



The
Jim Hamilton
Heritage Society
of COALBURN

AUTUMN
2012

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News in brief

Coalburn IOR Pipe Band

The 2012 season saw the two bands gain 20 First places, 2 Second places and 3 Third places as well as a British, European and two Cowal championships. The Grade 4b band gained 'Champion of Champions' at Cowal, for the first time in 28 years. The Grade 3a band successfully defended their Cowal championship for the first time in the band's 123-year history. A very successful year indeed!

Lesmahagow Christmas Fayre

Takes place this year on Friday evening, 7th December, and The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn have applied to have a promotional stand again this year in the Masonic Hall, Abbeygreen from 6.30pm until 8.30pm. **Coalburn Heritage calendars** 2013 will be on sale. Calendars are also available from Coalburn Post Office and at heritage meetings (see syllabus on back page). Price £5. All proceeds to The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn.

Deaths

John BRYCE

George DOWNIE

Jean WILSON (Russell)

Elizabeth RUSSELL (Campbell)

John HAMILTON

Margo BLACK (Taylor)

Martin REID

Office Bearers 2012/13

Chairman

Peter McLEISH
Tel. 01555 820287

Vice-Chairman

John ZAWADZKI

Secretary

Betty BELL
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Treasurer

Jean SAVAGE

Archivist / Newsletter

John ZAWADZKI

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

FRONT COVER

World War Two evacuee
David Gwynne.

Chairman's Report

This year was special as far as the Gala Day was concerned with it being the 75th anniversary of the first Gala Queen. The members of the committee worked hard to make it a day to remember for the many previous Queens who were present. It was a pity that the weather was so poor on the day. The villagers did the day proud with the best procession for some time and I am sure the judges had a difficult task in determining the winners of the various categories.

We have had many visitors from abroad over the years, this year we had a visitor from South Africa, I think that is a first. Further information can be found elsewhere concerning the individual.

A request was received from the Flower Show secretary regarding a display being put together and we did this and there was quite a bit of interest generated. This year the show was held in the upstairs hall in the Welfare, with all classes under one roof and the organisers appeared to be pleased with the outcome.

As in past years at this time we are in the throes of the calendar season and we have additional work as the Auchlochan Camera Club have asked us to do the printing for them. Of course we are also producing our own Coalburn calendar (still at £5).

Since he retired from the post of school janitor last month, Gilbert Dobbie has been a welcome addition to the Tuesday production line and I would like to record my thanks for his help.

Presentations are being made at Coalburn Darby and Joan Club, Lesmahagow Church Guild and Coalburn WRI within the next few weeks so this helps to publicise the Society.

Thanks again to all who assisted in any way at our annual display in the Leisure Centre in July.

Peter McLeish

1st October 2012

Photo Gallery



TINTO viewed from Auchlochan



TINTO viewed from
Waterside

JZ *snapshots*
MMXXII

South African visitor

As mentioned elsewhere, we had a visitor from South Africa in August, Mrs Jeanette Peddie who arrived, along with her step daughter-in-law, Mrs Margaret Peddie.

The latter lived in Windygates, Fife where both had come from to pay us a visit. The senior Mrs Peddie was seeking information about her father's family, the Cairney's and we were able to provide her with quite a lot of interesting details which she was not aware of. She was particularly delighted to get a copy of a photo of her grandmother, Matilda "Tilda" Cairney, whom she had never met.



*Pictured, left to right,
Margaret Peddie from Fife,
Coalburn's Geoff Brown and
Jeanette Peddie from South
Africa.*

*Article and photograph
by Peter McLEISH*

We were able to find a relative still in Coalburn, one of our members, Geoff Brown, whose mother was Grace Kearney (note the different manner of spelling the surname). However, according to an interview Jim Hamilton had with Eddie Cairney a number of years ago, the latter stated that the name had somehow been altered in his father's lifetime. Eddie had never been able to ascertain how, why and when this change had taken place and it would be of interest to find out if anyone can throw any light on the strange occurrence.

Jeanette was aware of her uncle Joe, who was a boxer of some note, a Scottish Flyweight Champion no less, who, by that time, was domiciled in Coatbridge, according to her information. She was extremely grateful for the help she received while in Coalburn. The photograph shows her with Margaret and Geoff taken in front of what used to be Bobby Simpson's house.

With regard to the boxing connection, the following information has been extracted from **Chronicle No 27** and refers to a report in the Hamilton Advertiser, date unknown:

Boxing Display.....

The newly-formed boxing club staged a number of four-round contests in the Victoria Hall. The hall was packed with boxing enthusiasts, old and new. The chairman was Mr. George Meikle and the referee, was Mr. T. Higgins of Hamilton. Mr Frank Hillan acted as time-keeper.

When the final round was over, the referee stated that he was much impressed with the keenness shown by all the boxers and felt there were good possibilities once the rough edges were worn off. Two local boys boxed two boys from Hamilton Club and acquitted themselves with distinction.

These two bouts were refereed by Mr. Robert Beattie (of the Mine Magazine), a relation of the famous Caslteary heavyweight. The various bouts and results were as follows:-

Jock Adam, Coalburn drew with T, Jeffery, Lesmahagow

Jim (Towser) Graham, Coalburn lost on points to W, Rowan, Lesmahagow.

Tom Cook, Coalburn won on points over T. Williamson, Lesmahagow.

Peter Cook, Coalburn beat J. Higgins, Hamilton in the first round.

Alex Strang, Coalburn beat R. Lindsay, Larkhall in the third round.

Jimmy Reid, Coalburn beat M. Kelly, Lesmahagow on points.

Joe Cairney, Coalburn beat Kid Lees, Hamilton.

A. Whyte, Coalburn – against J. Grierson, Lesmahagow. Whyte retired with injured thumb in the third round.

Dave Johnstone, Coalburn lost to M. Grierson, Lesmahagow in the first round.

Gilbert Dobbie, Coalburn beat D. Young, Lesmahagow in the third round.

An Evacuee's Story

Part Three

Aikmanhill Farm

Aikmanhill was a small farm, owned by the Smiths of Birkhill, bounded by the Black Burn on one side and Coalburn Moss on the other. From the burn the ground rose up steadily to the hill previously referred to, which presumably gave the farm its name, though to this day I don't know if it was natural or maybe an old bing. There was also a large field on the other side of the railway sidings, which I recollect as the cows day field and from which I well remember bringing them home in the afternoon.

The farm on the other side of the burn was called Mayfield. My recollection is that it was farmed by two old men called Willie Wilson and Willie Watson, but I can't vouch for that. The few other farms and farmers I remember include Sinclair of Crowhill (Crawhill), Davie Longmuir up towards Coalburn, Willie Leiper possibly at Midtoun. The cottage at the end of the farm road from Aikmanhill, Burnhead, was lived in during my time by John Graham, his wife and son, Meikle, of which more anon.

The steading hasn't changed a lot externally, although greatly altered inside. The house door was next to the byre and I note that there is still a door there (the front door into the porch was never used in my time). Straight ahead from the house door was the pantry and next door to that was the "milkhouse", where the milk was cooled and put into big churns. Through again from that was a room where butter was made and eggs were preserved in waterglass; it was always cool in there, even in summer.

Left from the door took you into the boiler-house and, to the right, along a short corridor, was the “kitchen”, where we ate and spent the daylight hours. It had deep set windows back and front (like most Scottish farmhouses of the period, it was only one room deep). On one side of the range where most meals were cooked, although if there were a lot of people to be fed, e.g. at haytime, there was an electric cooker in the pantry. The range had the date 1810 etched into the lintel.

The room was panelled in the usual way and had various pictures etc. on the walls, including one of “the first horse to wear metal shoes on the road”. The mantel had “wally dogs” at either end and a chiming clock in a wooden case. Against the back wall was a dresser and in the corner next to it there was a door which led up a steep narrow stair to two bedrooms, in one of which I usually slept. Through from the kitchen was the parlour, which among other things was carpeted; all the other ground-floor rooms had stone floors.

The parlour was where we spent our evenings playing endless games of whist and rummy and listening to the rats running about above the ceiling! This was also where the best things were kept, including a display cabinet with the best china. There was also a bed in there, where I sometimes slept too. By another quirk of memory I remember an ash-tray with a picture of a tramp being chased by a dog, with the inscription “Life is just one damn thing after another”! In later years we used to wish that we had been able to recover some of the things from the house, but it wasn’t to be.

The reason for the rats was that the parlour was in fact next to the barn, where, of course, all the grain, hen food and cattle cake etc. was stored. I was fascinated by all the different aromas in there; it was a good place to be when it was raining! Along from the barn was the stable and round the corner from that, i.e. at the end of the building, was the long byre, which was mainly used for calves and young stock. The other sizeable building was the wooden slatted hayshed opposite the stable.

David GWYNNE

Syllabus 2012/13

Admission is FREE

ALL WELCOME – BRING A FRIEND – Tea/Coffee at 8.45pm

Wednesday, 7.30pm start. Access from 7pm

Coalburn Bowling Club

17 OCTOBER RON BLAKEY. *Subject:* Old Books

7 NOVEMBER KEN SOWELLS. *Subject:* Clydesdale's Mills

21 NOVEMBER PAUL ARCHIBALD. *Subject:* Lanark Heritage topic

5 DECEMBER ELIZABETH IRVING. *Subject:* Researching Your Family History

14 DECEMBER ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER + JZ SLIDESHOWS

2013

9 JANUARY VINTAGE VIDEO NIGHT. *Subject:* Coalburn Past & Present

23 JANUARY BURNS SOCIAL NIGHT + JZ QUIZ & SLIDESHOWS

6 FEBRUARY JOHN YOUNG. *Subject:* Stonehouse Heritage topic

20 FEBRUARY BOB DALZIEL. *Subject:* Edinburgh Royal Mile

6 MARCH Speaker from DAVID LIVINGSTONE CENTRE.

Subject: David Livingstone on the Bi-Centenary of his death

20 MARCH ED ARCHER. *Subject:* Lanarkshire Heritage topic

3 APRIL GORDON HUNTER. *Subject:* Pathe News Reels

17 APRIL Annual General Meeting

Notice Board



WATERSIDE SCENE 2011

JZ snapshot

TICKETS & MENU for *Annual Christmas Dinner*
available from the Secretary, Mrs Betty Bell