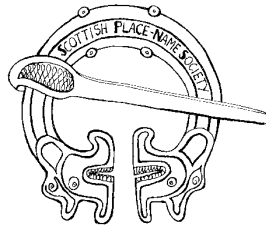


SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME NEWS

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The Newsletter of the
SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY
COMANN AINMEAN-AITE NA H-ALBA



Looking down the course of the Kethyn Burn, south over Easter Kinnear and the Motray Valley in North East Fife. (Photo by Simon Taylor) This is part of the delectable and productive landscape 'Between Motray and Tay', subject of an article on pages 4-6.

The postal address of the Scottish Place-Name Society is:

c/o Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies,
University of Edinburgh, 27 George Square,
Edinburgh EH8 9LD

Newsletter Editor: Bill Patterson (e-mail
w.and.s.patterson@tinyworld.co.uk)

Membership Details:

Annual membership £5, to be sent to Peter Drummond, Apt 8 Gartsherrie Academy, Academy Place, Coatbridge
<http://www.st-and.ac.uk/institutes/sassi/spns/index.html>

Subscriptions, £5 per annum, are now due for the financial year just starting. Those of you who paid in advance over 3 years will not have a reminder in their mailing, because your next payment is due in 2005 or 2006 depending on when you paid. (Of course, if you are feeling affluent and generous, you can always send a donation!) Members who are due should have received a yellow reminder slip with this newsletter, and cheques should be sent to the treasurer Peter Drummond at 8, Academy Place, Coatbridge ML5 3AX. Please consider paying 3 years at a time - this saves a lot of administrative work.

EDITORIAL

In this newsletter we record the deaths of two distinguished members, David Dorward and Roy Wentworth. Whilst nothing can make up for that loss to all of us but especially to their families, the opportunity is taken to review their very considerable achievements in place-name studies.

More happily this spring edition includes the usual summaries of talks at a very enjoyable and enlightening November conference, this time in Dundee, and a look ahead to forthcoming events.

BETWIXT ALMOND AND TAY

First steps in an exploration of the Perthshire place-names of West Stormont – summary of part of a talk at the Dundee conference of the SPNS, Nov. 2003.

For the past few hundred years Stormont has been thought of as only the area (actually East Stormont) to the north of the Tay around Caputh and Clunie, between Dunkeld and Blairgowrie. However, 16th and early 17th century

references are quite clear that the Stormont was then divided almost equally into East and West. It was decided to resurrect the name in the year 2000 when a local history society came into being covering almost exactly the lands south-west of the Tay described as “West Stormont” 400 years before.

This district extends for some 100 square miles immediately north of Perth (or in reality Inveralmond) as far as the southern slopes of Birnam Hill, near Dunkeld, and from Logiealmond in the west to Kinclaven in the east. The rivers Almond and Tay form the natural south, east and north-east boundaries of this area which is enclosed all along its north-west by the Grampian Mountains immediately north of the Highland Boundary Fault.

Starting out on an amateur’s toponymic exploration of the area I have first looked at some modern names. Later I will attempt to peel back, layer by layer, the various strata of place-names left by previous inhabitants.

For this first part useful guides have been: the 1st edition Ordnance Survey large-scale map surveyed in 1864; a detailed county map of Perthshire published in 1783 by local man James Stobie; and a clutch of military maps published immediately after the Jacobite rising, the best of which was Roy’s survey.

The century covered by all these maps is of particular interest for West Stormont as it saw a period when the establishment of planned villages was in vogue. A glance at the earlier maps makes it obvious there were no distinct villages within this area between Perth and Dunkeld. Today’s tiny hamlet of **Airntully** (*earann tulaich*, share of the hillock), now remote from the main roads, was then the largest community in the district with some 80 simple stone and turf dwellings scattered to either side of the old track to the Caputh boat.

All this started to change from 1752 when what was to become one of the busiest bleachworks in the whole country was established alongside the Tay at **Luncarty**. The planned village here never quite materialised as such and it awaited the establishment of the next textile village, **Stanley**, founded in 1785 by Richard Arkwright and local landowner the Duke of Atholl, before the new village concept took off.

The name of Stanley comes from the Earl of Derby's family, one of whom married into the Atholl Murrays in the late 17th century. The modest mansion (now in ruins) on the banks of the Tay was then renamed after the Stanley family almost 100 years before the building nearby of the massive cotton mill complex, now saved for the nation by Historic Scotland.

James Stobie, our local cartographer and estate factor for the Duke, drew plans for the mills and village; thus it was hardly surprising that he was called upon some three years later when adjacent landowner Thomas Graham (later the celebrated Lord Lynedoch of Peninsular War fame) wanted to plan the village of **Pitcairngreen** to provide housing for a new bleachworks built alongside the nearby River Almond.

In this instance the name simply picked up on the existing *pett carn* (portion at the cairn) which tells of the massive pre-historic mound of stones a short distance from the new community which was designed around an English-style village green. But next came the even more prosaically-named **Bankfoot**, founded about 1811 on flat ground below the high tower of **Auchtergaven** parish kirk (sadly, recently gutted by fire). Several attempts have been made since then to rename the village after the parish but so far to no avail.

Last of the planned villages in this area was **Harrietfield** which came into existence in 1822 when the then Drummond of Logie laird was renaming various properties in the locality after members of his family; thus we also have **Francesfield** and **Louisafield** farms nearby. When the estate was bought in the 1840s by the Scone Palace family, we see names introduced with the **Murray** prefix. The re-naming fashion had been picked up on by relatives of both these families thus **Mukkersy** (*swinelands*) just north of Stanley and Campsie Linn had earlier been euphemistically turned into **Taymount**. Farther north we later found one of the Airntully farms being called **Stewart Tower** and another **Drummondhall**.

Before we leave the 19th century business of re-naming properties it may be worth mentioning James Stobie's farm near Luncarty which quietly transformed from Marlhaugh – the hollow piece of ground where they excavated marl-filled ground to fertilise the fields – to become **Marlehall**, making it sound that bit more

important. There is a plethora of names just south of Luncarty commemorating the fabled battle here in the 10th century between the Scots and the Danes. Thus **Denmarkfield** and **Denmark Green** made their appearance alongside **Turn-again Hillock** and the farm of Hillside was renamed **Battleby** when the house there was greatly extended in the 1860s.

Leslie Fraser [Leslie hopes to continue his exploration of West Stormont names in a future Newsletter]

RIVER AND BURN NAMES OF THE OCHIL HILLS

Summary of a talk given at the Dundee Conference.

The purpose of this paper was two-fold; on the one hand, I intended to give a very brief survey of river and burn names in the Ochil Hills, and then to explore how data gathered about these names could be used in a statistical approach to solve some traditional problems in Onomastics. Due to technical problems on the day, some points were not as clearly made as I had hoped and more space will be given to them here.

The waters draining off the Ochil Hills on the western side feed the two major tributaries of the lower Forth, the **Allan** and the **Devon**. To the eastern side the Ochils feed the **Earn**, the **Eden** and to a lesser extent, Loch Leven. It is perhaps unsurprising that these rivers probably have the oldest names in this area. Nicolaisen (SPN:240-241) suggests that the Allan and the Earn are pre-Celtic, whilst the Eden (PNORB:380) and the Devon (NOMINA 25:139-145) almost certainly belong to the earliest stratum of Celtic nomenclature.

With the exception of the upper part of the Devon, and **Nethy Burn** (NO1917), there are possibly no rivers with Brythonic names which penetrate very far into the Ochils. Those that do so generally have names deriving from existing settlement names situated outside the Ochil Hills, such as **Dollar Burn** (NS9696), and are not to be regarded as Pictish names as such.

Gaelic was spoken in this area for perhaps only a few hundred years before being subsumed by Scots; the tentative dates of about 900 AD - 1400 AD seem reasonable for the period of Gaelic in the Ochils (OPHT:13). With this in mind it is surprising that so large a quantity of Gaelic names have survived, albeit in an anglicised form. These names tend to refer chiefly to agriculture in some way or another, generally in

respect of a nearby place name (**Glenach Burn** NN9102 1769 Glen Egh; Gaelic *Gleann Eich*, 'Horse Glen').

Lastly, there is a multitude of small burn names which are of Scots origin peppered throughout the Ochil Hills. Semantically these tend to follow the same pattern as the Gaelic names (**Millglen Burn**, NS9099 **Jamie's Grain Burn** NN9507). That the names are principally concerned with agriculture or at least utilitarian concerns concurs with the historical record (Pont's map shows only Falkirk and Stirling as towns in Stirlingshire).

In the next section I want to give two brief examples of how a statistical approach to gathering data about place names can yield patterns perhaps not easily otherwise discerned.

There are several river names within the Ochil Hills and Scotland in general which derive from a P-Celtic **kalet-*, 'hard' (Welsh *caled*). Within the Ochils both **Keltie Burn** (NO0714) and **Kelty Burn** (NO0014) flow from a height of around 2500 and 1500 ft respectively down to around sea level. Elsewhere in Scotland for instance, Keltney Burn (NN7749), with the same derivation fits this pattern. Since the real nuance of the root of this word, translated usually as 'hard', has never properly been established, perhaps the original condition for the coining of this term was made by lowland dwelling Brythonic speakers who named the rivers so because their sources derived from higher, less well known, 'hard' ground.

In respect of the Gaelic term *allt* 'burn, small watercourse', it has generally been presumed that this is simply a predecessor to Scots 'burn', but it seems that *allt* is only applied in areas of an elevated altitude. This distribution could be seen as a product of the names in the low lying areas having been Anglicised to 'burn' from an original Gaelic *allt*, but tangential evidence for it is found in the Ochils with the names **Danny Burn** (1654 'burne of Glenany', runs through **Glen Anny**, perhaps from Gaelic **Allt Anaich*) and **Old Wharry Burn** (1723 Burn of Aldwharie, perhaps also reflecting an original Gaelic *allt*). These two watercourses rise at an elevated altitude, but are set apart from the main area where *allt* is found, i.e. north of the Highland Line (also an area with mountainous terrain). This is consistent with the original meaning of *allt* in Irish, 'height' (compare Latin *altus*, 'tall'). The original definition

therefore could be watercourse situated in a rocky mountainous area.

Part of the aim of this study was to discover ways in which it was possible to build on some of the excellent work done in the past in the field of hydronymy and to go some way to creating a methodology to research commonly held notions about river names and settlement patterns.

Jacob King, University Of Edinburgh

PNORB = Rivet A.L.F. & Smith C. 1979 *The Place-Names Of Roman Britain*. London; SPN = Nicolaisen W.F.H. 2001 *Scottish Place-Names* Edinburgh; OPHT = Watson A. 1995 *The Ochils: Placenames, History, Tradition* Perth.

All old forms quoted come from OPHT here.

BETWEEN MOTRAY AND TAY

Summary of a talk given to the Dundee conference.

Explanation of symbols: # = obsolete place-name; * = hypothetical word or place-name

The Motray drains the north-east corner of Fife, flowing through some of the best arable land in the country into the Eden Estuary near Guardbridge at Innerbrig, where the 'harbour of Motray' was, the official port for the royal burgh of Cupar.

I am working on a multi-volume work on Fife place-names, and have had much help from a group of volunteers in gathering data. Concerning this north-east corner of Fife I would like to acknowledge a large debt to Mr Mike Henderson of Easter Kinnear, who has shared with me his in-depth knowledge of the area, and been a superb local guide. Mike and I collaborated on an article which appeared in 1998.¹

The area includes the parishes of Balmerino, Forgan, Ferry-Port-On-Craig and parts of Kilmarnock and Leuchars.² The article will focus on just a few names which illustrate both the range of languages which have contributed to the local place-nomenclature over the past 1500 years, as well as the range of types of place-name, especially those referring to topography, vegetation, agricultural activity, route-ways and the execution of justice, and those containing personal names including saints' names. And I end with a ferry-louper.

Languages: Pictish and Gaelic

While Pictish was the first language that we know for sure was spoken in this area, there are in fact few unequivocally Pictish names: one is the lost burn-name, as well as the lost-burn, on

¹ Taylor, S., and Henderson, J.M., 1998, 'The medieval marches of Wester Kinnear, Kilmarnock Parish, Fife', *Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal* 4, 232-47 (hereafter Taylor and Henderson 1998).

² For a map of medieval parishes, see back cover.

the lands of Kinnear, Kilmany, called the *Kethyn*,³ containing the Pictish **coet* ‘woodland’, so ‘burn flowing out of or through woodland’. It flowed into the Motray, and formed the old march between the lands of Easter and Wester Kinnear.⁴ See illustration on front cover.

Another place-name almost certainly Pictish is Dolls #, Balmerino (*Dolle* 1235 *Balm. Lib.* no. 56). This would appear to contain the Pictish reflex of the word which was borrowed into Scottish Gaelic as *dail* ‘water meadow, haughland’. The original vowel is still seen in the cognate Welsh *dól*. The haughland in question is along the north side of the Motray Water southwest of Ballindean. The *-s* ending, earlier *-is*, is a Scots plural from the later division into Nether # and Upper Doll #.

So the Pict-count would seem low. However, as with so many parts of eastern Scotland, the Pictish colouring or influence on the place-nomenclature is unmistakable e.g. the use of loan-words, such as *pett* ‘holding, farm’, later Pit-. There are at least three Pit-names in our area: Pitlethie and Pitlunie #, Leuchars, and Pitmossie #, Balmerino. Two are no longer on the modern map, reminding us how necessary it is to go back to early records when researching even such clearly identifiable elements as Pit-. To underline this point, in the nearby parish of St Andrews there are at least six Pit-names recorded in medieval documents, none of which has survived in any form into modern times. It is perhaps no wonder that Pitmossie has gone, since it would seem to contain the Gaelic *mosach* ‘dirty, scruffy’.

Over the years of working with place-names in Fife and others parts of eastern Scotland, I have become convinced that Pictish has influenced our inherited toponymy more than is usually recognised. I expand on this theme at a conference in Perth.⁵

For example Forgan (earlier *Forgrund*), the parish occupying a large part of the area between Motray and Tay, contains a Pictish word **grunn/d* or **gronn/d* ‘bog’, preceded by what is probably the Gaelic preposition *for* ‘above, on’, with the same combination of elements occurring in two

other parish-names in this part of Scotland (Longforgan by Dundee and Forgardenny in Strathearn). There are two ways of analysing this place-name: one is to see it as a name coined wholly by Gaelic-speakers using a Pictish loan-word; the other is to see it as a Gaelicisation of a Pictish place-name, which would have been something like **Uorgrunn*. Both must be seen as possible.

The medieval parish kirk of Forgan was indeed beside a bog, and it is the position of this kirk that gave rise to the parish-name. However, when the parish first enters the record around 1200 it is called Naughton, which was also the name of the secular unit on which the parish was based.⁶

Naughton itself has earlier forms such as *Adnectan* c. 1160, *Athenachten* c. 1205. It is Gaelic *àth Nechtain* ‘Nechtán’s ford’, probably where the old road from Leuchars to the ferry over the Tay at Woodhaven crosses the burn and low boggy ground between Swan Loch and the Motray; the ford which later became known as Sandford, and which itself became canonised as St Fort, Forgan.

The name is Gaelic, with Nechtán for Pictish Naiton, but it would seem to refer to the Pictish king Naiton son of Erp or Irb, reputed founder of the church of Abernethy c. 600 AD. I base this bold statement on the fact that Naughton appears in the longer St Andrews Foundation Legend as *Hyhatnachten Machehirb* (*àth Nechtain meic Irb*). So again the likelihood is that we are dealing with a conscious Gaelicisation of an originally Pictish name which could be as old as the 7th century.

Scots

The penetration of Scots north of the Forth from Lothian and northern England, and the subsequent ebbing of Gaelic, happened at different rates in the later 12th and 13th centuries, depending partly on distance from burghs, early bastions of Scots-speakers. I have examined this in some detail in a 1994 article, which also deals with this part of Fife.⁷ That Scots was being used

³ c. 1250 *Balmerino Liber.* no. 15.

⁴ For full details see Taylor and Henderson 1998.

⁵ ‘How Pictish are our place-names?’ in ‘Fifty Year’s on From Wainwright: are the Picts the Problem?’, Perth Museum & Art Gallery, Saturday 20 March 2004.

⁶ Naughton is now in Balmerino, but was in Forgan till 1650.

⁷ Taylor, Simon, 1994, ‘Babbet and Bridin Pudding or Polyglot Fife in the Middle Ages’, *Nomina* 17, 99-118. Some of the charter evidence in this article formed the basis for Taylor and Henderson 1998.

to coin settlement-names by about 1200 can be seen for example in The Gauldry ‘the row (of houses) leading to the gallows’, which appears as *Galuraw* in the first quarter of the 13th century. The name of the hill at the east end of the village is Gallowhill, and could be as old.

Vegetation

The parish of Leuchars⁸ covered the whole north-east corner of Fife, including what is now Ferry-Port-On-Craig. The name itself reminds us that the area was once dominated by marshes and shallow lochs. The name of one such, Rash Myre # ‘rush(y) myre’, refers to the same vegetation feature as the earlier name Leuchars.

Moving Saints, Moving Names

The early forms of Leuchars (*Lochres*, *Locres* etc.) and the early forms of Lathrisk (*Losresc* etc.) by Falkland, once the parish centre of Kettle, central Fife, have led to a saintly confusion that has still to be untangled. There is good early evidence that Lathrisk was dedicated to a little-known saint Atherniscus. At some point in the modern era an overeager historian mistook Lathrisk for Leuchars and moved the cult of Atherniscus across Fife. In fact Leuchars has its own little-known saint: St Bonoc. But Bonoc has not been entirely displaced, surviving in garbled form as St Bunyan in St Bunyan’s Place, Leuchars. As so often happens in Scotland, a place-name is the last refuge of a saint.

Ferry-Port-On-Craig is the name of the parish carved out of the north end of Leuchars in 1606. Its Scots appearance is deceptive, as it derives from Scots *ferry* with the addition of Portincraig, from Gaelic *port na creig(e)* or *port nan creag* ‘harbour of the rock(s)’. It has therefore undergone a drastic reanalysis. It has also undergone a drastic relocation. The original Portincraig was on the north shore of the Tay: in about 1190 Arbroath Abbey had a hospice at *Portincrag* in Angus, no doubt for pilgrims and other travellers wanting to cross the Tay to and from St Andrews (RRS ii no. 456). The eponymous rock was probably where Broughty Castle now stands, and it was as the name of the early ferry-crossing that it moved across the

⁸ ‘Place of rushes’. G *luachair*. *Lochres* is a typical late 12th century form. It derives from the word that in modern Gaelic has become *luachair* ‘rush(es)’ with the suffix *-es*, meaning ‘place of rushes’.

water to disappear from Angus and become an important part of Fife place-nomenclature.

PLACE-NAMES AND THE ABBEY OF COUPAR ANGUS

Summary of a talk given to the Dundee conference.

The rich farmland of Strathmore was the impetus for this piece of research about the place-names in the vicinity of Coupar Angus linked directly to the abbey. Little remains of the abbey today but it was a wealthy Cistercian house where the farming was usually based upon large scale sheep farming. The land was farmed by the monks themselves or by lay brothers who managed the outlying Granges. The Abbey itself was a daughter House of the Cistercian house in Melrose and founded by Malcolm IV from Melrose 1166 x1171.

The charters of the Abbey record many place-names which are still extant as farms today. The foundation charter has 3 names which demonstrate the many strata of place-name developments in the area. **Aberbothrie** (P *aber* + existing name *Bothrie) possibly the mouth of the *noiseless* burn. This farm is situated on the peninsula of land between the rivers Ericht and Isla. Two Scots names appear beside it; **Boglea** and **Haugh** and it seems likely that these farms with Scots names are later and that this whole area was once the land of Aberbothrie, becoming the **Grange of Aberbothrie** when the land was owned by the Abbey. Couper Grange (**comber*) is a water name meaning a river / burn confluence, in this case of the Ericht and the Isla. This name is similar to that of Coupar, Fife; Coupar Angus itself and Cupar-Macnulty, now Couttie near Coupar Angus, all lie at the confluence of rivers or burns. Other place-names surviving as grange names are **Balbrogie** (G *baile* (town/ village) + ? *bròg* ‘shoe’), the town or village of the shoes. This name may indicate a community dedicated to providing footwear for the abbey, there is a parallel in Fife, Pittenbrog ‘holding of the shoes’ in Abernethy. **Drimmie** (G *druim* (ridge) + *ie* ‘place of’) and **Tullyfergus** (G *tulach* (hillock / knoll) + Fergus, Gaelic personal name, local saint connected with the Columban Church, or Pictish U(u)rgust. **Keithick**, which may be from early Celtic **caito*, wood, the **Grange of Airlie** and an unidentified **Kinreich** (G *ceann* (head) + ? *creach*, *creich* (plunder ‘stripped bare’). **Carse Grange** (Scots *cars* / *kers(e)*) – low lying land

along a river) was the heart of the lands the abbey held in the Carse of Gowrie.

The abbey held lands across a wide area, but most of the Grange lands were found within a day's walk of the abbey. They represent a mixture of Gaelic and Scots names with hints of earlier religious links, through Fergus in Tullyfergus and first references to the Grange of Airlie as an *apdaine*, the abbot's lands within the earlier Celtic church.

This initial look at the place-names recorded in the Cartulary of Coupar Angus confirms the strength of influence of the abbey on the farm names in the immediate vicinity, many of which are still in use today. It also shows, through the language of the names, that the abbey was one link in the history of farming in this area.

Morag Redford

FARM FIELD NAMES AROUND KIRRIEMUIR

Summary of a talk at the Dundee conference.

Names of fields can cheer up any journey by describing the landscape and recording the history of the area as you travel along. So I shall take you on a couple of short journeys on roads north and south from Kirriemuir, locally known to all in its shortened version as 'Kirrie' but made more famous by author Sir JM Barrie as "Thrums". How many other towns have a pseudonym?

Following the A926 road to Forfar we pass the "*Signalfield*" which shows its heritage as it recalls the location of the railway signal at the top of the railway embankment, which formed part of the Forfar to Kirrie railway line laid in 1854. The signal was removed in 1963 when the line was lifted but the name lives on.

The next name is "*Checkiefield*" which you may assume is descriptive of the landscape but stems from the site of the old 'check toll' on the junction off the main road between the Logie Toll at Kirriemuir and the Campbellton Toll at Forfar, to prevent the avoidance of toll payments on the road. We then pass "*Jenny Millar field*", which commemorates the name of the woman who was thought to be "a bit saft in the head" and who ultimately drowned herself in the adjacent quarry. This quarry is now in-filled and returned to agriculture but the name lives on in the "*Quarry Field*"

We then come to the "Cow Park" in front of the big house for Ballinshoe as it is on the maps, but known to all as 'Benshie' We then pass the "*West Field*" which is the west-most field of the Benshie estate and on to the "*Smithy Park*" which takes its name from the former Benshie Smiddy. And on to the "Redford field" which takes its name from the adjacent farm of that name. Opposite Redford is the "*Fletcherfield*" which is clearly seen by the walled burial ground of the Fletchers. And on we go down the hill past the old school at Padanaram - this village was formerly known as Ellenorton before it changed its name to the biblical 'Padanaram'. We then pass "*Dragonhall*" which was the name of a former Dragonhall farm whose fields are now incorporated into one large field. The next field we come to is "*McComies Field*" and this is one of the more interesting names I have come across. This is the only field, locally, which has a stone pillar and plaque displaying a cast iron sign plate naming the field. This plaque commemorates the deaths of the sons of John McIntosh better known as "*McCombie Mor*" on 28th January 1673, on the Muir of Forfar, whose family home was at Crandart in Glenisla. The full story is recorded in detail in David Grewar's book "The Story of Glenisla" written in 1926.

Now the story of Glenisla leads us to our second journey from Kirrie today, this time northward on the B951 road to the Glenisla home of McCombie Mor at the head of Glen Isla. This takes us on down the Bellaty brae to the field known as "*Barn Yard of Newton*" at East Mill and then we pass the old shooting lodge of Knockshannoch, which is notable as the main house and all the cottages are built circular in plan to prevent the devil hiding in a corner.

We then pass the "*Kiln Field*" where the large limekiln is still evident on the far bank; the "*Postage Stamp*" which is a bit of irony as the field is less than an acre, small even for the glen farms; the "*Black Newton*" - in front of the site of the former castle, hence *new town*; "*Dam Park*" which recognises the Mill Dam for the Mill at East Mill; and the "*Post Office*", named after the Woodend village Post Office building that fronts it. Similarly the "*Hotel Fields*" are named after the village Hotel at the Kirkton of Glenisla.

"*Holmiry Haugh*" is named after the 50-acre farm of Holmiry which also lives on as the name of the House, and continuing northward we pass

the fields of the farm Doldy. This name replicates the name found at the top of the neighbouring glen, Glen Clova: 'Doll' meaning meadow.

"*Brewlands Haugh*" recalls the old Brewery that stood in the area. Then on to "*Dalnakebbock*" (house of the cheese) and to "*Airlie's Acre*". This commemorates the feuds which existed between the houses of Argyll and Airlie and seems to stem from the events following the death of Lord Ogilvy at the Battle of Pinkie in 1547. We continue on our journey alongside the following fields: "*Braes*" – self-explanatory; "*Gamie's*" – next to the Gamekeeper's house; "*Folda*" – next to the village of the same name; "*Clach*" – on the stony banks of the river; and finally "*Dalronnach*" – said to be the original site of the Glenisla Games, a small haugh alongside the river.

David G. Orr

OBITUARIES

Roy Wentworth 1946-2003

Nevis Hulme writes:

It was with immense sadness that I heard of Roy's death on 19 October. Roy seemed to have fully recovered from his second heart-attack before the summer and he had returned to work both at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and on his own projects. He died while out on the hill, walking with his son, not far from his home in Èarradal a Deas (South Erradale).

Roy will have been known to many members for the talk that he gave at the AGM in 1997 and the two volumes that he produced entitled 'Gaelic Place-names of Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve' and 'Place-names of Loch Maree Islands National Nature Reserve'. He was a recognised authority on Gaelic and had, over the forty years since he came to the area, compiled a dictionary of the Gairloch dialect in excess of 1000 pages as well as contributing to many other works.

I had known Roy since I came to Gairloch in 1980 at which time he was the archivist in the local heritage museum. He was always helpful and supportive of my enquiries and encouraging of my interest in place-names. More recently, in addition to helping to improve my Gaelic greatly, and my knowledge of the local Gaelic dialect in particular, he guided me in my early attempts to collect and interpret place-names in a part of the

parish where he had not had time to devote much time. He taught me the rudiments of phonetics that have enabled me to access his dictionary more fully and to record more reliably the place-names encountered. In April of last year, I had sent to Roy a provisional edition of a booklet that I had compiled of place-names. This came back peppered with points of clarification, phonetic variations and additional queries, all in Gaelic of course, drawn from his vast knowledge and without which my efforts would have been woefully deficient. Since his death, I have been at a loss as to whom I can turn to for help with the many questions I still have about place-names, the local Gaelic dialect and the history and archaeology of the area.

Ross and Cromarty has been very fortunate in having had two great scholars who have furthered the study of place-names. The works of one, Professor W. J. Watson, are widely known. Roy's works are largely unpublished but amount to a vast resource centred around Gairloch parish.

The loss has been great to many in the world of Gaelic who appreciate the value of the work that Roy, always in the most charming and gentlemanly manner, directed to the cause of recording the words, the place-names, the poetry and the songs of Gairloch. The greatest loss of all is to his wife, Magaidh, son, Iain, and daughter, Diorbhail, to whom sincerest condolences are extended. As Sabhal Mòr Ostaig posted on its website "Roy Wentworth 1946-2003 Chaill sinne 's Geàrrloch sàr Ghaidheal."

Roy's dictionaries, along with other work, can be downloaded at www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaidhlig/wentworth

Simon Taylor writes:

Roy Wentworth died suddenly aged 57. Over many years Roy had worked tirelessly on the place-names and language of Wester Ross, and he was one of the speakers at the Society's first AGM Conference in May 1997 in St Andrews. He was about to submit a PhD in Gaelic on the phonology of the Gaelic Dialect of Gairloch, Ross-shire, entitled 'Fòn-eòlas Dualchainnt Ghàidhlig Gheàrrloch, Siorrachd Rois', and it is hoped that this degree will be awarded posthumously.

He also worked on the team which produced the 2001 *Faclair na Pàrlamaid, the Dictionary of Terms for the Scottish Parliament*. His death was marked in

the Parliament on 31 October by John Farquhar Munro MSP as follows:

“That the Parliament notes with regret the sad death of Roy Wentworth, Gaelic scholar, teacher and language activist; expresses condolences to his family and recognises his extensive contribution to the recording of Gaelic place names and vocabulary and the development of the Gaelic Parliamentary Dictionary and his unflagging use of Gaelic as an integral part of his daily life, work and culture, to ensure that both the language and culture of the Gael survives and develops.”⁹

His use of Gaelic as an integral part of his life and work sometimes caused him much difficulty. For example he had done the bulk of his PhD at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, part of the University of the Highlands Project, and where he was working as a Gaelic-medium lecturer at the time of his death. He was nearly ready to submit the thesis when he was told it could not be accepted because it was not in English. This was a rule imposed on the UHI by the Open University, which UHI have to use to validate its degrees, since UHI is not yet a fully fledged University. Rather than compromise his principles and at the same time collude in this absurd situation, he applied to the University of Aberdeen, who accepted him on the basis that he register as a student for a year before submitting. This he did in December 2002: his thesis was submitted to Aberdeen in December 2003 to undergo the examination process.

Roy was a meticulous and careful scholar, as well as a conscientious one, with not only a deep knowledge of his subject, but also a deep love of and commitment to it. These qualities combine to make all the work he did of truly great and lasting value.

⁹ John Farquhar Munro provided the following Gaelic translation: ‘Gu bheil a’ Phàrlamaid a’ toirt fainear le mulad bàs brònach Roy Wentworth, sgoilear, neach-teagaisg is neach-stri cànan; gu bheil i a’ cur an cèill co-fhaireachdainn leis an teaghlach aige agus gu bheil i ag aithneachadh na h-obrach farsaing a rinn e air clàradh ainmean-àite, air briathrachas Gàidhlig agus air Faclair na Pàrlamaid agus mar a chleachd e Gàidhlig gun tàmh mar phàirt bhunaiteach de a bheatha, a obair is a chultar làitheil gus dèanamh cinnteach gum maireadh is gum fàsadh an dà chuid cànan agus cultar nan Gaidheal.’

The following list contains only Roy Wentworth’s place-name-related works:

1984 ‘Ainmean-àite air àrainn mapa 1:10,000 an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais NG77SW: Eàrradal a Deas’. Tuairisgeul a rinneadh don t-Suirbhidh air Ainmean-Àite ann an Sgoil Eòlais na h-Alba.

Place-Names on OS 1:10,000 map NG77SW. Unpublished report for the Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

1985 ‘Ainmean-àite air àrainn mapa 1:10,000 an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais NG76NW: An Rubha Dearg’.

Place-Names on OS 1:10,000 map NG76NW. Unpublished report, for the Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

1986 ‘Ainmean-àite air àrainn mapa 1:10,000 an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais NG77SE: Portaigil agus Bad a’ Chrò’.

Place-Names on OS 1:10,000 map NG77SE. Unpublished report, for the Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

1987 ‘Ainmean-àite air àrainn mapa 1:10,000 an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais NG76NE: A’ Chreag chun an Rubha Dheirg’.

Place-Names on OS 1:10,000 map NG76NE. Unpublished report, for the Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

1988 ‘Ainmean-àite air àrainn mapa 1:10,000 an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais NG87SW: Sildeag chun a’ Bhaile Mhòir’.

Place-Names on OS 1:10,000 map NG87SW. Unpublished report, for the Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

1989 ‘Ainmean-àite air àrainn mapa 1:10,000 an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais NG87NW: Am Baile Mòr gu Achd a’ Chàirn’.

Place-Names on OS 1:10,000 map NG87NW. Unpublished report, for the Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

1992 ‘Ainmean-àite air àrainn mapa 1:10,000 an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais NG76SE: Diabaig chun na Creige’.

Place-Names on OS 1:10,000 map NG76SE. Unpublished report, for the Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

1996, *Gaelic Words and Phrases from Wester Ross/Faclan is Abairtean à Ros an Iar* (Gairloch; several up-dated versions; Microsoft Word document April 2000).

1997, ‘Mar Shneachd Ùr ri Aiteamh Trom/Like Snow Off a Dyke’, *Cotbrom* 13, 16-20 [text of a paper given at the first AGM Conference of the Scottish

Place-Name Society, May 1997; summarised in *Scottish Place-Name News* 3 (1997), 5.]

1999, *Ainmean-àite Gàidhlig air Tèarmann Nàdair Nàiseanta Eileanan Loch Ma-Ruibhe/Place-Names of Loch Maree Islands National Nature Reserve* (Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby).

1999, *Ainmean-àite Gàidhlig air Tèarmann Nàdair Nàiseanta Beinn Eighe/Gaelic Place-Names of Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve* (Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby).

2001, (with Simon Taylor) 'Pont and Place-Names', in *The Nation Survey'd*, ed. I. Cunningham (East Linton, 2001), 55-76.

Drawing on his extensive place-name reports done on a voluntary basis for the Scottish Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, Roy produced two very detailed maps of the Gairloch area with place-names in Gaelic, and English translations. *Geàrrloch (1)* covers National Grid squares NG7977, 8077 and 8076 (Gairloch village); while *Geàrrloch (2)* covers the squares immediately to the south, NG8075, 8175, 8174 and 8074.

David Dorward

David Dorward died unexpectedly on Christmas Eve 2003. David was well known to society members for his work on place-names in Dundee and those of the Angus Glens. Shortly before his death he had finished work on the place-names of the Sidlaw Hills, which will be published shortly by the Pinkfoot Press.

David was born and brought up in Dundee, and educated at Dundee High School. He graduated MA(Hons) LLB from St. Andrews and went on to spend his National Service at Nato headquarters in Fountainbleau, where he served with the Allied Land Forces Central Europe. On his return from National Service he spent a short time as a solicitor in Perth before joining the administrative staff of the University of St. Andrews in 1959. He retired as Secretary of the University in 1991. He was appointed an honorary sheriff at Cupar Sheriff Court in 1994.

A memorial service was held for David on 31 December at Hope Park Church in St. Andrews. There was a full attendance of family, friends, university colleagues and golfing companions. The service was conducted by the Revd. Strickland of Strathkinness and Dairsie, with contributions from his family. The readings and music reflected David's interests and the strength of his family. There were references during the service to his researches since retiring which had

resulted in his popular books on Angus and Dundee. He also wrote books on Scottish Surnames and Scotland's Place-Names as part of a series on Scotland.

David was a regular attendee of all SPNS conferences with many searching questions for speakers. His keen interest in the wider development of place-names studies will be sorely missed.

Morag Redford

David Dorward's books specifically on place-names: *Dundee: Names, People and Places* (Edinburgh, 1998); *The Glens of Angus: Names, Places, People* (with illustrations by Colin Gibson) (Balgavies, 2001)

PLACE-NAMES OF JURA: A NEW SOURCE

Simon Taylor writes:

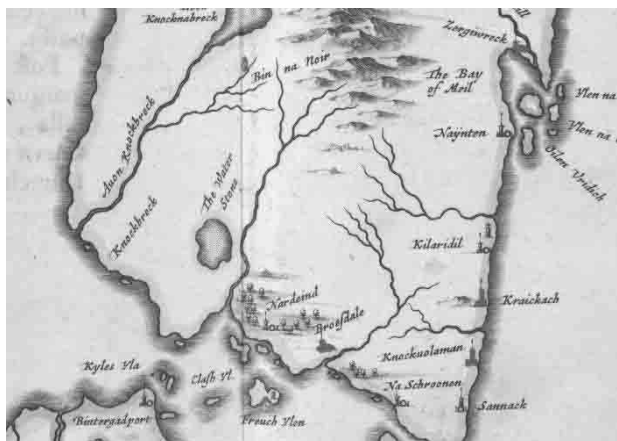
A new publication entitled *People of the Parish of Jura, Scotland 1506-1811*, by Scott Buie (privately published, Bursleson, Texas USA, 2003) makes available a hitherto difficult to access source of early forms of place-names of the island. It contains a comprehensive list of people who have lived on Jura within the stated dates, taken from a variety of records including the Old Parish Register (from 1704), Civil Registrations, and lists of emigrants. There are place-names in almost every entry. The book also contains a map of Jura with place-names mentioned in the records, both extant and no longer in use.

Although it is not entirely clear from the Introduction how early forms of place-names have been handled, the author informs me that the place-names appearing in italics are in the form in which they appear in the record. There is then a cross reference in the appendix from the record name to a standardised name as it appears on the map.

Details of cost, and how to obtain a copy, can be got by e-mailing the author on JSBuie@aol.com.

At the top of the next page is the southern part of Jura from Blaeu's Atlas published 1654, based on a late 16th-century survey by Timothy Pont. The names are not always easy to identify, either because of transcription errors made in Amsterdam of unfamiliar material, or because the names themselves have disappeared. For example *Nardeind* is Ardfin; *Knockuolaman* is *Knoknafelaman* (from a charter of 1558); while the very Dutch-looking *Na Schroonen* must represent

the place which appears in several 16th- and 17th-century charters as *Stronowne*, *Stronnane*. *Naynten* may be so garbled as to be no longer identifiable.



(With thanks to the NLS for providing this and many other historic maps on its website.)

Some translation from Gaelic into Scots or Scottish Standard English has taken place: *The Bay of Meil* is the coastal Loch na Mile (but the English-named Corran River which flows into Loch na Mile is called on the Blaeu map *Auon Meill*); and *Traill Point* is modern Rubha na Tràille.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SPNS May Conference and AGM. Saturday May 8th, Kilmarnock. Flyers for this conference should be enclosed with this newsletter mailing, and bookings with £15 fee should be sent to Ian Fraser at the School of Scottish Studies, 27 George Square, Edinburgh, as soon as possible. There will be four speakers: Ian Fraser himself on place-names of the Gare Loch (illustrated with aerial photos); Stella Pratt on Anglo-Saxon place-names; Bob Guthrie on place-names in the land of Burns; and Maggie Scott on Scots place-names in southern Scotland. We hope to see many of you there!

The **Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland (SNSBI)** holds its conference this year in Cambridge, from 26-29 March. Despite the southern location, the topics include several items of specifically Scottish interest.

More dates for your diary – especially for those fascinated by the Scandinavian contribution to Scottish place-names and for those involved in any way in the Scottish Place-Names Database project.

Dr Peder Gammeltoft, Onomastics Section, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, will visit

the University of Edinburgh under the auspices of the Northern Scholars Scheme. He will lecture on the topic “Norse-Gaelic Contacts: What Can Place-Names and Place-Name Elements Tell Us?” at 5:15 pm, Thursday 29 April, 2004 in the Conference Room, 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD. All are welcome to the lecture and the reception which will follow.

Dr Berit Sandnes, Onomastics Section, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, will give a seminar on the topic “What is Norse and What is Scots in Orkney Place-Names?” at 1 pm, Friday 30 April, 2004 in the Conference Room, 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD.

On Saturday, 1st May, an event for all with an interest in place-names databases large or small will take place at Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh. Speakers will include Dr Peder Gammeltoft, who will lecture on the topic “How to get place-name databases up and running: ways, means and pitfalls” and Professor W.F.H. Nicolaisen, University of Aberdeen, who will speak on the preparation of his *Dictionary of Scottish Place Names*. For details please contact:

Dr Margaret A Mackay
Director School of Scottish Studies Archives
Celtic and Scottish Studies
University of Edinburgh
27 George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9LD

0131 650 4166/ Margaret.A.Mackay@ed.ac.uk

SPNS Autumn Conference: 27 November, at Inverness – details later, but topics can be expected not to neglect the northern location.

... TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST?

There has been much recent publicity for the problems of a tiny hamlet in Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, at map reference NJ349133. Rejoicing in the name Lost, it has long been signposted from the main A97 road only a few hundred metres away – except that all too often it has not been signposted at all, because some folk’s interest in place-names is so intense that they cannot resist stealing the sign. (Obviously their obsession is not yet sublimated into more benign activities such as attending SPNS conferences.) Having become fed up with the repeated expense of reinstating the sign, Aberdeenshire Council decided to try replacing both the sign and the name (possibly with ‘Lost Farm’). Latest reports are that the name may be kept after all, but with 21st century high-tech security measures such as placing the next sign on a longer pole.

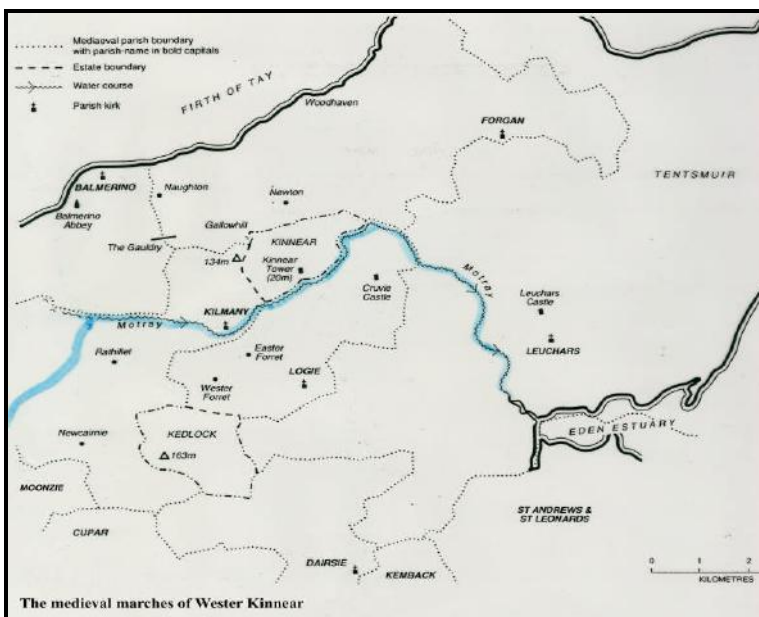


The late Roy Wentworth (photo by permission of Magaidh Wentworth).

Appreciations and a bibliography of Roy's work are found within this Newsletter, on pages 8-10.



The Cistercian Abbey of Coupar Angus owned large and productive estates in Strathmore; not only do these lie behind some place-names formed then but its records preserve valuable forms of older names still in use. Paradoxically these fragile records have survived the centuries better than the stone and mortar of the monastic buildings. See article on pages 6-7. (Photos Morag Redford)



Map of north-east Fife showing the Motray and medieval parishes (from Taylor and Henderson 1998, 234). See article on pages 4-6.

