Mrs St. John was born in Glasgow on the 3rd July 1862, the youngest of a large family. Her father, Charles Wm Maxwell-Muller, of Scottish birth, was a well known musician and composer. Her school days were spent in Edinburgh and Ayrshire and further education took her to Paris and Germany.

She returned to the UK, and in 1882 she began her nursing career in Birmingham. Three years later she took up army nursing at Guards Hospital in London. When she was 23 she applied for nursing in India and eventually was promoted to be Lady Superintendent of nurses in Madras and Burma. She returned home again and in 1899 she received the Royal Red Cross from Queen Victoria for her distinguished nursing service record.



It was in India that she met Captain Arthur St. John and when he returned to England in 1903 (or 1904) they were married. After her marriage and from the following year, until 1914 she served as a member of the Indian Office Nursing Board which interviewed and selected candidates for the Indian Nursing Service. Then from 1914-1917 she held the post of Matron at a Paris hospital. After Paris she served with the Serbian Relief fund in Corfu and also in Macedonia as a hospital Matron until 1917. In 1919 she was awarded the Order of St. Sava by H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Serbia for her services during these years.

In 1917 she and Mr St. John returned to the UK to reside at Glenyards, Greenhill where she had spent some of her childhood. (The property had been owned by her father).

Mrs St. John was interviewed by a local reporter in 1918 and when asked about her services rendered and the honours bestowed on her, she replied "I have done nothing to deserve this. It has been a privilege to have come into such near touch with the Serbs. Words fail me to express my deep admiration and sympathy with the suffering people. Before going East I served 15 months in France and never did I experience any friction on part of anyone in our sometimes difficult duties".

In August 1918 a special evening was held in the Public Hall to honour this "Greenhill Lady". The chairman of the Bonnybridge Heroes Committee was Mr James Anderson, and included in the platform party were some well-known names-Mr George Ure, Dr. Pearson, Rev. James Steel and Mrs Steel. Dr. Pearson made the presentation to Mrs St. John, in the absence of Dr. Young who was unable to be present. Dr. Pearson's speech was quite lengthy, as you can imagine, so much to say about this lady, but he did make the point that it was the first time in the history of the Heroes Committee to pay tribute to a local heroine who belonged to a noble band of women namely the British Army Nurses. He went on to say that Mrs St. John and her husband took a great interest in local affairs, and in particular the Scottish Women's Rural Institute whose activities were centred in the hut gifted by the Maxwell-Muller family-hence the name of the well-known Greenhill Hut. In conclusion Dr. Pearson said that as a community they were proud of the high honour which had been conferred on this lady of the village. Then addressing Mrs St. John he said that he was honoured in having the opportunity of asking her to accept this silver fruit dish as a small token of the esteem in which she is held by the people of this neighbourhood. Mrs St. John thanked the people for the gift and replied that she only did her duty, and while doing so she had a most happy experience.

Mrs St. John was president of the Greenhill SWRI from 1925-1940 and also from 1946 until her death on 4th February 1953.

At the same special evening held in the Public Hall, Lance Corporal Robert McPhie was also recognised as a local hero having received the Military Medal for his part in the Battle of Cambrai, France in 1917.

Thanks to another local couple who shared some of their memories with us.

Although Jenny had ambitions to be a teacher, her father's attitude was typical of the times as he thought, "she'll just marry and you'll never see a penny from her!" In spite of this she did become a teacher! She met her husband at someone else's wedding in 1958 but as there were farmers in the family they had to schedule their wedding to avoid harvest time and school term time. After a break to bring up her family she returned to the job she loved. She has very fond memories of well-mannered and well behaved children in Bonnybridge. The use of the tawse was still allowed during her teaching years but she hated it and only used it reluctantly three times in her career. Her husband Sam remembers that there were two primary seven classes in Bonnybridge Public School. The pupils who intended to stay on after the school leaving age were taught in one room and leavers in another. School dinners often had a poor reputation but Sam relished the dumplings and custard. One of his favourite pastimes as a boy was playing with his pals on a rope swing at the Doctor's wood. They would be away from home all day with a bottle of water and a jam piece for sustenance.

Sam also remembers that there were 46 pupils in primary class and they knitted squares during the war which were turned into blankets for the soldiers. They had to practice air raid drills and as infants, were not allowed in the Anderson Shelters. He remembers his mum running up and down the lobby with the baby wrapped in a shawl not knowing what to do. His dad was involved in the land mines which were dropped in Bonnybridge. One exploded and broke windows in the nearest houses but the second mine did not explode. His dad and some others went to see if they could help but were warned to "run like hell" if the second mine started to tick!

As our focus, in the last edition, was the Forth & Clyde Canal we were intrigued by his memories of barges and fishing boats travelling through the canal. He vividly recalls a big tug being pulled by eight Clydesdale horses when something happened and seven of the horses fell into the water. They were all successfully rescued but were very wet, cold and frightened. They were taken to a straw shed at Bonnyhill garage to dry off and rest and went on their way next day with no ill effects.

Thanks to Sam and Jenny for their memories and the photographs they kindly loaned to the society.

MEMORIES OF THE BONNYBRIDGE AREA

I was born in Cumbernauld in 1915. The family moved to William Grindley's farm cottages on Underwood Road, Dennyloanhead in 1920 where William Duguid worked as a ploughman. My sister May and I went to Dennyloanhead Primary School – quite a walk in those days before buses!

Willie always wanted to have his own place and in 1922 he had the chance to rent Glenyards farm in Greenhill. It was nothing fancy, but none of the small farms were in those days! He was very good with his hands and could make all kinds of leather harnesses, wooden cart bodies and even horseshoes. He had his own Smithy and took on any kind of iron work. As children, we were soon used to working on the farm, including milking the cows then racing round Greenhill and Laurel Bank to deliver the milk in pint or two pint cans before getting to school for 9 o'clock. It was usually ten or quarter past before we arrived. Greenhill School was for both Catholics and Protestants. The Protestants went into school first so when I was late I would sneak into the Catholic line and with the help of some great pals would get in the door and avoid getting the strap.

Farm work and school continued until I left school at 12 years old. To supplement the farm income, we had contracts to tidy up around the brickworks and to remove household rubbish with the horse and cart. We emptied the buckets in Greenhill, Glenyards, Bonnyside, Falkirk Road, Barley Hill and Anderson Street! One of the horses, Rosie, was trapped when part of the paddock subsided due to mine workings in the area. She panicked, as horses do, and by kicking made the hole deeper and deeper. Lots of men came to help but eventually the police advised Willie to put her down. He did this with his own shotgun and walked away with tears in his eyes.

As a young man in Greenhill, there didn't seem to be anything attractive about it but as you get older and look back you realise it was a great place and we had lots of fun – we made our own fun! A great place to be was the Maxwell Muller Hut with the Greenhill Poirrot Troupe telling comic stories and the audience keeping them going. Andrew Peat was a leading light as a singer and when he came on stage he always said to the band, "Cornetist-blow thy bellows"! It was during a dance at the Hut that the word came through about the railway accident at the Castlecary

Arches. We all ran along the line to see if we could help. It was the first time I had ever seen a dead body.

In Bonnybridge, Stein's brickworks must have been one of the biggest in Scotland at the time. When the work was cutting back, my bulldozer and two lorries were used to take the ashes from the furnaces to the pit head where they were used to fill in some of the old mine shafts. John Stein tripped and gashed his leg while examining bricks and died when septicaemia set in. I also had a contract with Manual Works at High Bonnybridge to provide a tipper lorry every Friday to load up ashes and take them to the tip. This involved reversing the lorry across the level crossing and one day the driver didn't hear the Edinburgh Express train coming. The lorry was pushed along the line for quite a distance. The police were called and sometime later a girl going home from school reported to the police sergeant that there was a man under the engine of the train. I knew him and his wife very well and he had been walking passed at the time of the accident but no one had noticed him.

There was a small family run foundry near the railway at High Bonnybridge and I used to deliver their castings to Glasgow every week. The owner would come with me in the lorry to deliver the goods and pick up the orders for the following week. By the time I retired in 1986 I had the names of around thirty small firms between Glasgow and Dundee on my books where I delivered goods from brickworks and foundries in the Bonnybridge area.

When the local council decided to replace the old wooden bridge at the canal with a modern steel one they called a meeting of the locals. They were going to have to acquire some land from the farmer to widen the approach road. The meeting was held at the Crown Hotel and after the councillors had put their case a farmer raised his hand and complained about them taking such a big piece of land to put a bridge across such a wee burn! The chairman jumped up and declared that the farmer was completely out of order. The farmer replied "aye that's right if I was in good order I could pee further than the width of the burn!"

One of my great pals was Freddie Forrest. He was a man who could get away with anything and always called me Duckit. I called at his house on Seabegs Crescent to get him to go to a dance one night and old Will was cutting his hair, "make a good job of it Will I'm going to a fancy doo with Duckit"! After the

dancing or the pictures I had found a way to get home for free. I would walk to the three bridges and hop on a goods train when it pulled into the siding to let the passenger train pass.

One night Freddie and I were both skint so I told him I would get him home at no cost. When the goods train set off I knew it would stop at the creosote works and it would start to slow down at Greenhill Signal box. I had learned when was the safest time and the best place to jump off where I could avoid the signals, points and fences and land in one of my dad's fields. Freddie was glad of a free ride but was terrified of jumping off! When I said jump he had backed up so much in fright that I had to put my foot in his backside to persuade him to go. Unfortunately he landed in a bramble bush and was so badly scratched I told him even his own mother wouldn't recognise him! The bold Freddie replied that there was no problem. "It's a 'right Duckit she'll be pleased to see me – I'm her favourite"! I walked him back to his door in Seabegs then ran like hell! In later years Freddie was renowned for his steam engines and when he died it was wonderful to see that the police had closed the road to allow the funeral procession behind a steam engine to make it's way through Bonnybridge to the church.

Campbell W Duguid



WORLD WAR TWO EXPERIENCES

I have been following with interest in the Bonnyseen magazine the recollections of others on their WW2 experiences as they applied to the Bonnybridge community. Here are a few more from a personal point of view which may have not been covered before. If they have I apologise for my duplication.

My earliest memory (1940/41) is having to vacate our classrooms and sit on low benches in a school corridor when there was an Air Raid Warning, complete with our gas mask on or at the ready, before returning to our classes when the All Clear siren sounded. The gas mask for the youngest pupils was of a Mickey Mouse design and we progressed to a more conventional type which we carried to school each day in a square cardboard box and in my case slung around my neck with a length of string! Our teacher at that time in Primary 1 was Miss Welch.

All school children were given a third-of-a-pint bottle of milk prior to the morning playtime and in winter months they were warmed up on the central heating pipes.

Another significant event was our family, together with the next door neighbours (the Keen's) at Peathill Terrace, sitting around the wireless listening to the rantings of William Joyce, known as Lord Haw Haw. The Irish/American politician, with a British Passport, who defected to Germany whose soul purpose was to undermine the confidence of the armed forces and the public at large with propaganda on so called war related successes, such as allied aircraft losses and defeats of ground forces. Incidentally the radio was powered by a rechargeable accumulator battery as it was gas lighting in the houses at that time i.e. pre electricity.

Presumably there were others in the village but I was aware of two air raid shelters. The first was purpose built at Larbert Road while the other one a more make-shift structure built into the railway embankment, possibly by soldiers of the depot that was located there. I don't know

if they were used for their intended purpose but after the war children of the area used them as unofficial play places.

On Saturday mornings, I or one of my brothers were sent along to wait in the Co-operative dairy queue at Unitas Terrace for our bread allocation for which coupons in the form of printed cardboard milk bottle tops were required as part of the food rationing arrangements which were in place at the time. We also had ration books for other food items and for clothing.

Mention of recycling of metal fences and gates etc. in a previous issue of the magazine reminds me that part of the golf course was requisitioned for agricultural purposes. This extended to most of the the second hole and it remained for that use into the 1950's.

Even the boys in our early school classes were taught knitting. We made small purl and plain squares which were sewn together to make blankets for the troops. Our contribution to the war effort!

At the time of the Clydebank Blitz I recall standing on the "stair heid" at 2 Peathill Terrace, hearing the drone of enemy bombers overhead and seeing the flashes and illumination of the devastation being caused. It was I believe at this time the two land mines were dropped at High Bonnybridge and I was taken along to see the one that did not explode and the crater of the other one. Their intended target I presume was the railway lines or nearby industrial premises.

Some of the above might jog the memories of readers.

Wilson Bulloch



*Mickey Mouse
Gas Mask*

Margaret McDougall

"Margaret got in touch to share some of her reminiscences of life in Bonnybridge. Maybe you also recall some of these?"

Freddie Forrest and his traction engines, the Osborne family, Rory & Ray Cummings.

Fritz, the German prisoner, who stayed on in Scotland at the end of the war and worked on Pollock's farm. He taught the youngsters a few German words when they went to pick the tatties.

Bonnybridge's six chippies: Petale's, Marsellas (Faiella's) Goldies, Fraser's and Flemmings.

The Goldies had twin boys who went on to become local councillors. Margaret remembers her mother, who was a tailoress, making white

making white trouser for the boys' First Communion. Her mum also made many of the costumes used in Bonnybridge Pantomimes and some of the girls who worked in the cigarette factory went off to the dancing wearing her mum's lovely handmade dresses.

Margaret also remembers the janitor from Bonnybridge Primary School arriving at the door on his bike if you were off school - just to check up that it was a genuine excuse! Apparently he was a scary person, a lot scarier than the teachers e.g. Mr McNeil, Mr Ferguson (known as Fido!) and Miss Daisy Brodie who not only taught Margaret but her sons as well.

Thanks to Margaret for her contribution and we would love to hear from anyone else with memories to share.



Forthcoming Articles



Re: People of Bonnybridge WW1 By I M RYAN

I have been researching families, events, the conditions, prices and shortages experienced by the Bonnybridge people before and during the First World War. Some of the information I have uncovered is heroic and heartbreaking, enduring and fascinating, involving hardship and struggle. Village children got involved with fundraising but were also the vanguard at the outbreak of "Spanish Flu".

The Greenhill Historical Society is planning a few articles and stories to be published in forthcoming Bonnyseen magazines, possibly over the next few years. It is likely that family members of people mentioned in the articles and stories might still be living in the village.

If anyone has objections to the possibility of having a family member or friends mentioned, in any of the articles or stories, would they please get in touch with a member of the Greenhill Historical Society. Alternatively you could come to our meetings in the "Scout Hall" at the Community Centre any Friday between 2 – 4pm and we could talk about it. Or if you have access to email we can be contacted on the Society's email address. If you would rather telephone then please contact myself,

Irene, on 01324 810259 or Frank on 07887662579 or Sheena on 10324 419571.

The other possibility is you may have a story of your own which you would like the Society to be aware of. Maybe we do not know of this person and you think their story should be known. We would be more than happy to be informed of this person, especially if they were female. I have been trying to uncover the role women played when the men went away to war; unfortunately not much is recorded but I think their stories should be told.

I know that two women took over the role of postal delivery for the village. But the Post Office tell me they did not record the women's names as they were classified as "temporary workers" just covering for the men at war. If anyone knows who these women were I would be very grateful for that information.

James Smith

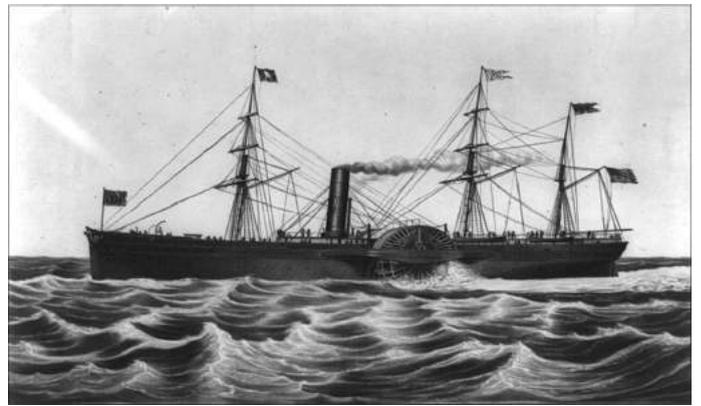


By Michael McMahon



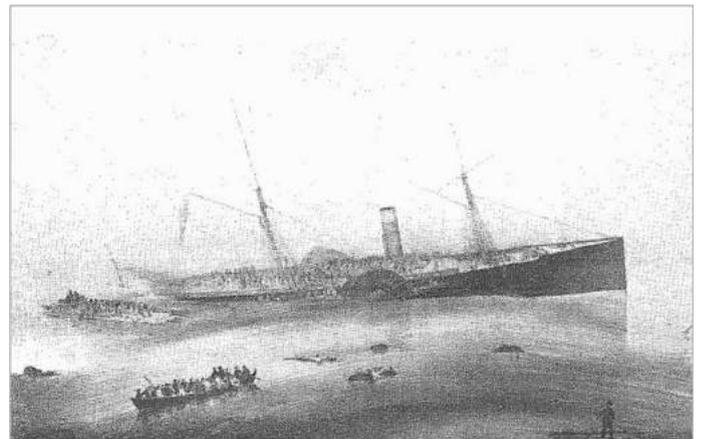
James Smith, one of the founders of Smith and Wellstood, emigrated to America in 1836 being led to this decision by his friend Stephen Wellstood who was later to become his partner in business. After an apprenticeship arranged by the Wellstood Company as a metal worker he started a cooking stoves and ranges tin ware factory on State Street, Jackson Mississippi. James returned to Scotland in 1841 to marry Annie Wells Brown to whom he was betrothed before leaving for America. After returning to America with his new wife her health deteriorated due to the adverse Mississippi climate and he returned to Scotland in 1853 with her and his new family.

In 1854 he decided to return to Jackson Mississippi to arrange the handover of his business to his brother Robert. He then took passage from Liverpool on board the US Mail Ship Artic on the 20th September that year. When seven days out from Liverpool the ship was in collision with the French steamer SS Vesta off Cape Race Newfoundland and foundered and sunk. About four hundred souls perished that day with about thirty-four survivors and not one woman or child amongst them. James Smith was one of those who did survive and he found a raft shortly after entering the water and managed to drag himself on to it. The raft was tiny and with every wave James felt his chances of survival diminish. It was at this time he saw a basket that had been used for storing plate. He paddled over towards it and managed to hoist the basket onto the raft. He squeezed inside the basket for protection against the elements. He passed three days and nights on the raft before eventually being rescued by the barque Cambria, outward bound from Greenock.



US Mail Ship Artic

The sinking of the US Mail Ship Artic



When he recovered, he transferred his business to his brother in 1855. Robert subsequently went on to be a Colonel in the 10th Mississippi Infantry and was killed at the Battle of Munfordville during the American Civil War. It is understood that the basket that saved James' life is now in the main office in England of the company which bought over Smith and Wellstood's.

The Basket

P Swierczek

Although industry played a huge role in the growth and development of the town of Bonnybridge we must not forget the important part that farming played in the life of the community. Bonnyhill Farm, owned by the Pollock family for three generations, is one example of a farm which has not only survived into the twenty-first century but which is still expanding, developing and using state of the art technology.

James Pollock came from Kilmacolm in the early nineteen hundreds to work as a ploughman at Bonnyside Farm, which was then owned by the Miller family. In 1920 he was offered the chance to become the tenant farmer at Bonnyhill and he grasped the challenge with energy and foresight. Before James took over, the land was virtually unproductive and the farm was used mainly as a rest stop for coaches travelling through the area who needed to refresh both drivers and horses. It was also an important stop over for the drovers on their way to the cattle market, which was located at various sites in the central area before settling in what we now know as the Tryst in Larbert.



Bonnyhill Farm, Bonnybridge, Haytime 1928

James Pollock

In the early days of Bonnyhill, James and his family were an important source of fresh milk, eggs, potatoes and other vegetables, which they sold to the local community. He also started growing crops, such as oats, beans and hay to provide feed for his growing dairy herd. When James decided to retire in 1954, he bought Milnquarter Farm and left his son John and his wife to take over Bonnyhill Farm. With him to Milnquarter went his daughter Maggie and Fritz, who was a German Prisoner of War working on the farm during his detention in Scotland and never returned to his native land.

John was later given the chance to take on the tenancy of Bonnyside Farm, where his father, James, had started as a ploughman.

John's wife, Jenny Paterson, also came from a farming background. Her father, William, was a well know and respected farmer who ran Croftfoot farm in Dunipace. Jenny left school at 14 to work at home milking the cows and delivering milk in the Denny area, so she had plenty experience in the dairy farm business when she moved to Bonnyhill following her marriage. Incidentally, both Jenny and Mary Pollock, her sister-in-law, celebrated their 90th birthday recently. Jenny and John had six children, and three of them, Ronald, William and Allan, run the business today.



Bonnyhill Farm, Bonnybridge, Haytime 1928

L-R:- Adam Baxter, James Pollock, Margaret Pollock, Charlie Kelly (Glasgow)



Mary Pollock

Initially, when James Pollock started, the milk from the farm was sold to a local dairy, but they would often refuse the milk at short notice, which resulted in the milk being poured down the drain. Too much effort went into the production to allow this to continue with around 24 cows in the early days being milked twice daily by hand. This was when he decided to sell direct to the customers.

When John and Jenny took over in 1954, although they continued to produce milk, they stopped retailing milk until 1964 when their oldest son Jim left school and started a milk round. The other sons, Willie, Ian,

Allan, Ronald and their sister Netta all took up milk rounds as they left school delivering to doorsteps throughout the Falkirk area, incidentally, 2014 is their 50th Anniversary of milk retailing..

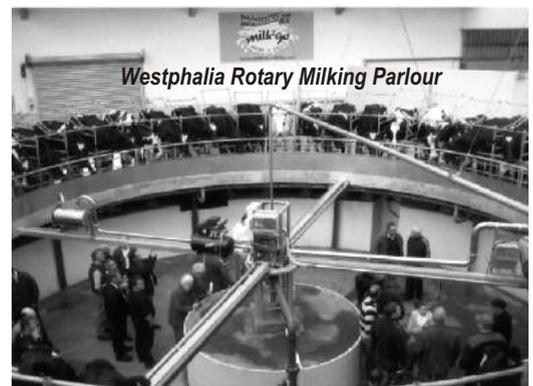
John Pollock died in 1981, leaving Jenny and her family to run the farm.

From a small beginning, they flourished and today there are in excess of 300 dairy cows on the farm. They sell mainly to local shops, hotels and the catering trade, and their logo, as seen in the heading is "Milk 2 Go".

When Dougall's brickworks finally closed, the business was offered the chance of buying both Bonnyhill and Bonnyside Farms, which they did.

Over the years, the family have acquired several other farms, which are used to supplement the dairy farm by providing land to grow essential fodder and cereal crops for the animals.

Having so many cows needing milked twice a day prompted the family to research ways of speeding up the process. They settled on a new Westphalia Rotary Milking Parlour, which was commissioned in 2006. At first, the cows were scared of the rotating platform and were reluctant to go on, but they soon grew to like their trip on the "merry-go-round" and refused to get off. The manufacturer devised a system where a small blast of air was blown on to the cows faces to awake them from their reverie on the carousel and to persuade them to get off.



Many people have fond memories of their visits to the farm to buy fresh products or to take part in the "tattie howking". Barn dances were held regularly at both farms and although they were mainly for fundraising purposes, apparently this was where many a local lad or lassie met their future spouses. Other locals would come to the farm to visit Black Aggies Tomb or to pay their respects at the monument to the radicals who fought at the Battle of Bonnymuir which are both located on the farms land.



Bonnybridge Tog o War Team
at Airth Highland Games 1978
F-B John Rowley, Ian Pollock,
James Ferguson, Willie Pollock,
John Paterson, James Paterson,
Robert Russel, John Paterson (Snr.)

If you have any memories associated with Pollocks farm, please get in touch and tell us your stories.

Thanks to Ronald Pollock for allowing us this insight into his family history and his brother Jim for supplying photographs.

Who's Who?



VANESSA FAIRLEY

I am looking for information to locate family and friends still living in the Bonnybridge area. My mother is Mary Ann Fairley, born 1948, to parents Mary McCulloch, a nurse who resided at the Drove Loan, Denny and David Fairley, an engineer who was also in a band and ran the Ice-Skating.

The photograph and information is supplied from Riccardo Anaya Fairley. In the middle is Mary Ann Fairley, daughter of Mary & David McCulloch who also appear centrally. On the left is George who married Mary when David died. The photograph was taken in the 60's, where is this and what is happening? The family also had connections with Allandale.

Can you help?

My name is John Wetherspoon Scott. I am 83 and live in Stockton-on-Tees in the North of England where I have lived for many years since my family moved from Bonnybridge. I used to travel up to Bonnybridge as a young boy with my mum, hidden inside her coat to save the train fare, to stay with my relatives. I remember my brother being attacked by a swan at High Bonnybridge Loch, leaving him with a scar which needed a skin-graft and my relation Hugh Parker's brother being saved from drowning in the Loch. Every Sunday I would go to the local Speedway Track and also go to Harris Picture House. In Stockton-on-Tees as a boy, I saw thousands of rats in a Rats Flitting down the street and later when I started work, I had 6 old pennies in the pound taken off me because I was foreign! There were twelve pennies in a shilling, 240 pennies in a pound. I later joined the Durham Light Infantry and fought in the Korean War.

I am looking for information on Hugh Parker Scott and Janet Dean Scott, if anyone has any, and I still live in Stockton-on-Tees.

Thank-you to Greenhill Historical Society for a great magazine which I hope I will continue to receive.

Do you remember?

THOMSON's SHOP on Seabegs Road

Cathy Thomson, known to many as "Katie"

Douglas Thomson



MARSELLAS FISH & CHIP SHOP



JANET BUCHANAN and DONALD BLAIR

Janet Buchanan spent her childhood in the Hags area and I can only assume that she left there for Canada in her teens. Many young Scots folk left for pastures new and the chance of opportunities denied them here in Scotland, perhaps recruited by one of the agencies who travelled around the country offering free passage and the promise of advancement.

She was the daughter of George Buchanan and Janet Clark who raised a family of thirteen in the Bonnybridge and Hags area, some of whom were employed in the mining industry. A great many of their descendants continue to live in the Bonnybridge area, and perhaps this old photograph may be of some interest to them.



Janet married Donald Blair in Ontario and as was the fashion at that time they also had a large family who seem to have enjoyed some prosperity judging by the photograph.

Tom Buchanan

SWRI Golden Jubilee Floral Display on High Street.

Note the Public Toilets in the background.



James Wilson, Timbermerchant



29 January, 2014

Dear Philomina

It was good talking to you this afternoon and reminiscing over childhood days and the following is the information that we discussed.

The Bonnyseen magazine and website have been of great interest to me as a resident of Bonnybridge until my marriage in 1970.

I have unearthed the enclosed Falkirk Herald article of December 30, 1903 on Men You Know which features my great great grandfather, James Wilson and thought that it may be of some interest as part of the history of Bonnybridge.

James Wilson resided with his family at Bonnybank House and had a timber mill close to the canal and to the house. The article indicates that he had mills and an extensive timber operation throughout Scotland and was the first home timber merchant in his native country. It is interesting to note that the 1927 telephone directory for Bonnybridge lists the Bonnybank Sawmills with telephone number 27.

It can not be established when the Wilson's first resided at Bonnybank House, but as their residence in 1861 was recorded in the census of that date as Bonnymills, Bonnybridge and then on the death of James Wilson's daughter, Janet aged three, in 1868 at Bonnybank House, would indicate that they took up residence sometime between these dates.

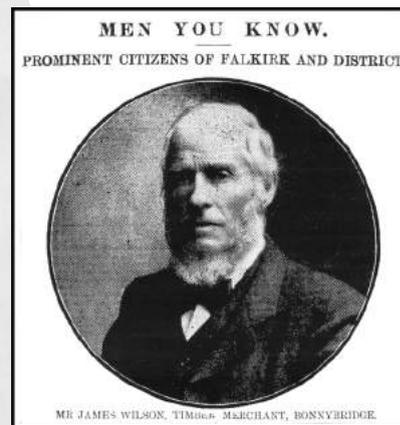
James Wilson was born at Jinkabout Mill, Linlithgow in 1830 and died at Bonnybank House in August 1910 just two years after the article. He married Jane Hamilton in 1863 and had eight children. His son, William Hamilton Wilson, my grandfather, who was born in 1873 at Bonnybank House, married Margaret Donaldson in 1900 and ran the business after the death of his father until 1934 when the business came to an end and he moved from Bonnybank House to Anderson Street in Bonnybridge. He later moved to Thornton Avenue where he died in March 1963 preceded by his wife in 1951.

I have enclosed a photograph of Bonnybank Sawmills and Bonnybank House but do not know the dates that the photographs were taken.

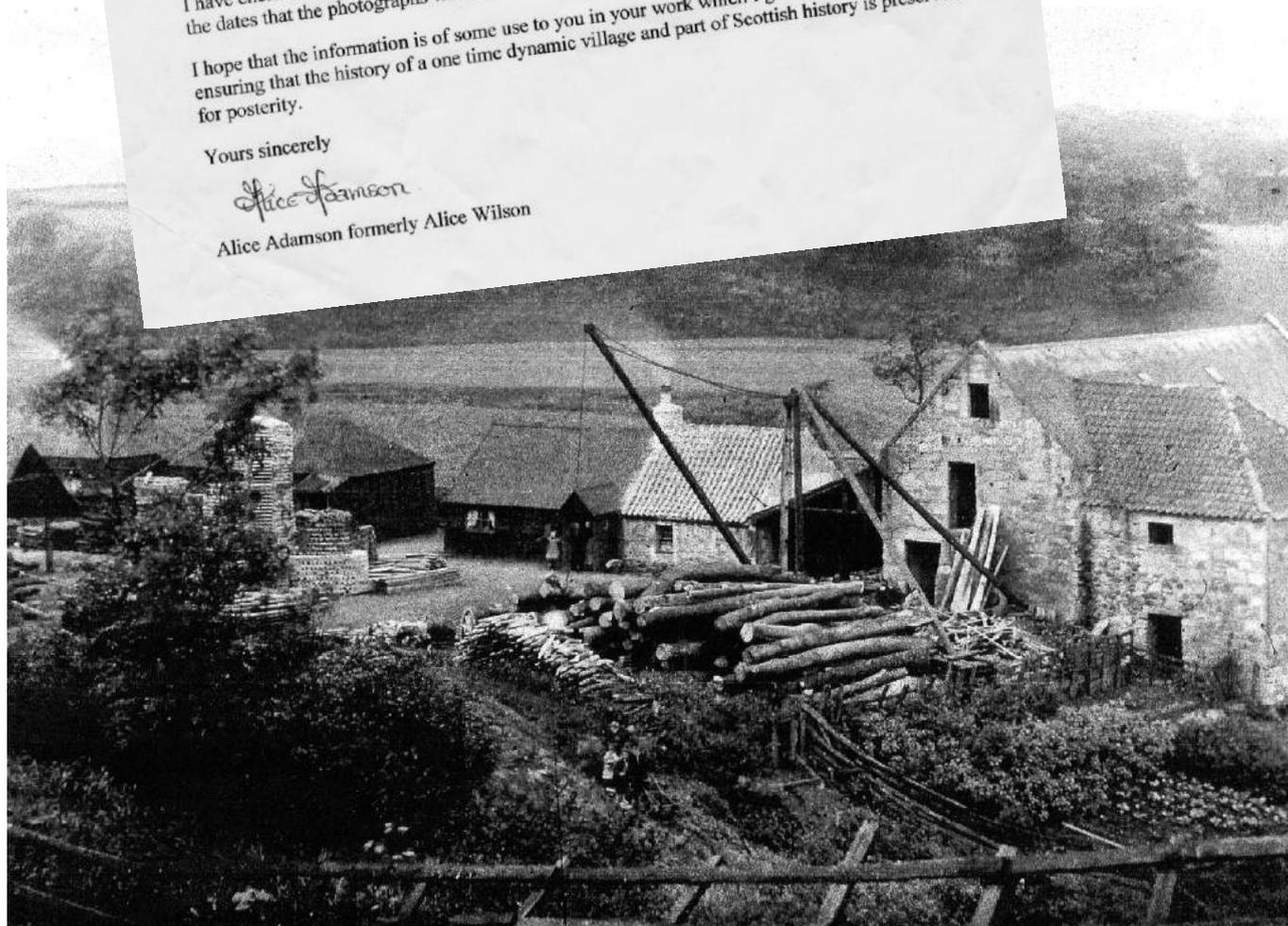
I hope that the information is of some use to you in your work which I greatly admire in ensuring that the history of a one time dynamic village and part of Scottish history is preserved for posterity.

Yours sincerely

Alice Adamson formerly Alice Wilson



Photograph from Falkirk Herald
Wednesday 30 December 1908



What do YOU know about the History of Bonnybridge?



By William Parker of Greenhill Historical Society

- ① Which place in Bonnybridge was known as the Geggy?
- ② Do you know where the Speedway/Scrambling Track was located?
- ③ How many Statues or Head Busts have been erected in the area?
- ④ There are ...?... Canal Tunnels, Pends, Underground Walkways in the district.
- ⑤ How many Air Raid or Anderson Shelters are still in existence in Bonnybridge?
- ⑥ Which well known local businessman flew in Bomber Command in World War 2?
- ⑦ What colours did Bonnybridge Juniors F.C. play in?
- ⑧ How many times has the Forth & Clyde Canal burst its banks in Bonnybridge?
- ⑨ Which lady was the first female president of the S.J.F.A.
- ⑩ Allandale had two names once upon a time, what were they?
- ⑪ What is the number of the local Scout Group and which colours are in their neckerchief?
- ⑫ What was the name of the first Senior Football Club in Stirlingshire, being formed in 1875?
- ⑬ Where was/is the Motte and Ballie Castle in Bonnybridge?
- ⑭ Where does the name Seabegs come from?
- ⑮ Broomside Foundry in High Bonnybridge was known locally as "The Puzzle" why?
- ⑯ Where and when did the Battle of Bonnymuir take place?
- ⑰ What does the word "Chattan" mean as in Chattan Stove Works?
- ⑱ Which local place is called Dun Na Bais?
- ⑲ Do you know where the Bumbee Mine was?
- ⑳ In Greenhill, the local community used the Max-Miller Hut for a variety of activities, where does the name come from?

THE RED GAUNTLET

Manufacturer: John Fowler, Leeds

Works No. 15313

Class A9 7 Nominal horse power Year 1920

Originally part of an order by the war department, cancelled due to the end of the First World War.



The engine was in Fowlers Works until purchased by Breachins Timber Contractors Linlithgow where it drew timber and powered saw benches. Purchased in the early '50s by Captain McKay and kept at Bonnybank Yard and eventually purchased by William Forrest and Sons where it was used occasionally for pulling trees and stumps.

It then passed into the ownership of Nick Watson where it was taken to Northern Ireland for several years, returning to Bonnybank in the early eighties. Its last duty there was to lead the funeral procession of renowned steam preservationist Freddie Forrest in 1992. It then passed into my ownership in 2003 where it has been rallied extensively in Ireland until decommissioned in 2011 due to an exhausted boiler. It is presently being kept in storage where it will undergo full restoration, bringing it back to its former glory and hopefully a return to Bonnybridge.

Yours
William Ellis

BONNYBRIDGE LIBRARY MURAL



Graffiti Artist Rogue-One

As part of BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND 2013, a permanent art installation was revealed at Bonnybridge Library on Friday 29th November. Created by graffiti artist Rogue-One, the image depicts famous book characters magically appearing from book pages surrounding the inspirational statement: *"A book is a conversation, a riot, a place of silence. Are you listening?"* The statement was collectively written by authors Angus Peter Campbell, Alan Bissett, Liz Lohead, James Robertson and Vivian French, who were commissioned by the Scottish Book Trust to create a message that captured the value of reading, to be incorporated into the mural. Throughout Book Week Scotland 2013 five public art installations by different artists were unveiled daily in five communities across the country. Each art installation carried a different statement from the authors which has been creatively interpreted by the artist and local community. The artworks have been developed in consultation with local communities to ensure that the lasting legacy to inspire more reading will be a welcome addition to the area.

"Falkirk Community Trust is delighted to have been chosen to be part of this national programme and it is a great opportunity for Bonnybridge Library. I have been working closely with the artist and have involved the local community in developing images and ideas for the mural. I have received a lot of positive feedback and contributions from local people and have genuinely been overwhelmed at the excitement that this project has generated in a community which values and takes pride in their library. Rogue-One's mural is a thrilling representation of the deep regard with which reading books and libraries are held."

Naomi Kenny, Bonnybridge Librarian

