

THE JIM HAMILTON HERITAGE SOCIETY OF COALBURN

Syllabus 2010

ALL WELCOME – BRING A FRIEND – Tea/Coffee at 9pm

Wednesday, 7.30pm start. Access from 7pm Coalburn Bowling Club.

20 Jan LANARKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY's Allan Colthart

10 Feb Stewart HOUSTON, Antique Toys

17 Feb Heritage Quiz Night with John ZAWADZKI

3 Mar Jim SMALLS, Forestry Commission

17 Mar Paul ARCHIBALD, Lanark Museum Trust

7 Apr Esther SERRELS ex-councillor from Kirkmuirhill (formerly of Coalburn)

21 Apr Sandy GILCHRIST, ex-teacher, Covington School. Subject: ARTEFACTS

5 May Peter McLEISH – Shopping in Coalburn, Past & Present

19 May Annual General Meeting + SLIDESHOWS by John Zawadzki

COALBURN GALA DAY 2010

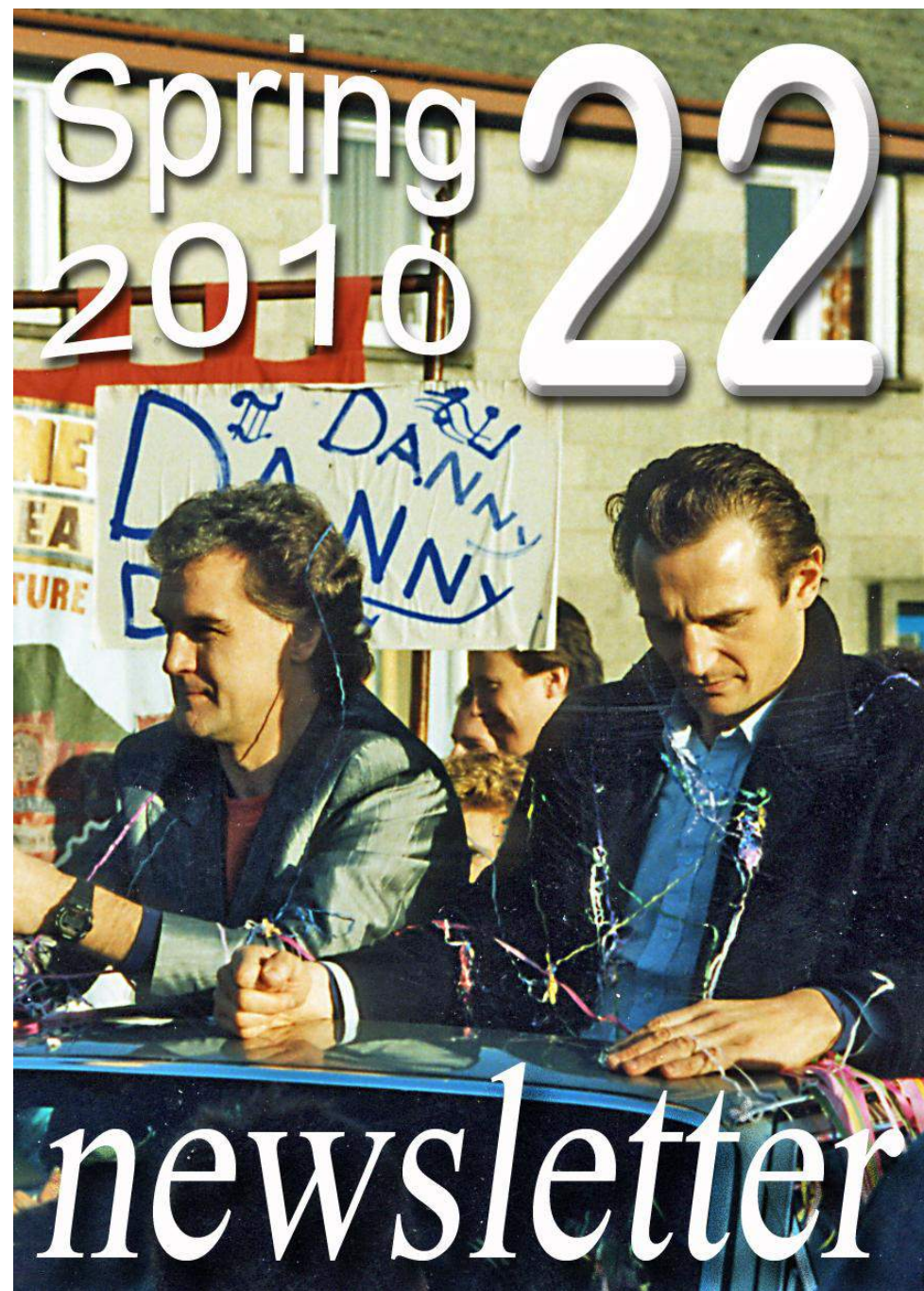
JIM HAMILTON HERITAGE EXHIBITION

Saturday 3rd JULY

COALBURN LEISURE CENTRE

11am – 3pm

Also featuring a display of photographs by the Coalburn-based
Clydesdale Camera Club (www.clydesdalecameraclub.co.uk)



Published by The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

Message from the Chairman

The decision to move to the Bowling Club has proved to be worthwhile as the number attending has shown a gradual increase, indeed the last meeting, featuring Jim Smalls from the Forestry Commission, brought out the largest attendance since moving there.

The down side to the venue is that we will not be able to meet there once the bowling season starts, so will revert to the Miners' Welfare, either in the upstairs hall or the club area. Early notice will be given to all who are likely to attend.

The recent visits to Waterside Rural and Auchlochan went down very well and John's work was greatly appreciated on both occasions.

We are currently looking at the syllabus from September and trying to ensure that we continue to provide speakers of interest over the new session. So far we have been very fortunate in those we have had.

I feel I must record my thanks to Allison Brown for the research she has done on her subject of Coalburn Women. As I have mentioned she spent a considerable amount of time on producing this very readable composition which features several well known local ladies from 1900 to 2000. This highlights the availability of information in the Heritage Centre which members can access if they have a particular interest they might wish to pursue.

We are moving into the time of the year when we are likely to have an influx of visitors, particularly from abroad and we look forward to being of assistance. It no longer surprises us that we continue to have interesting photos and the like handed in to add to the collection as more and more folk are aware of Coalburn's history.

As in the past I would like to say a thank you to all who assist in keeping the group moving forward, no matter in which role. We look forward to another busy day in July at the Gala Day one again. Hope to see you there.

Peter McLeish, 9th March 2010.

Office Bearers 2009/10

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Newsletter published by
**The Jim Hamilton
Heritage Society of
Coalburn**

**COALBURN
HERITAGE CENTRE**
Coalburn One Stop Shop
42 Coalburn Road
COALBURN
Tel. 01555 820060
OPEN
**TUESDAYS
& THURSDAYS**
10am – 3pm



1st Coalburn Scouts (122nd Lanarkshire)

The first meeting to discuss the formation of a Scout Troop in the village was held on Thursday, 7th February 1935 in the Session Room. The minister, Mr Hawthorn presided. The others present were Edward Cook, Archie Hay, Jack Imrie, Robert Carswell, John Laird, John Lightbody, James Cook and George Scanlon.

The meeting opened with prayer; then a general discussion took place. It was agreed that the names of George Scanlon and Edward Cook be submitted to the Kirk Session for approval as appropriate nominations for Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster respectively. It was agreed to continue to meet in the Session Room until the present members had learned the fundamental principles of the movement.

The following Tuesday with ten persons present, Mr Hawthorn opened with prayer before intimating that the Kirk Session had approved of their nominations for Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster and accordingly a letter was written to the County Commissioner asking authority to form a troop. George Scanlon was appointed secretary and Edward Cook, treasurer.

It was decided to start a uniform fund, this was to be optional, and separate from any subsequent subscriptions decide upon. The programme for the next meeting was then prepared. Agreed to open with ten minutes of physical exercises. Agreed to hear the Scout Law repeated by each member. Four members were also selected and appointed to study one test in the Tenderfoot class and illustrate at the next meeting. Also decided that the Scoutmaster read a portion from a suitable book.

The Session Room was once again the venue for the meeting held on Wednesday 20th February when nine people were present. Following the opening prayer, ten minutes was devoted to physical exercises. A preliminary test of the members' knowledge of the Scout Law was then conducted by Mr Hawthorn and proved fairly satisfactory. The various Tenderfoot tests were then explained by the members appointed at the previous meeting.

The programme for the next meeting was then drawn up. Agreed that the Scoutmaster give a description of the Union Jack and method of flying same. Agreed to have a demonstration with the staff, and also complete the knots test. Agreed to have Kim's Game. The first subscriptions for the Uniform Fund were given.

Thus the troop was underway.

The foregoing information was taken from the first Minute Book.

Website www.coalburnheritage.org.uk

Upperward Almanac

A FEW YEARS AGO, while visiting California, I was given an Upperward Almanac which had belonged to a former resident of Lesmahagow, Jean Watson. Her maiden name was Whyte and her father was the owner of the former Baker's business in the village's Church Square. In her early years, Jean was well known as an elocutionist in the district, she often appeared with Lesmahagow Male Voice Choir as a guest. The almanac was passed to me after her death and it contains some local information relating to the year 1889.

Important events which had occurred were listed as follows:

January 18th Fire at Craighead, Lesmahagow; **May 3rd** Fatal accident on Electric Railway Carstairs; **June 7th** Chicken nursed by a cat at Carluke; **June 13th** Lanarkshire Yeomanry Cavalry Review and Races, Lanark-Cup won by Trooper Dick, Carnwath Troop; **August 1st** Inspection of 3rd and 4th Battalion, Scottish Rifles; **September 19th** Opening of New Gasholder, Lanark Gas Works; **October 29th** Mr Herd appointed Organist at Lesmahagow Parish Church.

Among the dates of note listed for the following year are **Lesmahagow Hiring Fair** which was to be held on Wednesday 12th March, **Lanark Lanimers** fell on Thursday 12th June as well as **Biggar Horse Fair**, **Strathaven Cattle Show**, while **Dunsyre** had a **Fast Day** on that date. The month of September was a busy time for **Flower Shows**, with three on Friday 5th, at **Douglas**, **Hamilton** and **Wiston**, while the following day **Lesmahagow** was the venue for another.

The military was well represented in the area as the **Lanarkshire**



Yeomanry, whose headquarters were in Lanark was headed by **Lieut-Col. Commandant, The Earl of Home**, had troops at **Carnwath**, **Lesmahagow**, **Lanark**, **Douglas** and **Biggar**.

The **9th Lanarkshire Rifle Corps**(Regimental District No.71), again with headquarters in **Lanark**, had **"A" Company** at **Lesmahagow** with a strength of 167, including officers, **"B" Company** at **Lanark** numbered 46, **Biggar** had **"C" Company** with 78, **Carluk's "D"** could muster a healthy 128 and **"E" Company** at **Douglas** listed 38 and finally **Leadhills** with its **"F" Company** had 72.

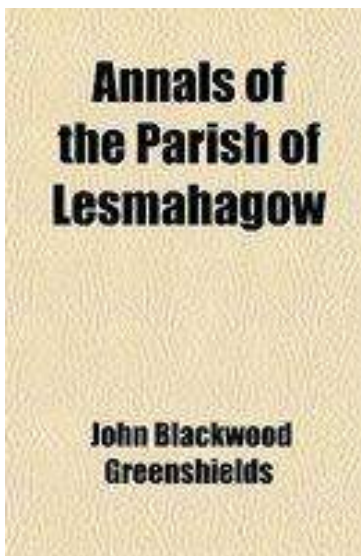
Bursaries and Bequests

Bursaries and Bequests were common and one of these was **Tod's Bequest** - The late **William Tod of Logan**, bequeathed the following:

£10 yearly for coal to poor persons in the parish of Lanark, 50 recipients.
£10 yearly to poor persons in the parish of Lesmahagow, 50 recipients.
£10 annually for educational purposes to the poor of Lesmahagow.
£10 yearly to Lanark Female Society
£30 yearly in assisting the education of poor boys in Lanark.
£50 yearly to poor men in Lanark above the age of 65 years(five receive £4 and six £5).

Trustees: **J.B. Greenshields** of Kerse; **John Gibb**, Jersey; **James Greenshields**, Westown; **Rev. Thomas Wilson** and **Rev. J.A. Gray**. *Factor:* **Hugh Davidson**, Lanark.

The **Tod Bequest** was initiated in 1866.



Here then is potted version of the contents of the Upperward Almanac. More of the same will follow in a later Newsletter.

Peter McLEISH

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Billy Connolly and **Liam Neeson** during filming of movie **THE BIG MAN** in **Coalburn** in late **1989**.

Photographed by the late Jim Hamilton.

Voices With Brass concert

COALBURN Silver Band teamed up with a 30-strong Lesmahagow Male Voice Choir for a special performance. The concert, entitled **Voices With Brass**, took place in Lesmahagow Jubilee Hall on 6th February 2010 and attracted a 150-strong crowd.

Band president Alan Court said: *"We approached the male voice choir looking to put on a concert on the back of our recent success. We have always had a great relationship with them but it has been a while (10 years) since we organised a concert together."*

The concert featured superb performances from both groups as well as the new brass band featuring up and coming talent.

Last year was the most successful in the band's 107 year history. Having already been named Scottish Brass band of the Year, it also picked up the Scottish Challenge Cup, Borders Championship, became Fife Brass Band champions and achieved a highly commendable fifth place in the British Championships.

Added Alan, *"It was a fantastic night. We didn't think in our wildest dreams it would be as big a success as it was."*

The Silver Band, under the musical direction of Gareth Bowman, opened the show playing a varied programme which featured some outstanding soloists including Joanne Buchanan on cornet, Elizabeth Meikle on trombone and Jim Buchanan on Eb bass.

The choir then took to the stage and performed four songs, the highlight being their rendition of Coalburn man Jim Hamilton's aptly entitled 'Coalburn Silver Band'.

The band and choir also teamed up for two verses of Psalm 23, The Lord Is My Shepherd, to bring the concert to a stunning finale.

See website: www.coalburnsilverband.org.uk



Guest speaker on 20 January 2010 was **Allan Colthart** of the **Lanarkshire Family History Society**.



Guest speaker on 10 February 2010 was **Stewart Houston** talking about his passion for **antique toys**. Stewart also brought along an interesting selection of his antique toys.

What's in a name?

The County of Lanark is home to popular surnames, Hamilton, Dalziel, Carmichael and Cleland spring to mind. Their origins obviously derived from the early days when families were centred in and around these places. Closer to home we have our near neighbour of Douglas, a name with a proud and long history behind it.

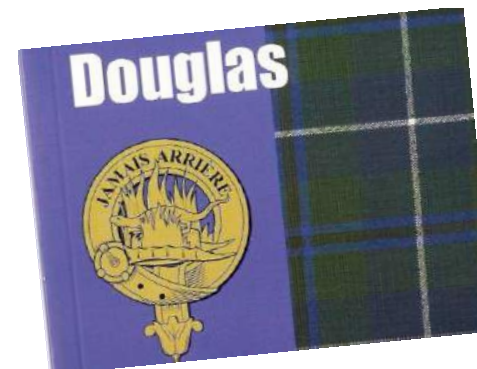
In his book, "The Surnames of Scotland", George F. Black, disagrees with an earlier publication by Chalmers, "Caledonia", that the Douglasses sprang from Theobaldus, a Fleming, who obtained a grant of lands on the Douglas Water from the Abbot of Kelso. The lands granted to him between 1147 and 1160, though on the Douglas Water, were not a part of the ancient territory of Douglas. The most famous or notorious was the Old Douglas of Douglasdale, better known as the Black Douglas.

William Douglas, nicknamed 'Le Hardi', was one of the earliest supporters of William Wallace for which he was imprisoned by Edward 1 and his lands forfeited as a result. William's son, Sir James, recaptured the family seat and this led to an incident known as the "Douglas Larder".

Like his father before him, Sir James was an avid follower of the Scot's cause and he was a patriot of Robert the Bruce. During the Wars of Independence he was reckoned to be Bruce's most skilful commander. His most famous exploit was, following Bruce's death in 1329 Douglas took his heart to the Holy Land to fulfil Bruce's vow to make a pilgrimage there.

There are many tales of other members of the clan over the years. From there humble beginnings on the banks of the Douglas Water this illustrious Scottish family have spread themselves around the globe with a record of achievement which justifies the clan motto-Jamais Arriere (Never Behind).

Peter McLEISH



Deaths

JOE MARKEY
GEORGE MCGOWAN
ROBERT LOGAN
JOHN MOWAT
MARY MOWAT
MAISIE WILSON (BROWN)
ANNE ALLISON (MUIR)