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SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY
COMANN AINMEAN-ÀITE NA H-ALBA

Glen Girnaig in Atholl, more of a strath than a typical glen, is almost totally depopulated, but as is plain on the ground or from satellite imagery once supported a substantial population. 18th century estate records show that this was still the case in that period, when numerous place-names were recorded in forms far from Gaelic orthography. Veins of limestone contribute to the relative fertility of some patches for such high ground, and some grain was grown. But by the time of the first '6 inch' OS map (surveyed 1862) many structures whose traces are clear in the satellite imagery were unrecorded, others were marked as roofless outlines, and others were named and shown as roofed but are now empty or in ruins. These 'rickles o' stanes' belong to 'Little Shinagag (in ruins)'. The adjacent burn 'Allt an t-Sithein' unmasks the first part of Shinagag as sìthean, *'knoll or fairy hill'. W J Watson, in 'Celtic Place-Names of Scotland', attributed the river name Girnaig (Goirneag) to the root* goir, *earlier* gair, *'cry, shout', together with Glen Girnock in Aberdeenshire, while Garnock (Ayrshire) and Dalgarnock (Dumfriesshire) had the earlier form of the root.*

A WORD FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Society's website is a gateway to masses of useful and interesting information, but its format has not changed for some years. A 'refresh' is being prepared; this should make it easier to navigate and to use, not least for mobile devices with small-format screens.

One of the prime resources on the website is Dr Alan James's work on Brittonic elements and place-names, 'British Language In The Old North, or BLITON. Alan has updated BLITON with additions to the bibliography, some modifications to discussions of names and elements, and a new list of colour terms. The layout has been made more compact and some minor errors such as typos and wrong page numbers corrected.

In the last few months we have lost two of the most distinguished place-names scholars to have worked at universities in Scotland. A special conference, to be held jointly with the Scottish Society for Northern Studies in Edinburgh on 1st October, had already been arranged to commemorate Doreen Waugh when we learned of the death of Professor Bill Nicolaisen. In his broad interests outwith place-names folklore and traditions had a special place. The committee therefore considers that an appropriate tribute would be to use the second of this year's scheduled conferences to explore the theme of links between place-names and local traditions.

FROM THE CRUACH TO THE CALEDONII: THE PLACE-NAMES OF RANNOCH

The aim of this project was to trace the history of Rannoch place-names, using Gaelic as well as anglicised sources and analysing the names in terms of topography, flora and fauna.

Rannoch has never been defined as a parish or a single estate. Being of Highland character but within Perthshire, it was excluded from the late 19th century crofting legislation and thus had no protection from depopulating landlords. Geographically Rannoch is bounded by Glen Coe to the west, Laggan and Badenoch to the north, Atholl to the east and Strathtay, Breadalbane and Glen Lyon to the south.

Loch Raineach is the centrepiece of the area, and all reference is in relation to it. People talk of going up or down the loch, rather than the glen. This is a translation of the Gaelic, *suas agus sìos*, which in Perthshire invariably meant westwards or eastwards respectively, as the watershed is effectively the boundary with Argyll, with all the Perthshire rivers flowing eastwards. Houses tended to be built facing south, which meant the kitchen end was in the east to catch the morning sun and the sitting room in the west and older people will still talk of the west room, a translation of *an seòmar shuas*.

The Cruach *on the Moor of Rannoch*

Raineach is Gaelic for bracken or fern. Professor Watson mentions that *Stagnum Crog reth* is one of five lochs mentioned by Adomnan in his Life of St. Columba. However, he states "Thus '*Stagnum Crog reth*' would mean 'the loch of bracken hill,' and the absence of declension indicates that the term is not Gaelic. The hill in question can

only be *Cruach Raithneach*[1], the range of hills marked on the maps as *a' Chruach*, some distance to the west of Loch Rannoch and forming part of the boundary of the district of Rannoch." His inference therefore is that it is Brittonic rather than Goidelic in origin.

A historic dialect line running north-south through the Highlands, including Perthshire, can most readily be attributed at least in part to Pictish influence in the east. There is little evidence of Pictish place-names in west Perthshire, though this may not have been true in earlier times.

The only transport links through Rannoch are over the barren Rannoch Moor, at the area's western extremity. The Rev John Sinclair, early 20th century parish minister, recorded its Gaelic name as *Madagan na Mòine*: thus 'plateau/ ridge/ top of the peat moor'.

The most prominent feature of Rannoch is the well-known mountain Schiehallion, which marks the south-east limit. *Sìdh Chailleann* is the mountain of the Caledonians (*Caledones* or *Caledonii* to the Romans), who are also remembered in two other place-names, *Dùn Chailleann*, Dunkeld, the 'hillfort of the Caledonians' and *Ràth Chailleann*, Rohallion, the 'earthwork fort of the Caledonians', close to Dunkeld.

The hill road passing to the north of Schiehallion runs through *Srath Fionan*, as marked on maps, but not often heard in speech. At its east end, at Braes of Foss, *Bràigh Fasaidh*, the 'high ground of the cattle stance', it enters Strath Tummel. Shortly after that is reached *Tom a' Phubaill*, the 'hillock of the hunting or herding hut', site of the skirmish between the *Earraghaidhealaich* and the *Athallaich*, the Argyll and the Atholl men, and the subject of Iain Lom's poem, *Blàr Tom a' Phubaill*. There is an old belief in Scotland and Ireland that mountains are inhabited by a *cailleach* or hag, which is reckoned to be the freezing spirit of winter and infertility. *Sìdh Chailleann* had its own *cailleach* and she left a *sgrìob* or furrow in the mountain.

[1] *Using an older spelling: cf. Welsh rhedyn 'fern, bracken'; rhedynog 'ferny'.*

Sìdh Chailleann with the sgrìob *visible in snow*

The river which flows from Loch Rannoch is erroneously called the Tummel, which in itself should be a clue as rivers are always named after the loch they exit not the one they enter. Its proper Gaelic name is *an Dubhag*, the little black one, and it is bridged at *Ceann Loch*, Kinloch Rannoch, and again at *Drochaid Chaoineachain*, Tummel Bridge.

The final border to the north-east is by Trinafour, *Trian a' Phùir*, the 'Pasture Third', and Glen Errochty, *Gleann Eireachdaidh*, 'Glen of the Assembly/ Council/ Court'. The north-east route is overlooked by *Beinn a' Chuallaich*, the Herding Mountain.

North and south of Loch Rannoch are ranges of hills although with various passes through them, but clear enough to form the rest of the boundary. The two sides of the loch are known as *an Slios Mìn* and *an Slios Garbh*, the smooth side and the rough side, north and south respectively. These descriptions are quite apt as the north, i.e. south facing, side is the more fertile. The west end of *an Slios Garbh* is known as *Bràigh Raineach*, the Braes of Rannoch or upper part of Rannoch. This is a well-known *faux ami*, where *bràigh* means not a brae but the upper part of a district, such as *Bràigh Loch Abair*, the upper part of Lochaber, or *Bràigh Mhàrr*, Braemar, the upper part of Mar. Further illustrating the *'shuas is shìos'* or 'up and down' aspect of the country is the name *Bun Raineach*, Bunrannoch, bottom or lower part of Rannoch, which refers to the east end of the loch on the *Slios Garbh*. Much of the *Slios Garbh* is made up of the *Coille Dhubh* or Black Wood, one of the still extant remains of the Caledonian forest, once famous for its supply of timber, ferried down the river *Dubhag* and eventually into the Tay.

The conference talk continued with an account of the settlement history of Rannoch and analyses of the terms used to name topographical features, water features, and flora and fauna. A

more complete version of the talk with further illustrations will be available on the SPNS website. A fuller article can be found in the latest volume of The Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, Vol. LXVI, pages 47 – 103, including detailed appendices of every name to be found in Rannoch.

(Summarising **Iain MacIlleChiar**'s talk at the Inverness conference, May 2015)

Lesmahagow Place Names Database - http://maps.nls.uk/projects/lesmahagow/

This new web application provides an interactive map-based interface to a detailed gazetteer of some 4,000 records which relate to over 600 place names in the old parish of Lesmagahow. The names have been gathered from a wide range of sources by Dennis White, with technical assistance from Michael Gaffney, and integrated into the NLS website by Chris Fleet, Map Curator. The resulting resource will be useful for family history researchers, local historians, linguistic place name researchers and anyone with an interest in the area.

The gazetteer is presented in two main orders, with a text search facility too for filtering the names, and with details of variant names and the sources - both textual and cartographic - that the names have been taken from. Clicking on the name positions the map at that location, and users can select a set of 9 georeferenced maps, from the 12th to the 21st century (plus a satellite view), for viewing the name geographically.

The application also includes a list of unconfirmed locations, examples of Gaelic place names, and a poem about the people and place names of Lesmahagow parish, published in 1914 but describing the scene in the 1860s. There is also a link to an academic paper from the 'Journal of Scottish Name Studies', written by Dr Simon Taylor of Glasgow University, that shows the meanings and origins of Lesmahagow Place Names.

The authors of the database welcome comments and corrections, and it is hoped to incorporate these and other updates in the future.

LINLITHGOW AND THE BLACK BITCH

Linlithgow, pronounced /lɪnˈlɪθgo/, locally /ˈlɪθkɪ/ or variations thereof, is first mentioned in charters of 1140, whereby King David I (1124-1153) grants the church of **Linlidcu** to St Andrews Priory, with lands both within and outwith the burgh. Other early forms of the name are (the mother church of) **Linlidchu** c.1170; in castro de **Lithcu** 1299; chastel de **Linlithqu** c.1300; **Glenvchow** alias **Lithkow** c.1535 Dean of Lismore; **Glenugh, Litgow** 1666; **Glanwych** 1699 Edward Lhuyd MS; **Gleann Iucho** c.1800 Watson 1926, 384; **Gleann Iucha** 2015 Scotrail station sign.

Linlithgow Burgh Coat of Arms (Photo Jacob King)

There is no doubt that the name is of British origin, and W. J. Watson suggests the elements (in their modern Welsh reflexes) *llyn* 'a loch' + ? *llaith* 'damp' or ? *llwyd* 'grey' + *cau* 'a hollow', an element it shares with Glasgow ('green hollow') (1926, 384-5). The

reconstructed British (Brittonic) forms as found in Alan James's BLITON[2] are *lïnn + *lejth 'damp, moist' or *lẹ:d 'pale, faintly coloured' + *cöü 'a hollow, depression'. However the final two elements are analysed, the most likely structure of this name is British *lin + an already existing area- or territory-name *Lithgow, referring to the broad, boggy valley running from east to west, and of which Linlithgow Loch (no doubt the eponymous *lin) forms a part. This valley continues westwards as the valley of the River Avon, which is the boundary between West Lothian and Stirlingshire, and is first mentioned in 710 or 711, when the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (D, E) records a battle between the Northumbrians and the Picts between 'Avon and Carron' (Hæfe & Cære).
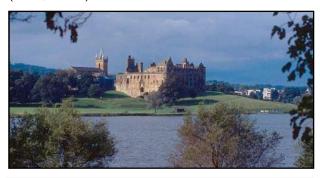
Gaelic was widely spoken in West Lothian, most likely after a British and Northumbrian (Old English) settlement phase, as witnessed by the fact that, of the seventy-four names recorded in West Lothian before 1400, thirty are of Gaelic origin (MacDonald 1941, xxi-xxii).

The name Linlithgow itself was Gaelicised, and as such has been subjected to some notable reinterpretations, one of which seems to have been as the Gaelic elements liath 'grey' + cù 'dog'.

This then gave rise to the close association between Linlithgow and dogs: the dominant image on the burgh seal is a dog, and has been since at least 1296; and there is a tradition that 'a black bitch ... was found fastened to a tree in the small island on the E. side of the loch' (OSA xiv, 548). This in turn has given rise to the nickname for a Linlithgow citizen as a Black Bitch, whence also the name of the Black Bitch Tavern in the West Port.

The development of the modern Gaelic **Gleann Iucha** is explained by W. J. Watson as deriving from a different, and more topographical, reinterpretation. He supposes "that 'Lithgow' was understood to mean 'wet hollow', and translated into fliuch chua. 'Linlithgow' would then be linn fhliuchua, pronounced linn liucho; in the combination

[2] http://www.spns.org.uk/bliton/blurb.html

tobraichean Linn Liucha ['wells of Linlithgow'] and such, linn was readily confused with ghlinne genitive of gleann, which latter was assumed as a new nominative. The second l was dropped" (1926, 384-5).

The royal palace of Linlithgow between Linlithgow Loch and St Michael's parish kirk. Photo: Historic Scotland.

The earliest forms of the modern Gaelic name are:

> *Glenugh, Lithgow* 1666 *Wardlaw MS*, 64
> *Glanwych* 1699 Edward Lhuyd MS.H.4.28, folio 71r
> *Gleann Iucho* c.1800 W. J. Watson 1926 (*CPNS*), 384
> *Gleann Iucha* 1903 Henderson 'Gaelic Dialects', *ZCP*, 267 [Gaelic form recorded as local to Morvern]

The earliest forms of Lithgae, earlier Lithgow, are:

> *Lithqw* c.1200 *Cambuskenneth Registrum* [BUT from a 16th-century copy]
> in foro de *Lythcu* 1299 Stevenson, *Documents* ii, 395 ['in the market place of Linlithgow']
> in castro de *Lithcu* 1299 Stevenson, *Documents* ii, 395 ['in the castle of Linlithgow']
> at *Lythkow* c.1375 Barbour, *Bruce* Book 10, lns. 136-143, c.1308:

>> Yeit Lothyane was him <King Robert I> agayne, ['against']
>> And at *Lythkow* wes than a pele
>> Mekill and stark and stuffyt wele ['big and strong and well stuffed']
>> With Inglismen, and wes reset ['was a place of refuge']

To thaim that with armuris or met
['armour or provisions']
Fra *Edynburgh* wald to *Strevelyn* ga
And fra *Strevelyng* [sic] agane alsua
And till the countre did gret ill.

Simon Taylor (summarising his talk at Linlithgow)

ABEEN THE BIG TREE: PLACE-NAMES ON THE PERIPHERY

The starting-point for this paper was Bill Patterson's editorial in the Spring 2014 issue of *Scottish Place-Name News*, where he draws attention to the website on Ghana place-names, and to names found there with a quite different structure from those common in Europe, such as 'all will be well' or 'the slaves died'. As the editorial points out, these names are found alongside structures more familiar to Scottish toponymists, such as 'river-name + mouth' or 'at a hill'.

Prototype theory, based on the principle that 'some category members are better examples of the category than others' (Croft and Cruse 2004: 77), holds that categories include both more and less prototypical members, and are variable across time and space. Items on the periphery of a category in one culture may be prototypical in another, and vice versa. In this context, it is interesting to note that although place-names from noun phrases are prototypical in Scotland, other types of formation also appear, including some from verb phrases. Simon Taylor (2008: 275–6) identifies no fewer than five separate syntactic structures for verbal place-names in Scotland. Examples drawn from *The Place-Names of Fife* (Taylor with Márkus 2006–2012) include Cuffabout (verb + adverb), Pilkembare (verb + direct object + adjective) and Pluck the Crow (verb + direct object). As in Ghana, different types of structures occur alongside each other, but those characteristic of one country are more unusual in the other.

A second axis of comparison is the type of entity denoted by the name. Grammatical structures may not only be culture specific, but specific to individual categories of referent. Some of the examples discussed by Taylor are names of small settlements, buildings or landscape features. Others are names of fields, a category associated with idiosyncratic naming strategies. As John Field points out in connection with the toponymicon of England, 'Field-names of all periods differ in structure from major place-names' (1993: 3). A corpus of Aberdeenshire field-names recently collected and analysed by Alison Burns (2015) reveals a particularly wide range of structures, including noun phrases such as Lang Park, verb phrases such as Never Plowed, adjective phrases such as Rough, prepositional phrases such as Abeen the Big Tree, and genitive phrases such as Gamekeepers. Again these may be paralleled in other types of names, but structural variety is in itself a prototypical feature of field-names.

An important sub-group of settlement names also comprises genitive phrases, usually metonymic from the name of a church. Examples include St Andrews (Fife), St Monans (Fife) and St Quivox (Ayrshire). Many more can be traced through the Database of Scottish Hagiotoponyms made available by the *Commemorations of Saints in Scottish Place-Names* project at Glasgow University, as can others without a genitive inflection, such as St Cyrus (Angus), St Helena (Angus) and St Salvador (Orkney). Nevertheless there is a long established tradition of inserting a parenthetical generic within the interpretation of such names. Thus Mills (2011: 400) explains St Andrews as '(Place with the shrine of) St Andrew', and Grant (2010: 78) explains St Cyrus as '(church of) Saint Cyricius'. In both instances, the parenthetical generic can be supported by early spellings referring to the eponymous church, but it is less clearly applicable to the place-name itself.

Turning to personal names, the introduction to Black's dictionary of Scottish surnames lists a selection of lost bynames (or 'curious descriptions') including such non-standard structures as Aydrunken, Luggespick, Spurnecurtoys and Sorex (1946: lii). Others can be traced through the People of Medieval Scotland 1093–1314 database resulting from *The Paradox of Medieval Scotland* and *The Breaking of Britain* projects at Glasgow

University. It may be significant that these bynames did not survive as surnames, since non-standard structures within other types of names also seem to be prone to attrition. As regards the hagiotoponyms discussed above, Taylor with Márkus (2006–2012, iii: 558–9) note that 'In the seventeenth century the final *s* of St Monans, a possessive ending, began to be re-interpreted as an organic part of the name, Monance', with different forms of the name appearing on the Ordnance Survey Pathfinder and Explorer maps: respectively St Monance and St Monans. Moreover, 18 out of the 32 verbal formations listed in the appendix to Taylor's article (2008: 277–83) are lost names.

According to the Ghana place-name website with which this paper began, there are reportedly dozens of places with the verbal name Mayera 'I have gone astray, I am lost', as well as many village names that are devotional or inspirational in meaning, as with Ampedwae 'you should not boast', Jukwa 'nothing but peace' and Obeyeyie 'it shall be well'. Such structures are therefore more prototypical of place-names in Ghana than in Scotland. At the same time, however, they exist alongside other, more peripheral structures. This paper has drawn attention to the range of grammatical formations also found in different types of Scottish names, and to the relationship between syntactic structures and types of referent. It has also suggested that non-standard structures may stand a lower chance of survival over time.

Carole Hough (summarising her talk in Linlithgow)

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New Pont Place Name Gazetteers

The Pont manuscript maps are well-known cartographic treasures - the earliest detailed maps of Scotland from four centuries ago.

Thanks are due to Dr Bob Henery for compiling detailed gazetteers of all the names recorded on the Pont manuscripts - over 11,000 names. The place-names have been recorded in their original form by Pont and in their modern form along with feature type and grid reference (where possible). Both the Pont and modern gazetteer lists can be easily searched, and clicking on the place-name takes you directly to the specific name on the relevant Pont manuscript map.

So as well as being useful for seeing the context of the name, it has also made searching the Pont maps much easier. For most of these names, this is their earliest known depiction on a map and so the new gazetteers have great historical value.

The Pont gazetteers can be found at:

http://maps.nls.uk/pont/

FAE CAIRNPAPPLE TAE COWTHRAPPLE:
The West Lothian Question Reconsidered

I chose this title not only for the rhyming assonance of **Cairnpapple** and **Cowthrapple**. The first name is from old West Lothian: *Cairnpapple Hill* in Torphichen parish was for long the lowest high point of any Scottish shire before reorganisation in the mid-70s. At the same time *Cowthrapple*, a ruined farm in Midlothian's Calders, became part of the new West Lothian.[3]

Cairnpapple mound in snow (photo JGW)

Cowthrapple is a late medieval/early modern Scots name typical of the time, with known elements that we can interpret (or think we can) but with a tone we can't be sure of, even in our own tongue. The name *Cairnpapple* on the other hand may well have passed through three or four languages. And this is the *West Lothian question* in toponymic terms: which tongue coined the name and what can it tell us of our past and the interplay of mindscape and landscape?[4]

For the past several years I've been working on an updating of its place-names, but there's so much new and of interest that I can't offer any more than eight tantalising tapas, a bitty offering rather than a full meal.

[1] *Precursors:*[5] Macdonald's and Dixon's work is over 70 now and toponymics

has evolved. I'm undertaking a renovation involving an extension based on maps and estate plans, being lucky that most resources are available online. It attempts to collate all old map forms and most modern ones within all the land ever included in West Lothian (as in 1992), essentially a pie-slice of Forth watershed between Avon and Almond, plus The Calders.

[2] *Maps:* Macdonald stated that '[l]ittle information is to be gained from maps' (*PNWL*, x: later qualified), but I've found that far from the case. One thing that's surprising is how little of West Lothian there is on the first OS maps, another being the quantity of errors in most maps. Even the great authorities can catch us unawares: *Winchburgh* is given exclusively by Roy as *Queensburgh*, so there's a need for constant cross-referencing. Blaeu's stumbles (1654) may be excused by his Dutch engravers, but Ainslie's (1821) cannot be: his map is almost totally unreliable, often worse than no map at all, yet he provides some interesting local forms. All have to be catalogued and an attempt made to decode them: at times the tone is again difficult to divine: e.g. *Dear Whup Shafts*, *Paradise*, *Westminster*.

[3] *Ordnance Survey Name Books:* A much more useful resource is these compilations of the 1850s. I offered a few quirky snippets. *Auchinoon: Auchenwool* was cited by three locals (including the farmer and his shepherd) but overruled by the schoolmaster; *Ochiltree Castle*: 'the present occupier (who is not very intelligent)...'; *St Cuthbert's Kirk*: 'which **illicits** [*sic*] **to the passer by thrilling thoughts!!!**', and *The*

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[3] *The link is strengthened by Lord Torphichen's family residence at Calder House, in the heart of the Calders.* **A comprehensive 4-page handout is still available by email request to** *johngarthwilkinson@hotmail.co.uk.*

[4] *Whenever Professor Bill Nicolaisen met me at conferences or talks he would ask me how the West Lothian Question was progressing, and this is a wee tribute to his influence, not that he would necessarily have agreed with everything (or anything) in it.*

[5] **Macdonald, Angus,** 1941, *The Place-Names of West Lothian (Edinburgh and London) [PNWL];*

Dixon, Norman, 1947, *The Place-Names of Midlothian (PhD thesis, University of Edinburgh), now online at* http://www.spns.org.uk, *published by the Scottish Place-Name Society, 2011 [PNML], for The Calders (reviews of these two in handout); also* **Harris, Stuart,** 2002, *The Place Names of Edinburgh: Their Origins and History (Edinburgh 1996, repr. London) [PNE] covering Kirkliston, Queensferry and Dalmeny, now under Edinburgh. My earlier brief survey of 1992, West Lothian Place-names (Torphin), is now online at* johngarthwilkinson.com

Boar Stane (at length: see fn2), perhaps linked to *Bathgate*, 'boar wood' (Welsh *baedd goed*).

[4] *Cairnpapple:* (*Kernepopple* 1619) 'the most important mainland archaeological site in Scotland' (Canmore), a cairn and henge used for three millennia into medieval Christian times, perhaps **Medionemeton**, the Ravenna Cosmography's 'Middle Sanctuary' (Piggott). A lack of Iron Age archaeology is a drawback, but circumstantial evidence underlines the possibilities. Locally *Cairniepapple*, its first element may be one of at least ten, most likely OW *carn* 'cairn', its second OW *papil* 'tent', taken into Scots as *papple* 'shieling', with other examples. Word order apart, it could be Scots.

[5] *Cowthrapple:* (*Cowthropil* 1630), locally *Coothrapple*; Dixon terms Sc *thrapple* 'windpipe, neck', *Cowthrapple* 'the dewlap' (*PNML*, 250): a map view of a bend in the Linhouse Water? Sc *cou* < *coll* 'cut' suggests 'cut-throat' and a desperate battle with the moorland, yet it's possible Sc *thrapple* developed metaphorically as 'gorge, gulley'. There are other examples of the term. The farm, above a ford, offered a safe bottleneck crossing for cattle droves upstream of the Linhouse Falls.

Ruins of Cowthrapple with Cauldstane Slap in distance (photo JGW)

[6] *The SW boundary of old MLO/West Calder parish:* an important one, with a dozen toponymic pointers (two maybe mythic): 1. **Sergeant's Law**, implying medieval policing of it; 2. **Hendreys Course**, the hill named from a Drove Loan crossing into Lanarkshire; 3. Boundary stones (including **The Thirlstane**); 4. **Benry Bog, Syke** and **Brig**, 'boundary'?; 5. **Cobbinshaw** (*shaw* as 'common boundary moorland'?); 6. **Auchenharrow** ScG *achadh na h-eirbhe* 'field of the boundary dyke'?; 7. **Auchtiegamel** Flow; 8. **Maidenwell + stone**; 8. **Crosswoodhill** (see 2) on *The Lang Whang*; 9**.** Another **Sergeant Law;** 10. **Henshaw Hill** (see 5); 11. **The Pike** 'land running to a point'? 12. **Lothian Rigg**. Three rivers rising nearby may be linked to an ancient ritual landscape.

[7] *The fluid nature of Calders rivers:* On map evidence, only four streams retain their names throughout: **Killandean Burn** (*Killing W* c1590), **Skolie Burn** (*Skollawburn* Roy), **Muldron Burn** (*Mulranus / Mulrane Burn* Blaeu) and **The Breich Water** (*terre de brech* pre 1199 x 1228, *Brych fl.* Pont); others vary: eg *Camilty Water / Linhouse Water* (*Lyne W* c1590), *Murieston Water* (*Cornuflexius / Wyndhornius* Blaeu).

[8] *Earliest extant place-name recordings:* All place-names recorded pre-16th century in 'old' *West Lothian* and *The Calders* have been listed, compared and contrasted by area, with surprisingly thought-provoking results.

John Garth Wilkinson (summarising his talk at Linlithgow)

THE METAPHOR MAP OF ENGLISH: A NEW ONLINE RESOURCE

The Metaphor Map of English traces the metaphors that we use in ordinary language over the entire history of English. The project website, which can be found at www.glasgow.ac.uk/metaphor, shows thousands of metaphorical connections between different areas of meaning and this includes those which relate to the landscape around us.

These connections do not only relate to metaphor in the sense we are usually taught at school, as a deliberate and often ornamental device, but in a manner that is much more fundamental to the ways in which we speak and think about the world. For example, when we talk about 'passing' information to others, we use phrases such as 'getting our thoughts across', 'giving ideas to people', and 'capturing something in words'. The concept which underlies all of these individual metaphors is that of ideas being discussed as if they were objects which are put into containers (words) and given to others (Reddy, 1979). Many linguists believe that metaphorical connections such as these give an insight into how people think about the world in different languages (Lakoff & Johnson 2003 [1980]). In English, we use vocabulary from war to talk about arguments (e.g. *attack*), from light to talk about knowledge (e.g. *enlightened*), and from spatial position to talk about sadness (e.g. *down*), and the Metaphor Map 'maps' these links.

The Mapping Metaphor project, from which the Metaphor Map was created, was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and used data from the *Historical Thesaurus of English* (published as the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*) which is available online at: http://historicalthesaurus.arts.gla.ac.uk/. The Historical Thesaurus contains the entirety of the English language, from Anglo-Saxon times to the present day, with around 800,000 word senses categorised into over a quarter of a million sub-categories arranged by meaning. The comprehensive scope of this data source means that the Metaphor Map of English provides a relatively complete picture of metaphor in the English language, including the dates when we find the first evidence for metaphorical connections. The website shows visualisations, timelines, tables and detailed cards displaying the data in different ways.

It may not be immediately obvious as to how this might relate to place-names. However, the metaphorical links available cover all areas of meaning and this includes concepts which relate to the landscape. Metaphors are used to describe and name the world around us, giving insight into how people think about the world and about toponymic features. The Metaphor Map gives lexicographical evidence of how English speakers have done this over the last 1300 years.

Most (though by no means all) landscape metaphors relate to the visual appearance, and especially the shape, of physical objects from other domains of meaning. Body parts are a particularly fruitful source of terms for landscape features, as we can see from very basic generic terms such as river *mouth*, *brow* of a hill, and *foot* of a mountain. This is the case for animal, as well as human, bodies with words such as *snout* and *horn* used to describe and name projecting landforms. The sheer quantity of these individual metaphorical links allow us to see the strong conceptual link that people have made between the land and the body. Other strong links are made with containers (*basin*, *bowl*, *trough*, *kettle*, etc.), textiles (*patchwork*, *needle*), buildings (*roof*, *chimney*, *stairway*, *mantelshelf*, etc.), and many other areas of meaning. Some of the weaker links provide unexpected surprises, such as *bold* transferring from its original sense in courage to additionally be used as a

landscape term which the Oxford English Dictionary (*bold* adj., 2nd Edn) defines as 'a coast rising steeply from deep water'. Many links involve words from other areas being used for the landscape, but there are also landscape terms systematically transferred elsewhere. These include words for great size or extent, such as *mountainous*, *gulf*, *abyss*, and *Himalayan*, and words relating to emotional suffering including *valley* and *vale*.

This brief description of the Metaphor Map barely scratches the surface of a resource which has eleven landscape categories to explore, including 'Land and islands', 'Landscape, high and low land', 'Rivers and streams', and 'Lakes and pools'. It is freely available online and we hope it will prove useful to those interested both in place-names and the English language more generally. (For a sample diagram please see back page of this newsletter.)

Ellen Bramwell (summarising her talk in Linlithgow)

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SMALLHOLM, LOCHMABEN DMF: ANOTHER HĀM?

Dr **Alan James** writes:-

I am grateful to Christoph Otte who is currently investigating, as part of his PhD research, the origins and development of three mediaeval parishes in Dumfriesshire, for drawing my attention to a likely Northumbrian English place-name in –*hām* which I was unaware of when I wrote my article on 'Scotland's –*ham* and –*ingham* names' (Journal of Scottish Name Studies 4, 2010, 103-31).

Smallholm, in the parish of Lochmaben, is recorded as *Smalham* 1303 (CDS II, p. 426 no. 1608), *Smalehame* 1429x30 (RGS II, p. 30 no. 143). It appears as a place of some significance in the fourteenth century when 'the King's kindly tenants' of that holding, along with three others in Lochmaben (Greenhill, Heck and Hightae), claimed certain privileges going back to an unwritten agreement with the king or his garrison commander. The implications of this will be discussed in a forthcoming article by Christoph in the Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

In the context of my discussion of *hām*, it would be reasonable to regard Smallholm as a relatively early (seventh or eighth century) Anglian estate-name, apparently the only one in Dumfriesshire, identical in formation to Smailholm (Rox), and comparable to Edingham (Kcb), Twynholm (Kcb) and Penninghame (Wig). But 'small' in comparison with what? A plausible hypothesis would be to see it as a landholding carved out of an earlier, larger territory, perhaps a British chieftain's domain centred on *Locus Maponi* of the Ravenna Cosmography.

W. F. H. NICOLAISEN, 1927-2016

'Bill' Nicolaisen, as he was known to his friends, was a scholar of international renown. Born in Halle, near Leipzig in Germany in 1927, Bill studied linguistics and folklore at the University of Kiel, and at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Returning to Germany, he studied British river names at the University of Tübingen, and then Scottish river names at the University of Glasgow.

In 1956 he became head of the Scottish Place-Name Survey, in the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh, a post

he would hold until 1969. In 1958, he married May, and they had four daughters together. It was during these years that he conducted the extensive research into Scottish place-names which culminated in his benchmark textbook *Scottish Place-Names*, originally published in 1976. He combined this interest in onomastics with wider research into folklore, language and literature, and published prolifically in each of these areas of scholarship as well.

In 1969, Bill commenced a long tenure as a professor in the English Department at the State University of New York at Binghamton, where he continued to pursue his interests in onomastics and folklore for nearly a quarter of a century, before retiring in 1993. Returning to Scotland, he became Professor Emeritus at the Elphinstone Institute at the University of Aberdeen. He continued to pursue his interest in place-names in later life, and was a regular fixture at onomastics conferences until ill-health prevented him from travelling. In recent years, he collaborated with several committee members from the Scottish Place-Name Society to produce a volume of his papers, and *In the Beginning was the Name* was published by the Society in 2011.

Bill's contribution to the study of Scottish Place-Names is unparalleled, with dozens of articles on all aspects of the toponymy of Scotland written over his long and productive academic career, in addition to the numerous lectures and tutorials he gave on the place-names of Scotland, which inspired many others to commence their own research in the field. His legacy of published work will no doubt ensure that he continues to inspire many others in the future.

Alison Grant

DOREEN WAUGH, 1944 - 2015

Dr Doreen Jennifer Waugh died on 23rd September, after years of illness which had sapped her strength and stamina but had not dulled her sharp intelligence, nor lessened her enjoyment of gatherings related to her special interests, so far as physical frailty allowed.

Doreen was brought up in Shetland as the adopted daughter of Williamina and George Laurenson, at Sand Primary School where George was head teacher, and at the Anderson Institute in Lerwick, before heading to Edinburgh University where she read English language and met her future husband Willie Waugh. After graduating she taught for a year in Sweden and then at high schools in Bathgate (West Lothian) and Edinburgh, before becoming a full-time mother for ten years. At this time she developed an interest in place-names, reinforced by Willie's well chosen present of Bill Nicolaisen's *Place-Names of Scotland*. Typically, Doreen threw herself into this pursuit, going on from evening classes to a PhD project in 1980-85 on place-names in Caithness. In the coming years, in addition to teaching and administration at another school in Edinburgh, she studied names in other areas including Shetland; was a leading light in the Scottish Society for Northern Studies (SSNS), as editor of its journal in 1985-89, Secretary, President, committee member, conference organiser and editor of proceedings; and was equally active in SPNS as soon as it was founded in 1996, becoming Vice-Convener, Secretary and Convener, only leaving the committee in 2012 due to her ill health. She was well known also to members of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland (SNSBI).

A much fuller account of Doreen's interests, achievements and sheer energy can be seen in the obituary prepared by Shetland archivist Brian Smith, in the online *Journal of Scottish Name Studies (JSNS)* 9 – http://www.clanntuirc.co.uk/JSNS/V9/Smith.pdf, originally published in the Shetland Times. *JSNS* 9 also carries an extensive bibliography – http://www.clanntuirc.co.uk/JSNS/V9/Waugh%20Brooke-Freeman%20Smith%20Taylor.pdf.

Immediately to the south of Haddington in East Lothian is the small estate, with tower house, of Lennoxlove (formerly Lethington), and abutting that to the south the estate, house and former barony of Colstoun. In medieval documents between about 1200 and

the late 15th century this appears nearly always in prefixed forms such as *Combrecolyston* and *Cummercolstoun*.

The form of the prefix has suggested variously Gaelic *com(b)ar* 'confluence', referring to the nearby junction of the Colstoun Water with the River Tyne; and, since the name is obviously linguistically English, an Old English genitive plural **Cumbra*, 'of the Cumbrians'. However, amid the flood of documentation now available online is an early 20th century volume of the Yester Writs, a treasure trove of material relating not only to East Lothian. No. 8, dated to 1202 x 1207, is a grant by King William the Lion to William son of Hugh Giffard of lands including *totam Lefditonam … scilicet partem quam Radulphus de Boseuiela tenuit et illam partem quam Willelmus de Belencumber tenuit* ("the whole of Lethington … namely the part which Randolph de Boseuiela held and that part which William de Belencumber held". Beuzeville and Bellencombre are both places in Normandy, and the castle of Bellencombre was a seat of the Earls of Varenne and Surrey, the second of whom was the father of King William's mother Ada de Warenne. (Stephanie Leith, East Lothian Council's Heritage Officer, has an article in vol. XXIX (2013) of the Transactions of the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalist's Society, on the relationships of the Anglo-Norman families with backgrounds in Varenne (near Bellencombre), St Martin (a hamlet in Bellencombre) and Longueville-la-Gifart (near Bellencombre), members of whom became prominent landowners in East Lothian.)

The family name *de Bellencombre* survived as *Belchamber* in England; in 1165 a William *de Bellencombre* (possibly the same as in Yester Writ No. 8?) witnessed grants to Lewes Priory, in Sussex, by Isabella Countess of Surrey, the widow of William de Warenne, second earl of Varenne and Surrey and Ada's father.

It is now fairly clear that the *Combre-* prefix must refer to an Anglo-Norman holder over 800 years ago of part of a once larger estate of Lethington (*Lefeditun*: 'lady's estate'?) whose name became limited to its northern part and in 1704 was replaced by *Lennoxlove* on an aristocratic whim. (WP)

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Compiled by Simon Taylor, with input from Richard Cox, Carole Hough, Alan James, Arne Kruse, Alan Macniven and Bill Patterson, this is the first bibliography of recent Scottish place-name related publications to appear in *SPNNews* since issue 37 (Autumn 2014). For more extensive bibliographies of name-studies in Britain and Ireland, and, less comprehensively, other parts of northern Europe, see the bibliographic sections in the relevant issues of *Nomina*, the journal of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, the most recently available being 'Bibliography for 2012' (*Nomina* 36 (2013), 141–50), published 2015. The material in the *Nomina* Bibliographies is set out thematically, and includes reviews which have appeared in the given year. There is also now an onomastic bibliography for Scotland 2006-2009 in *Journal of Scottish Name Studies (JSNS)* 4 (2010), 173-86, then in each issue from *JSNS* 5 (2011) for the year preceding publication. Note that from *JSNS* 6 (2012) onwards, all editions are online only.[6] An extensive, though by no means exhaustive, bibliography of Scottish toponymics, set out thematically and regionally, can be found on-line at http://www.spns.org.uk/bibliography09.html#advanced.

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* It is intended to have reviews of these books in the next issue of Scottish Place-Name News.

'Names and Naming: People, Places, Perceptions and Power' (edited by Guy Puzey and Laura Kostanski) is available for half of the usual price of £39.95 until 31st May 2016. Use discount code PREORDER 50 at checkout, through www.multilingual-matters.com.
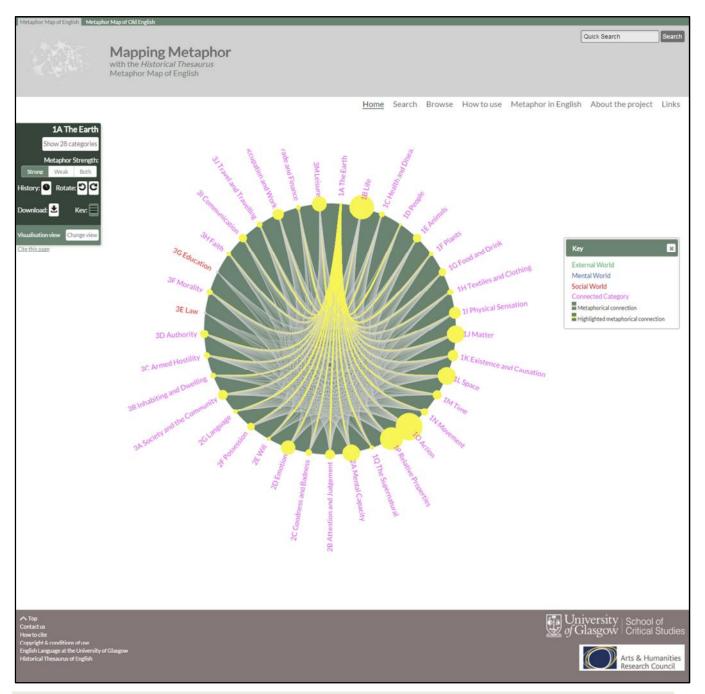

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The **SPNS Spring 2016 conference** will take place in Rothesay on the Isle of Bute, on Saturday 7 May: details and application form on flier with this newsletter.

The **SNSBI** (Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland) has arranged its Spring 2016 conference for Maynooth west of Dublin, on 15-18 April. www.snsbi.org.uk

A joint **SPNS / SSNS** conference to celebrate the work of Doreen Waugh will be held in Edinburgh on Saturday 1st October. Details to follow on societies' websites.

The **SPNS** autumn conference will be themed on special interests of Bill Nicolaisen; details TBC with the autumn newsletter.

Sample screen grab for Ellen Bramwell's article on the 'Metaphor Map'

Loch Rannoch looking west from Kinloch Rannoch (Photo Iain MacIlleChiar)