

# QUARTER AND ITS PEOPLE

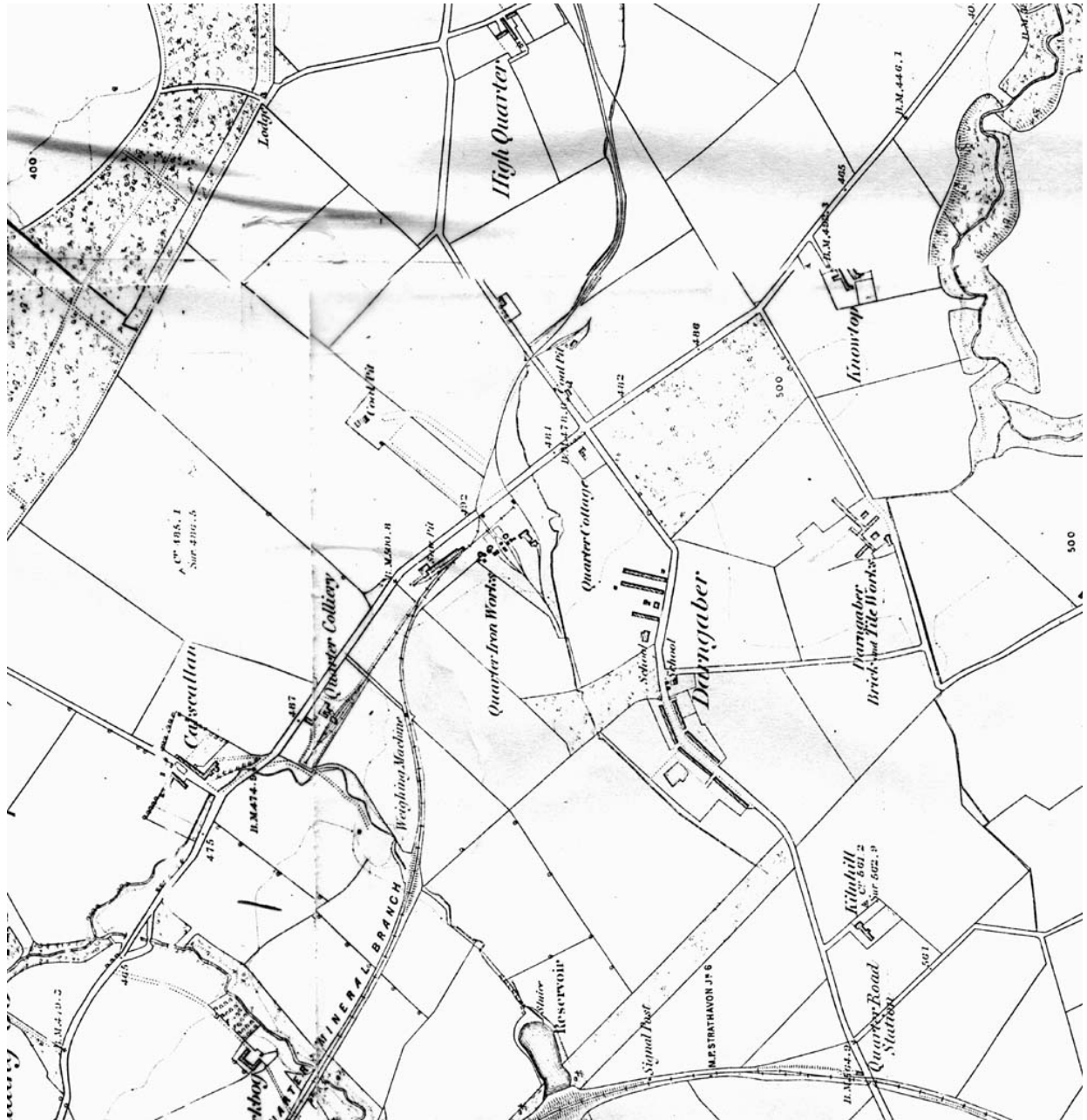


The Small Village in Lanarkshire that powered the nation  
and provided great wealth for the Dukes of Hamilton

By Alan Johnstone

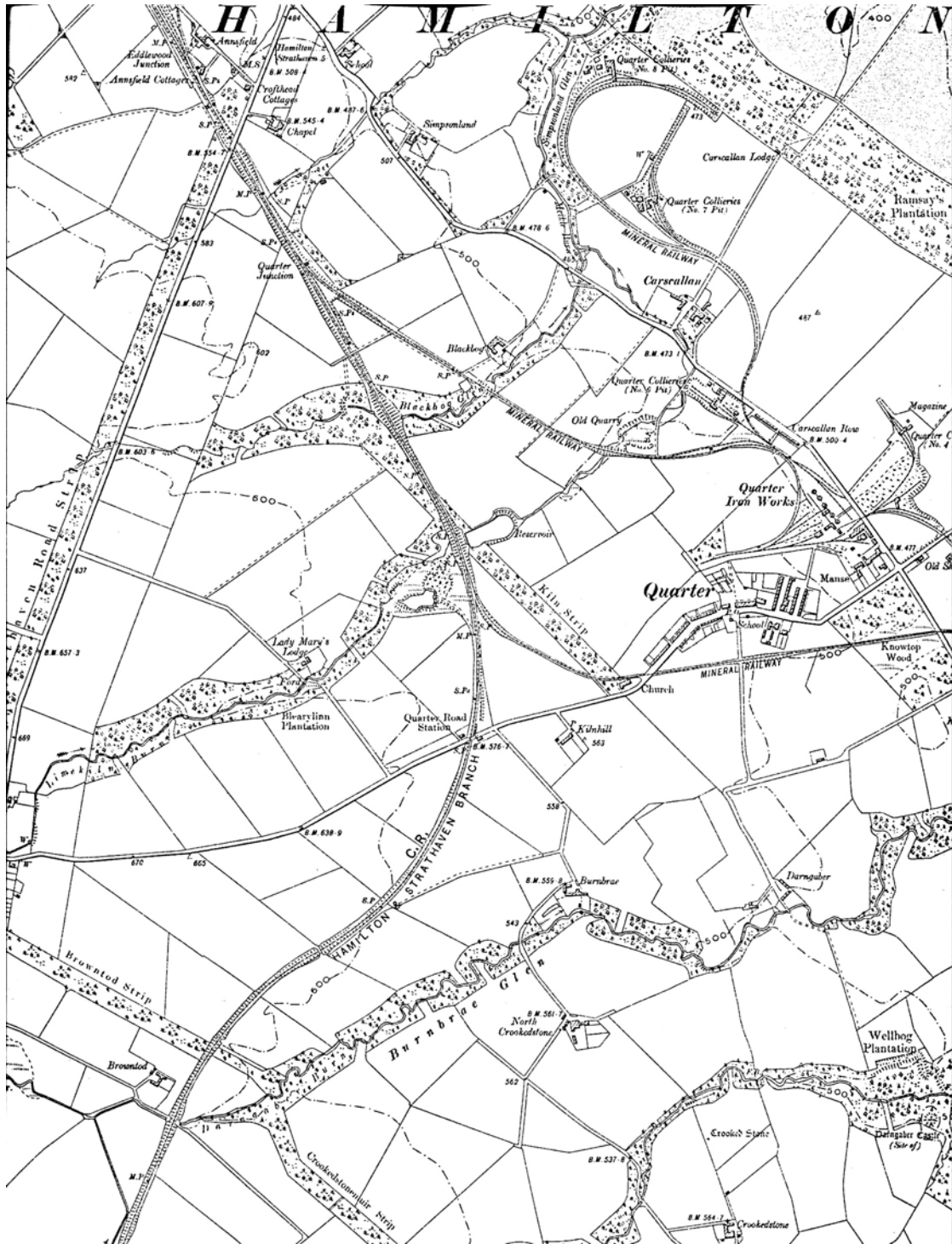
# Map of Quarter 1856

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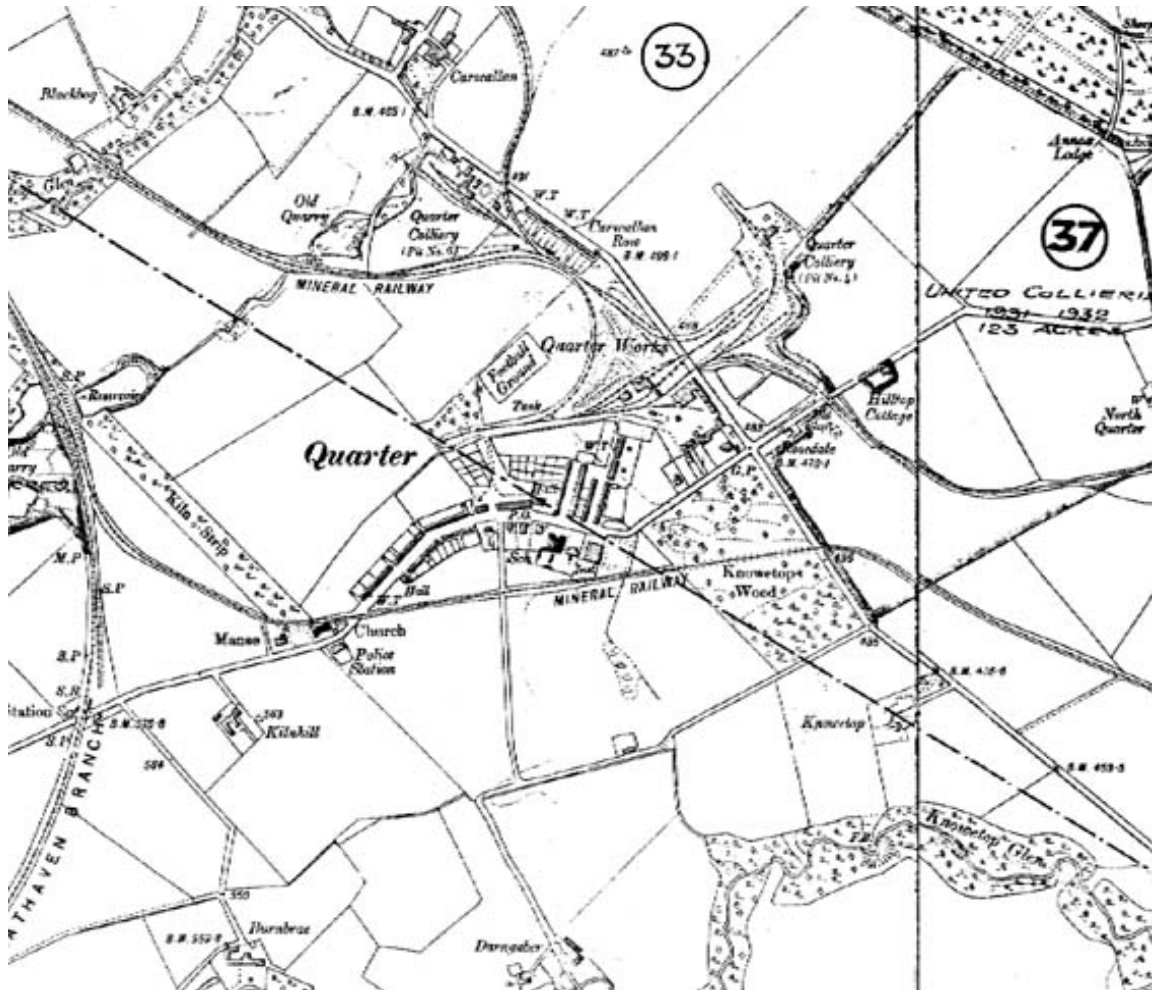
# Map of Quarter in 1896

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# Map of Quarter in 1914

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17 DARGABER GARDENS  
QUARTER  
HAMILTON**

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# Contents

Item	Page No.
Frontispiece, Maps & Acknowledgements	
A summary of The History of Quarter in Lanarkshire	2
The History by Andrew Hamilton	4
A Chronicle of the village by E. Barr c 1900	10
Views of Quarter	14
The history by Margaret Peffers	15
Quarter Parish Church	17
The Rev. George Blair and other Ministers	20
Quarter Parish Church Guild	22
Quarter Primary School	23
Some Quarter Weddings	52
The Miners of Quarter	53
Memories of Quarter (The Kerr Family)	54
Quarter Railways	57
Local People	
Alexander Dunn	61
Andrew Hamilton	62
James Keir Hardie	63
Kirkland Family	64
Torrance Family	66
Matthew Walker	67
McGregor Family	67
William McRae	72
Co-op Guild & Summer Snapshot	73
Fleming Family	74
Danny Boyd & Lawson Family	75
The Duchess Nina Institute	76
The Quarter bowling Club	78
Lady Mary's Lodge	79
Where Gordon of Earlston was Killed	80
Darngaber Castle, The Crooked Stone,	81
Plotcock Castle, Quarter Fair	83
The Bully Inn	84
The Post Office	85
The Police Station	86
The Village Store	87
Quarter People in Pictures	88
Eddlewood Castle and House, Simpsonland	90
Limekilnburn, All our Yesterdays	90
Curling	92
More Reminiscences of Quarter	93
Hanlon/Conlin/Mulrooney Census	103
The Cochranes of Quarter	107
Uncovering our Family's History in Quarter	108
The Pollock Family of Quarter	109
Hamilton and District Young Farmers	112
General Observations as to Coal /Coal Measures, Quarter area	113
Bibliography	125

## The History of Quarter in Lanarkshire

The village of Quarter lies on the eastern hill side of the Clyde Valley, giving, on a clear day, some breathtaking views over the Clyde Valley to the Campsie and the Pentland Hills in the east. In the earliest records Quarter, as we know it now, was called Darngaber. Darn Gaber means "The house between the waters," and since the name came from the nearby Castle of Darngaber, it was the castle that was between the waters, or as some have unkindly supposed "The hiding place of the goats." The name Darngaber has been preserved in Darngaber Gardens and Darngaber Road, which leads to Darngaber Farm. The name Quarter is supposed to have come from an old division of the Ducal Estate.

Low Quarter is probably one of the oldest mining villages in Scotland. The coal was wrought by means of a mine entering from the banks of the River Avon. Old wooden shovels and pickaxes have been found there, relics of which are still preserved in the museum today. Coal has played a major part in the development and demise of Quarter. In the early 1800's coal was extracted from the Quarter district mainly for domestic use in and around Hamilton. The colliers were housed in what were the remains of the old farm steadings at Quarter. The demand in summer was limited and in this season they had to turn their attentions to "country work," such as working in stone quarries, Limeworks and with the farmers at haytime and harvest. Being economical and thrifty they were mostly all "bein and well-to-do." A number of the miners kept cows for the use of the family and all of them had a pig. Output also dropped sharply in early January, due no doubt to the over imbibing of John Dunlop's "Liquid Fire."

In 1825 Mr Matthew Walker took over as manager of Quarter Colliery working for the Duke of Hamilton and in 1854, when Blackband Ironstone was discovered at Quarter, the mineral field was let to Mr Colin Dunlop of Clyde Ironworks. At this time in Quarter there was also a Brick and Tile Work, also managed by Mr Walker and with Mr Alexander Dunn as superintendent. In 1850 Mr Walker was also manager of the Boghead Limeworks, which gave Limekilnburn its name.

The new style of intensive mining, which Dunlop created, gave rise to a different working relationship between miner and owner. The miners now had to spend all their time mining rather than the more casual approach of the past. With the Ironworks having five furnaces in operation they required far more coal and so the mining population soared. Dunlop & Co built miners' Rows in Darngaber Row, which later became Limekilnburn Road, Store Row and Furnace Row. The houses consisted of one apartment terraced bungalows, having no running water and no inside toilets. Domestic water was drawn from a communal well and the outside toilets were of the dry type with the bothies containing the toilets having no doors attached to them. Dunlop also provided a company store, with vouchers given to the workers, which they had to spend in the store. The miners also had a public house called the Bully Inn and there were two schools in the village by 1858.

In 1696 the church of Hamilton erected the first school in the village of Darngaber and in 1841 Hamilton Council had responsibility for the local education, which reputedly had 45 Scholars. With the arrival of Colin Dunlop's company in around 1855 the population rose from 299 to 853 in 1861, and a school was set-up sometime after 1860 and before 1873 by Colin Dunlop. The main school was on the opposite side of the road from where the present school is and the other, which was a private school, was at the entrance to Darngaber Road. In the 1890's a Post Office was opened on the opposite side of Darngaber Road from the school and in 1910 the Duchess Nina Institute was opened by the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton.

In 1884 the village had its own church built of local stone and a few years later the manse was provided along side the church, the Rev. George Blair being the first minister. At one time in the village there was a Gospel Hall, sited where the footpath to Darngaber

Gardens now stands. The village also had its own police force consisting of two constables and later with two police dogs. The original site for the Police Station was at the entrance to Darngaber Road. They moved into the old school, which used to be on that site. By the 1890's the Police Station had moved opposite the church and consisted of two police houses with the cells behind. The Police Station was still there up until about 1976

With the decline in coal reserves at Quarter the mining company slowly moved out leaving the usual industrial mess behind and it was up to the council to do the best they could. Their plan was to demolish all the miners' rows and build new houses in Castle Wynd. Not all the villagers got houses in Quarter, some had to move to Eddlewood. In 1965 the miners' rows had gone and new bungalows were being built, however they were of a standard and price, which was outwith, the scope of the local community. A new breed of worker, called commuters, moved in, mainly because there was no work left in and around Quarter. People travel all over central Scotland from here, as it is fairly easy to connect to the major road system in the central belt. Gone are the Institute the large shops and busy public house, which are no longer, supported by large numbers of working men. It takes a long time to generate a spirit of belonging, which was enjoyed by the mining community, however with the help of the new and old locals pulling together such community spirit can again be achieved.



Limekilnburn Road, Quarter in 2003



# Quarter

by Andrew Hamilton

(From Naismith's Hamilton Directory 1878)

The lands of Quarter form a portion of the ducal estates of Hamilton and are situated on the south side of the wall, which surrounds the High Parks of Hamilton. They stretch along the banks of the Avon from that wall to the march of Fairholm on the east, marching with Thinacres and Wellbog on the south and Darngaber and Carscallan on the west and extend to upwards of 400 acres imperial.

In a rent roll of the Hamilton estates for 1637 in the time of James 3rd Marquis of Hamilton, they are designed "The fiftie pund lands of Quarter," and were divided into 8 "Rooms" or holdings and possessed by the following tenants: - George Golder, younger; John Thomson, George Golder, elder; William Golder, John Wilson, Andrew Haddow, John Stobo and John Alstoun.

In the year 1745, a meeting of the heritors and tenants of the parish was convened at Hamilton, to consider a demand made on them for supplies of forage and corn for the use of Prince Edward's cavalry then occupying Glasgow. The following names from Quarter appear in the list of heritors and tenants then convened: - William Wilson, in Quarter; Andrew Haddow, there; James Wilson, there; John Hamilton, in Laigh Quarter. It thus appears that the 8 holdings of 1637 had been converted into 4 by the year 1745. The lands are now divided into three farms - named South Quarter, North Quarter and Knowetop - tenanted respectively by Abram Torrance, Andrew Hamilton and John Fleming. Part of the old farm of Laigh Quarter is let for grazing.

Part of the old houses of High and Low Quarter are remnants of the farm steadings or "touns" occupied by the land tenants, when it was more subdivided than at present. Their architecture is of a very rough order and that part of them named "The Divoty" indicates the material of which it was originally constructed. They were about twenty in number. After the opening of the mines in Avon Braes, about sixty years ago, some 15 or 20 additional houses were built at Low Quarter for the accommodation of the workmen employed there.

As coals in the olden time were only required for household purposes, the demand in summer was limited and in that season the colliers at Quarter were not regularly employed, so that they had to turn their attention to "country work" such as working in stone quarries and lime works and with the farmers at hay time and harvest. Being economical and thrifty, they were mostly all "bein" and well-to-do. A number of them kept cows for the use of their families and all of them a pig - a practice that still prevails among the descendants of the old residents.

When the works were extended by the Messrs Dunlop, a large number of houses were built in the neighbourhood of the furnaces; so that there are now more than 200 houses in connection with the works, besides a great number rented by the workmen at Darngaber, Wellbog, Limekilnburn and other places.

Before the extension of the works, the population of the old village of High and Low Quarter was about 200. In 1861 it stood thus: -

Quarter Ironworks	461
High Quarter	60
Low Quarter	140
Total	<u>661</u>

In 1871 -

Quarter Ironworks	544
High Quarter	76
Low Quarter	178
Total	<u>798</u>

The following census was taken in 1877 by Mr Allan, the police constable stationed at Quarter, of the district under his charge, lying on the south and west sides of the parish of Hamilton. With the exception of the farmers and cottars and the inhabitants of Earnockmuir Rows, the most of the householders of the other places specified are employed about the works.

In 1877.

Quarter Ironworks	695
High Quarter	60
Low Quarter	149
Carscallan Row	120
Boghead Rows	80
Plotcock	38
Darngaber	40
Wellbog	23
Limekilnburn	99
Earnockmuir Rows	62
Farmers and Cottar	418
Total	<u>1784</u>

On the farm of Darngaber the field is still pointed out where Gordon of Earlston was killed by a party of English Dragoons after the defeat of the Covenanters at Bothwell Bridge. It is called Allows Hill - perhaps a corruption of Earlston's Hill; and I remember a stunted thorn tree, "worn by the gnawing tooth of Time," which the old people in the district held in reverence and said marked the spot where the martyr fell. It is stated by tradition that, after putting him to death in the most barbarous manner, they seized his horse, stripped him of his accoutrements, including a pair of silver spurs, and rode back to Carscallan - a neighbouring farm town - where the English officer demanded refreshments for his men, ostentatiously displaying his spoil with many imprecations, which roused the feelings of the goodwife of the house, who indignantly exclaimed - "It becomes a better man than you, sir, to wear these." After rifling the house of provisions, they rode off towards Hamilton, giving vent to their rage against the Covenanters by oaths and ribaldry. Gordon was buried by his friends secretly in the churchyard of Glassford, about two miles southwards from the place where he fell, where a monument has been erected to his memory by one of his descendants, which tells of his many virtues and "hard fate."

About half a mile eastward from Darngaber Castle, on the lands of Broomelton, near the public road leading to Stonehouse, stands the ruins of Plotcock Castle, on a jutting point on the banks of the brawling rivulet of that name. This fortlet is said to have been used as a prison by the barons of Cadzow for their refractory vassals or prisoners taken in war, when the feudal chief possessed "the power of pit and gallows." As it stands at a point where "three lairds' lands meet," and the glen is clothed with umbrageous brushwood and presents rather a gloomy appearance, popular superstition has tenanted the ravine with ghosts, witches and bogles - so that the wight who has been overtaken in his travels by nightfall, when passing the place keeps a sharp outlook for a sight of those aerial beings who may be "revisiting the glimpses of the moon," and sporting among the banks and braes around the old dungeon keep.

The name Plotcock given to this place is very suggestive of its being haunted by the agents and emissaries of the evil one, as it is the old Scotch name of that being and variation of Pluto, who according to heathen mythology, was god of the infernal regions.

The small estate of Eddlewood lies about a mile northwest from Quarter Iron Works. Like Darngaber, the name of this place smacks of great antiquity and carries the mind back to the days of the native Celtic Chiefs, before the time of Malcolm Canmore and the introduction of the feudal system, when each family or clan enjoyed all the privileges of freeholders being independent of any superior - even of the Crown. The word Eddlewood probably signifies "The freehold, or free possession in the wood" and is derived from Udal or Aedal, which according to Dr Jamieson is "a term applied to lands held in uninterrupted succession without any original charter and without subjection to feudal service, or the acknowledgement of any superior. "The word is much of the same import as the law Latin term Allodium, applied to a free manor or independent possession. Wood, the other constituent part of the word, is easily accounted for, as the lands lay within the bounds of the ancient Caledonian Forest. Although its possessors, at the time the name was imposed, were "Udallers," or freeholders, it seems that before the war of independence they had become vassals or tenants of the Crown and "the tenantry of Adelwood" were included in the grant of the barony of Cadzow by Bruce to Sir Walter Hamilton immediately after the battle of Bannockburn. This grant is thus narrated by Hamilton of Wishaw, in his "Description of the Sheriffdom of Lanark." The precise time when this lordship was given to the Duke of Hamilton his predecessors, is not clear; but there is one charter extant, granted by King Robert Bruce, in the 7th year of his reign, 1314, to Sir Walter, son of Sir Gilbert de Hamilton of this barony and the tenantry of Adelwood, which formerly belonged to his father, Sir Gilbert and has without interruption continued in that family ever since. It thus appears to have been a small barony and like other baronial holdings, it had its Castle, Chapel and Mill.

The Castle of Eddlewood was situated on the banks of the Meikle Burn, within the wall, which surrounds the High Parks of Hamilton. Its site is marked by a mound of rubbish and fragments of a wall. The Chapel of Eddlewood stood on a farm near the present Eddlewood House, still called "The Chapel." It appears to have been built for the accommodation of the retainers of the Hamilton family in the upland part of the parish and was connected with and served by an official of the Collegiate Church of Hamilton. The only remnant of it is fine spring water called "The Chapel Well." Eddlewood seems to have been held in the natural possession of the Lords of Cadzow along with that barony, for a considerable length of time; but latterly a considerable part of it appears to have been given to a cadet of the family of which little is known, "A John Hamilton of Eddlewood" appears in records about 1612.

About the middle of last century it was in the possession of Captain James Gilchrist, a brave and gallant officer of the Royal Navy. He was the son of Mr. Walter Gilchrist, Merchant, Edinburgh and Grizell Hamilton, the last of the Hamiltons of Neilsland. Captain Gilchrist married Anna, eldest daughter of Major Robertson of Earnock and had issue two

daughters, co-heiresses. After retiring from the navy the Captain resided at Eddlewood, or Annsfield, so named after his lady Anna Robertson. He built the present mansion house and planted the avenue of beech trees on the west side leading to it, which is said to have been the exact length of the ship he commanded when at sea. The arms of Captain Gilchrist empaled with those of his wife, Anne Robertson, are sculptured on a tablet above the front door of the office houses of Eddlewood. These are Gules, three cinquefoils, ermine for the Hamiltons of Neilsland, of which family the Captain was the representative; and for the Robertons of Earnock, from which his lady was descended, quarterly 1st, and 4th Gules, a close helmet, argent 2nd and 3rd, a cross crosslet fitchee, Gules. Crest, an anchor, proper. Motto, For Security. The Coat is considerably defaced and the Motto illegible, but the name Anna Robertson, above the arms is distinct and legible.

Captain Gilchrist's eldest daughter, Grizell, married Mr. Boyes of Wellhall and after her father's death got the lower portion of the estate, now called Eddlewood. Anna, his 2nd daughter, married, 17th October, 1774, Archibald 9th Earl of Dundonald and got the upper section, Annsfield and Earnockmuir. She was the mother of 6 sons, the eldest of whom was Thomas, 10th Earl - the famous Lord Dundonald,



**Eddlewood House, Hamilton.**

who was born at Eddlewood House, 14th Dec., 1775. The room in which he first saw the light is still pointed out. Another son, the Hon. Wm. Erskine Cochrane was Major in the 15th Dragoons and served with distinction under Sir John Moore in Spain. After retiring from the army he lived for some time at Eddlewood House and farmed Annsfield, which he inherited from his mother, but latterly sold it to Mr Dixon, who also purchased at the same time the lower section of Eddlewood. Mr. Dixon resold Eddlewood some time after to Mr. Allan of London, whose heirs are now the proprietors.

## **QUARTER IRON WORKS**

Proprietors - Colin Dunlop and Company  
Individual Partners of the Firm - Colin R. Dunlop sen. -  
Residence, Garnkirk House, near Glasgow;  
George Dunlop, Garnkirk House;  
Colin Dunlop, jun (managing partner) -  
Residence, Oakenshaw House, near Hamilton.  
Officials - Alex G. Reid, general manager; James Galt, manager of furnaces;  
James Munro, underground manager; James Shaw, cashier;  
Archibald MacDonald, storekeeper.

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## **QUARTER LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.**

(Instituted 1867)  
Hugh Jack, president; Alex. G. Reid and Andrew Hamilton, vice presidents;  
James Shaw, treasurer; James Wilson, secretary;  
William Rodger and Alexander Bell, Librarians -  
with a large consulting and managing committee

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## **FRIENDLY SOCIETIES**

The Old Quarter Colliers' Friendly Society (Instituted 1799) -  
Annual contributions, 8s. Aliment for sick members, 6s weekly. Funeral allowance 30s.  
John Fleming, Preses; William Johnstone, treasurer; Francis Gilchrist, secretary,  
with three key masters and four ordinary masters.

Quarter Iron Works Permanent Friendly Society (Instituted 1861)  
Annual contributions, 13s. Sick aliment, 8s weekly. Funeral allowance, £3.  
The annual dividend to each paid-up member has averaged from 5s to 7s.  
William Johnstone, president; James Shaw, treasurer; James Young, secretary,  
with twelve members of committee.

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## **GOOD TEMPLAR LODGES**

Oakenshaw Lodge, No. 622 (Instituted 1875)  
Juvenile Lodge, "Buds of Promise," No. 142 (Instituted 1877)

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## **CRICKET AND FOOTBALL CLUBS.**

Instituted 1864 and 1867  
George Moffat, captain; James Brown, secretary

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Post Office - Mrs Rodger, postmistress.

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Quarters Amateurs Season 1949/50

Back Row :- J.Fleming, J.Walls, J.Bunch, J.Stewart, T.Dunn and J.Bell.  
Front row:- C.McGeeghan, D.McGlynn, H.Irvine, J.Russell and W.Hardie.

# **A Chronicle of the Village of Quarter**

*By Elizabeth Barr c.1900  
typescript. 1981*

Its environment in the early 1900's and of the people who worked, schooled or worshipped in the village at that time.

## **The Village Itself**

Before my time there had been ironworks owned by Colin Dunlop Ltd. Their employees were paid with cheques, which could be used in a store in the village owned by the company, and this caused great hardship as many could not afford the goods required owing to the prices asked. It is a good thing that this has changed and we find a busy thriving coal mining village instead. Wages were very low and it is a hardship to rear a family in these days. In spite of that there were many well to do families whose sons and daughters scattered to different parts of the globe and took with them their inherited good Scottish traditions, making their mark where ever they went.

The village lies about 4 miles from Hamilton and the lands round about belong to the Duke of Hamilton, of the Hamilton Palace and in the earlier days Cadzow Castle, Darngaber Castle and Plotcock Castle. These three castles are almost lost in antiquity and now even the Hamilton Palace has been demolished because of the underground workings. The United Collieries Ltd are now the owners of the pits and employ many men living in or near the village. The Offices of the UCL stand at the cross roads on the road leading from Hamilton and here we have the offices of the Cashier, the Clerks and the Mining Engineers, who do the underground surveying and the planning. Behind the building there were stables for horses and coal carts etc., with a dwelling house for Mr. Watson and family. He was in charge of this part, here was a joiners shop, a blacksmiths and an engineering shop, also a washer that washed and directed the coal and sent the refuse to the Bing in small buggies. There were also boilers, which drove a generator, which provided the village with light.

To return to the crossroads, one road goes down to the left leading to Mid Quarter and Low Quarter, thence to Larkhall. The road going straight on leads to Stonehouse, Glassford and Strathaven, the remaining one leads up through the village on to Strathaven via Limekilnburn, of which mention is made later. Coming up from the crossroads to the village on the right hand side of the road first we have the house of Thomas Arnot, who was General Manager. He was there for many years and was succeeded by John David who previously was the Under Manager. Next the Auld Manse: the Rev George Blair and his family lived there until 1903 when the manse adjoining the church was ready for them. Mr. Blair was respected and loved by Protestant and Catholic alike. The Auld Manse now became the home of James McDowall and family. He was the Under Manager at one of the pits. The next house was occupied by Mr Mitchell and family, a very fine man who acted as cashier to the company. The next house was built for the resident District Nurse, with equipment for the treatment of minor troubles and working in close harness with the Doctors Steel and Stewart. Old Dr Crawford was retired by this time. These houses all looked on to what was known as the "Wee Wood", a small forest of mostly Fir and Pine trees with paths through it leading to the Stonehouse Road.

Next to the wood was the 'Duchess Nina Institute", built and gifted to the village by the Duchess of Hamilton in 1910. This comprised of a bowling green, reading room, billiard

room, shop and small tea-room. Also a house for the keeper of the institute, which was much appreciated by the villagers. The first family to 'manage' the institute, were a Mr and Mrs Broadwood, who were very self esteemed. In the winter pupils at the adjoining school, who lived too far away to run home at lunchtime, myself included, could have a plate of lovely home-made hot soup for one penny and sit in the comfort of the tea-room. Very much appreciated.

Over the wall from the institute was the school house. The Dominie was William Marshall, one of the "old school," who knew all the pupils and did whatever to further them. A kindly good man. He retired to Strathaven, with his family. Here let me say we had three teachers from Strathaven, who were of the old school, nothing too much trouble to push and advise a "likely pupil." There were two sisters, Miss Hannah and Miss Bella McLymont, also a Tom Wallance, who belonged to a prominent family from Strathaven, a town between two and three miles distant from Quarter.

Next was the school, then a cottage owned by the Hornal family, who once had a butchers shop and later a sweet and grocery shop. Now we come to the Co-operative store, a new building. The first Manager was Alexander Meikle, succeeded by George Sinclair. It was a gray two storey building with two dwelling houses above, one for the manager, the other occupied by a family called Devine. Next was a nice cottage with shop. This was the Post Office, Newsagent and sweet shop. Mrs. Ritchie was the Postmistress, later followed by Mrs. Dobbie and daughter Jean. Now we have a road, which runs between the Post Office and the old Police Offices. This was called Darngaber Road, which I presume led to Darngaber Castle of which I will write later.

I will go back now to opposite the school house; we have here two rows of houses known as the Furnace Row. At the bottom of the right hand row were the new buildings. These were two storied houses and here lived the families of the McLares, McBeths, Todd, Gray and others whose names I have forgotten. These houses had wash-houses behind. The people of the rows got their water from iron wells in the street. There were Dunlops, Rodger, McGinn, Creechan and others lived there. Next stood the store, which I mentioned at the beginning. It was now a nice shop to the front, with the only public house in the village through the back and the house of the Manager, Robert Scott to the right hand side. The Scott family emigrated to Australia in the 1920's.

Next were the Store Row, the same as the Furnace Row and housing families called Thomson, Glancy, Stevenson, Hamilton, McEwan, Whitelaw and I have forgotten who else. Next was the reading room, I don't know how it got that name, as I never saw any books about. Here was held our church "soirees", concerts, dances and any meetings of note. Many happy evenings were spent there. Across from the Co-operative and next to the reading room was the three faced row, again I don't know why it had this name. These houses were occupied by several of the families. I only remember two, Mr and Mrs Hamilton and a lady who acted as post-woman.

Next we have the Castle Buildings, a two storied building housing on the ground floor old Mr and Mrs Cathcart and next door a family of the next generation of Cathcarts. Next door were Mr and Mrs Montgomery. I think a Hornal family lived above but I cannot remember who else. The old Police Offices lay right across the street and from here we have houses on both sides of the road called Darngaber Rows, housing families named Hodge, Findlay Law, Montgomery, Paterson, Lindsay and Sneddon and Dunn who occupied the last house. Next we cross a railway line, which led down to a pit called The Rover on the road to Larkhall. This pit was derelict and did not belong to the United Collieries. I never saw it working. Beyond this railway was Quarter church and across the way were the new Police houses, occupied by Sergeant McRae and Neil Shaw. I think they patrolled Glassford and Chapelton as part of their duties. They used bicycles for this. Beyond the church was the



manse and further up was Kilnhill farm, the farmers name was Gillon.

Next we come to the station. I will mention first the Station Master, I remember a Mr Stewart. A railway line came from Hamilton and Glasgow through High Blantyre, Meikle Earnock, Quarter, Glassford, Strathaven, Ryelands, Darvel and on up to Ayr. This line went into disuse and our village was then served by bus to the present day. A little further on was a road to the right leading to Lady Mary's Lodge, the home of Mr. Robertson who was the head gamekeeper on the Duke of Hamilton's estate. About half a mile on we come to Limekilnburn, which housed about twelve families, and the men folks would be farm workers or miners. The Kiln industry had died before my time. Near here we have "Linnie Loch" which in winter provided much sport in Curling and Skating when frozen over. I will mention two farms in this vicinity whose children came to Quarter school, first we have the Dalgleishes, Crookedstone Muir and quite near the Bairds of Brown Tod Farm. I think farmers and other people beyond this went to Strathaven instead of Hamilton as our villagers did.

Let us go back to the Station now. There is a road just beyond which leads to several farms, the first of which is Burnbrae, farmed by the Kirkland family, next we have East Crookedstone, so called by reason of a crooked stone which stands erect in one of the fields supposed to commemorate a battle by the Covenanters of earlier days. Crookedstone farm was farmed by the Torrance family, West Crookedstone was farmed by the McLaughlan family.

We come back a little to the site of Plotcock, which was once a lively wee clachan. The Dunn family lived here along with the Bannatynes, Nutts, McFarlanes and Miss Dickson, an old lady seldom seen except for a regular visit to Quarter Post Office where she collected a pension from some source. She was always neatly, if old-fashionably dressed in black and on cold days her hands were enclosed in a wee black muff. She spoke good English in a cultured voice and usually returned home along with the school children. I think she liked our company. I was always proud to walk with her and listen to her tales. The road continues from Plotcock to Millheugh and Larkhall. I will mention two more families who came from Quarter from this airt. First the Archer family who farmed Mafflatt farm. The two younger sons came to Quarter school, the older members to Larkhall. Quite close to their farm was a fruit farm where lived Mr. and Mrs. Gall and daughter Margaret. We often went there for strawberries in their season.

Coming back round towards Quarter we have South Quarter Farm, where Bob and Mrs. Aitchison reared a fine family. Then we come to Mid Quarter where lived the Meikles and at the farm of that name we find Tom and Mrs. Frame. We go down to the right and soon we reach Low Quarter where we find families called Torrance, McBeth, Jamieson, Ingles, Bulloch, Fleming, Scott and McMunn lived there. Making our way back to Quarter, we have a house called Hilltop where a Mr. and Mrs. Tom Barr lived. Next we come to the Carruthers home just a stones throw away from the crossroads where we began the story. I must diverge to the left here to mention Knowetop farm, first worked by John Fleming and later John Torrance, a son of Crookedstone farm, which I have already mentioned. Adjoining Knowetop we have the tile work, never working in my time but housing old Matthew Jackson and family. He was a ploughman at Knowetop farm. Further round we have Darngaber farm where the Hadow family lived and worked. Opposite the farm were a few houses where lived the McBeths, Bain and the names of the others I have forgotten.

Returning to the crossroads. I must go along the road to Hamilton, to speak of Carscallan Row. I cannot name the families living here except McConnachie, and then towards number 6 pit we have two families named McKeith. Near to them is Carscallan Farm where the Smith family lived. Further on we have Black Bog Farm where the Yuiles lived, on again to Simpsonland the home of Mr. Gemmell and family. He was pit manager.

I will bring in Wellbog now, where I was born and lived until I married in 1929. This was one time a dairy farm, but the family called Pinkerton went to a better farm near Glassford. The steading comprised of a dwelling house and five good outhouses. These were turned into dwelling houses by a changing lot of people. The best and largest house was the home of John and Mrs Ross, who reared a family, I think twelve and a finer family was not to be found in Scotland. One by one they married off and left and Mr and Mrs Ross moved nearer Hamilton. My family now moved into the Ross house round from where I was married. There was quite an extensive forest of fir, spruce, larch, oak and rowan etc. Surrounding us, a burn rippled its way to join the Avon at Millheugh, Larkhall. It was a lovely place to spend ones childhood. To roam the woods, guddle in the burn, gathering primroses and bluebells and bruise wild thyme as we crushed it underfoot. There were always quite a lot of children about and we would play quoits, rounders, marbles, peever and skipping ropes.

Near our house is the site of Darngaber Castle, it is unrecognisable except by those like us who knew there was a well, which we called "Mary Queen of Scots Well." She was reputed to have visited the castle on occasion. It was a member of the Hamilton family who lived here and was known as of "Darngaber and Burnbrae." This castle is older than "Cadzow Castle" the site of which lies about three miles distant and lies in the High Parks where the famous white cattle are. Next to the Wellbog lies Thinback Mill. There had once been a thriving mill here, now a desolate ruin but the millers' house still stands and was the home of Archibald Waddell, with his wife and three daughters. He had a grocery business in Low Waters. Mrs Waddell's old mother Betty Stewart lived with them. A wonderful old lady with rosy cheeks and able to milk, churn, bake and generally keep the place going.

Across the Mill Dam and up through the wood we find Castlehill where lived two families, the Clelands and the Cathcarts. These families left and the place became derelict. Near here was the Rover Pit I mentioned earlier as having a railway to Quarter station. Next we have Thinacre farm where Jamie Frame farmed and on past was Thinacre Muir where Walter Watson, a gamekeeper on the estate lived with his wife and daughter. Further beyond that was the Mailing, where McAlpines lived. I never knew what the Mailing meant. Nearby was a Catholic School, which served the children of Quarter. There was also a home for the priest. These have completely disappeared as many families left Quarter, when the pits were closed down. There were families by the name of Dunn and Gilbert who came regularly to Quarter Church from Bankfield, a place near here.

I think I have mentioned most of the people that were linked in some way to the village. The miners' rows have completely disappeared and now there are many bungalows where they once were. A delightful place to live. May the people be as happy and carefree as we were in those days. I am the last of my father's family but I have two sons, one a teacher and one a doctor. Also seven grandchildren. When they come to visit me, they ask "where would you like to go today Grandma?" I hardly require to answer, "up and round about Quarter and Strathaven."

## Modern day views of Quarter



Darngaber Gardens



Limekilnburn Road



Aerial View about 1990

## The Story of Mrs. Margaret Peffers

Margaret Peffers came to the village of Quarter in 1936 when it was dominated by the mines. It was the United Colliery Company which ran one of the village stores, owned the pub, provided the lighting for the village streets and who paid Mrs. Peffers' new husband's wages and those of just about every working man in Quarter. At one time there were eight working pits in the village. When Mrs. Peffers went to Quarter in 1936 she went into service at one of the farms that encircled the village - Kilburn Farm.

She married a miner two years later and moved into one of the colliery-owned cottages. There were five rows of cottages in all, rooms and kitchens with bed recesses. "It was a nice wee place, a clean wee place," said Mrs. Peffers. "You could leave your door unlocked with the money for the insurance man on the table. He would come in and help himself." Mrs. Peffers' husband worked on "the hill" - above ground. "He said he saw so many dead ones coming up, he didn't want to work underground." She remembers one Sunday- "There was a foreman, Sandy Kerr, and Jimmy Ritchie. They went to work, but were late coming back. Sandy Kerr's wife asked me if I would go down and see the manager. They had been gassed. Both men were dead." One of Mrs. Peffers neighbours remembered that in Quarter you never needed an alarm clock. "All the miners wore big tackits and it was like an army marching down the road. About 500 men came from Glassford, Strathaven and Chapelton by train and miners came up from Eddlewood on their bikes. Nobody slept in with the noise from those pit boots."



Entertainment in Quarter also revolved around the pits. There was the welfare hall, opened in 1910 with a library, billiards and a hall and most necessary, baths for the miners as there were no baths in the cottages. There were dances, even in the streets, remembers Mrs. Peffers. "There were a lot of people with fiddles and accordions and they used to play outside and there was dancing in the streets." Until the 1940's, though, Quarter had no electricity, other than the street lighting provided by the colliery generator and in the middle of a village dance all the lights could go out. "We needed batteries for our wirelesses and I remember a man used to come up from Hamilton once a week with a barrowful of batteries." Others who did their rounds were Sanny Torrance, a Quarter farmer, who the villagers called the Sooky Dook man, he sold buttermilk; and the midden man employed by the colliery to clear the open middens into his cart. The same cart delivered coal to the miners' homes.

One of the great events of the year was the Sunday school trip when the farmers' carts were cleaned and filled with new straw piled full of children and driven to the High Parks or Watson's estate at Earnock, or one of the local farms. "You had your tinny, your poke and you got into these carts while Danny McGlynn would get dressed up like a policeman and pretend he was directing the traffic. It was great fun," remembers one of Mrs. Peffers neighbours. There were an awful lot of children in Quarter, she added, because everyone had big families.

Mrs. Peffer's friend can also remember the soup kitchens set up during the General Strike of 1926 when the miners were paid "Russian Money", also called "Blood money", 2/6 a week from comrades in the Soviet Union. "There were soup kitchens in the wash houses. The men went round the farms to get chickens and vegetables and the butcher gave us bones. The men all had allotments by the football park and the potatoes and turnips went into the soup. It

was great soup. When the men went back to work they got less money than before they came out. In the thirties, the miners, my husband, was getting £2.8.4d."

Mrs. Peffers loved the community spirit in old Quarter, a spirit which she says ignored class or religion. "It was a community that if anyone was ill everybody took an interest. Everyone was for you, no matter what religion and if someone died everyone gave money for the funeral and flowers. We had our own nurse and the miners built a cottage for her." The miners and their families were all "good Kirk-goers" said Mrs. Peffers and her friend recalls much of the social life of the village was tied to the church.

Now the miners and the miners' rows are no more and the people of Quarter need alarm clocks to waken them in the morning.



Darngaber Row in 1900 from the church towards Castle Buildings. The railway lines can be seen on the road at the bottom of the picture and on the right is the Gospel Hall.

Quarter in 1964. Darngaber Row has now become Limekilnburn Road, with Castle Buildings behind the photographer. Up next to the church the road was called Blair Terrace in memory of the first minister of the church.



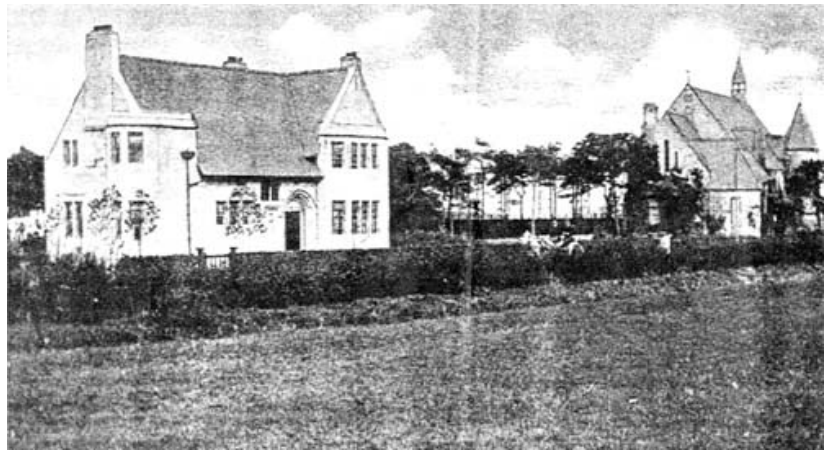
## Quarter Parish Church

Quarter Parish Church, situated prominently at the head of the village was built in 1884, using local stone from the nearby quarry and opened for public worship at the end of that year, is now a listed building. The parish was a portion of the original parish of Hamilton and religious services were previously conducted in the Old Work's School, which dates from 1857. The parish was formally erected and endowed in 1901. The church, which was built to the designs of Mr. J.B.Wilson of Glasgow at a cost of £2300 is Gothic of the early decorated period and contained many pieces of fine workmanship, particularly the large traceried east windows and arched porch of dressed stone. Internally the church is roomy and commodious, providing seats for 420 persons. Behind the pulpit is a fine chancel arch of dressed stone and provision had been made for any extension required in due course, which indeed there was. The pulpit itself was richly panelled and the communion table and chair were beautifully made in pitch pine. There was also a fine font of Caen stone, the gift of a friend of the church. Vestry session house and hall made the accommodation complete and the whole was lighted by electricity. The exterior of the church was noted for the beautiful way in which the grounds were laid out with trees and shrubs and also for the roses, honeysuckle and jasmine, which adorned the walls. Adjoining the church is the manse, which was built in 1903 by the same architect and is at once artistic and comfortable with the church.



Quarter Parish Church.

Over the years with the decline of the coal industry the population fell so a linkage was formed with Hamilton South Church in 1956 with the Rev Joseph Hardie as Minister. In 1982 a fire destroyed much of the Quarter Church, but due to the determination of the congregation, villagers and farmers the church was rebuilt and rededicated in December 1984 in time for its centenary that month. The beautifully carved chancel furniture came from St. Brides Church, Helensburgh, one of whose former Ministers was the father of John Logie Baird the inventor.



Quarter Manse and Church

Now surrounded by a more residential village the Church sends out a warm and friendly welcome with a variety of activities in a growing community. On Fridays there is the Friendship club giving a warm welcome to all members of the community who would like to come along to the Church on Friday lunch time, for a chat or card games and a bit of lunch. The minister in the year 2001 was Rev Turner who conducts the church service at Quarter on Sundays at 9.45 a.m.

## The Fire of 1982

The People of Quarter were shocked on April 28th 1982 when the 100 year old church became a smouldering shell following a blaze. There were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the fire, with police indicating that tarring work being carried out on the roof of an extension to the building was the source of the blaze. There were hopes that insurance payments would cover the cost of rebuilding and Hamilton Presbytery had pledged support, but whatever, it was clear that Quarter was determined to get its church back. Session clerk, Mr. Donald Angus tried to sum up the spirit by saying "Everything is still obviously up in the air so far as exact costs and rebuilding plans are concerned. However what is encouraging is the fact that the whole village seems to have rallied around in the past couple of days. Church members and non church members, people from other denominations have come forward and volunteered their help in clearing the debris. Everyone seems to realise that the village just wouldn't be the village without its church."

On June 6th 1982, it was reported that the fire which ravaged Quarter Parish Church in April caused between £250,000 and £300,000 damage and work on restoring the building, which lost its roof in the blaze, was expected to start soon, which was good news for the village as people continued the massive clear up operation and last week they tackled the toughest operation yet, bringing the 125 year old bell to safety and removing the pulpit from the burnt out shell. A crane was hired and carried out both tasks with the help of John Baird, Harold Harris and Tom Willon and a note of thanks is recorded in the church magazine of June to those office bearers and helpers mentioned above.



Church's bronze bell with John Baird, Harold Harris and Tom Willan

The bronze bell, made at Quarter Ironworks in 1857 according to an inscription, fell from its hanging during the fire and was resting precariously on the east nave wall. It will be stored until restoration work is complete then re-hung. Like the cross and bible, the pulpit, thought to be the same vintage as the 98 year old church, survived the blaze intact. It too will be stored and used again. Parishioner Tom Willan, one of the clear up team said a firm of Hamilton architects were surveying the walls of the church to ensure they can stand the weight of a new roof. He also confirmed that the £20,000 extension was undamaged by the fire and that the congregation were worshipping in the Quarter Primary School. Since the fire there had been an increase in the turnout for church.

In the Quarter Church magazine of June 1982 the Rev Ben Johnstone wrote. "A whole spectrum of emotions filled our minds as we watched the fire literally roar through the roof on April 28th. The Community as a whole was grieved at the loss of the church and as news of the fire spread out beyond Quarter, friends from far and near phoned or wrote to express their concern. What a strength and support it is in the midst of adversity to know that we are at the centre of many folks' thoughts and prayers. Be assured that this is the



case in Quarter! Much practical help has been given to clear debris from the church. We're most grateful for this! We would also record our gratitude to the school authorities and to Mr. McLennan for the use of the school for Sunday Services. Mr Cunningham, the school janitor, has shown a ready willingness to help in every way he can."

Quarter Church opens its doors on Sunday 16th December 1984 for worship for the first time in over two years. The service of dedication was to be a doubly welcome occasion for the congregation, as their centenary was just two weeks later. Quarter's minister for 10 years the Rev. Ben Johnstone said "I am very happy that the work to rebuild the church is almost completed. After the fire the only items completely undamaged were the Bible, the pulpit and the cross in the chancel area. We thought this was quite significant and it gave us encouragement for the future and we feel that in expressing our gratitude to those who have helped we should also be grateful to God for the inspiration he has shown us."



The Quarter Parish Church rebuilt after the fire of 1982.

## An Occasion to Note

**From the Quarter Church magazine of June 1982**

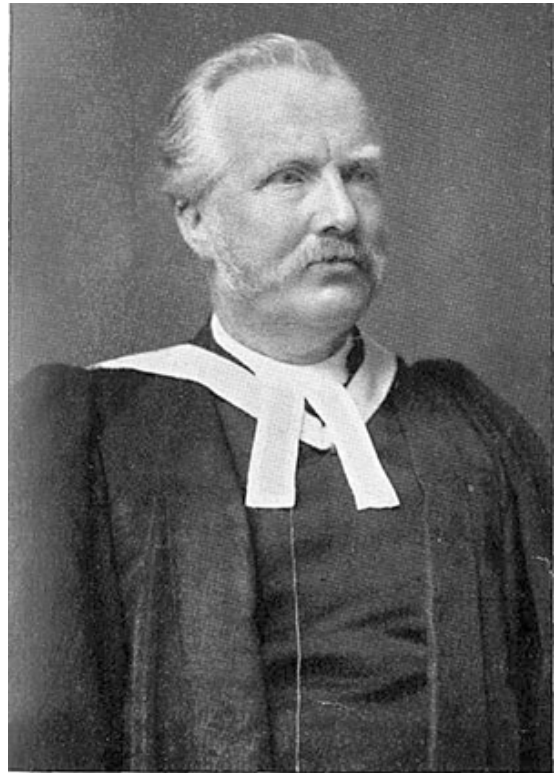
The record of baby Emma Fox's Baptism in the Congregational Baptismal Register is the last entry in the only Baptismal Register that has been in use in Quarter Church since its beginning. The first recorded baptism is of Elizabeth Miller McClare, infant daughter of Daniel McClare and Mary Clark, born December 5th, 1884 and baptised on January 11th, 1885 by Rev George Blair, the first minister of Quarter Church. The family's address is given as Darngaber Rows, Quarter. Mr McClare was a miner. With the next Baptism we shall move on to the second register in the Church's history.



## The Rev. George Blair

The Rev George Blair, M.A. was the first Minister of Quarter and was a native of Dalkeith. He was educated at the Free School in Dalkeith and Queen Street Institution, Edinburgh. He graduated at the Edinburgh University and attended the Evangelical Union Theological Academy. Afterwards he became minister of the Evangelical Union Church at Sanquhar. Returning to Edinburgh University he completed his education at the Divinity Hall with a view to the ministry of the Church of Scotland. He was afterwards appointed assistant to Dr. Stevenson of Dalry, Ayrshire, where he received valuable experience under that able minister of the Church of Scotland. He was ordained at Quarter at Christmas 1881 and celebrated his semi-jubilee in 1907, when an opportunity was taken to present him with many valuable gifts as evidence of the appreciation of his worth as a minister and a man.

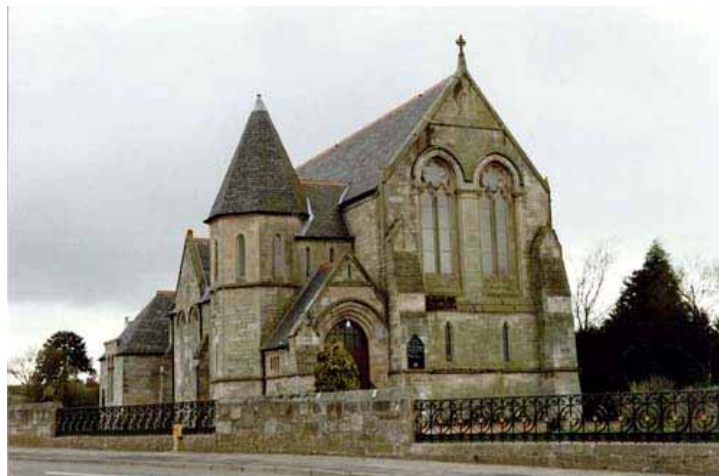
During his ministry the church had been built and endowed, along with the manse being built to which is attached a well laid out garden where Mr. Blair delighted in spending a portion of his time. For many years this man in our secluded little village had "allured to brighter worlds and led the way." In rain and sunshine, he has been with his people. He was with them heart and soul in the rejoicing at the opening of the Duchess Nina Institute and he was with them in every disaster and affliction and in a mining village there are many disasters and afflictions. At the great railway disaster in 1899 Mr Blair was present from first to last. He was not only a source of comfort, but his knowledge and practical turn were of the greatest material help. Under all conditions you met the same kindly, thoughtful, unostentatious minister of Quarter and everybody, to whatever class belonging, found him the same. His door opened the same to all visitors to Quarter. Mrs. Blair, who took a great interest in her husband's work and was held in great affection by the villagers of Quarter was a native of Kirkconnel in Nithsdale and is descended from a noted covenanter's family called Laing who inhabited Blagannoch for 400 years. She was a great-granddaughter of the "Patriarch of the Desert" Robert Laing of Glenmuirshaw, suggested to Dr. Simpson "The Traditions of the Covenanters". Her grandfather was John Laing of Gillha a noted temperance reformer.



Rev. George Blair, M.A.

## The Succession of Ministers in Quarter

Year	Minister	Transfer
1862	Archibald Connel McPhail	To Beath Oct 1870
1871	Charles West MacKenzie	To Durisdeer May 1872
1872	James Archibald Campbell	To Shetland Sept 1881
1881	George Blair	
The Parish of Quarter was disjoined from Hamilton, 12 July 1901.		
1915	T .M. B. Paterson	
1920	J. Murray Ingles	
1924	Harkness Graham	
1932	Samuel Stewart	
1946	Harold H. Mark	
1952	William Alexander Joseph Gardiner	Res April 1955 Died 1959
1955	Joseph Hardie	1964
Linked 30th September 1956 with Hamilton South.		
1964	Rev D. L. Stoddart	To Newtonmore March 1975
1975	Ben Johnstone	1992
1992	Billy Burnside	1993
1994	F. Turner	2002
2004	Rev. George MacDonald	



# Quarter Parish Church Guild

The Quarter Parish Church Woman's Guild was formed as a natural progression from a Knitting Circle formed during World War Two to knit for the troops.

Affiliation to the Church of Scotland took place on 3rd February 1948 and fifty years later a "Jubilee Dinner" was held on 3rd February 1998 at the Silvertrees Hotel in Bothwell.

Over the years membership has fluctuated between 20 and 30 people. A lot of money has been raised for church and for various good causes, based locally, nationally and abroad. The aim being to do this in an enjoyable, educational and friendly manner in a Christian environment.

The word "Woman's" was dropped from the title of the Guild in 1997, following lively and often heated debate. The object being to allow men also to join the Guild. The local Guild is answerable to (a) the Kirk Session, (b) the local Presbytery Council which in the case of Quarter Guild is Hamilton South Presbyterian council, and (c) the National Offices of the Guild under the auspices of a National Convener, located at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN. Local Council rallies are held twice a year and a National Rally is held annually. A syllabus is drawn up for each session and each Guild has "Open Nights" as well as a "Hospitality Night" when representatives of other Guilds are invited to join their meeting.

The Church of Scotland operates Boards and Committees for Social Responsibility; National Mission as well as for World Mission. Although now officially under the jurisdiction of the Session, these matters depend on the Guild for their operation. One young man at last year's National Rally referred to the Guild as a 'surrogate mother of the parish'.

Office bearers are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The office bearers of Quarter Parish Church Guild for the year 2001/2 were:-

President . . . . . Mrs Sheila Furley  
Vice President . . . . . Mrs Mary MacLennan  
Secretary . . . . . Mrs Anne Johnston  
Treasurer . . . . . Mrs Mary Bain  
Project Partner . . . . . Mrs Morag Quinn  
Roll-Keeper . . . . . Mrs C. Davidson  
Tea Committee . . . . . Mrs G. MacMillan, Mrs J. Kirkland, Mrs M. Hardman  
Social Responsibility . . . . . Mrs Jean Hawke  
National Mission . . . . . Mrs Jean Kirkland  
World Mission . . . . . Mrs Sheila Furley

## Quarter Primary School

The Primary School in 1910 showing the pupils lining up to go into school.

This school was opened to the pupils on April 9th 1877 and before that they used a tin shed positioned where the Bully Inn is now. The first recorded attendance at the tin school was in 1866, with the Headmaster being Mr. Alexander Lamont who left in August 1876 when Mr. Hugh Jack took over until 1889. Mr. William Marshall was head until 1920.



The front of the school in 2001.

## Quarter Public School

### Head Teachers

	From	To
Alexander Lamont	1866	1876
Hugh Jack	1876	1889
William Marshall	1889	1920
John G Duncan	1920	1928
Donald Fraser	1928	1931
William A Howieson	1931	1941
Walter L Boyd	1941	1941
Gavin Gibson	1941	1947
T.G. Greenshields	1947	1966
John D MacLennan	1966	1987

Mrs Houston 1987  
Mrs Adams  
Mrs McNaughton

### A Few Important Dates in The School History;

1866 Start of Log Book. Still in Tin Shed.  
1877 Moved to new school across the road.  
1929 Central Heating installed.  
1934 Electric Lighting installed.  
1935 Start of Pupils moving to Eddlewood  
1943 Meals and Milk being served in school  
1951 Telephone installed  
1953 Flush Toilets installed.

## **Developing Our School Grounds**

I have discovered a small part of the early history of Quarter Primary School and judging by the present day activities of the school, education would seem to be in good shape in Quarter. I am particularly thinking of the school's Jane Briggs Memorial Garden. The idea and work having chiefly come from the pupils. This is the pupil's story, which started in October 1999.

Some months ago, we were given money from a trust fund set up in the village for the parent of one of our ex-pupils. The parent was very ill and the villagers had raised money to buy her a special ripple bed. Sadly shortly after the bed was purchased, the parent June Briggs, died. There was a little money left in the trust fund approximately £300 and this was gifted to the school. The children of Quarter Primary decided that the money should be used for something special and something that would last. We all agreed that a garden would be a lovely way of remembering Mrs. Briggs and at the same time bring pleasure to the boys and girls of the school. Not only that, we hoped that it would attract wildlife and birds to our school. We decided that since it was millennium year we would name our garden the June Briggs Millennium Garden.

At first we looked for a place in our playground to construct the garden. Unfortunately, our playground was too small, too uneven and too rough and we were going to have a problem with drainage because we have no grassy areas. The only place we identified was a small triangle of concrete at the back wall. Then one day, when Mr. Powell of Community Resources visited he asked us whether we would be able to access a large grassy area next door in the Duchess Nina Nursing Home. Luckily at that moment the owner of the nursing home arrived and we asked him if he would be happy to let us use his land for a garden. He agreed and that is how the idea of constructing our garden in the nursing home came about. Not only would the garden benefit the pupils of Quarter Primary but also it would be a lovely place for the old folks in the nursing home to sit or even give them a hobby by working with us in the garden.

The first thing we had to do was plan our garden to scale. Before we could make our plans we had to measure out the site with trundle wheels and metre sticks. This gave us the shape and size of our garden, which we transferred onto squared paper. We applied to take part in the Celebration of the Environment Conference and were chosen to have a video diary made of all our work in the garden. The film team came along to film us making our garden designs. Some of us were interviewed talking about our designs and this was also put into the film. The film crew also flew over the school to take an aerial view of the garden and the surrounding countryside. Once we had finished our plans Mr Powell drew up a large design incorporating some of our ideas. We needed access to the garden from the school and so we decided that we would have to put in a gate. This took the form of a competition and all the children in P6/7 were given the task of designing a gate for homework. The best design was then selected and sent away for construction.

We now had a plan but we soon realised that we were going to need lots of money. A number of P7 children wrote to various companies to ask for help and a number of them have agreed to help. Our head teacher also applied for grants from agencies like Volvo, Quarter Community Council and South Lanarkshire Council. A local retired villager was very interested in our idea of building the garden in the Nursing Home grounds. She applied on our behalf to Age Concern for a grant. To receive this grant, retired pensioners have to play a part in the work of the garden. We were delighted by the prospect of working with the pensioners since they would be able not only to help us in the garden but also to offer us advice.

By applying to all these agencies, we have raised almost £5000 already. Next, we wrote to Supercounty for trees and we were successful. Three of our pupils attended the official ceremony when the trees were presented to the school. The Burn's Federation have also offered us some bushes. We approached some garden centres in the Clyde Valley and they were happy to donate items to us. A meeting was held for our parents and many of them offered advice, help and donations.

Last Saturday work started in our garden. Mr. Ireland, the husband of one of our teachers, pegged out our paths. A parent, Mr. Clark, brought his JCB, dug the paths out and cleared the site. Another company JCM has offered to pave the path for us and build some raised beds. Once the heavy construction work is finished all the pupils will be able to enter the site and begin the planting.

First of all we will plant a wild flower meadow with the plants that we've already received from the Forvie Tree Nursery in Peterhead. Our plants include 300 Oxeye Daisy, 200 Lady's Smock, 200 Dog Violet, 150 Lesser Knapweed, 100 Cowslip, 100 Wild Thyme, 100 Sneezewort and 50 Bloody Cranesbill. 1200 plants in total.

Next we will be visiting a garden centre to select plants for our butterfly garden. We are looking for insect loving plants like buddleia, lavender, aubrietia, candytuft, forget-me-nots, primroses and wallflower.



*Heavy machinery was needed to clear the site Mr Clark, Mr Walker and Mr Gibson helped in various ways to excavate the land.*



*The girls are planting Lesser Knapweed and Wild Thyme in the Wild Flower bed.*

purchased and taken delivery of our compost bins. Dead leaves, grass cuttings and other assorted garden waste can all be put into the bin. The waste breaks down over time and then it is put back onto the soil which in turn feeds the plants who then die are put into the compost bin and the cycle starts up again. Worms are a very important part of this process.

A large Calor Gas tank still needs to be removed from the site. It is occupying the area we have selected for our trees and is next to our seating area. Our gate must have a lock for security purposes and the key must be held by the school and no-one else. We also had to work with our legal



*The boys are helping to spread the topsoil and compost around.*

our new gate will be fitted. The stone from the hole in the wall will be used to build a raised bed on the school side of the wall.

Some other things we wanted were a bubble pool, logs to attract insects, sensory areas with gravel and bamboo, benches for the old folks, raised beds for our children and old folks in wheelchairs, an archway with climbing plants, herb and vegetable gardens, highly colourful areas filled with plants, a bird bath, bird boxes, compost bins and a sundial. When the gas tank has been removed, we will ask to have our Supercounty trees and Burn's Federation bushes planted.

In order to make our garden environmentally friendly, we are going to create our own compost. Already we have



*Saplings of various types were planted to help support and to hide the banking.*

department to have special licences written up and signed by the owner of the nursing home before any work could take place. This took us many months to achieve and delayed the start of the garden. Now that the garden is underway we are faced with the removal of a lot of bricks and rubble. This was obviously dumped and covered over with a thin layer of soil, when the nursing home was built. In order to secure the banking we have had to plant trees and we will need to buy lots of new top soil before re-seeding the grass on the bank.

On Friday the builders will arrive. They will cut a hole in our school wall large enough to take our gate. After that

Then we will fill it with top soil and new plants. Thereafter, once the contractors have left the site we will be able to plant, tend and care for our garden. We are also looking forward to working with old folk from the village who are keen gardeners.

Our vision is that we will create a wonderful garden in memory of June that will be enjoyed by the pupils of Quarter Primary, the old folks and our local community.

In June a van load of plants and shrubs arrived from the garden centre as donations. This was the end of term for the school, however the pupils and teachers turned up the next day to begin planting. Under the supervision of Mr. Richardson and Mr. Harris the planting was completed during the day and the children could go on holiday with an easy mind, leaving Mr. Harris to water the plants over the next eight weeks.



*Mr Robert Lindsay showing the children the correct way to plant some bedding plants.*



*The garden entrance from the school, designed by Master Scott Clark. The stones cut from the wall were used to make the corner bed inside the school.*

held on December 13th in the Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh. The school won first prize of £1000 presented by the main judge Magnus Magnuson.

The children attend lessons on gardening every Friday between 1.00 and 3.00 p.m. from Harry Harris and their teachers, weather permitting, of course. The school has purchased garden tools for the children and with a good knowledge of sowing, plants and general care Quarter can expect to be rewarded with some beautiful gardens in the future.

The garden was laid out in three raised beds, partly to assist elderly gardeners to plant flowers in the future. Garden seats are also provided for young and old alike, to enjoy the beautiful garden and magnificent views over central Scotland.

The Duchess of Hamilton officially opened the garden on 1st September 2000 and on 21st November, two members of the Keep Scotland Beautiful Team visited to judge our entry. The school was invited to attend the prize-giving, which was to be





## June Briggs

June lived in Merrick Gardens with her husband, a science teacher at Dalziel School and her two children who both went to Quarter Primary School. June was a well liked person in the village and when she was confined to a wheel chair, her neighbours would take her for a walk round the village and back for tea. Eventually June required nursing care full time at the Duchess Nina Nursing Home. Mrs. McMillan, an active member of the village was instrumental in starting a fund to raise money in order to purchase a Water Bed for June. Enough money was raised to by the bed and have £300 left over. June passed away not long after the bed was purchased and the £300 that was left was the money donated to the school, which was used to start the June Briggs Millennium Garden. A cairn is to be built within the garden and a time capsule placed beneath the cairn with a plaque inscribed :- June Briggs Millennium Garden 2000.

## The Finished Garden



## Quarter Public School

The Log-Book of Quarter Public School starts on April 1874, although the first admissions register would indicate pupils being registered as early as July 1866. The School was housed in a tin shed, having only one room to house about 174 pupils and three teachers. The shed was positioned approximately where the Bully Inn is today. Originally the school fees were paid for by the pupils as evident on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1874 when the local miners were on strike and therefore the fees were paid late, if at all, but there was also a grant given by the School Board based on the number of pupils and the quality of their work. In May of 1874 the attendance was down by 40 pupils due to a number of families being evicted from their homes, on account of the strike. The first teacher recorded was Alexander Lamont who was the Head Master until August 8<sup>th</sup> 1876 when he resigned.

1874 June 4<sup>th</sup> Her Majesty's Inspector a Mr James Smith made his first recorded visit

. The teachers at the time were Alexander Lamont, Head Master; Andrew Hogg, Second Master and Kate W. Barr, Female Certificates Mistress. The report stated "The school is taught with care, and is in good condition. The best features in the School are the attendance of the Second Standard, Grammar of the third, and Dictation of the fourth. The Grammar of the fourth, fifth and sixth Standards is only passable, and the general intelligence is capable of considerable development. The Reading of the Lower Standards is also careless. The School is taught under the great disadvantage of three teachers in one room. A class room for the female Teacher is much required."

The grant for the year that the Inspector allocated is as follows: -

Claiming Average Attendance	151 at 5/s	£37 - 15 - 0
No of infants presented	21 at 8/s	£ 8 - 8 - 0
For Examinations	224 at 3/s	£33 - 12 - 0
For Classes	110 at 4/s	<u>£22 - 0 - 0</u>
		£101 - 15 - 0
Reduction under art 32 a (3)		<u>22 - 9 - 6</u>
Grant payable		<u>£ 79 - 5 - 6</u>

1874 June 12<sup>th</sup> Mr Hogg left the school for Dalry.

1875 February 12<sup>th</sup> Major Austin and Mr Dunlop of the Board appointed Mr Park as the new assistant to Mr Lamont. Miss Barr left on August 1875 for a new appointment and it was not until September of that year that Miss Catherine Stewart of Elgin was appointed. This left Mr Lamont and Mr Park to teach the infants as well as the seniors until end of October that year.

1875 July At the second Inspection the staff were Alexander Lamont, William Park and Miss Catherine Stewart. The Grant for this year was £104 - 0 - 0.

1876 August 8<sup>th</sup> Mr Lamont resigned and Mr Hugh Jack commenced work as Head Master.

1876 August The Inspectors report for the year stated "The work of the school has all to be done in one room and it is but fair to the teachers to state that this circumstance has been a serious drawback in their efforts. New premises are approaching completion. Mr Park will shortly receive his certificate. The grant for this year is £124 - 13 - 0.

- 1876 September 1<sup>st</sup> A new history book of Scotland published by Nelson was introduced to Quarter School and on the 15<sup>th</sup> Mr Park left the school.
- 1876 November 10<sup>th</sup> A severe snow storm was reported to have cut down on attendance but did not close the school.
- 1876 December 18<sup>th</sup> Mr John Kerr Leitch was appointed as assistant Teacher. The new reading book published by Collins was introduced to Quarter.
- 1877 February, and again on March 16<sup>th</sup> another snowstorm reduced the numbers in school, with colds and irregularities in the trade of the locality, also taking their toll on the numbers.
- 1877 April 9<sup>th</sup> At last the great day arrived when the pupils left the old school and marched across the road to the new buildings.

The Inspectors report of July 17<sup>th</sup> 1877 describes the situation: -

"The School has been removed since last inspection into new and well appointed premises. In the middle and upper sections of the School the appearance made in Reading and Dictation was upon the whole satisfactory, although the style of the Reading is susceptible of much improvement. In the Junior Department under the management of Miss Stewart the appearance made throughout, was only moderately satisfactory. The children should be accustomed at an earlier stage in the use of Slates, and the Managers should provide a proper supply of Slates as part of the School apparatus. In teaching writing in the First Standard one side of the Slate should be ruled and a bold, well-rounded uniform style cultivated. The Reading in this room was stiff and the children appeared to be very ill supplied with books. The room was very much overcrowded and as the Mistress has not the aid of a Monitor or pupil-teacher the excellent class-rooms by the use of which this overcrowding could be obviated, cannot be turned to any account. Excellent specimens of industrial work was exhibited. The singing of the Infant Department was wanting in smoothness, and in the case of the senior and middle departments the pupils should be arranged in the same room at the music lesson."

Amount of Grant

On average attendance - 168 at 6/s	£50 - 8
Inf. Ants - 19 at 8/s	£7 - 12
On Exam in Standards 254 at 3/s	£38 - 2
On Exam in Classes 128 at 4/s	<u>£25 - 12</u>
	£121 - 14

The School Staff at this time :-

Hugh Jack,	Head Master
John Kerr Leitch,	Assistant Master
Catherine Stewart,	Mistress.

- 1877 August Leading from the report Miss Robina Kirkland taught in School on August 10<sup>th</sup> with a view to becoming a Monitor, and on the 17<sup>th</sup> took the Alphabet Class. In October some of the children were absent for harvest work, but by the end of October the attendance was back up and Miss Kirkland's advanced class had to be placed in the Senior Division temporarily. In December Mr James Reid commenced work as a Monitor, and got Miss Stewart's highest class in the front classroom.
- 1878 January From January 25<sup>th</sup> 1878 an outbreak of Measles reduced the numbers until the 8<sup>th</sup> March when the attendance began to improve, but again on May 31<sup>st</sup> attendance had fallen off on account of a number of families having removed. June the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> were holidays for Sacramental Fast. On the 28<sup>th</sup> June the School assembled only for two hours, which were employed only in presenting Prizes, and in recitation and music. Mr

Dunlop presented the prizes. The School was then dismissed till the 6<sup>th</sup> August.  
 1878 July Her Majesties Inspectors Report dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 1878 was a much better report than the previous issue, as follows: -

"The School has risen very much in efficiency since last Inspection, and made on this occasion a highly creditable appearance, the results brought out by the examination affording ample evidence of earnest, careful, and successful work on the part of Mr. Jack and his assistants. I was particularly pleased with the improvement, which has taken place in Handwriting. The answering in History and Geography was ready, accurate and intelligent. Grammar and Composition need attention in the higher Classes, and an effort should be made throughout the School to cultivate a more tasteful and expressive style of Reading. As in former years there was an excellent display of industrial work.

Mr. Leitch will shortly receive his certificate.

Amount of Grant: -

On Average Attendance 227 at 6/6	£73 - 15 - 6
On Infants 37 at 8/-	£14 - 16 - 0
On Exam in Standards 429 at 3/-	£64 - 7 - 0
On Exam in Classes 162 at 4/-	<u>£32 - 8 - 0</u>
	£185 - 6 - 6

School Staff

Head Teacher	Hugh Jack, Certificated Teacher, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class.	
Assistant Teachers	John Kerr Leitch, Certificated Teacher, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class.	
" "	Catherine Stewart.	
Pupil Teachers	James W Reid	1 <sup>st</sup> Year.
" "	Robina Kirkland	1 <sup>st</sup> Year.

1878 August 6<sup>th</sup> The School was reopened after the summer holidays, however Miss Kirkland was not there owing to an accident, and the Illustrated English Reader - Third Book published by Collins was introduced. The attendance had still not fully recovered after the holidays owing to the harvest work. In November Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever) hit the village and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Dec were Sacramental Fast Days.

1879 January 24<sup>th</sup> A sudden and fatal outbreak of Scarlatina reduced attendance. The School was closed until February 10<sup>th</sup> due to the fever, but closed again on March 14<sup>th</sup> until May 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Leitch moved to Aberdeen on May 30<sup>th</sup> and was replaced by Mr. Robert Kerr on June 17<sup>th</sup> as assistant.

Summer holidays this year were from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 26<sup>th</sup> August. Mr. Dunlop again distributed prizes, and the report by H.M.I. was again very favourable: -  
 "The School has made throughout an excellent appearance and its whole condition reflects very special credit on the energy and ability of Mr. Jack who has had to contend with an epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the district. J.W. Reid and R. Kirkland have passed well."

Amount of Grant	£	S	D
On average attendance, Music, order & discipline, 204 at 6/6	66 "	6 "	0
On infants 26 at 8/-	10 "	8 "	0
On Examination in Standards	56 "	2 "	0
" " " Classes	31 "	0 "	0
" " " Specific Subjects	9 "	12 "	0
On Pupil Teachers	<u>6 "</u>	<u>0 "</u>	<u>0</u>
	179 "	8 "	0

School Staff	
Head Teacher	Hugh Jack, Certificated Teacher, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class.
Assistant Teachers	Mr. Robert Kerr. Catherine Stewart. Certificated Teacher
Pupil Teachers	James William Reid. Robina Kirkland.

1879 October 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress is hampered by lack of school books, and a number of children are absent on account of the harvest. Sergt' Blaney called in to discuss the Attendance Register. 31<sup>st</sup> October reports a better attendance record. November 7<sup>th</sup> the mid-day interval is shortened by 15 minutes in order to let the children home by daylight. Dec 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> closed for fast holidays.

1880 March 3<sup>rd</sup> A number of pupils were found to be below seven although said to be older, corrections were made in the books. Measles found in village on April 9<sup>th</sup> and on 30<sup>th</sup>, results of examination in Free hand Drawing have been received and are satisfactory.

1880 May 14<sup>th</sup> Was observed as a holiday on account of Hamilton Races. June 11<sup>th</sup> Fast Day. Prize giving day was on June 21<sup>st</sup> and was presented by Mr. & Mrs. Forrest with the 3<sup>rd</sup> August set for reopening of School.

The Inspectors report was good and the grant given to the school was £214 - 4s. The school staff was Hugh Jack, Robert Kerr, Catherine Stewart, James William Reid and Robina Kirkland.

1880 Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> The children had an excursion to Auchenraith House and on October 22<sup>nd</sup> the attendance this week has fallen very much especially among girls in the Junior and Senior Divisions. The sudden cold weather, together with the Glasgow Fast, and the Strathaven Fair days may help to account for it. Sergt Blaney arranged to summon William John McCafferty before the School Board on account of the bad attendance of his daughter Susan.

1880 November 26<sup>th</sup> The school window was blown in and the interval curtailed by 15 minutes in order to let the children home in daylight.

1880 December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Holiday for Sacramental Fast Day and on the 24<sup>th</sup> a severe snow storm. The School was dismissed for Christmas and New Year until January 4<sup>th</sup>.

1881 March 7<sup>th</sup> The Drawing Examination was held today, conducted by the Rev. H.M. Hamilton and Mr. Colin Dunlop.

1881 May 13<sup>th</sup> Another holiday for the Hamilton Races, and on June 9<sup>th</sup> for Fast-day. Opening of the School was postponed until 1<sup>st</sup> September due to Scarlet Fever in the Village.

1881 August 17<sup>th</sup> The School report by the Inspector was very favourable: -

"This School is conducted with most praiseworthy fidelity, and generally very good results. The Standard work is very satisfactory throughout."

Amount of Grant for average attendance of 236 £216 - 9s

Head Master	Hugh Jack
Assistants	Robert Kerr Catherine Stewart
Pupil Teachers	James W. Reid Robina Kirkland.

1882 August The Inspection of August 1882 was also good and the same staff was in attendance. The grant for that year was £229 - 7 - 6.

1882 October 31<sup>st</sup> Mr James William Reid left the school and Miss Margaret Wilson Stewart entered as Stipendiary Monitor on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Miss Kirkland ended her association

with the School on December 29<sup>th</sup> when the School broke up for the holidays, starting again on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 1883, and Miss Janet Aitchison joined the School.

1883 July For the Inspection of the School on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1883: - Very good report

Amount of Grant on average attendance of 254                      £224 - 12 - 0.

School Staff

Hugh Jack	Head Master, 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate.
Robert Kerr	Assistant
Catherine Stewart	Mistress
Margaret W. Stewart	Pupil Teacher
Janet Aitchison	Pupil Teacher

1883 August 21<sup>st</sup> Saw the children being taken on an excursion to Cadzow Forest by Messer's Colin Dunlop and Company. On the 31<sup>st</sup> August it is reported that progress is much hindered by want of books; the Senior department is overcrowded.

1884 July Inspection of School on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1884: - Very good report.

Amount of Grant on average attendance of 256                      £236 - 13 - 0.

School Staff

Hugh Jack	Head Master, 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate.
Robert Kerr	Assistant 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Certificate
Catherine Stewart	Mistress 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate
Margaret W. Stewart	Pupil Teacher
Janet Aitchison	Pupil Teacher

1884 August 6<sup>th</sup> The School was reopened one day late due to the painting not being finished and the attendance is lower because the Roman Catholic children have been sent to Cadzow R.C. School.

1884 September 24<sup>th</sup> A holiday was given on account of Fast days being abolished in the Parish, this day was observed as a holiday as a substitute for one of them. Mr Kerr resigned on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Miss Jane K. Service commenced work as Interim Teacher on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and left on Dec 26<sup>th</sup>.

1885 January Mr Thomas Canfield Brown commenced work as Assistant Teacher on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1885. The School was closed from Jan 30<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup> due to an outbreak of Measles in the district. On April 20<sup>th</sup> Mr Robert Kerr, late Assistant commenced duties as interim Master in room of Mr Jack who was absent on account of illness. May 1<sup>st</sup> holiday for Hamilton Races. Mr Jack returned on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

1885 July Inspection of School on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1885 as follows: -

"The School was closed for a month owing to an epidemic, and the Head Master was absent for five weeks from ill-health. The results of the examination are under the circumstances, much better than might have been expected."

Amount of Grant on average attendance of 191                      £182 - 10 - 6.

School Staff

Hugh Jack	Head Master, 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate.
Thomas C. Brown	Assistant
Catherine Stewart	Mistress 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate

Margaret W. Stewart                      Pupil Teacher  
Janet Aitchison                              Pupil Teacher

1885 August 10<sup>th</sup> The School re-opened today. The children who had passed the Government Examination and others were put into more advanced classes. The children are now nearly supplied with books and the work has become steady. By October some of the infants are absent on account of Whooping Cough.

1886 January 22<sup>nd</sup> A severe snow storm had blocked the roads and it was impossible for young children to travel a moderate distance. March 5<sup>th</sup> another severe snow storm.

1886 July Inspection of School on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1886 Good report

Amount of Grant on average attendance of 186                      £174 - 18 - 0.

School Staff

Hugh Jack	Head Master, 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate.
Thomas C. Brown	Assistant 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Certificate
Catherine Stewart	Mistress 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate
Margaret W. Stewart	Pupil Teacher Fourth Year
Janet Aitchison	Pupil Teacher Fourth Year.

1886 October 25<sup>th</sup> Mr Thomas C. Brown was replaced by Mr. William Paterson as Assistant Master. Scarlet Fever appeared again in November.

1887 May 31<sup>st</sup> The apprenticeship of the two pupil teachers terminated. Miss M. Stewart continues, but Miss Aitchison leaves. Miss Margaret Jack commenced work as Stipendiary Monitor.

1887 June 24<sup>th</sup> the filter was cleaned with a note of where to find the filter; take line of School wall nearest School masters dwelling house, and measure seventeen feet towards the bottom of play ground starting from south east corner.

1887 December Inspection of School on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1887 Good report

Amount of Grant (17 months) on average attendance of 167                      £222 - 10 - 5.

School Staff

Hugh Jack	Head Master, 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate.
William Paterson	Assistant
Catherine Stewart	Mistress 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate
Margaret W. Stewart	Assistant
Margaret Jack	Pupil Teacher 1st Year.

1888 On May 17<sup>th</sup> Mrs Wilson (Miss Catherine Stewart) was replaced by Miss Jane Walker as Assistant Teacher. In December the Teaching of Cookery commenced by Mrs Stratton a Certificated Teacher of Cookery.

1888 December Inspection of School on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1888 Good report

Amount of Grant on average attendance of 163                      £156 - 7 - 0.

School Staff

Hugh Jack	Head Master, 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate.
William Paterson	Assistant

Jeanie Walker	Mistress
Margaret W. Stewart	Assistant
Maggie Jack	Pupil Teacher 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year.

1889 January 11<sup>th</sup> Mr Jack, Head Master was unable to enter upon his duties this week. On April 5<sup>th</sup> William Paterson ceased work at the School.

1889 April 12<sup>th</sup> Mr William Marshall commenced work as Acting Master, Messer's Barr and De Backer were present and introduced him to the scholars.

1889 April 22<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Hugh Jack who had been for over 12 years Head Master in the school died, the school closed on Thursday and Friday.

1889 June 5<sup>th</sup> Mr William Marshall was appointed Headmaster. Miss Beatrice G. Clelland started work on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>.

1889 October It is stated "In consideration of the Grant to be made under Section 19 (3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, The School Board with the approval of Scotch Education Department, from 1<sup>st</sup> October, relieved from the payment of Fees, all pupils up to and including Standard V. attending this school."

1889 November 15<sup>th</sup> Miss Maggie Jack left.

1889 December Inspection of School on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1889 A very good report

Amount of Grant on average attendance of 171 £166 - 7 - 6.

School Staff

William Marshall	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Certificate, Head Master
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Jeanie Walker	Mistress
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Maggie W. Stewart	Assistant
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Beatrice G. Clelland	Assistant
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Maggie Jack	Pupil Teacher 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year.
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1890 May, An outbreak of mumps among the infants.

1890 November Inspection of School on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1890 A very good report, Singing was particularly well done.

Amount of Grant on average attendance of 183 £171 - 1 - 0.

School Staff

William Marshall	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Certificate, Head Master
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Jeanie Walker	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Certificate
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Maggie W. Stewart	Assistant
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Beatrice G. Clelland	Assistant
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1891 December Inspection of School on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1891 A very good report

Amount of Grant on average attendance of 192 £187 - 12 - 0.

School Staff

William Marshall	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Certificate, Head Master
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Jeanie Walker	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Certificate
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Beatrice G. Clelland	Assistant
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Helen A. Cloggie	Assistant
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Maggie B. Craigie	Pupil Teacher 1 <sup>st</sup> Year.
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Over the next eight years William Marshall remained the Head with Jeanie Walker as his deputy, the assistants changed a few times but generally the routine went on as before with illness reducing the attendance of both pupils and staff.



### Log Book for Evening Classes

In October 1894 we have a logbook on the school evening classes, with the session starting on October 8<sup>th</sup>. It started with 19 members, increasing to 33 by the end of the week. The work was principally taken up by revising the simpler rules in arithmetic and by the 18<sup>th</sup> the School Newspaper had been introduced as a Reading Book and a start had been made with writing on copybooks. Attendance varied due to night shift and on some nights only three turned up therefore the class was dismissed. The School Board threatens to close the night school unless there is a marked improvement in the attendance.

The Inspector made a report on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1895 stating "This evening school is very well taught."

Amount of Grant £17-10/-.

The next entry is in October 1896 with the numbers at the end of the first week being 39. On November 26<sup>th</sup> they had to expel William Law for misconduct, but no further incidents recorded, although night school records continue until the final entry in February 6<sup>th</sup> 1902 with attendance still falling off due to evening work.

### The Log Book for Day School

The day school received good reports from the Inspector in most subjects. The last report giving average numbers is in 1899 with the report as follows.

1899 November Summary of H. M. Inspector's report on this school for year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September and dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 1899.

"This school is very faithfully taught and all the work is very satisfactory. The school is badly designed. The infants department and the adjoining class room are ill suited for their purpose. They should be thrown into one room with a sliding glass partition in the middle. The same applies to the other wing of the school."

Amount of Grant: -

1.	On Average Attendance (255)	
	(a) Fixed Grant 10/- . Singing 1/- O & D 1/6.	£159 " 7 " 6.
2.	Needlework Aver. Att. 125 =	6 " 5 " 0
3.	Aver. Att. Under Std. III. 183 =	27 " 9 " 0
4.	" " Above " " 72 =	9 " 0 " 0
5.	Class Subjects	46 " 5 " 0
6.	Specific Subjects	<u>5 " 4 " 0</u>
		£253 " 10 " 6

School Staff

William Marshall	1 <sup>st</sup> Class Certificate
Jeanie Walker	Infant Mistress
Harriet Meikle	Assistant
Jeanie H. King	Assistant (Art 79)
Hannah S. McClimont	" "

1902 November There was an addition to the school as given in the Inspectors report stating "Satisfactory addition to the premises is nearing completion."

A grant of £317 - 13 - 6 was awarded to the school.

1904 June 30<sup>th</sup> Miss Walker left the school after many years' service.



1914 January 14<sup>th</sup> Dr. Rankin was accompanied by Nurses Wallace and Frew.

1914 September On September 5<sup>th</sup> the following letter was received at the school; -  
“At the meeting yesterday it was decided that the pupils attending supplementary Classes should proceed to Woodside School and that the offer of the Rapid Motor Transport Co. Ltd. be accepted for conveying the pupils from Quarter to and from Hamilton for the sum of 10/- per day; no payment to be made during school holidays, and the bus to be reserved for the accommodation of school children.

Please intimate this to the pupils. I am requesting the Manager of the Motor Company to arrange with you and Mr Muir about conveyance of the children.

Yours Truly

Robert Kerr Jt Clerk.”

Pupils were subsequently transferred to Woodside School on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

1915 May On May 3<sup>rd</sup> the Rev T. M. B. Paterson and Mr. Cassells, member and Chairman of the School Board visited, and in August Mr. Thomas B. Vallance enlisted in the R.A.M.C. and replaced by Mr. John Park Turner, who in November 1916 enlisted in the A.S. Highlanders.

1917 April 5<sup>th</sup> A snowstorm kept half the pupils absent.

1918 April 19<sup>th</sup> It was reported that the pupils had purchased over five hundred War Savings Certificates.

1918 June 21<sup>st</sup> The children took part in an Exhibition of Wild Flowers to assist in raising funds for Red Cross Society.

1919 January In January 1919 John P. Turner returned from Military Service. Miss Hannah & Bella McClimont were absent on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1919 due to weather and Railway Strike. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Mr. Drimmond, Director of Music, visited the school and gave a demonstration lesson to each teacher. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> the school was used as a Polling Station in connection with County and Parish Council Elections.

1920 January 23<sup>rd</sup> Dr. Rankine, County Medical Officer, visited the school and found several children suffering from scabies and ordered their exclusion from school.

1920 July 2<sup>nd</sup> The Head- Master William Marshall ceased work at the school due to retirement. Mr John G. Duncan entered on duties as Headmaster on August 30, 1920. The full compliment of teachers at this time are as follows; -

John G. Duncan	Headmaster
John P. Turner	Senior II
Margaret Lowe	Junior I
Catherine Marshall	" II
Bella McClimont	" III
Miss Smart	Senior Infants
Hannah McClimont	Junior Infants.

- 1920 September 6<sup>th</sup> Teachers were instructed to prepare Time Tables and Schemes of work for their classes. Work is still hindered through want of material but remarkable progress is being made.
- 1920 September 14<sup>th</sup> The school was closed at midday owing to the Induction of the Rev J. Murray Inglis to Quarter Parish Church. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November a new Time Table for winter was begun today. Dinner hour is from 12 to 12.40 and school closes at 3 o'clock. There is little change in the time devoted to the subjects. Mr Crosbie of the Scottish Band of Hope Union, delivered a lecture on Temperance to the pupils of Classes Senior I and II.
- 1921 January 7<sup>th</sup> Scarlet Fever still reducing the numbers attending and the school was fumigated by the Public Health Authorities. Mr Hunter a blind man, gave an exhibition of reading to the children on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The school was closed today February 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. owing to the teachers "at home" to be held in the evening.
- 1921 March 10<sup>th</sup> Pupils were warned about picking up detonators, their dangers and how they should act if they found any.
- 1921 April 15<sup>th</sup> Miss Miller made soup for the children of miners in necessitous circumstances, 55 received a meal. On 22<sup>nd</sup> soup and bread supplied to the children of miners on strike at mid-day and tea and bread were also supplied at 4 o'clock. The attendance has been splendid.
- 1922 January 27<sup>th</sup> There are 3 Teachers and 112 children absent with Influenza. The school was closed on February 28<sup>th</sup> due to the marriage of Princess Mary to Lord Lascelles. March 10<sup>th</sup> Mr. Gilmour began the Woodwork class this afternoon. There are 16 pupils being taken in to the new building which has been now fully equipped. April 25<sup>th</sup> one boy died and one girl is in hospital from Scarlet Fever, both are from the same family. Dental treatment went on at end of May for Cadzow School and Quarter children in Cookery Room. June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Infants in sheds where work is going on as usual while inside of school is painted.
- 1924 May 9<sup>th</sup> Some plaster fell from the ceiling of the Infants Room, striking some pupils on the head. They are at school today. May 16<sup>th</sup> dull and backward pupils examined today by Dr Reekie and a nurse, also cases for revisit. June 26<sup>th</sup> Rev Harkness Graham visited school and took classes for Bible Knowledge.
- 1926 March 12<sup>th</sup> The Classes were photographed today. May 17<sup>th</sup> Commenced today to give a mid-day meal of soup and bread to pupils whose parents are out on strike and who are receiving no assistance. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> Rev Dennis Scannell visited school today and signed register. September 30<sup>th</sup> Two doctors and two nurses visited the school today and examined the physical condition of the children of 21 families, also paid particular attention to clothing and boots.
- 1927 February The Inspectors report of February 14<sup>th</sup> 1927 was as follows; -  
 "The work of the advanced division is of a very thorough and intelligent sort, but it is regrettable that no provision is made for the teaching of Science. The pupils answer well orally and are clearly interested."

### Logbook started on October 7<sup>th</sup> 1927.

1927 October 31<sup>st</sup> Mr. Reid, a missionary, sent from Hamilton gave "A Race Talk" to the pupils today. He dealt with the people, their manners and customs as he found them in Nyassaland. Mr. Beattie, dentist, and a nurse visited the school today and examined the teeth of the pupils. On Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Miss Miller, Cookery Teacher, was off duty today through illness and Miss Mary Irons took her place. The attendance has been very good except in Infant Room where some were absent owing to bad weather. Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Examinations have been held this week in all subjects in Junior, Senior and Advanced Divisions. Headmaster set papers and took Reading & Repetition in all classes, also some oral work. Very satisfactory work is being done. Dec 26<sup>th</sup> Dr. Cormack and a nurse began Medical Inspection at 1 o' clock today.

1928 January 30<sup>th</sup> An epidemic of Measles has broken out. There are 15 cases. On March 15<sup>th</sup> -With the sanction of the Education Authority, 52 pupils and 2 Teachers made two consecutive attendance's and were then conveyed to Kelvinhall, Glasgow, to visit the Exhibition on the invitation of the Co-operative Society, Hamilton. Other pupils went on as usual.

1928 June 29<sup>th</sup> Mr Duncan, Headmaster ceased duties in this school today and on August 28<sup>th</sup> Mr Donald Fraser entered his duties as Headmaster of this school today. The staff with their positions in the school is as follows; -

Donald Fraser	Headmaster and Teacher of Advanced Division I & II
Miss Dunlop	Qualifying Class
Miss Muir	Senior II
Miss Park	Junior I
Miss Mathers	Junior II
Miss Stothers	Infant Mistress & Teacher of Infants I & II.
Mr Ross	Woodwork Manual Instruction
Miss Miller	Cookery
Miss Duncan	Physical Instruction.

1928 November 7<sup>th</sup> Nine pupils attended the Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Treatment Centre. On the 9<sup>th</sup> the total roll is now 221 and the average attendance for the week is 93.1%. There is a good deal of illness within the School District including several cases of infectious disease; as chickenpox, ringworm and one case of diphtheria. November 21<sup>st</sup> Mr Valentine Prince, Ventriloquist, gave a short entertainment to the children in the School Hall.

1928 December 27<sup>th</sup> Dr. McKinnon, Senior Medical Officer, visited the School to day to investigate and report on an imbecile boy in a junior class in the School. He saw the boy and announced that official notification would be given after next meeting of Medical Committee. The boy, with the guardian's consent will probably be sent to Birkwood.

1929 March 11<sup>th</sup> The Consultative Committee of the Education Authority visited the School to day in connection with heating and other improvements requested by the headmaster on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec last. After consideration, the Committee recommended 1. Central Heating of the School 2. Flushing of School Closets and 3. The laying of the playground in front of the School with granolithic or tar macadam.

1929 May 24<sup>th</sup> This evening a cake and candy sale organised by the staff in organisation of a School Fund is being held.

1929 May 30<sup>th</sup> School used as polling station for the Parliamentary Elections.

1929 June 7<sup>th</sup> Form E.24 came to hand and showing all pupils presented for approval in Post

Primary Courses as approved. Eighteen were presented and are disposed as follows :-  
Thomas Frame proceeds to Hamilton Academy, Margaret Reid, Isabella Kane, Margaret Kerr, Isabella Hamilton and Isabella Findlay will attend St. John's Grammar School, Hamilton and Mary Gilbert, Andrew McEwan, Robert Frame, Robert Cathcart, William Peffers, Agnes Davidson, Grace Strachan, Helen Anderson, Annie Foster, Albert Harris, Agnes Bain and William Courtney will complete their course in the Advanced Division in this School.

- 1929 June 21<sup>st</sup> Dr Reekie, School Medical Officer and a nurse visited this School and inspected 22 children. The Doctor on the suggestion of the Headmaster again examined the imbecile boy in the junior class.
- 1929 August 27<sup>th</sup> Installation of central heating seems to be complete within the school but there are several pieces of broken plaster. The heating chamber outside the school building is in course of construction. A sufficient number of wash-hand basins are now within the school and there are two new drinking fountains of up-to-date type in the playgrounds. The Roll at the end of August is exactly 200 pupils.
- 1929 December 13<sup>th</sup> A photographer visited the school on Wednesday of this week by arrangement and photographed the whole school.
- 1929 December 24<sup>th</sup> Miss Watson, School Dentist with nurse Smith visited the school, 167 pupils in all were examined.
- 1930 February 14<sup>th</sup> As a School Social is being held in the School this evening the midday interval was dispensed with and dismissed at 1.30. The Social is in the form of a Whist Drive organised by the staff for the benefit of the School Music Fund. This week's average is 90.9 per cent which under present circumstances may be considered satisfactory as no fewer than 9 cases of Measles are reported and several of influenza.
- 1930 February 19<sup>th</sup> School dismissed at 1.30 in order that pupils and teachers might enjoy themselves on the ice. This was taken advantage of by all.
- 1930 June 20<sup>th</sup> Teachers have been extremely busy this week preparing for the School Concert and work is well forward. The Children's Concert given on the 25<sup>th</sup> June proved most successful. The pupils rose to the occasion splendidly and performed their parts well.
- 1930 November 14<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs Watson, Negroes, gave an address and recital from 11.45 till noon dealing with slavery and the abolition of it in America. On the 19<sup>th</sup> Mr R.Crosbie of the Scottish Band of Hope Union visited.
- 1931 January 15<sup>th</sup> Fire Drill was practised to-day. All classes marched out in orderly formation to the front playground in less than 2 minutes. There are no fire appliances of any kind within the School building. On the 16<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather the school was dismissed at 1.20 p.m., arrangements having been made for the bus to proceed to Limekilnburn at that time.
- 1931 January 23<sup>rd</sup> An accident to a small child has proved fatal and all members of the family and their friends are absent to-day.
- 1931 March 25<sup>th</sup> Mr Donald, Director Depute, called today with a proposal to transfer a class and teacher from St. Anne's Cadzow R. C. School, where there is overcrowding, to this School where there is a vacant room. The change will take place after the Easter Holidays.
- 1931 May 13<sup>th</sup> A little girl, Fanny Fleming, who was removed to hospital on Sunday afternoon suffering from appendicitis died last night. She was a pupil of Junior I.
- 1931 August 25<sup>th</sup> Mr Donald Fraser, late Headmaster of the school died during the holidays, and Mr William A. Howieson, who had been appointed to take charge temporarily was

present. The Classes with their teachers are as follows;-

William A. Howieson		Advanced Div. I & II
Miss C.W.McGreevy	M.A.	Sen I
Miss McAuley		Sen. II
Miss Lorimer		Jun I
Miss White		Jun II
Miss Stothers		Infants I & II.

- 1931 September 14<sup>th</sup> Notified the Director of Education of accident to James Hamilton 13 Store Row in Inf. Dept. and asked for a supply of ambulance material to be sent. On the 16<sup>th</sup> men arrived from works department and commenced re-laying the playground with tar and gravel.
- 1931 October 9<sup>th</sup> Mrs Tait, school cleaner has been absent from duty suffering from an abscess. Mr W.A.Howieson received notice of permanent appointment as Head. Mrs Tait, cleaner returned on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and on 20<sup>th</sup> sent to Treasurer £1 - 6/- received from Mrs Tait, cleaner, being the amount of Health Insurance money drawn by her.
- 1932 January 14<sup>th</sup> The County Librarian sent a collection of 152 books today to form a branch of the Rural library. Notified Mr Dempster about the dangerous condition of the mullion of the window in Ladies Staff room.
- 1932 March 15<sup>th</sup> Received from the Treasurer today, the sum of Twelve pounds, six shillings being the Quarter School Fund held by the late Mr Fraser.
- 1932 April 12<sup>th</sup> Wrote to Mr Dempster today asking for additional seating accommodation in the Infants Dept also for some gardening implements. On the 16<sup>th</sup> received permission from the Director of Education to utilise part of the garden attached to the house of Miss Stothers, infant Mistress, in connection with the teaching of Rural Science.
- 1932 April 20<sup>th</sup> Rev. Samuel Stewart, Minister of Quarter Parish Church, visited the school today in his capacity as Supervisor of Religious Instruction. On 29<sup>th</sup> the desk for the Headmaster's room, requisitioned in January, was delivered today.
- 1932 May 25<sup>th</sup> Mr George Hamilton, a blind man, visited the school today and gave a demonstration of the Braille System to the children.
- 1932 May 26<sup>th</sup> Received authority from the Director of Education, to purchase School Gardening Equipment viz.:- 3 each - spades, rakes, hoes, dutch hoes, trowels, hand forks, dipoles and one grape.
- 1932 May 27<sup>th</sup> Mr Maxwell and another visited the school today in connection with the installation of electric light.
- 1932 June 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr Dickson, Photographer, Hamilton, photographed the various classes this afternoon.
- 1932 June 30<sup>th</sup> Isa Hamilton, 13 Store Row was awarded the J.W.Torrance Bursary and in

August Robert Cathcart and Charles McGeechan received the Day School Lower Certificate.

1932 October 10<sup>th</sup> Mrs Janet Lindsay commenced work here today as school cleaner.

1932 October 26<sup>th</sup> Dr McKenzie and nurse visited the school today and examined 62 pupils.

1932 November 24<sup>th</sup> Dr MacCormack visited the school today and examined three children for whom application had been made to the Education Committee for clothing.

## **THE CLASS OF 1933 AT QUARTER**



**This picture came from Rab Lindsay's sister's archives. Taken in 1933 at Quarter Primary School**

1933 January 19<sup>th</sup> Mr A.Donald decided to reduce the staff by one teacher after the visit of the inspector. Miss Macaulay was transferred to Newton Primary on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

1933 February 28<sup>th</sup> Inspectors Report :- Premises;- The latrines consist of dry closets. Cookery and Laundry work are taught under difficult conditions in a class room.

1933 May 29<sup>th</sup> Winner of the Torrance Bursary - Jean Lindsay 20 New Row, Limekilnburn Road, Quarter.

1933 June 30<sup>th</sup> Sent to Treasurer today Money Order for sewing material £2 - 8 - 6.

1933 September 15<sup>th</sup> Jim Howieson, a pupil in Junior II, fell from the wall of the playground this afternoon and broke his arm.

1934 September 9<sup>th</sup> A new piano was supplied to the school today.

1934 September 26<sup>th</sup> The Rural Library Books were changed today.

1934 October 8<sup>th</sup> The electricians made a beginning with the installation of electric light in the school, and on November 9<sup>th</sup> the electric light was completed.

1934 November 16<sup>th</sup> Sent off today 62 signed forms for the provision of milk to school children.

1934 November 23<sup>rd</sup> The attendance this week has dropped to 90%. Much absence was caused on account of the death of Mr Lindsay, New Buildings whose numerous grandchildren were all absent from school for three days.



- 1935 August 26<sup>th</sup> The school resumed today after the summer holidays; Miss Mary Craig commenced her duties in place of Miss Elizabeth White, transferred. The classes were arranged as follows;-
- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Inf. I & II      | Miss Stothers |
| Jun. II          | Miss Craig    |
| Jun. I & Sen II  | Miss Richmond |
| Sen. I           | Miss McGreevy |
| Adv. Div. I & II | W A Howieson. |
- Six pupils were enrolled in the Inf. Dept. and during the holidays a new floor was laid in the school hall.
- 1935 August 27<sup>th</sup> Names of pupils awarded Day School Lower Certificate;- Duncan Bulloch, William Hardie, William Kane, Myra McLean, Helen Anderson, James Hamilton, and Margaret Kane. The total roll for the school is now 159.
- 1935 September 27<sup>th</sup> The new housing policy of the County Council is beginning to have effect with regard to Quarter. Several families have been evacuated to Eddlewood Housing Scheme this week.
- 1935 November 12<sup>th</sup> Mr Nisbit, H.M. Inspector for Art visited the school today and examined the drawings and woodwork of the Advanced Division. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Mr Hammond, a blind man gave a demonstration of Braille and Mr Garron of the National Savings Association visited on the 26<sup>th</sup> November, and examined the books.
- 1935 December 2<sup>nd</sup> All the children in the school were photographed by a representative of the Scholastic Souvenir Company today.
- 1936 January 24<sup>th</sup> The attendance this week is only 78.5%. This was caused by the heavy fall of snow which prevented many pupils from attending.
- 1936 March 13<sup>th</sup> There are six excluded cases on account of Dysentery, Scarlet Fever and Chickenpox.
- 1936 June 19<sup>th</sup> The school closed at 3 p.m. today to enable arrangements to be made for the Infant's Annual Display in the evening.
- 1936 August 27<sup>th</sup> Received today the certificates for those pupils presented at 1<sup>st</sup> July 1936 who were :- Arthur Davidson, Robert Davis, Thomas Dunn, James Lennox, John McLean and Sarah Ritchie.
- 1936 September 25<sup>th</sup> Several families from Limekilnburn are absent being on holiday at the Unemployed Holiday Centre at Queens Ferry. They are to be on holiday for a week. On the 28<sup>th</sup> the furnace was put on for the first time this season.
- 1936 October 13<sup>th</sup> Miss Richmond transferred to Glenlee School owing to falling numbers occasioned by compulsory removal of families from the village to Eddlewood. The roll has now fallen to 128.
- 1936 December 18<sup>th</sup> Received certificate for James Cochrane.
- 1937 May 28<sup>th</sup> The "Wilson Torrance Bursar" is Janet Russell 40 Furnace Row.
- 1937 August 31<sup>st</sup> The school reopened today after the summer holidays. The classes were immediately arranged as follows;-
- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Miss Stothers, | Inf. I & II       |
| Miss Craig     | Jun. I & II       |
| Miss Christie  | Sen I & II        |
| Mr Howieson    | Adv. Div. I & II. |
- Four new pupils were enrolled making the total roll 112.
- 1937 November 30<sup>th</sup> Sent twice today 9.10 am and 3.10 p.m. to have the light turned on, without result. The light was switched on at 3.45 just as the school was dismissing. This

- is first time that this has occurred. Have notified the Manager of the Colliery.
- 1937 December 1<sup>st</sup> Received reply from Mr McDowell, Manager, that the attendant has orders to switch on the light whenever it is asked.
- 1937 December 15<sup>th</sup> Clarkie Miller, Jean McKeich and John Muir were awarded the Day School Certificate (Lower).
- 1938 March 24<sup>th</sup> An outbreak of fire occurred in the ladies staff room after school hours. Everything appeared normal when the cleaners were last in the room. The fire was discovered about 4.20 p.m. and considerable damage was done before it was extinguished.
- 1938 May 27<sup>th</sup> The Wilson Torrance Bursar is Helen Reid.
- 1938 October 19<sup>th</sup> The school was closed today - Hamilton Exhibition Day.
- 1939 August 29<sup>th</sup> The school opened today after the summer vacation, the staff consisting of headmaster, Miss Stothers and Miss Craig. The Advance Division has been transferred to Hamilton. The Classes were arranged as follows;-
- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Miss Stothers | Infants I & II      |
| Miss Craig    | Primary I & II      |
| Mr Howieson   | Primary III, IV & V |
- The roll numbered 69 pupils.
- 1939 August 31<sup>st</sup> Received intimation by telegram to prepare for evacuation immediately and inform pupils not to attend school till further notice.
- 1939 September 11<sup>th</sup> The school re-opened today on the completion of evacuation. A number of pupils evacuated by private arrangement were absorbed in the classes with the "home" pupils. The Evacuees from St. Thomas's and other R.C. schools were accommodated in rooms by themselves with their own teachers in charge.
- 1939 December 19<sup>th</sup> A Cinematography entertainment under the auspices of the Scottish Film Scheme for evacuated children was given in the Institute Hall this afternoon. All the pupils and teachers attended.
- 1940 January 18<sup>th</sup> Owing to a snowstorm only 55% of the pupils were present. No pupils attended from Limekilnburn.
- 1940 May 27<sup>th</sup> A mock Air Raid Alarm was given today, arrangement for the dispersal of the children having been made previously. All the children went to their homes or to houses selected for them and returned to school within first and half minutes.
- 1940 October 17<sup>th</sup> The windows of No 1 Room were blacked out.
- 1940 November 5<sup>th</sup> The school went over to the winter time-table on account of restricted lighting. The school opens at 9.35 a.m. and closes at 3.15 p.m. The times were arranged to suit the bus connection to Limekilnburn.
- 1940 December 2<sup>nd</sup> On instructions from the Director of Education the school opened at 9.45 and closed at 3.30, this arrangement to hold until further orders.
- 1941 January 15<sup>th</sup> Mr William A. Howieson, Headmaster completed his duties in this school today on his appointment to the Headmastership of Overton P. School. Mr Walter L. Boyd Assistant Teacher (Low Waters School Hamilton) took up duty as Interim Headmaster on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 1941 January 29<sup>th</sup> Dr Douglas Brown School Medical Officer, inoculated 67 boys & girls at the school against Diphtheria. Snow continues; and bad conditions of the playground made it advisable to make a double attendance. Except for short intermittent periods of thaw, the ground at Quarter has been snow covered and frozen throughout the whole of January. A good report from the H. M. Inspector.

- 1941 February 3<sup>rd</sup> An Air Raid Warning was sounded this afternoon. The children scattered, as previously arranged, returning to school after the signal "All clear" was given. A similar warning and scattering took place last week on Jan 28<sup>th</sup> .
- 1941 February 14<sup>th</sup> An accident occurred on the playground during the afternoon interval, when Edward Morris, running round a corner collided with James McDonald (8 years) the son of Mrs James McDonald on the school staff. James fell on the back of his head (left side) causing general disability on the right side (arm, hand, leg & foot) his speech was also temporarily affected.
- 1941 February 17<sup>th</sup> The school opened at 9.15 and closed at 4.00. Dr Brown inoculated 64 Boys & Girls at the school as a second and final session of immunisation.
- 1941 February 28<sup>th</sup> Heaviest fall of snow this month and a large number of children off with the affects of the Diphtheria immunisation. The violence of the wind has blown down the chimney stack of the school kitchen. Boy's playground scattered with debris.
- 1941 March 14<sup>th</sup> Very severe Air-Raid in the district. Alert sounds again (after nine hours of night raiding) as the Head Master was travelling down to school. Another alert sounded at 10.45 am to day. The children scattered to their allotted billets during these "Alerts". To-day attendance is only 63.9%. A similar dastardly attack was made by German aircraft on the Clyde area beginning about 9.00 p m.
- 1941 April 21<sup>st</sup> Gavin Gibson took up duties as Headmaster - Prim, 3, 4 & 5.  
Other members of staff - Miss Stothers - Infants 1 and 2.  
and Mrs McDowell - Prim 1 and 2.  
Mr Boyd had completed his duties on April 10<sup>th</sup> to resume duty at Low Waters School.
- 1941 June 27<sup>th</sup> Roll : 77 + 15 Evaes = 92. On evening of 26<sup>th</sup> , the Infants entertained parents with items of singing, dancing and eurhythmic exercises - a performance which reflected great credit on Miss Stothers, their teacher.  
The Dux and Torrance Bursary - Edward Morris.
- 1942 June 2<sup>nd</sup> A very successful concert, Parents turned out in force. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> the school closed after prize giving. Roll 87. Rev S. Stewart addressed the children. Headmaster drew attention to the need for care on the roads and strict avoidance of all defence constructions. The John Torrance Bursar for the session was Matthew Lindsay.
- 1942 August 28<sup>th</sup> Three rooms of the school were occupied as sleeping quarters by the military. On 4<sup>th</sup> September Gas masks were overhauled and some time devoted to Gas-drill.
- 1943 June 30<sup>th</sup> School Concert last night and closed for holidays after prize giving by Mrs Stewart of the Manse. The John W. Torrance bursary was won by the Dux pupil - Edward Dunn. The new prize of Bible-knowledge presented by Rev S. Stewart to Nessie Hodge, Jean McCulloch and Robert Kirkland.
- 1943 September 28<sup>th</sup> Mr Barbour attended this evening to interview applicants for the two positions as attendants on children when "Meals in School Scheme" should start. He saw 11 applicants. The women appointed were Mrs Stewart and Mrs Irvine.
- 1943 October 4<sup>th</sup> 71 children sat down to the first dinner served in school under the "Meals in School Scheme", and on the 15<sup>th</sup> the school closed for one week on Tuesday - Potato-lifting time.
- 1944 February 22<sup>nd</sup> Miss Mary Stothers was knocked down by a bus last night and received injuries to her face and arm. She returned to work on March 3<sup>rd</sup> .
- 1944 March 1<sup>st</sup> Mr Turves, Ministry of Supply, addressed children on the proposed Book Drive in which they were told their help was all import. March 17<sup>th</sup> The Book Drive

- ended today with the splendid total of 4120 books gathered
- 1944 June 30<sup>th</sup> John Wilson Torrance Bursary - Barbara Davidson.
- 1944 December 29<sup>th</sup> The School ran a very successful concert in the Duchess Nina Institute on Thursday in aid of the Local W.V.S. Comforts Fund, and performed with great acceptance to a huge audience. The sum of £36 - 15/- was handed over to the fund.
- 1945 May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> VE Day and VE Day + 1. Two National holidays to celebrate the end of the War in Europe were observed. Great relief was expressed in festivities that brought the whole Village together - sports, open air dancing and bonfires, - but there was an element of restraint due to the fact that many of the lads of the Village were still engaged fighting in the Eastern War.
- 1945 June 28<sup>th</sup> The children were entertained to a party by the ladies of the W.V.S. in recognition of their great help to them during the War Years.
- 1945 June 29<sup>th</sup> Roll : 94 Av Att 82.4, i.e. 87.6% 10 openings.  
School closed today for the Summer Vacation. Present at the Prize - Distribution were Rev. S. Stewart, Dr Stothers, & Councillors Healy and Ballantyne, all of them had a word for the children. Miss Mary Stother, Infant Mistress, after handing out the prizes, received a handsome easy chair in token of the great esteem in which she is held by all in Quarter. Many expressions of good will were made to her on her retiral. Dr Walter Stothers, her brother, thanked children, staff and parents, for the kindness shown towards his sister. Dux of the school & J.W.Torrance Bursary = Alexander McDowall.
- 1945 August 16<sup>th</sup> School should have resumed today. Owing to the end of the War in the Pacific and the Prime Ministers, Mr Attlee's dramatic broadcast on Tuesday at midnight, holidays were continued to the end of the week. The school resumed today 20<sup>th</sup>. The Headmaster introduced Miss Mary J. Morrison, from Leadhills Staff.
- 1946 June 8<sup>th</sup> National Holiday to celebrate Victory was held in great style. Pipers, Fancy Dress, Sports, Dancing, Bon-Fire were the main features.
- 1946 June 28<sup>th</sup> Roll; 87  
Dux of the school and winner of the John Torrance Bursary Ellen Torrance.
- 1946 December 20<sup>th</sup> School closed today with a short Christmas Service in the Hall. Rev H.H. Mark, M.A. addressed the children.
- 1947 April 1<sup>st</sup> A large number of parents attended school this afternoon to witness presentation of electric fire to Mr G.Gibson. They greatly enjoyed items by the children and after a cup of tea, saw the gift being handed over on their behalf by Mrs McDowall, who spoke also for the children & members of staff. Other speakers were Miss Morrison, Messer's, Ballantyne, & Linning, & Rev. H. H. Mark. After Mr Gibson's reply, a happy function closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.
- 1947 April 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Greenshields was presented during the forenoon and met members of the Staff. He will be taking over his duties as Headmaster on 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 1947 June 9<sup>th</sup> John Mooney, 307 Strathaven Road, Limekilnburn fell in the playground at 10.55 am, fracturing his left forearm. After being attended by nurse Fyffe he went to Royal Infirmary where arm was X rayed. On the 12<sup>th</sup> the school went on an outing to Edinburgh Castle and Zoo, returning via the Forth Bridge.
- 1947 June 20<sup>th</sup> Report on Religious and Temperance Instruction by Harold Mark, Minister of Quarter Parish Church.
- 1947 June 27<sup>th</sup> John Wilson Torrance Bursary = Stephen Irvine Roll = 84.
- 1947 August 21<sup>st</sup> Opening session :-  
The staff was distributed as follows;-  
Primary V and IV Mr Greenshields M.A.

Primary III, II, I  
Infants II, I.

Mrs. Margaret McDowall  
Miss Mary J. Morrison.

1948 June 29<sup>th</sup> The John W. Torrance Bursary was won by Alexander Torrance of Crookedstone Farm.

1950 June 15<sup>th</sup> John W. Torrance Bursary = Jane R.H. Sneddon Roll = 88.

1951 February 1<sup>st</sup> Accident to William Scott, furnace row, Quarter. A fall in school resulted in a complex break in left forearm.

1951 June 26<sup>th</sup> The John W. Torrance Bursary = Joan Allan of Longfaugh, Quarter.

1951 December 19<sup>th</sup> Installation of telephone on a shared line. The other subscriber is Quarter Kirk Session and the Telephone, Hamilton 1211, is in Quarter Manse. The Quarter P School No. Hamilton 810.

1952 June 26<sup>th</sup> The Rev W.A.J.Gardner, school Chaplain presided at the prize giving. The Dux boy Thomas Reid, 23 Limekilnburn Road, and the Dux girl Mary B. Brownlie, Post Office, Quarter. Each received a John Wilson Torrance Bursary.

1952 August 25<sup>th</sup> Reopening of School.

Distribution of staff	Pr VII & VI	Mr Greenshields MA
	Pr V & IV	Mrs McDowall
	Pr III & II	Mrs M K Greenshields MA
	Pr I	Mary J Morrison.

Mrs Greenshields is employed by the day and Mary J. Morrison is employed as a temporary teacher continuing after the normal retiring age of 65. The roll is 112 and only two new pupils from the Village the remainder from the housing scheme at Quarter Road End. It is from this area and the part of Eddlewood nearest to Quarter that the majority of pupils enrolling in the school can be expected to come in the future. There is no immediate prospect of new housing in the village and it is almost certain that some older houses will be condemned. The increase in the roll this season is a direct consequences of the demolition of Allanton Rows, Ferniegair. The numbers enrolled here who would have attended school at Ferniegair this season is 13.

1952 October 19<sup>th</sup> The work on the furnace chimney which was demolished and rebuilt was finished today, the workmen having worked over the weekend.

1953 March 11<sup>th</sup> The Flush closets were completed today, as discussed in March 1929.

1953 June 30<sup>th</sup> The John Wilson Torrance Bursary was presented to James Scott of Hilltop.

1953 August 31<sup>st</sup> The villages of Quarter and Limekilnburn, from which the school population was almost entirely drawn, are old. Houses generally are in poor repair and the N.C.B. which is the proprietor of most rented houses in Quarter, would gladly shed its responsibility for most, if not all, of the property. They have accepted a voluntary closure of the six houses in Carscallan Road, and one, without much danger, of error, may prophesy that this is a precedent from which the N.C.B. is unlikely to depart. Furnace Row, affected by subsidence as the result of under ground workings, will be treated in the same way. It is sad to reflect that in a village with church, Welfare Hall, Bowling Green, District Nurse, and a good school, no building of houses has taken place in recent years and that whether the school remains for many years to come or not, the village seems to be doomed to perish by neglect.

1954 June 3<sup>rd</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary to Margaret Pettigrew of South Quarter Farm. James McLean and David Lindsay also had very high marks.

1955 June 29<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary to Gavin Pettigrew.

1956 June 28<sup>th</sup> The Dux of the school was Pat McIntosh, who has won an open exhibition to Roedean and could not therefore receive the J.W. Torrance Bursary which was awarded to David Frame of North Quarter Farm.

1957 June 28<sup>th</sup> The Rev Joseph Hardie presented the prizes. The J.W. Torrance Bursary went to Robert Anderson. The village continues to decline and it would appear to be official policy to allow it to die a lingering death. Roll 156.

Distribution of staff	PVII & PVI	Mr Greenshields	33
	PV & PIV	Mrs Margaret McBeth	32
	PIII	Mrs M K Greenshields	29
	PII	Jean Watson	29
	PI	Mrs M.G. McDowall	<u>33</u>
			<u>156</u>

1958 June 25<sup>th</sup> Dr Biggar instructed the Headmaster to write to the Director requesting that the ladies' staff room be put in order and furnished to a satisfactory standard.

1958 June 26<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary was to Alex Brownlie.

1958 November 14<sup>th</sup> The central heating boiler was replaced with larger unit.

1959 June 29<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary was to John McGeachan.

1959 November 6<sup>th</sup> The County council Housing Executive committee visited Quarter and examined the available housing sites.

1960 January 21<sup>st</sup> Jim Lyons (PIII) was killed in a road accident at Eddlewood Toll.

1960 January 29<sup>th</sup> A sub committee visited the school to consider appointing a janitor and on 14<sup>th</sup> March Mr Thomas C. Paterson of 84 Whitehill Road, Hamilton was appointed.

1960 June 24<sup>th</sup> Low attendance due to chickenpox and nine cases of jaundice. The school premises were examined by doctors from Public Health Dept but everything satisfactory.

1960 June 30<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary was to Jan McIntosh.

1961 January 30<sup>th</sup> The Janitor Mr Paterson died in Stonehouse Hospital today.

1961 June 19<sup>th</sup> Roof to the front and both wings were refelted and reslated. The old cast Rhone's were replaced by lighter modern Rhone's. Alterations to the Hall to give a new larger window to room 6, the modification to make large infant room from 4 and 5 and to provide cupboards in room 4.

1961 June 30<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary was to Tom Lynch.

1961 October 9<sup>th</sup> Visit from the School Meals Sub Committee which considered the accommodation and facilities now available to be inadequate.

1962 June 29<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary was to Charles Shepka of Sunnyside Road, Quarter.

1963 June 27<sup>th</sup> The Dux and winner of the J.W. Torrance Bursary was Colin McIntosh.

Distribution of staff

	Boys	Girls	total	
PVII}	6	10	16	T G Greenshields
PVI }	12	10	22	
PV	21	15	36	Mrs Margaret McBeth
PIV	17	19	36	Mrs Margaret Greenshields
PIII	15	16	31	Mrs Ann MacCallum
PII	13	18	31	Mairi Crawford (Uncert)

PI	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>34</u>	Mrs Margaret McDowall
	<u>101</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>206</u>	

- 1964 June 26<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary went to Margaret Waugh and the Dr John Shaw Memorial Prize, being awarded for the first time, went to Betty McGeechan.
- 1965 June 30<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary went to Irene Dunn and the Dr John Shaw MP went to Nancy Gibson.
- 1966 June 30<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary went the Dux of the school Marion Wedlock. The Bursary is given by the Education Committee to the top boy or girl on condition that secondary education be at Hamilton Academy or St.Johns School.  
The Dr John Shaw prize went to Ann Lyons  
Mr and Mrs Greenshields retired from the school and were presented with gifts.
- 1966 August 25<sup>th</sup> Mr John D. MacLennan M.A. took up his duties as Headmaster.
- 1966 October 7<sup>th</sup> Charles Dobinson PVII was chosen as one of the pool of players for the Hamilton District Wilson Trophy Team.
- 1966 October 21<sup>st</sup> Top classes P3 - P7 visited Bertha Waddle's Theatre in Braidhurst Secondary School.
- 1966 December 23<sup>rd</sup> School Parties were held this week. Hall decorations complete and Mr Stoddart the School Chaplain held a Christmas Service. The lesson was read by three Primary 7 girls - Ingrid Borland, Rena Peffers and Nan McLachan - who made an excellent job of the reading. "So ended my first term as Headmaster and from my observations on such a short period I reckon I should have a happy time here."
- 1967 March 17<sup>th</sup> The chimney was removed from the Old Dinning Room as it was found unstable.
- 1967 June 9<sup>th</sup> The annual School Outing took place to Edinburgh Zoo and Castle, finishing at Portobello. Over 200 children went on the trip. On the 16<sup>th</sup> was the Hamilton and District Primary School Sports at Douglas Park, Hamilton.
- 1967 June 30<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary was presented to Dux Pupil William McGeechan. Other prize winners were; Mairi Johnstone, Margaret McNeil, Charles Keport, Elizabeth Shepka, David Peffers and John Shepka.
- 1967 October 11<sup>th</sup> The school team started playing in the Hamilton & District Primary League. Three boys went for trials for the District Team; Ian Lindsay, Malcolm Baillie and John Shepka. On October 18<sup>th</sup> swimming lessons started at Hamilton Baths.
- 1967 November 29<sup>th</sup> Received confirmation of the hire of a field from the Hamilton and Kinneil Estates. The field is to be used for football and is behind the new houses and in front of the bing.
- 1968 June 28<sup>th</sup> The J.W. Torrance Bursary went to Agnes McLachlan.
- 1968 August 30<sup>th</sup> The distribution of classes was as follows;
- |      |                           |    |
|------|---------------------------|----|
| PVII | Mr J. D. MacLennan M.A.   | 37 |
| PVI  | Mrs Mary C. MacLennan     | 9  |
| PV   | " "                       | 26 |
| PIV  | Mrs Janet S. Shilton      | 31 |
| PIII | Miss Janet Allan          | 31 |
| PII  | Mrs Mary B.G. Gordon M.A. | 31 |
| PI   | Mrs. Margaret McDowall    | 23 |
- Roll 188 Av Att. 180.7 96.1%
- 1969 March 21<sup>st</sup> Donald C. Barclay age 5 of PI was run over by the milk lorry inside school gates at 9.10 a.m. Death was instantaneous

- 1969 June 20<sup>th</sup> The school visited Stirling Castle, Callander and Loch Katrine.
- 1970 July 31<sup>st</sup> The John W. Torrance Bursary was awarded to Robert Kane.
- 1971 July 2<sup>nd</sup> The John W. Torrance Bursary was awarded to Christine M. MacLennan. The Rev D.Stoddart was in attendance and the Roll was 193.
- 1972 April 14<sup>th</sup> Mr McDonald the local Police Constable began training the children for their cycling proficiency test.
- 1972 June 2<sup>nd</sup> 35 children on a Capital Tour of London.
- 1972 June 9<sup>th</sup> An Open Day was held on Wednesday. This was the culmination of the school's Centenary Celebrations.
- 1972 June 30<sup>th</sup> The John W. Torrance Bursary was awarded to Morag McDonald of Police Houses, Quarter.
- 1972 December 22<sup>nd</sup> New Central Heating Boiler installed.
- 1973 April 6<sup>th</sup> 36 Pupils travelled to Belgium
- 1973 June 30<sup>th</sup> The John W. Torrance Bursary was awarded to Norman M. MacLennan.
- 1974 June 28<sup>th</sup> The John W. Torrance Bursary was awarded to David M. Stoddart

The school under Mr MacLennan remained very active with many interesting activities being recorded. However the history of the school can be ascertained from the recorded highlights given in this synopsis.

1979 August 17<sup>th</sup> The distribution of staff is as follows

Mr John D. MacLennan, M.A.	Headmaster.
Mrs Mary C. MacLennan	P7
Miss Lorraine McNeil	P6
Mrs Jean Henery	P5
Mrs Janice A. Young	P4
Mrs Moira M. More, M.A.	P3
Mrs Marjorie Q. Love	P2
Mrs Ruth M. Houston (A.H.T P1/P3)	P1

Total roll of school is 173.

The logbook ends on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1980, with the Headmaster still Mr J.D. MacLennan.



## Quarter Weddings in the 1910 & 20's

The wedding party after the marriage in the Commercial Hotel, Hamilton of Miss Mina Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J Scott, Drumloch, Hamilton, to Mr. Andrew Meikle, accountant, son of Mrs. Meikle and the late Mr. Meikle, Blearylinn, Quarter.



At Quarter Parish Church the wedding of Mr. Peter Adam, Dalnston, Perthshire, to Miss G. Brodie daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brodie, Institute House, Quarter. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Dr Norman Macleod Caie, B.D., of Hamilton. A feature of the ceremony was that it was fully choral.

# The Miners of Quarter

From the Hamilton Advertiser - November 8th 1947.

## Sunday Night Tragedy at Quarter Colliery

### Fireman and Oncost Worker Found Dead

Not until two wives became anxious and made enquiry about the non-return home of their husbands was a double tragedy discovered in the main coal road of No. 1 pit, Quarter Collieries, about 9 o'clock on Sunday night. As a result of the women's enquiries the colliery manager and an assistant went down into the workings and found the men dead near the bottom. They were James Ritchie 58, colliery fireman, 19b Limekilnburn Road, Quarter and Alexander Kerr 67, rope splicer, 35 Limekilnburn Road, Quarter.

The two men, who were on their regular Sunday shift doing repair work and feeding the ponies, were alone in the pit. It being Sunday, the winding apparatus was not in operation and their method of descent and ascent was by stair shaft - in miners terminology, "blin pit." When they did not return home at their regular hour - about three o'clock - it was assumed by their families that they were working late, and it was not until later that real anxiety was felt.

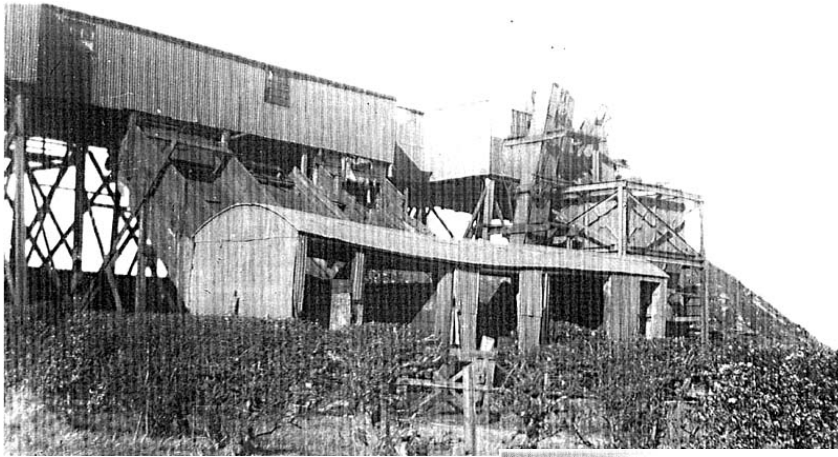
Quarter Colliery is the oldest in Lanarkshire and is a naked-light pit. It is believed that the men's death was caused by the accumulation of damp. A post mortem was held on Monday, the result of which is not yet known. James Ritchie, who was a Civil Defence warden during the war and was secretary of the Quarter Miners Welfare Society, is survived by his wife and a grown up family of one son and three daughters. His comrade Alex Kerr, who in his younger days played as a forward in the old Quarter Huttonbank FC leaves a wife, one son and two daughters. Following a service in Quarter Church, the funerals took place to the Bent Cemetery, Hamilton on Wednesday.



The No 7 Pit at Quarter

Miners in Quarry Street Hamilton heading off to the pits in Quarter.





The Knowetop Mine was opened later than many of the other pits. It was after 1910 when coal was running out in the early pits. The mine was situated across the road from where the present farm of Knowetop still exists today.



The Granddaughter of Mr Alexander Kerr, Sheila Differ has kindly given us the following account of Quarter and her Grandparents.

## Memories of Quarter

By Sheila Differ

My grandfather Alexander Kerr was born on 27th May 1880 on Darngaber Farm. His father who was Malcolm Kerr had been a weaver in Glassford before moving to Darngaber as a Coal Miner. In 1881 the family were living at No 4 Darngaber (see attached 1881 list). Alexander also became a Coal Miner in the Quarter Collieries and was known locally as Auld Doll. Alex 's fist marriage was to Agnes Crozier and they had two children, Marion and Agnes. Agnes died giving birth to her second daughter and on the birth certificate the mother is classed as deceased, which would always be a sad reminder for her daughter. Their address at this time was 72 Darngaber Row. Two years later Alex married Flora Morton and they went on to have three more children, Alexander, Flora and Margaret, my mother. At the time of the marriage Alex was living at 16 New Row, Quarter. Flora Mortons address before she married was the Police Station, Quarter where she was the Domestic Servant for the Police, with her parents living in Strathaven, where the wedding was.

Flora and Alex moved to 37 Darngaber Row, where they brought up 5 children.

Flora Kerr





In 1925 Marian or Mairne, as she was known, was tragically killed in a road traffic accident. Marion Baillie Kerr aged 20 was employed as a servant at Langshaw Farm, Carluke. The accident took place near the entrance to Crawfordwalls Farm about nine o'clock on Thursday evening. It appears that Marion, along with another girl and a young man, had been walking on the road near the farm entrance when a heavy motor lorry belonging to Donaldson, wholesale fruiterer, Wishaw and which was going in the direction of Carluke came up behind them and through some unexplained means Marion got in front of the lorry.

My mother was 8 years old at the time and often told me what a bright, bubbly, happy person Mairne was. And as stated before the tragic death of my Granddad and Mr Richie in 1947 when as my mum told me that hundreds of people walked behind the coffin on the day of the funeral. Alex was a well-liked man. Mum used to reminisce about him; he was a good and kind father.

My mum met my father whilst they worked on the Glasgow Trams. She was a clippie and he was a Driver. Eventually they joined the Southward bound mass migration of Scots looking for work. He settled in Coventry and once established in a job and lodgings, sent for mum and my brother Alex (Sandy). My sister Flora and I were born in Coventry.



We used to visit Quarter every year during the Coventry holiday fortnight, which coincided with the Glasgow Fair. We stayed at Grannies one storey house. I can picture it now. When entering from the front there was a door to the left, it was a bedroom. I can remember the unusual settee in there. I know now that it was a Chaise Lange. To the right was the front room with a coal fire. The room had two beds in the wall recesses with curtains across them. They had the comfiest mattresses I've ever slept on. Also in the

front room was a giant Aspidistra over by the window.

My sister, brother and I had to sleep in one of the beds in the front room. I think we carried on too much because the next night I had to sleep with granny after that. I do remember trying to encourage grannies dog Rover on to the bed to sleep with us. I remember also the scullery with a big range. Granny sat in a chair next to it, I remember her as kind and always smiling. Out back there was a shed in the garden, it was falling down and the floorboards sank when we walked in, but it was "interesting". It had a metal trunk with things in them, which proved irresistible to a child. When we discovered the split bag of lime, mum stopped us going there. Hard as I try, I cannot remember where the toilet was, but I presume it would be outside.

Once after returning home from the shop holding hands with my sister, I heard a neighbour whisper to her children, "Look, there's twa English lassies". Granny died when I was 9 and had seen her 9 times in my life. Any visits to Scotland were to stay with my uncle and aunt in Hamilton after Granny died.



## From the 1881 Census for Scotland

Dwelling: 4 Darngaber  
 Census Place: Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland  
 Source: FHL Film 0203693 GRO Ref Volume 647 EnumDist 26 Page 45

	Marr	Age	Sex	Birthplace
Malcolm KERR	M	44	M	Galston, Ayr, Scotland
Rel: Head				
Occ: Coal Miner				
Margaret KERR	M	45	F	Glasford, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Wife				
James KERR	U	22	M	Glasford, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Son				
Occ: Coal Miner				
Malcolm KERR	U	17	M	Glasford, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Son				
Occ: Coal Miner				
Sarah KERR		10	F	Glasford, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Daur				
Occ: Scholar				
George KERR		7	M	Glasford, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Son				
Occ: Scholar				
Janet P. KERR		5	F	Glasford, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Daur				
Margaret KERR		3	F	Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Daur				
Alexander KERR		10 m	M	Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Son				

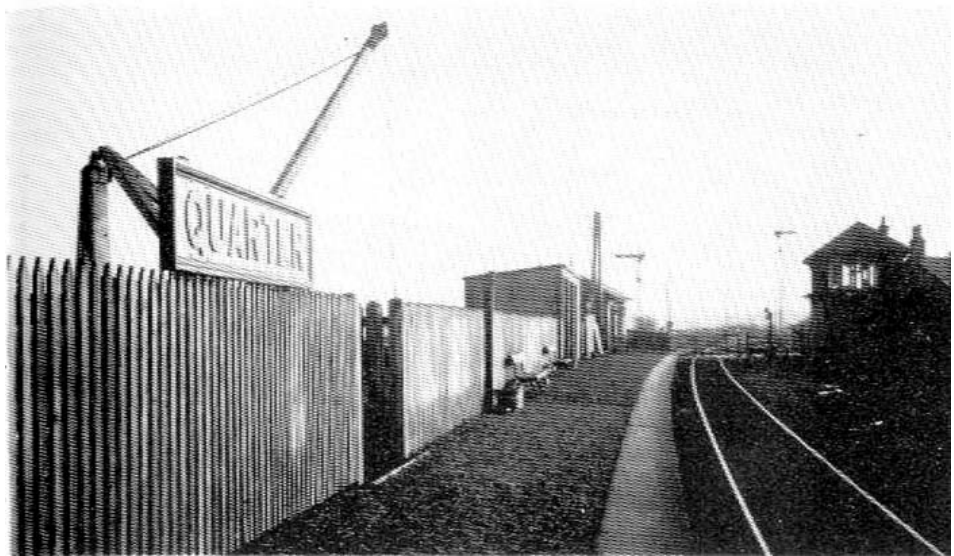
Dwelling: Waterside Row Flemings Land  
 Census Place: Avondale, Lanark, Scotland  
 Source: FHL Film 0203611 GRO Ref Volume 621 EnumDist 13 Page 18

	Marr	Age	Sex	Birthplace
William MORTON	M	34	M	Strathaven, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Head				
Occ: Silk Weaver				
Flora MORTON	M	36	F	Tyree, Argyll, Scotland
Rel: Wife				
Occ: Silk Winder				
Catherine MORTON		12	F	Tyree, Argyll, Scotland
Rel: Daur				
Occ: Scholar				
Annie MORTON		5	F	Strathaven, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Daur				
Flora MORTON		1	F	Strathaven, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Daur				

## Quarter Railways

The Hamilton to Strathaven line was authorised in 1857 and the man behind the idea was William Smith Dixon, the great ironmaster. The line was to leave the Caledonian Hamilton branch at Strathaven junction and run by High Blantyre, Meikle Earnock, Quarter Road and Glassford to Strathaven. The line was opened for goods as far as Quarter on 9th August 1860 with the Caledonian as the working company. The goods service was extended to Strathaven on 16th June 1862 and opened for passenger traffic on 2nd February 1863. In 1864 the H & S. was absorbed into the Caledonian Railway.

On the 1st July 1909 the station name was changed from Quarter Road to just Quarter. In 1923 the LMS Railway took over from the Caledonian and in 1945 passenger services were withdrawn from 1st October. All the pits in the area between High Blantyre and Strathaven had been closed and all workings between these points were withdrawn on 21st September 1953 with the track being removed in 1959.



Quarter Railway Station looking from the Hamilton side, taken about 1900.

## The Railway Accident of December 1899

From the Hamilton Advertiser of 30th December 1899.

On Saturday afternoon the most serious railway accident that ever occurred in the Hamilton District took place outside Quarter Road Station on the Strathaven branch line of the Caledonian Railway. Three people were killed and over twelve seriously injured. The train was the 3.15 p.m. from Strathaven, due at Glasgow an hour later and was made up of seven carriages. The accident occurred a little distance out of Quarter Station on the Glassford side, where the line passed through a single arch stone bridge. About a hundred yards from the bridge several carriages were derailed and the impact against the bridge must have been great. In two places considerable portions of masonry had been displaced, while on the sides and along the arch of the bridge, fragments of the carriages were firmly embedded in the stonework. Two coaches in particular were literally smashed to splinters. Others that passed under the bridge were thrown well up on the embankment and were also badly smashed, with some of the wheels torn off. Although partly derailed the engine and front carriage went on for fully two hundred yards before being brought to a standstill, but this distance of line was tortuously twisted and damaged.

The branch line from Hamilton to Strathaven is over a dozen miles long, though the distance as the crow flies is much shorter owing to the fact that the railway makes a long detour by way of High Blantyre. As far as Quarter Road Station, which is within about five miles of Strathaven, the line is double, that being necessary owing to the heavy coal traffic, but from that point on there is only single line of rails, though the cuttings, embankments and bridges are made with a view to probable doubling of the line. From Strathaven Station the gradient is upward until near Glassford Station and then more or less sharply downward, practically all the way to High Blantyre. At the point where the accident happened the decline is 1 in 64. The line in passing through the fields of Burnbrae Farm enters a cutting, which near its deepest part is spanned by a substantial stone bridge just high enough to allow the trains to pass through. As already indicated it is more than usually wide, being designed ultimately for two pairs of rails. Coming from Strathaven the train, as it takes the cutting, enters upon an elongated S curve, a bend to the right, then through the bridge and sharply round to the left. The train was drawn by engine No 166 which is of the type with small tender and no bogey wheels, used for suburban and local traffic on hilly routes and the carriages were all bogeys except the fourth and seventh, which were six wheelers. The train consisted of two portions, the first three vehicles bound for Hamilton and the others for Glasgow. The two sections would have been separated at High Blantyre. All the plant was of modern type and in the best of condition. Apparently the train left Strathaven near the schedule time of 3.15 at 3.28 p.m., it was about five miles on its journey and reduced to a wreck. How the accident was caused is yet largely a matter of speculation. What is known with certainty from the condition of the permanent way is that something went wrong just as the train entered upon the curving decline at Burnbrae. One of the carriages, the second from the engine, it was afterwards ascertained, evidently jumped the rails at that point and rushed along out of alignment with the rest of the train, forcing metals and sleepers out of position. At first the displacement was only a few inches to the right, but it gradually increased until at the bridge about 100 yards distant, the displacement to the right amounted to about three feet. Probably a second vehicle left the rails soon after the first; at any rate, one carriage seems to have struck the arch of the bridge near the right side and another evidently collided with the masonry on the left. The impact hastened, if it did not actually cause, the disaster.

As soon as the train came to a stand, those of the passengers who had escaped rendered every assistance in extricating those who were buried in the debris. In the meantime medical aid was wired for, from Quarter Station and in a comparatively short time the following doctors were at the scene of the disaster: - Drs. R. H. and J. R. Watson, Adam, Crawford, Steele and Wight of Hamilton; Mason, Dougal, Watt and Petrie of Strathaven; and Watson of Langside, Glasgow, who was visiting Strathaven, immediately driving to Quarter on learning of the accident. Later on Dr. Murray of Hillhead who accompanied Mr. Curren, the superintendent of the line, was also in attendance.

The following is a list of the killed and injured:

### **KILLED**

John Miller Wilson Jackson aged 37 of West Quarter House, Glassford. He was a JP for Lanarkshire and proprietor of Hall hill and Tarbrax. He was unmarried and resided at Edinburgh. He was out on a business visit with Mr. Watson, engineer, Cadzow Colliery who had his leg broken and was returning to Edinburgh.

Mrs. Brownlie aged 63, widow of James Brownlie, butcher, Bilbao Street, Strathaven. She was on her way to Hamilton to spend Christmas with her daughter, wife of Mr. Nicholson, grocer, Low Waters, Hamilton.

William Swanson aged 35, guard, of 1 Flemington Street, Strathaven. His wife and two children were in the train and escaped unhurt.

### **INJURED**

Agnes Andrew about 20, residing with her parents in Waterside Street, Strathaven - Fracture of the skull and of a leg; conveyed to Glasgow Royal Infirmary in ambulance.

Mrs. Edminston about 50, wife of a farm servant residing at 21 Castle Street, Strathaven, bruised about the back and suffering from shock; conveyed to Glasgow Royal Infirmary by ambulance.

Andrew Watson, mining engineer, Cadzow, residing at 10 Kew Terrace, Kelvinside, Glasgow. - Fracture of left leg and shock; conveyed to Glasgow by special train.

Haddow Patterson aged 23, tailor of Balgreen, Strathaven. - Sprained ankle and shock.

Samuel Hyslop aged 28 tailor, residing at Balgreen, Strathaven. - Bruise on leg and shock.

Marion Stewart aged 24, residing at 38 Waterside Street, Strathaven. - Suffering from shock.

James Turner aged 57, mason, residing at 10 Union Street, Hamilton. - Bruises on back, fractured ribs and shock.

John Train aged 40, labourer, of 21 Barrack Street, Hamilton. - Bruises on head and legs also shock.

William McSporrán aged 53, miner, of Todshill Street, Strathaven. - Bruises on back also shock.

James Grainger aged 26, coachman, of 11 North Street, Strathaven. - Injured about face and head.

Gavin Nairn aged 47, labourer, of Limekilnburn. - Fractured collarbone, assisted home by friends.

James Grant, Sandford, Strathaven. - Severe bruises and shock.

Robert Glance, postman, of Chapelton - Wounded on scalp and face and fingers cut.

Before the arrival of the medical gentlemen, about twenty minutes to five, the injured and dead had all been extricated and removed to the station waiting room and the stationmaster's house, on ambulance stretchers sent from Quarter Colliery by Mr. Munro, the manager. It was dark before the bodies of Mr. Jackson and the guard Swanson were removed. Both were completely hidden in the wreckage. Mr. Jackson had been all but decapitated and Swanson's body had been so terribly crushed that scarcely a bone remained unbroken. A pathetic incident in connection with Swanson's death was that his wife was a passenger in the train from Strathaven to Hamilton. She was among the uninjured and she waited in painful distraction while the wreckage was being searched in the flicker of the wood fires. On



learning the fate of her husband she swooned and had to be assisted from the scene.

By shortly after five o'clock as many as ten doctors had arrived and the injured had thus ample medical assistance and among those who gave kindly attention was Rev George Blair of Quarter. On the advice of the doctors, the young woman Agnes Andrew and Mrs. Edmiston, both from Strathaven, were sent to Glasgow Royal Infirmary in the Hamilton ambulance wagon. They also advised that Mr. Andrew Watson should be sent to Glasgow Royal Infirmary but he insisted upon being taken home to Kew Terrace, Glasgow and he was dispatched by special train, Dr Crawford accompanying him. Ambulance wagons were also present from Motherwell and Bothwell and they were utilised for conveying the injured to their homes.

News of the disaster spread with wonderful rapidity and in the adjacent villages of Quarter, Glassford and Strathaven, in which many of the passengers had friends, great consternation and anxiety were excited. Crowds hurried over fields and along stony permanent way to the scene. Huge bonfires fed by the wreckage shed a ruddy glow, despite the dismal character of the evening and the surroundings and by their light the terrible havoc wrought by the accident was dimly visible. Splintered wood, all that remained of the framework of two large carriages, was strewn all over the cutting, a carriage roof almost entire lay upside down across the rails and above it was half of a bogey with wheels uppermost.

Mr. Thomson the station master at Quarter Road wrote afterwards, "Permit me through the columns of your esteemed paper to convey to Mr. Munro, manager, Quarter Colliery and also many of Colin Dunlop & Co.'s employees residing in Quarter my sincere thanks for the very kind assistance given me last Saturday afternoon at the wreck of the unfortunate 3.15 passenger train. Also to the Rev. Mr. Blair, minister of Quarter who assisted so ably both the suffering and myself which owing to my responsible position was most gladly received and will not soon be forgotten. Mrs. Thomson also wishes to thank Mrs. Blair and lady friends for the sympathy shown her both during the reception of the wounded and after all were removed. Friends in need are friends indeed."

The Rev. Mr. Blair, while altogether silent regarding his own service, states that perhaps more than anyone else he is better able to speak of the great kindness and skill shown by Mr. Munro and the Quarter men, by the railway inspectors, by the doctors and by Mr. and Mrs. Thomson at the Station House. He desires that the self-sacrificing labours of those persons should be emphatically recorded.

It was also reported and almost too humiliating to record the disgraceful fact that one, at least, of the victims of the disaster was actually robbed by some miscreant of all moneys and valuables, but the dastardly deed nevertheless occurred and although the police made an apprehension in connection with the affair, they have unfortunately not been successful in obtaining sufficient evidence to warrant a prosecution.

## Alexander Dunn

The event was described by the Hamilton Advertiser in August 1894.

Mr. Dunn who originated from Kilmarnock had taken up the job of superintendent of the Tile-making on the Ducal estate under Mr. Matthew Walker. He was born in 1824 at Kilmarnock in Ayrshire and came to Tilework Cottage, Darngaber in 1850 and with his wife Margaret and remained there for over 50 years.

The couple had their Golden Wedding on 16th August 1894, in the Reading Room on Thursday evening, when a company of fully one hundred met to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Mr and Mrs Alexander Dunn. The Rev George Blair, M.A., Presided having on his right hand the bridegroom and bride; Miss Annie Mackie, the bridesmaid of the original ceremony and sister of the bride, Mrs. Thomas Mackie; and the Messrs Mackie, brothers of the bride. On the Left supporting the chair, were: - Mr. John Dunn, Porterhall, Lesmahagow, the eldest son of the family, Mrs. Blair of the manse, Mr. John Fleming of Knowetop and Andrew Hamilton of North Quarter. The other tables presented an interesting sight, as they were arranged according to the different branches of the family, which numbers including grandchildren and great-grandchildren 75. A few friends from the neighbourhood were also present.

After a substantial and beautifully served tea, which was purveyed by Mr Barrie of the Store, the Chairman celebrated in a short speech the event of the evening. "Many years ago," he said, "according to the story I have heard, a cart of flitting passed through Limekilnburn. Seated on a mattress, there was a good looking young wife, who kept reminding the guidman that it was a lang dreich road. The young guidman kept comforting her heart by assuring her that "they would sune be there noo," On went the cart on the lonely road, for there was no station then, no Kirk, no 'Dublin', no soup kitchen, no post office. 'Woa-ho!' and the cart stopped at the auld schule. 'That's hit then,' said the young guidman, looking with a very feared expression in the guidwife's face. The guidwife looked and saw a little cottage in the middle o'some broken tiles, an' clay, an' heather, an' some threshes. "Aweel Sandy," says she, "ye can just turn the cairt about, an' tak' the family, and me back to Kilmarnock, for I'll never bide there." How Sandy got her to change her mind history does not say, but I expect a refreshment from the dominie helped a good deal. Be that as it may Sandy managed - what some husbands cannot do - to persuade the wife, "an' ca' on wi' the cairt." The worthy couple settled doon among the heather and the threshes, lived a hamely, dacent, guid Scotch life, brought up a large and respectable family, made many friends in their new abode, saw a stirring village rise about them and great glowering furnaces, singe the heather and melt the iron stone and after they had been married fifty years, invited to the reading room, their family and friends, who said - "Long life, health,. happiness and prosperity to the teuch auld couple, Mr and Mrs Alexander Dunn."

The chairman then went on to state that they were married fifty years ago that night by the Rev. William Ramage, of the Relief Church, Kilmarnock, now the Rev. Dr. Ramage of the United Presbyterian Church, Glasgow, from whom he read a letter, offering his congratulations to his old friends and hoping they might be spared to see their diamond wedding.

Mr Blair thanked the family and friends for doing him the honour of asking him to preside on such an interesting occasion, but modestly declined doing any new ceremony, as Dr. Ramage had done the job so well. While he knew that Mr and Mrs Dunn were quite prepared to take each other again for better or for worse. He advised them to let well alone, and "ca' on the cart," as the bridegroom had done long ago.

With the exception of one son, who was in Africa, all the family were present, which consists of eleven children - six sons and five daughters - forty-five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. After the pleasing strains of "John Anderson, my jo," played on their violins by Misses McLare, Grierson and Pollock, the chairman called on Mr Fleming of Knowetop, who made a presentation of a purse of sovereigns to Mr and Mrs Dunn, the gift of the family and a few friends. Several other articles in gold had been already received at the house. Mr Dunn on rising to reply, was received with great cheering. He thanked them all heartily on behalf of his wife and himself.

Mr. Dunn died on October 2, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn occupied a most respectable and honourable position throughout the district and various parts of the country and colonies. Mrs. Dunn who died on the 15, April 1902 aged 78 years still lived at Tileworks Cottage Quarter.

## **Mr. Andrew Hamilton**

Mr. Andrew Hamilton was a farmer from North Quarter who, besides being highly esteemed as an industrious and sagacious farmer and as a valued member of the community, devoted himself to antiquarian and historical pursuits which made him well known in the parish of Hamilton and throughout the county of Lanark. He was a frequent contributor to the columns of the Hamilton Advertiser and above the familiar initials of the time "A. H." have appeared many valuable articles on the genealogy of the noble families and local incidents connected with the great events of Scottish history.

These articles drew the attention and respect of all classes of people at home and abroad and he was often appealed to as an authority on the special subjects of his study and engaged in correspondence with persons and families of note. Owing to his peculiarly quiet and unassuming disposition, not many people were aware how fine an intelligence he possessed using it for the study of Scottish manners and history. The genealogy of the noble families in the West of Scotland and the exact incidents and figures which give life and colour to the canvas of Scottish history, were his chief field of research; but there was no book of any consequence regarding the whole subject of Scottish history with which he was not in some degree acquainted.

Andrew was born in 1821 at Quarter Farm, a farm of about 176 Acres. He shared the farm with his brothers John, Robert and his sister Margaret. He died peacefully in May 1898.

# James Keir Hardie

1856 – 1915



James was the illegitimate son of Mary Keir, a farm servant in rural Legbrannock, Bothwell, and Lanarkshire on 15th August 1856. Mary went on to marry David Hardie a ship's carpenter and had eight sons and two daughters. They lived for a time in 1870's at Quarter then moved to Low Waters where they had a Stationers shop.

James, after being down the pits at 10 years old, was blacklisted by the colliery owners for his later union activities James never attended school and was completely illiterate until his mother began to teach him to read after they moved to Lanarkshire. Although he worked 12 hours a day down the mine, he still found time for his studies and by the age of seventeen had learnt to write. He began to read newspapers and discovered how some workers were attempting to improve their wages and working conditions by forming trade unions. He helped establish a union at his colliery and in 1880 led the first ever strike of Lanarkshire miners. This led to his dismissal, and after

moving to Old Cumnock in 1881 worked as a journalist for a local newspaper and later once having moved to London ran the Labour Leader paper.

By 1881 he was the Secretary for the Miners Union in Scotland. He was largely self-educated and determined to improve himself and his fellow workers. He was one of the leading figures in the unionism movement among the miners in the West of Scotland.

With the support of Robert Smillie, the leader of the Lanarkshire miners, Hardie began advocating socialism and in 1888 stood as the Independent Labour candidate for the constituency of Mid-Lanark. His first attempt failed. In the 1892 General Election Hardie stood as the Independent Labour candidate for the West Ham South constituency in London's industrial East End. He won this time.

Hardie in many respects was the principal architect of the political strategy which brought socialists and trade unionists together in the cause of independent labour. He disagreed with many members of the Labour Party over the outbreak of war in 1914 and was a pacifist trying to organise a national strike against Britain's participation in the war. Despite being seriously ill, Hardie took part in several anti-war demonstrations and as a result some of his former supporters denounced him as a traitor. James Keir Hardie died on 25th September, 1915.

George Downie Hardie, James's brother, was a socialist MP for Springburn and was born in 1874 at Quarter but died in London in 1937.

David Hardie another brother was for a short period MP for Rutherglen and a county Councillor in 1937.

## The Kirkland Family

The Kirklands moved into the Quarter area in 1833. Alexander Kirkland took over the tenancy of Burnbrae Farm and a small farm called Paddock Craig. The two farms were joined into one with the buildings at the small farm being removed when the Railway went through their land. The fields of the farm stretched from the farmhouse of Burnbrae to within one field of Limekilnburn. In the 1851 census the Burnbrae Farm is being run by Alexander's son John Kirkland and his wife Margaret Wilson with their children of Alexander born 1839, Janet born 1841, Ann born 1843, Margaret born 1845, Robert born 1846, Mary born 1849 and lastly Archibald who was born early in 1851.

John Kirkland was still the head farmer in 1881, having 130 acres and his children Robert, John born 1855, Jane born 1853 and Agnes born 1857 were employed on the farm. His son Robert took over the farm and also married a Margaret Wilson. It was this Robert who helped transport the stone from the local quarry to build the Quarter Parish Church. In turn his son, also Robert, who was born in January 1900 and married Jane Wiseman Lennox Murray from Sandford in 1936, took over the Burnbrae Farm. Jane and Robert met at a Farmers Ball in the Duchess Nina Institute. When Robert and Jane moved over to let their son Robert run the farm they moved to Darngaber Farm before Jane moved with her daughter Alison into a new bungalow in Limekilnburn Road.

In 1922 the Duke of Hamilton Estates offered to sell the farms of Quarter to the sitting tenants and the Kirklands, like the majority of farmers, took the opportunity to own their farms and invest in their own future. As mentioned above, the Railway ran through their farm and the station was just across the road from their fields. Even in the mid 19th century supplies were delivered to the Quarter station for the farmers,

who could be seen collecting their supplies by horse and cart.

The farm is still run by Robert with his brother Guy and John now working on other farms and his sister Margaret married a farmer from Carluke. Robert's son may step into his shoes and continue the run of Kirklands at Burnbrae Farm. One other member of the family who should be mentioned, is Annie Kirkland who married Bill Ferguson from Shotts. Bill lodged in Quarter with the Hornels while he learned his

trade as manager in the coal industry. They emigrated to South Africa where they married and then settled in Bulawao, Rhodesia and Bill was manager in the local coal mine. Their son went on to be head of security under the Smith government during the independence struggle of the 60's.

Darngaber Farm



## **The Kirkland Family**



### **Taken about 1925 at Burnbrae Farm**

From left to right: - Back Row; James Kirkland, Robert Kirkland,  
Margaret Kirkland, Robert Frame.

Front Row; Robert Kirkland Sen, Annie Kirkland, Margaret Kirkland Sen.

# The Torrance Family

## The Longest Tenure of Land in Lanarkshire

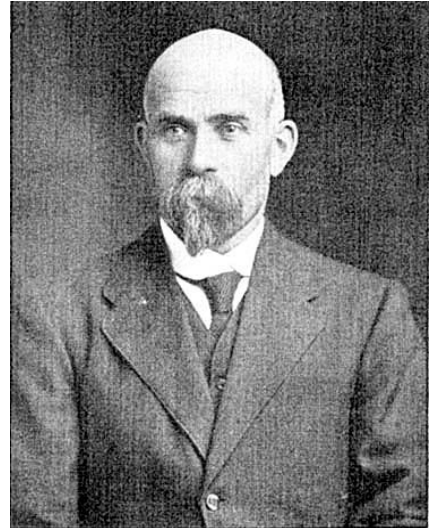
The famous Quarter antiquarian Mr. Andrew Hamilton computed that the family of Torrance had occupied the farm of Crooked Stone on the Hamilton estates for over nine hundred years, being related to the House of Torrance in East Kilbride. That seems a long period, but if all the Torrances had been as long lived as the grandfather of Alexander born in 1865 then the number of tenants in that period would not have been so great after all, for he attained to within three months of one hundred years of age.

Mr. Alexander Torrance, born in 1865, was educated at Quarter school under the schoolmasters whose memories were still revered in the district, being Mr. Alexander Lamont who was succeeded by Mr. Hugh Jack. Both men were greatly interested in local history and biography and there is little doubt that they instilled some of their local patriotism into their pupil as he was keen on anything historical or legendary that pertains to his history and interesting surroundings.

Down the line of Torrances have run the Christian names alternately, Abraham and John. The departure in the case of Alexander is due to the fact that his brother Abraham did not take to farming and became the trusted and respected Foreman joiner at Quarter Colliery. Mr. Alexander Torrance, contrary to the tastes of his brother took a great interest in farming and all that pertains to the scientific industry. Every field of the 127 acres comprised in the farm was in the best of condition as were the stock, house and steading. One could not help being struck by the byres, which were well ventilated and contained less extraneous matter than many dwelling houses of the time. Winter and summer the floors were dry and clean as the floors of a human dwelling house and the whole apartment sweet smelling.

But Mr. Torrance notwithstanding his busy life in watching and taking advantage of the weather, manages to give some scope to his most refined tastes and had one of the prettiest flower gardens it is possible to picture. He was a worthy vice-president of Quarter Horticultural Society and was also a director of Lanarkshire Farmers' Society. He takes a keen interest in all that pertains to the comfort, elevation, and well-being of his neighbours and was a member of the committee that manages the Duchess Nina Institute. He was born into the Free Church and had always attended the St. John's U.F.Church in Hamilton.

It may be easily understood that the family Torrance, being so long connected with the district, could scarcely escape a connection with the broils in the times of the Covenanters. There is on the farm a rock under which one of his forefathers went to hide in these troubled times. But Mr. Torrance did not allow the absorbing industry of farming and his duty to semi-public institutions to take up all his time. He was fond of sport and delighted in curling, having been the treasurer of the Thorniehill Curling Club. He skipped the rink that won the gold medal in the last two contests, his brother Abraham was also a member of the same rink. Mr. Torrance was highly respected amongst his neighbours and his constant good nature gained him friends wherever he went.



Mr. Alexander Torrance.

## Mr. Matthew Walker

Mr. Matthew Walker was born in 1789 at Bathgate from where he migrated to Hamilton and married Janet from Hamilton. In 1825 he was appointed manager of Quarter Colliery by Mr. Brown, factor to the Duke of Hamilton. He remained in charge till 1854 when the mineral field was let to Messrs. Dunlop of Clyde Ironworks. He also had charge of the Duke's tile-works at Darngaber and Boghead lime-works for upwards of 20 years. After Dunlop leased the minerals he continued in their service for some time and afterwards became tacksman of Boghead Limeworks, which he worked for a number of years.

As manager of the above works he was highly esteemed and respected by his employers and all with whom he had dealings with in business. This feeling was shown in an eminent manner on his leaving the Duke's service in 1854. He and his partner in life were then presented each with a handsome gold watch and a purse of sovereigns as a testimonial of merit and as a further reward for long and faithful services extending over half a century. He was left by the grandfather of the present Duke with a free house and pension for life, the house he occupied for sixty years.

In politics, Mr. Walker was a Liberal and he headed the Quarter contingent of colliers at the great reform demonstration in the South Haugh in 1832. He was a steadfast and warm friend of the late Rev. John MacFarlane of Saffronhall and took an active part and was the main instrument in getting the church erected for him, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1841. He acted as Preses of the managers of the church so long as Mr. MacFarlane lived.

Having a literary taste, he was a great reader and very intelligent in both sacred and secular literature. He was of a cheerful disposition, free and social in his nature and his genial remarks, kind words and friendly greetings, like his memory will be long cherished by his large family circle as well as by his friends and neighbours with whom he associated. Mr. Walker passed away in February 1885 at Quarter.

## The McGregor Family of Quarter

By Shirley Hearn



Elizabeth McGregor,  
m.s. Bruce 1864-  
1945,  
with her two  
granddaughters  
from left to right  
Elizabeth Frame  
Docherty  
and Elizabeth Frame  
Bruce Harris.

Ann Golder  
Harris, m.s. McGregor







Back Row:-  
Mr Williams,  
Alex Smith,  
Cissie McIntyre,  
Mary Reid,  
Nellie Docherty,  
Jean McGregor,  
Hugh McGregor,  
Middle Row:-  
Aunt Bethia &  
Peggy's baby,  
Rebecca Gallachar,  
Nigel Bishop,  
Betty Docherty,  
Me (Jack Harris)  
Front Row:- Peggy's

boy, Auld Mag, Peter McGregor, Granny McGregor, Betty Russell, Peggy's girl, not known.

Quarter in 1929 at No. 21 New Buildings. Elizabeth McGregor, m.s. Bruce with her daughter Ann Golder Harris, m.s. McGregor, and her granddaughter Elizabeth Frame Bruce Harris.



Hugh and Betty Harris at Quarter in 1929. The railway trucks of the United Collieries can be seen in the distance.



Betty Harris and Mary Cane at Quarter in 1929.



Hugh Teesdale McGregor and his wife Georgina Adams McGregor, m.s. White, known as Jean. Their son Peter McGregor Taken in 1940.



Jim Hodge and Peter Strang McGregor at Quarter in 1929.



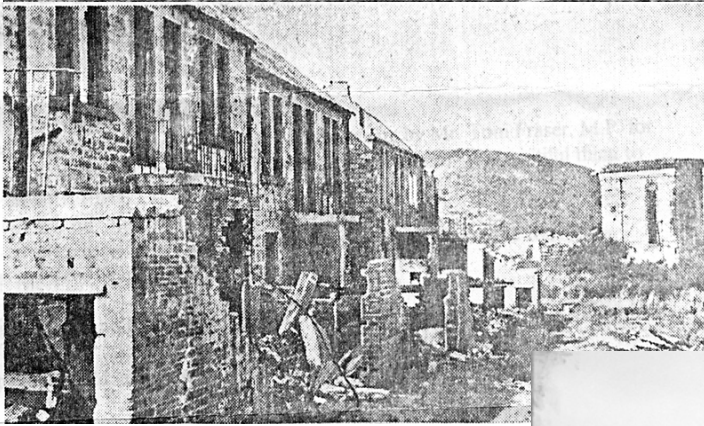
Ann Golder Harris, m.s. McGregor, born in Quarter on 19th November 1892. On a visit from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Picture taken in June 1973.

Jean McGregor, m.s. White, and Helen Docherty, m.s. McGregor in 1965 outside Quarter Church.



Taken in 1965 outside Quarter Parish Church. They are from left to right :- Helen Docherty, m.s. McGregor, Jean McGregor, m.s. White, Roy Stephenson and Colin Stephenson, Jean's grandsons.

Quarter Main Street called Limekilnburn Road in 1957.



Miners Homes lying derelict, in 1957.

The old Post Office and the Co-operative Store . Notice the telephone box and the entrance to the Post Office was at the side of the house.



The next picture shows the present day houses across the road from the shop. This picture was also taken before 1970



Mrs Mag Williams with John and Mrs Watson taken in 1929-30 at Quarter. Where the cottages are I am not sure, if anyone has details then please let me know.



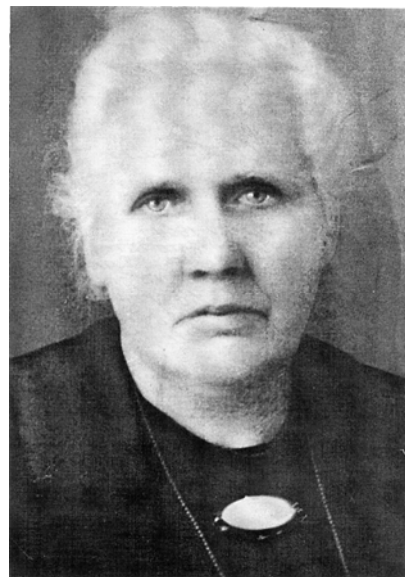
“Flip” Williams, buddy of Albert Edward Harris



Fourth from the left is Hugh Teesdale McGregor.  
Who are the others? Taken about 1920's in Quarter.



Peter McGregor in 1880's and his wife Elizabeth McGregor m.s. Bruce in about 1920's or 30's.





Ann Golder Harris m.s. McGregor, daughter of the above with her two children Albert Edward Harris and Jack Arthur Harris, taken in 1924

Albert in Quarter in 1982



## William McRae

Mr William McRae , who is a native of Blackwood in the parish of Lesmahagow first became identified with the co-operative movement through becoming a member of the Auchenheath Provident Co-operative Society. That was in the year 1881 and before his migration to Hamilton. Mr McRae had acquired a sound and practical knowledge of the business side of co-operation through serving for six years on the committee of the Auchenheath Society. In 1902, when his brother co-operators had recognised his sterling worth and his unflinching integrity, he was elected President of the Hamilton Central Co-operative Society and in the following year, 1903, after the amalgamation of the two Societies in Hamilton (the Central and Chapel Street), he was elected President of the united membership. During his Presidentship, the Society opened the new branch at Quarter and at the function held at Quarter he was presented with a handsome silver rosebowl. The first manager of the co-operative was Mr Alexander Meikle



Mr William M'Rae.

## Quarter Co-op Guild Ramble 1913



This picture was taken in 1913 and shows the village's Co-op Guild ramble to Knowtop Farm. Some of the people featured in the picture are :- Ann and David Lindsay, Bob McLare, Tammy Hamilton and his sister, Mr and Mrs McDowall, Harry McBeth, Alex Tunn, Tam Lennox and Sandy McLare. In the front row there is Isa Hamilton, Peggy Smith, Jeannie Brown, Matt Brown and William Smith

## Quarter Summer Snapshot



Taken in the village of Quarter in 1929 :-

Back Row: Eva Bradley, Joan Blakely, Jean Hamilton, Joan Crooks, Jean Ritchie, Mary Ann McCue, Alice Gray, Bridget Murray, Annie O'Donnell and Mary McCabe holding Annie Bell.

Middle Row: Nan Torrance, Isa Dunn, Lily Davis, Winnie Glancy, Margaret Higgins, Mary Hamilton, Jean McCabe (who owns the photo), Liz Creichan, Eva McCabe and Margaret Thompson.

Front Row: Isa Hamilton, Mary Bell, Sadie Ritchie, Jean Montgomery, twins Maude and June Lowe, Alice Murray, Philomena Leckenby and Mattie McCabe.

## The Fleming family

The family has a long tradition of life in Quarter, these are just a few snapshots of their story. In 1851 there is a family in Low Quarter, Knowetop Farm and Limekilnburn.

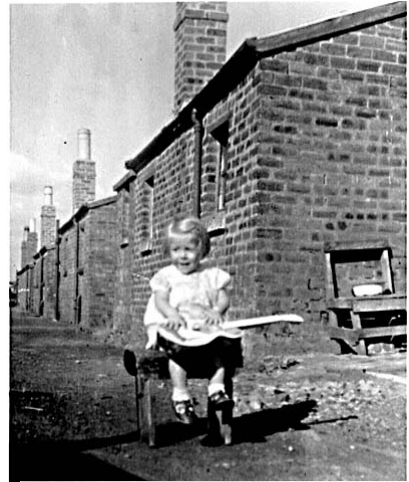
Ann Fleming at the back door of her house on Limekilnburn Road.

The picture was taken about 1957



A Sunday School outing with from left to right :- Ann Fleming, Margaret McNeil and Sara Fleming.

In the back garden of the houses on Limekilnburn Road. Ann Fleming, Lesley McNeil and Jim Fleming.



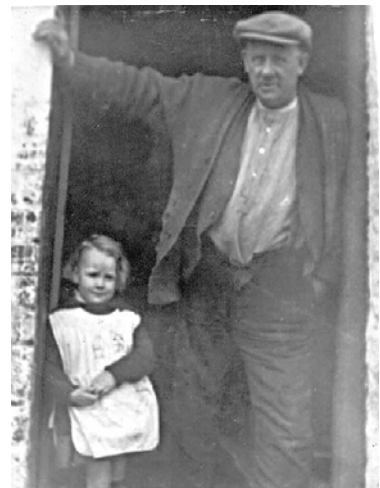
Thomas Fleming known as the Provost of Quarter or Tammy, with the lesser known Provost of Hamilton on the right.

Tammy, with his wife Sara, lived in Limekilnburn Road, Quarter. He was a well known character around the village and was at one time a Miner, Green-keeper as well as keeping chickens and pigeons. He always seemed to have the keys for the various buildings in Quarter and knew everybody in the village. His wife Sara known as Flemmy, was a Church Officer and lived for the Church.

She died in 1997 and Tammy died in 1990.



Low Quarter where Mr William Fleming lived



## Danny Boyd

Danny Boyd (Bide)  
Lived in Rosebank Cottage  
with the Milkman as a lodger  
Mr. Robertson.  
The cottage was known as the  
Milkman's House



## The Lawson Family



John Lawson

The children from  
Sunnyside Road



Sunny  
side  
Road

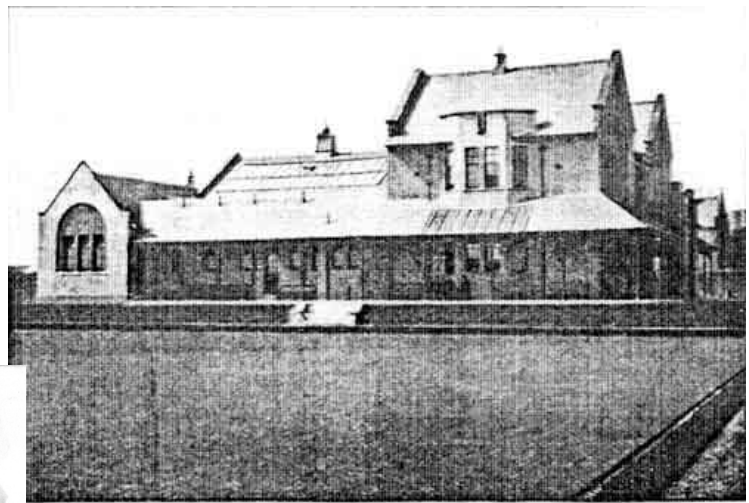


## The Duchess Nina Institute

### The Duchess Nina Institute

Opened on the 24th September  
1910

by the Duke and Duchess of  
Hamilton



DUCHESS NINA INSTITUTE AND BOWLING GREEN.

From the Hamilton Advertiser of 1st October 1910

Saturday last will long be remembered by the present generation of the residents of Quarter. Even the oldest inhabitants could not recall an event in connection with the village which raised so much enthusiasm, so much unanimity of purpose, every householder having done his or her best to make the occasion a memorable one. It is quite safe to say that never in all its history has the village been adorned with so fair a garland. Flowers and evergreens were used with lavish abundance. The main street was flanked with floral designs of varying form and beauty. Hardly a single house was to be destitute of some token of welcome to the popular superiors of the village, who by their generous gift of a large and beautiful edifice, have further endeared themselves to the community in which they have always taken a deep and practical interest. Moreover, the new institute which the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton formally opened on Saturday will stand as a lasting memorial of their helpfulness and munificence and a permanent testimonial to one whose goodness and kindness of heart adorn the annals of the House of Hamilton.

From the Stothers's Notes of 1910.

The Duchess Nina Institute and Bowling Green, adjoining, were gifted to the villagers by their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton and were formally opened on the 24th September 1910. The Institute is a handsome and most compact building and has proved a great success, from the number of people who take advantage of the reading room and the healthy, up-to-date games that are provided inside. It is managed by a committee. The Bowling Green is one of the finest in Scotland. Visitors who are interested in the progress of such institutions are made most welcome, and every information is afforded them by those in charge.

After a stormy career when the Institute was used as a store by an electrical retailer and then was left derelict for a time. The council eventually sold the institute to the present owners to be used as a nursing home. The Duchess Nina Nursing Home was opened by Mr Thomas Fleming, the Provost of Quarter and the Provost of Hamilton in 1985.

**As the Nursing home is today in the year 2002**



## The Quarter Boolin' Club



### The Opening of the Bowling Club in 1920

On Saturday, 2nd June, the bowling green at Quarter was the scene of a most exciting and interesting contest. The match was the result of a challenge

**QUARTER.**  
**A KEEN CONTEST**

between Nos 1 and 2 pits and the absorbing interest of the game may be explained by the fact that the No. 1 exponents, with true Yankee modesty, consider theirs the premier pit and themselves the high heid yins on the bowling green and in the village generally.

The opposing teams were:-  
No. 1 pit - Messrs. W. Jamieson, J. Ritchie, J. Lennox, Torrance, Fleming, Kane, McConnachie, Hanlon, McBeth, Higgins, Murphy and Williams.

No 2 Murphy and Williams. No 2 pit - Messrs. Jas. Lowe, J. Cassidy, W. Davies, John Lowe, Geo. Lowe, R. McLare, G. McLare, Todd, Reid, R. Lennox, J. Lennox and J. Davidson.



Top—Winners. Bottom—Losers.

The various rinks were, as regards their recognised playing abilities, pretty evenly matched, but despite all Wee Willie's personal prowess, despite all the "wicks," "chips," and

"rubs," despite even his new Panama, big Jamie's warriors rubbed out the flower and the pride of No. 1 to the tune of 13 shots up. The day was one of glorious sunshine, just such a day as one would enjoy a victory or make light of a defeat and the players rose to the occasion manfully and the best of harmony prevailed throughout. At the tea which followed, the No. 1 men proved their superiority (?) by joining enthusiastically in the harmony, forgetting for the time being the bitterness of their downfall and - paying for the tea.

The purvey was in the capable hands of Mrs. Brodie of the Institute and the excellence of the catering fittingly rounded off the "best day on Quarter green." As it is intended to renew the contest at the first favourable opportunity, it has been suggested that next time the winners should pay for the drinks.

## The Quarter Bowling Green in the year 2001



## Lady Mary's Lodge

Lady Mary's Lodge was known originally as Blearylinn with various spellings. It was a farm on the Hamilton estates situated between Quarter and Limekilnburn. In 1841 it was occupied by James Semple, a farmer, aged 60 years. He had occupied the Lodge since 1802. In 1851 we have a Thomas Semple aged 67, also a farmer, who was born in Glassford. It is more than likely he was a relative of James and the Hamilton Estate records give the rent paid by James Semple's heirs from 1856 to 1862, however this does not tie in with the census records of who is living in the Lodge. By 1861 it had been converted to a gamekeeper's Lodge for the use of The Dukes of Hamilton's Gamekeeper James Taylor and his family. Various alterations were subsequently made to the building, having 5 windows, and it was at this time that the name of Lady Mary's Lodge appeared. The name may have derived from the names of the wife and daughter of the 11th Duke of Hamilton who married Princess Marie of Baden in 1843. Their daughter, Mary Victoria, married Prince Albert of Monaco in 1869. The 12th Duke married Lady Mary Montagu in 1873 and their only daughter Mary became Duchess of Montrose in 1916. Residents of Quarter recall that the Lodge was used by the wife and daughter of the 12th Duke.

The Lodge in 1871 had by now 6 windows and was occupied by Adam Lothian, also a gamekeeper, with his family. In 1881, now having 9 windows, the property was occupied by William Ford, a widower, aged 36 years who had been born in Hamilton and lived in the Lodge with his son, William 12 years, Joseph 10 years and Jessie his daughter of 6 years, all born in Boness, Linlithgow. Also living with him was his cousin and housekeeper Elizabeth Reid of 18 years born in Hamilton.

From about 1900 the gamekeeper was a Mr. Robert Robertson and with his wife Maggie Baird Robertson, they were in occupation until about 1925 when we have a Mr. Andrew Meikle and his wife Eliza. Mrs. Meikle is reported to be still living in the house in 1934 and in 1946 we have a Misses Baird.

## Where Gordon of Earlston was killed

A thorn tree, now wasted away, is said to mark the spot where Gordon of Earlston was killed on 22nd June 1679. The spot is near the old Tile Work, Quarter.

Wm. Gordon of Earlston, the martyr, belonged to a family that, before and since, was prominent in the affairs of our country. The founder of the family appears to have come from England in the reign of David the first (1124 - 1153) and obtained from him a grant of lands of Gordon in Berwickshire. From this stock also is descended Lord Aberdeen, the present Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The daughter of one of them, May de Gordon, was the second wife of Walter Fitz-Gilbert, the founder of the Hamilton Family. The family was noted for their piety for many generations. As far back as 1377 they were associated with Wyclif, a reformer 100 years before Luther and had a copy of his translation of the Bible into English.

Wm. Gordon, the martyr who was killed by the Royalist troops at Quarter on 22nd June 1679, was born in 1614. He was early associated with the Presbyterian cause and made it a condition on granting leases of his lands that his tenants should observe family worship. He went every Sabbath to worship, at their head. He was a Royalist and in favour of the Restoration, but he refused to appoint Episcopal incumbents to the churches of which he was patron in Dalry, Ayrshire. He was twice summoned before the Privy Council for keeping conventicles and twice refused to attend. Then he was fined £10,000 and ordered to leave the country. Being dispossessed and not leaving the country, he wandered and eluded his persecutors.

His son, Alexander, was at the battle of Bothwell Bridge and William was on his way, with his followers to help the Covenanters there, when the English dragoons met him at Quarter. He was asked to surrender, but refused and was put to death in a most barbarous manner. The English dragoons stripped him of his accoutrements, including a pair of silver spurs, seized his horse and rode back to Hamilton. At Carscallan the Officer demanded from the "guidwife" refreshments for him and party and made a great display of the spoils, including the spurs, using many nasty epithets towards the Covenanters. The "guidwife," who had been left alone in the house, all the others having fled, indignantly exclaimed, "It becomes a better man than you, sir to wear these." William Gordon was buried secretly by his friends in Glassford Churchyard. His great-grandson, Sir John Gordon, Bart. Erected, in 1772, a monumental pillar to mark the spot where the remains of the martyr lie.

William Gordon's son, Alexander, who succeeded him and who has been referred to as having been at the battle of Bothwell Bridge, was born in 1650. He narrowly escaped with his life after the battle. Riding through Hamilton, pursued by the military, he was met by one of his tenants, who persuaded him to dismount and conceal himself. Entering a house where a child was asleep in a cradle, he dressed himself in female clothes and kept rocking the cradle, by which means he escaped. His person was proscribed and his estates given to another. He escaped to Holland, but was captured on board a ship and was sentenced to be beheaded at the Cross of Edinburgh. By the intercession of the Duke of Gordon, however, he was reprieved and kept in one place or another until the revolution, when he was finally free. His wife, a very excellent woman, Janet Hamilton, was a daughter of Sir Thomas Hamilton of Preston and sister to Robert Hamilton, who commanded the Covenanters at the battles of Drumclog and Bothwell Bridge. He is the hero of the ballad "The Battle of Bothwell Bridge," published by Scott in the "Border Minstrelsy."

## Darngaber Castle

Near the boundary of Glassford Parish is the site of Darngaber Castle. Now only a mound marks where the castle once stood, although the foundations could still be traced in 1910. They are composed of thin, flat stones, without lime and bear no marks of any tool having been used in their construction. Small vaults were discovered in 1841, which were not attached but drawn together, as conduits sometimes are. The Castle is said to have been built by Thomas de Hamilton, third



SITE OF DARNGABER CASTLE.

son of Sir John Hamilton of Earnock. There is a conjecture, however, that he only repaired it, and that it was built at the same time as Cadzow Castle, which is said to have been built by Caw, a British Prince of Strathclyde, who flourished about the beginning of the sixth century and was the father of Gilder, our earliest historian and Anewrin, the famous bard. There is no doubt, however, that it was the residence of a minor branch of the Hamilton Family and tradition asserts that Mary Queen of Scots was once the guest of its proprietor and also that she enjoyed the sport of hawking and hunting in the adjacent fields. The Castle was probably dismantled after the battle of Langside, where the forces of Queen Mary were defeated.

Two derivations of the name Darngaber have been furnished, one from the British, signifying "The House between the Waters," from the fact that it is situated on a point of land where two rivulets meet; the other from the Celtic Darn, "a dark or concealed place," and Caber, or Ghaber, "deer or goats," thus signifying "the hiding place of deer or goats."

Thomas Hamilton, who is credited with building or repairing the Castle, was the grandson of Walter Fitz-Gilbert, and was the common ancestor of the Hamiltons of Raploch, Torrance, Cairnduff, Fairholm, Stonehouse, Neilsland, Dechmont, Aitkenhead and Barnes

Darngaber was one of the four districts or minor baronies into which the Parish of Hamilton was divided by the Barons of Cadzow in olden time. It embraced that tract of land lying to the south of Blackbog Burn, extending south and east to the boundaries of the Parish, whilst in length it stretched from Fairholm, on the Avon, west to Maidenlea and well, near to the High-Cross Knowe at Glassford. It had its mill at Thinacres, to which the tenantry were still thirled or astricted

## The Crooked Stone

On the South side of the parish not far from the castle of Darngaber, in a field on the farm of South Crookedstone, is a large stone, measuring 6 feet high and 12 inches square, which used to lean considerably to one side, thereby giving the name Crooked Stone to the district. It is of freestone and evidently very ancient. A Mr. Chalmers in 1841 noted these bended stones as Cromlechs of Druidical origin

It was also reported in 1841 that a neighbouring farmer lately set the stone upright, leaving posterity to wonder why it was called Crooked Stone. There is no inscription on the stone to tell its origin. Whether it is the remnant of a Druid circle, the meeting place of the chieftains who inhabited the neighbouring Castle with their retainers, where the laws of the clan were promulgated and put into execution against the defaulters, or a stone over the grave of a departed hero, there is nothing to guide us.

There are many such stones in the mainland and islands of Scotland. Sometimes they appear singly and sometimes in groups of two, three and four. Some contend that they are of Druidical origin. Dr Wilson, the celebrated archaeologist, in the early 1900's, is of the opinion that these places were not used as religious temples, but as courts of law and battle rings, where the duel, or judicial battle, was fought out, though this doubtlessly occurred in the invariable union of the priestly and judicial offices in a primitive state of society. An adjacent field and conical mound still retain the names of "The Law," and "Law Knowe," where these judicial deliberations of the chiefs may also have been held.

The farm of Crookedstone has been occupied by a family named Torrance for many generations back. They are said to be descended from the House of Torrance in East Kilbride, which is likely enough since Thomas second son of Thomas de Hamilton married the heiress of Torrance and a minor branch of that family may have settled at Crookedstone as retainer of the Darngaber family.



THE CROOKED STONE.

## Plotcock Castle

About half a mile eastward from the site of Darngaber Castle is the site of Plotcock Castle. It is on the road to Stonehouse, on the lands of Broomelton, on a jutting point on the banks of the rivulet Plotcock. This fortress is said to have been used as a prison by the Barons of Cadzow for their refractory vassals, or captives, taken in war in the days of the feudal chiefs. The place is covered with trees and brushwood and presents a most gloomy appearance, according well with popular superstition that the ravine is tenanted by ghosts, witches and bogles. The name Plotcock is very suggestive of its being haunted by the emissaries of the evil one, as it is the old Scotch name of that being and is a variation of Plutock or Pluto, who according to heathen mythology, was god of the infernal regions.



SITE OF PLOTCKOCK CASTLE.

## The Quarter Fair.

This ancient and interesting fair was held here of Thursday last, 13th July 1859. The proceedings of the day were commenced by the Quarter Colliery Friendly Society having their annual procession. The Newarthill Brass Band arrived about 12 o'clock noon, when the band and members of the society commenced parading through the several rows in connection with the work, headed by the gallant Captain of the Society, sword in hand, who made rather a formidable appearance. After giving all the villagers a call and receiving a good supply of what paddy calls "the crater," frae the guidwife's at Quarter, the band went off for home wishing they might have the good fortune to be often called back to Quarter. The sport now commenced. With rowley powley's, nut barrows and sweetie stauns, there was good business to be done. Then catch Jockey caught his Jenny and betook themselves to Mr A. Hamilton's barn, kindly granted for the occasion, where they tripped it gaily till "broad daylight in the morning." This part of the fair was rather an admirable scene. For the gratification of the young ladies residing in the neighbourhood, who have not been in the habit of attending this fair, we may mention, they have lost many a good opportunity of getting a match.

There was storemen quite lively, and colliers fu' gay,  
Miners and drawers and men that make hay,  
Milkmen and drainers and carters were there,  
All resolved to have their matches at the Quarter fair.

Altogether the affair passed off well. There were no quarrelling or fighting to speak of; perhaps that is owing to having so many keepers of the peace there.

Ref. Hamilton Advertiser. 23/7/1859. Page 3.



# The Bully Inn

The only Public House in Quarter was originally called, so the story goes, The Bellerophon Inn. The original name came from one of Nelson's ships during the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and in 1862 the first ship built to a new design of shorter, handier ships, divided into watertight compartments, was constructed and called the Bellerophon. In 1909 a ship of the Dreadnought type was built at Portsmouth called the Bellerophon. She was present at the battle of Jutland and after the First World War she was reduced to reserve or subsidiary duties. The name Bellerophon is from the Greek Mythology, the son of Glaucus, King of the Corinth; he was the hero who tamed the winged horse Pegasus with the aid of a bridle given to him by the goddess Athena.

It was recalled by Mr. Tom Reid that a small picture on the back gate of the old inn was of a winged horse and that the Bowling Club has a trophy called the Bellerophon Trophy and a winged horse as their emblem.

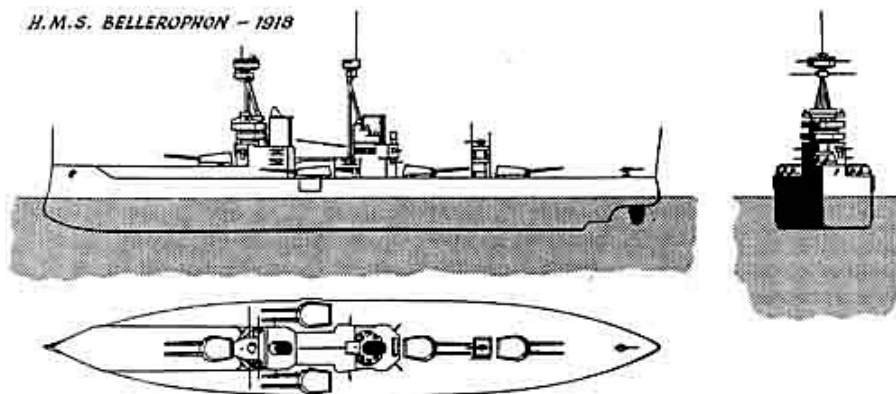
Nicknames in the Navy for various ships are legend and some are merely mispronunciations and others seem to have no obvious origin. For ages past the ships of the navy have been christened with most extraordinary names; it is in a way a sign of affection in the same way that popular people usually acquire one.

The Naval nickname for the old Bellerophon was always the "Billy Ruffian" or "Bally Ruffian". The local dialect probably did the rest as Billy can be heard by outsiders as Bully with a harsh U and Ruffian "having no part in Quarter!" was dropped to become just The Bully Inn.

Another explanation of the name is from the William Wallace book "To Drink or Not To Drink" about Pubs in and around Hamilton. And I quote "Up at Quarter an Inn seems to have taken its name from the first Quarter mine – The Old Bellerophon. Through the vagary of accent the name of the place seems to have changed to The Bully Inn when the first Irish immigrant miners arrived.



The Bully Inn taken in 2001.



## The Post office

The Post Office, as shown below, was originally built by Mr Ritchie in 1898 as a house and Post Office. His daughter, Jean, married Alexander Brownlie, who was himself a



postman and they ran the Post Office until in 1965 the Post Office was taken over by Mr and Mrs Fallow. Mrs. Fallow was the Sub-Postmistress and after four years resigned from the post. This was partly due to being attacked by an intruder with a knife who broke in at the back door. Mrs Fallow, although shaken, was unhurt and drove the attacker off with a saucepan. However the

experience, understandably, blighted her enjoyment of working in the Post Office and in 1973 they



sold the Post Office. Mr Fallow, who was brought up in the Gate House of the Fairholm Estate by the River Avon, worked for a time at East Crookedstone Farm in 1946 and was a founder member of the Hamilton and District Young Farmers club. They have now retired to Coatbridge but still have fond memories of Quarter. The house was bought by Mrs Furley, with the Post Office moving to the General Store next door, owned by Mr Conway. The store has since been converted into flats and a small shop and Post Office added onto the side of the building.

The old P.O. is now a private house in 2002



The Post office in 1970 with the entrance at the side of the building



The new P.O. is the small attachment to the larger building in 2002

## The Police Station

The first Police Station was situated at the corner of Darngaber Road and Limekilnburn Road. The building was originally a private school and can be seen in the 1856 – 1954 maps of Darngaber/Quarter, but the building must have been demolished between 1954 and 1963. The Police Station had moved by 1914 to just across the road from the Church and was there up until 1976. Today there are two private houses where the Police Station was.

From the Quarter Public School log book the first Policeman mentioned in the village was Sergeant Blaney who in September 1880 was required to question the parents of a truant boy at the village school. In 1881 we have constables Andrew Watt and William G. Gunn living in Darngaber Rows Police Station. By 1921 Constables Alexander McRae and Neil Shaw had moved to the new Police Station and in 1925 we have Constables Peter Laing and William Riach. Other Policemen that have been mentioned are George Scott, Harry Robson, Jim McKenzie and the last Policeman at Quarter was Jim McDonald.

The Old Police Station



The New Police Station



## Quarter Village Store

Originally the store was owned and run by the Coal Mining Company of Dunlop, and was positioned approximately where the Public house is now. Mr Robert Scott was the manager up until 1920 when he emigrated to Australia. A Mr Jamieson took over the store and Public House. The Co-operative store was opened in the 1900's with the first manager being Mr Alexander Meikle. The were during the 20th century a number of small shops selling various goods, but the Co-operative store became the main store and the building still stands today, although it is now turned into flats with the village store being a new addition onto the side of the old building.

In 1974 Donald and Gloria Conway took over the Co-operative store and included the Post Office within the store. By this time all other stores had closed, which left just the Public House called the Bully Inn and Gloria's shop to supply the village with all their needs. In 1997 the Store was sold to Mr Robert Williamson who ran the shop for about a year and modernised the interior with new floor, shelving and cool cabinets, but did not stay long and in 1998 Mrs McDonald took over as manager of the store. In 2000 Robert built the new but much smaller shop at the side of the old building and turned the Co-op building into Flats. Mrs McDonald still runs the smaller shop today along with assistants from the village, June Paterson and Carol Cain.



The Post Office and Store in the early 1990's as run by Gloria Conway.

The new Post Office built in 2000 now run by Mary McDonald. The old Co-op building has been turned into flats.



## Quarter People in Pictures

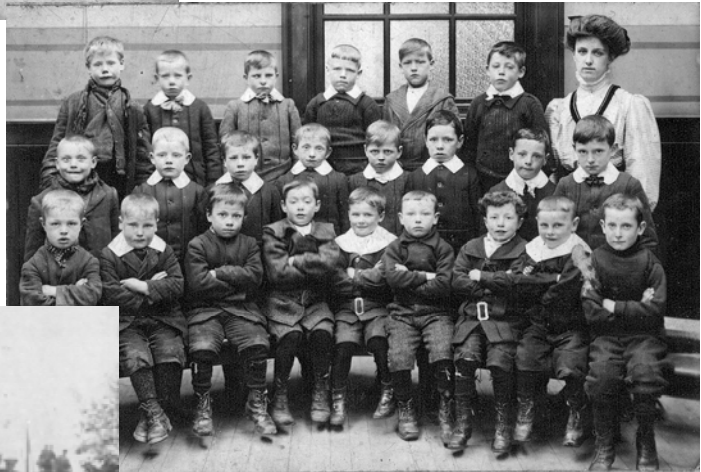
We are indebted to Mr George Williams of Newburyport U.S.A. for the following photographs, on which he has also noted the date and place. This is often missing from old photographs.



This first photo is of the staff at Quarter Primary School around 1900. From the minutes of the school we can ascertain who some of them.

They are :- William Marshall, the headmaster (seated), Margaret H. Walker, (also seated and the assistant), Andrew Stewart, (gentleman standing), Mary Matthew, Hannah S. McClimont, Margaret S. Walker, Catherine Taylor, and one name missing.

The second photo is the class of 1905, who incidentally look a healthy and wealthy lot! It may have been winter as they all have foot wear and thick looking clothing.



The Third photograph is the presentation of the Glasgow and Lanarkshire Trophy to Mr John Williams president of Quarter Welfare Bowling Club.

The fourth photograph is the Quarter Welfare Bowling Club, the Glasgow and Lanarkshire Cup Holders of 1928.

Back Row:- Currie, McConachie, Murphy, Thompson, McConachie, McClare, Hanlon.

2nd Row:- Torrance, Lennox, Williams, McBeth, Russell, Todd, Tool, ?, Higgins

3rd Row:- ?, Lennox, ?

Williams, ?, ?, ? 4th Row:- ?, Ritchie, Anderson, ?.





This photo depicts the Chelsea Football Club with Willie Russell 2nd on the left of the back row, 1926. He was born in Quarter, one of a large family and also played for Hearts.

George Williams playing carpet bowls in the Miners Institute 1925.



This picture is taken at the lower end of the new buildings around 1938 and includes George's Grandmother (known as May Williams) with her 4 sisters and brother who were on holiday from Canada. In the background is the Coal Washer.

## The Eddlewood Castle

The Eddlewood Castle was situated on the Meikle Burn a short distance below the confluence of the Blackbog and Simpsonland Burns and within the wall, which enclosed High Parks. It was probably dismantled by the troops of the Regent Murray after the battle of Langside in 1568.

## Simpsonland

Simpsonland, which lies to the south-east of Eddlewood House, is a fine example of the old style of Scottish country house. It was once the centre of a little estate and was given over by the Duke of Hamilton in excambion for property near the palace.

## Limekilnburn

Limekilnburn, on the Strathaven Road, was so called from the number of Kilns and pits on the farm of Boghead, where lime was dug out and burned, principally for agricultural purposes. Iron ore was also wrought here, as at Wellbog mine and other places in the neighbourhood. During the 2 World War two land mines fell near Limekilnburn in the fields of Brown Todd Farm.

## All Our Yesterdays

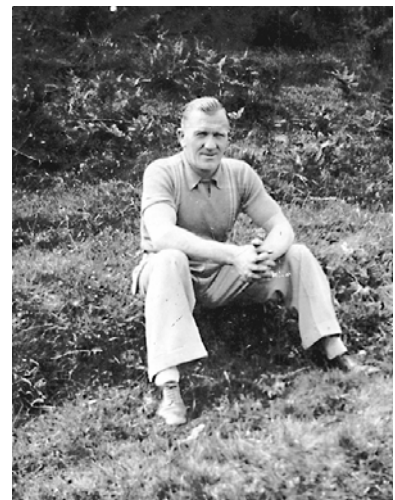
By William Tait

The picture of the man sitting on the ground is John Steven or Jock as he was known locally he was my grandfather he lived with his wife Barbara and his three children, my mother Catherine who was the eldest, Jim the only son and Barbara, they all lived in one of the ground floor houses at first called the Baxter buildings and then later on moved to one of the upstairs houses in the old photographs number 325 Strathaven road.

He worked in the Quarter pit and in his spare time to earn extra money he worked on some of the local farms one of which was Kirklands farm, which is still going strong.

The children all went to the Quarter School and had to walk from the house in Limekilnburn to and from the School every day in all weathers.

My great grandparents on my grandfathers side also lived upstairs in the first two story building in the picture going up the Strathaven road, I can just remember seeing young chickens running around the old fireplace grate in my great grandmothers house which I presume that she had left to hatch out by the heat of the fire, a long time ago now as I will be 59 on my next birthday and my mother who is still living will be 82 this year.





I was born and lived in 325 Strathaven road Limekilnburn on September 4<sup>th</sup> 1944 and was baptised by the then minister the Rev Samuel Stewart in the Quarter Church on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1944,

My wife and I with our two children moved to Quarter village 24 years ago where our third child was born, all three children went to Quarter School and now my grand daughter is attending the same school as her great grandmother went to all those years ago.

Limekilnburn from the Strathaven end.



This is a photograph of the Limekilnburn kids from early 1930s. Members of the McFarlane family, the Kane family, the Russell family and the Nelson family are in there somewhere.





## Curling at Limekilnburn in the 1920s



Above and below are pictures of the Bonspiel at Limekilnburn in the 1920s. Many of the curlers were miners from the local pits. In the 1930s, air shows were held at Limekilnburn, sponsored by the Duke of Hamilton, in the fields just behind the curlers. (Photographs taken by Robert McLeod)



## More Reminiscences of Quarter

By  
Mary McCullagh

Many of my early memories of Quarter centre on our mother's sister, Aunt Mary Hanlon. She was a well-known figure in Quarter having lived there from her birth in 1918 till the villagers were forced to leave. When I was very little, she would take me down the road to a field across from the bowling green and the Institute to feed the pit ponies. Behind that field somewhat in the distance, I remember a dark structure. I'm not sure if it was a row of dark stone houses or a building to do with the coal mining. Aunt Mary often visited us in Larkhall and took me to play on the swings there. I seem to remember her taking me to swings in Quarter too - I don't recall where exactly.

Quarter was a unique community in days gone by and is a lovely village today. Although it's almost fifty years since I last visited our grandparents' home there, I still treasure many wonderful memories of our Quarter family. Our mother, Bridget Hanlon was born in 1912 in Quarter at 32 Darngaber. The family later moved to 38 Limekilnburn Road. Our grandparents were Patrick and Mary Hanlon formerly Conlin. They had five sons and four daughters.

Our grandfather was a coal miner all his working life. His parents were Mary Dickson Hanlon of Hamilton and Patrick Hanlon of County Armagh, Ireland. Granda played the melodeon and bowled at the bowling green. He was born in Ferniegair in 1884 and died in Quarter in 1948. Our grandmother often re-enacted their last conversation, repeating word for word their humorous interchange that was interrupted forever by his massive stroke. Granda was dressed in his coal miner's clothes - about to go down the pit, when this happened. Six days later he died. He was 64.

I remember him as a warm, sensitive man with a quiet dignity all of his own. We did not get to hear him play the melodeon much because we were young when he was alive and were taken to Quarter to visit by our mother almost always on Sundays. He would never play music on Sundays because it was against his neighbours' religious beliefs to do so and he respected his neighbours. Once, when I was a little older and able to go to Quarter by myself, I barged in on him at number 38 and found him alone in the front room kneeling in front of his bed beside a plain bleached chair saying the Rosary. Thank goodness, I had enough sense to walk quietly into the scullery to my granny till he was finished. The first memory I have of him is of my sitting on his knee in front of the fire while he taught me the words of the song, "A Tisket, a Tasket, My Little Yellow Basket." I can still see the twinkle in his eyes.

Our grandmother, Mary Conlin Hanlon was born in Paisley in 1886. Her parents were Thomas Conlin and Bridget Mulrooney Conlin. She moved to Quarter at a young age. While her older brother Michael was born in Barrhead, all of her younger siblings were born in Quarter. Granny was always on the go. She was the first woman I ever saw who wore sneakers at home instead of shoes. Shoes slowed her down. When she was about sixty or so, she entered a race in her age group at the Miners' Gala in Quarter and won. The prize, a pair of silver-coloured Victorian style high heel shoes, graced the mantel at Number 38 from then on.

The house at Number 38 Limekilnburn Road was entered through a double door into a narrow corridor. The corridor was so narrow that, at grandfather's funeral, there was not enough room for his coffin to be turned to get it out the front door. The casket had to be passed out of the house through the front room window. Along the corridor to the right of the front door was a room with a fireplace and two set-in beds. To the left of the front door was what I think of as the but-and-ben setup. I don't remember which was but and which was

ben. The room in the front was where the family lived, ate and slept, again with two set-in beds. The other room was the scullery - with a cold stone floor and a large coal burning stove that served as the cooking range. To the left was a latched door to the outside and the garden. On the far right wall was the door to the bathroom - fair-sized but really only a toilet. I often wonder how our grandmother managed to keep the place so neat and clean with such a large family. Throughout the day she would return to the scullery, opening the various doors in the kitchen stove to add coal and remove ashes, and rearranging the embers under the burner lids to get and maintain the temperature required for her cooking. The stove was polished regularly with 'black lead.' On Sundays, our mother took my brother, sister and me to visit her family in Quarter. Since at that time there was no electricity or gas in the Hanlon house, my brother and I would make toast by holding the bread on a fork against the fireplace grate in the front room. We got a big kick out of this. As it started to get dark, Granny would light the paraffin lamps and literally hop up on to a chair and then on to the table to hang a black cloth blackout blind to prevent light being seen outside. This was during the Second World War.

I loved going to visit the folks at Number 38. In my teens, I went up to Quarter about three times a week. Uncle Pat would wait for me to arrive on Sundays and we would enter the contests in the Sunday Mail together. Sometimes, it was the Most Beautiful Hat contest or the Most Beautiful Coat contest. Frequently, as I walked in the door, Uncle Pat would call out to his sister Mary, "For God's sake, Mary, run down to the Institute and get me three Askit powders - she's back!" Then everybody would laugh. He always had something of a similar nature to say as a greeting when I arrived - but I was never offended. I laughed too. When I was very young my uncles had a racing dog called Jim. His track name was Shiner. He broke many a track record. In later years there were pigeons. I suppose my uncles started keeping them but they would only land promptly for my Grandmother. Bomber was my Granny's favourite bird. She was shipped to France to race and didn't return. I was very concerned because she was also my favourite. My Uncle Pat told me Bomber had made a left turn at the English Channel and had landed in New York. A week or so later my Grandmother telephoned me from Quarter Post Office. She had received a letter from Belgium with Bomber's International Pigeon Association number included in the message. The letter was written in French and she wanted me to come up and translate it for her. According to the letter, Bomber had been found shot through one wing. She was eventually sent back to Quarter. She never raced again but was a breeder and a great pet. I remember when the Hanlons won the Rose Bowl for their pigeons. I believe they won it a few times

One of my cousins in Hamilton used to refer to Quarter as "the Land of the Paraffin Lamps". I was in my middle teens when electricity was made available in our grandmother's house. The Hanlons had a bunch of young pigeons that were not yet able to fly. Most of them were sitting on the roof of the 'dookit' when there was a sudden clap of thunder. They took off en masse in total panic. Seven of them hit the newly installed electrical wires and were electrocuted. Our grandmother became ill and took to her bed. I had never known her to be ill. I rarely saw her sit down - she was always scooting back and forth. When she recovered, she wrote a letter of complaint to the Electricity Board and they sent her monetary compensation for her loss.

Mention was made in the Quarter articles about the frequency of power failures. I remember Aunt Ellen's wedding in 1946. The reception was held in the Institute. Johnny Devine and our grandfather provided the accordion music. In the middle of the celebration, the power suddenly went off and the festivities had to be continued by candlelight. In the early 1950's, my friend Frances had a job with the County showing a film at the Institute on Friday nights. Frances operated the projector while I tagged along for the ride and collected the admission money at the door. We took the bus from Hamilton to Quarter and got there in

time to have dinner with my family at Number 38.

Thinking about the Institute reminds me of a tale I have often heard that, when thoughts were first expressed about building houses for the coal miners, Duchess Nina suggested the miners' cottages be built underground in the mines so that they would not have to travel as far to get to work. I've always assumed this was said in jest especially since I'd been told that the pit ponies were blind or almost so from being kept below ground.

The Higgins family lived through the wall from the Hanlons and their neighbour on the other side was Mary Dunn. Her maiden name was O'Donnell. She was a widow and lived in a single end at the end of the row next to the Castle. Every time we arrived for a visit, she would pop in the back door to say hello. I remember Rosie Higgins and Winnie. Winnie had striking brown eyes and worked on the buses as a conductress. I also recall the name Cathcart and another family who lived a few houses down called the Trusskets.

I do remember Mrs. Peffers - she lived further down the row. One of her sons and my uncle Bill Hanlon were the best of friends. Uncle Bill was my mother's youngest sibling. When I was an infant, my father was sent to England to work. We moved to Corby and Bill moved with us. In later years, Bill was in the habit of visiting us in Larkhall. He was very good friends with two brothers from the vicinity of Wilkie Crescent and Wilson Street in Larkhall. Sometimes he would stay overnight at our house. There was no bed for him - so he would improvise by turning the two armchairs in the kitchen in such a way that they faced each other. As soon as he stretched out in this "bed", the armchairs of course would separate and he would slide down on to the stone floor. All of us adored our Uncle Bill. I have a vivid recollection of my brother and myself waiting at the top of McNeil Street in Larkhall to meet Bill as he rounded the corner from London Road. He was a harrier and was participating in a long distance race. As previously instructed, we handed him a bar of Cadbury's Tiffin as he raced by. Actually Bill set at least one new record at Powderha' - I don't know what kind of race that was.

Bill showed up in New York about three months after we settled there. We had a large apartment there with four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a formal dining room, kitchen and living room. This time there was room for Bill. He made his home there with us for years. That's when we had to start calling him Bill. On occasion I would run into him and his friends at dances in New York City. The first time he asked me to dance the band was playing a St. Bernard's Waltz. I immediately noticed that when Bill turned to waltz he did not turn in the same direction as all the other dancers and I asked him why. His reply was that his landlady in England had taught him to waltz and that she had a wooden leg that would screw off if he turned to the right! You could never get a big head around Bill. His pet name for me was "Ugly" and he told me frequently that he was going to hit me with a brick and make me beautiful! One Saturday morning he mentioned that he had a date with a blonde and that if I met him with her on the Avenue that evening I was not to call him Uncle. Sure enough, that night I ran into him and he was with a very attractive blonde. After that I worked diligently at calling him simply "Bill." I didn't want to cramp his style.

Recently, when I read the name Jean Scobie on the Quarter website, it jogged my memory and Jean's face came into view in my mind. She was so pleasant - with a gentle smile. Another villager, who lived across the street from our granny's house but a few houses up in the direction of the Church, operated a little shop from the window of her house. She sold some basic food and household stuff. Several times, usually on Sundays, our grandmother would send me over there to purchase a couple of items. Samples of her wares were visible inside the window. When the customers wanted service, they would knock on the window and she would open it. One afternoon, Granny needed milk. She gave me a jug and sent me down the Darngaber to a farm on the right side of the road. The farmer led me into the barn, milked the cow while I stood there and poured the milk from the bucket into the

jug and I gingerly carried it back to the Hanlon house. I didn't spill a drop.

When I was sixteen, a Hamilton police officer who was a family friend, brought a little orange-coloured pup into our house. He had taken him to the pound in Blantyre to be destroyed, but didn't have the heart to leave him there. Our mother finally agreed to let us keep him and we named him Shane. Shane loved going to Quarter with me. On Sundays, we would take the one o'clock bus from Hamilton. For some reason the one o'clock bus on Sundays was always a double-decker. Shane would run upstairs to the front seat and would sit on my lap and bark at the cows in the fields. The only other person who was ever upstairs with us was a man from Quarter who had been badly injured in the Quarter mines. He had been crushed by a runaway bogey and was left crippled but was somehow able to get up the stairs on the bus. I guess the view was worth the struggle. I knew his name well then but that has also gone the way of the wind.

Shane was very smart – my sister, brother and I spent a lot of time tormenting him and teaching him tricks. The folks at number 38 really looked forward to his visits. One Sunday, Uncle Pat and Uncle John told me that they wanted to teach Shane how to hunt. I stayed with my grandmother and Aunt Mary while they took Shane out into the fields behind the castle. They had borrowed a friend's ferret and put it in one hole of the rabbit warren to force the rabbit out the other hole, where my uncles and Shane were waiting. When the rabbit's head came into view, Shane turned and never stopped running till he was back at Granny's door. My uncles were disgusted.

In 1956, my father, mother, my siblings and I left Scotland and settled in New York. One of my Hamilton cousins drove us up to Quarter to say goodbye. For me at eighteen, life was something of an adventure - nothing was forever. There was always a second chance. It didn't occur to me then, that some things were forever and that there were people I would never see again. That was the last time I saw our grandmother and uncles Pat and John. To this day, I avoid using the word "goodbye." Thankfully, I did get to see Aunt Mary Hanlon when I visited Scotland in the early seventies and I still have the letters she wrote to me. My sister, brother and I married New York City born New Yorkers, have children and grandchildren and live in the country.

In the spring of 2003 my husband and I spent a week or so in Scotland. We visited Quarter and went down the Darngaber to see the ruins of the houses on the left where our mother was born. Once, when I was about 14, Uncle Pat asked me to carry one end of the pigeon basket down the Darngaber. He wanted to train the young birds to fly home. When we got to the bottom of the road, he pointed to a semi-ruined house on the left and said, "That's where we used to live. Your mother and I were born there." That was 32 Darngaber. Today all that is visible is the foundation. I tried in vain to find the Crooked Stane - I thought it was perhaps straight ahead in the fields at the bottom of the Darngaber.

When the miners' rows were about to be demolished and the inhabitants were being forced to leave, someone sent us the front page of either the Sunday Post or the Mail. Our grandmother's photo appeared there captioned as Mary HAMILTON not HANLON and she was described as the oldest inhabitant of Quarter. When asked how she felt about having to leave her home, she stated that the only way she'd leave would be in a box (I'm sure she would have pronounced that "boax"). As it turned out she was right – she died at 38 Limekilnburn Road in February 1962. In my teens, I chose to go see my grandmother about three times a week. To me she was fascinating - with her birds and cats and her stories of her mother Bridget Mulrooney Conlin and her mother's mother Bridget White Mulrooney. She told me that my great-great-grandmother Bridget White Mulrooney had 9 children, a set of twins, played the violin and was blind. I found records of the children including the twins. Then in the Census of 1881, I found Bridget White Mulrooney described as being blind. A couple of years later I wrote to a Mulrooney cousin I had found in Barrhead and told him that

I had no proof that she played the violin, but that three out of four wasn't a bad score. My Barrhead cousin wrote back that I should sleep well knowing the one thing that he and all his family were certain about Bridget White Mulrooney was that she played the violin.

I often wonder if there are any Mulrooney descendents left in Quarter. I know my uncles got Shiner when he was a pup from Mulrooney cousins in Quarter who felt uneasy about keeping him because one of his eyes was blue and one was brown. While they were explaining Shiner's origins to me, they pointed to a row of houses below and on the same side of the road as the Castle, which ran more or less at right angles to Limekilnburn Road – indicating that this was where Shiner came from. A John Mulrooney who was a miner from Quarter and our grandmother's first cousin, played goalie for Celtic from about 1910 to 1913 or so. I have his photo from a soccer book and have visited his grave in the Bent. In 1910, John Mulrooney's sister Mary of 6 New Row, Quarter married Peter Sullivan of Cadzow. According to his marriage certificate, Peter worked as a platelayer for the railway. I was told that he was in charge of the Permanent Way between Glasgow and Gourock or Greenock. I have heard there are photos of him in his top hat taken at events involving the railway in Glasgow. Peter and Mary Sullivan had two daughters that I know of, one was a nurse and the other was a doctor. Dr. Sullivan worked for over thirty years as a General Practitioner in Yoker.

In the 1881 census, our great-grandmother Bridget Mulrooney Conlin's brothers, John and William lived in Quarter with their families at number 1 and number 23 Carscallan Row respectively. All in all, there were twelve Mulrooneys living there. By 1891, the Quarter Mulrooneys numbered twenty. In 1901, only five Mulrooneys are listed on the census. I know that my great-grandmother's youngest brother Thomas and his family had moved from the Nitshill area to Quarter and appear in the 1891 census in Quarter. However, after a few years, Thomas and his family moved back to Renfrewshire because in Quarter he was paid in kind instead of cash. Miners' families therefore could get their groceries only at the company store and the prices were exorbitant. The Quarter Mulrooneys married into several different families from Quarter and close by including the Higgins, Murray, Sullivan, and Rafferty families. My great-grandmother Bridget Mulrooney Conlin and her husband Thomas Conlin apparently followed her brothers John and William to Quarter in the mid 1880's. In 1891, their seven-member family appears living at number 17 New Rows.

Since I've been investigating my genealogy, I have learned so much about my grandmother's antecedents in both Scotland and Ireland. Each time I go to Ireland, I visit my great-great-great grandfather Mulrooney's farmhouse in Sligo. The present owners are wonderfully generous people and my husband and I actually have had tea in my ancestral homeplace. However, I would like to learn more about my grandfather's mother's family. I know quite a bit about his father's background. He was also named Patrick Hanlon, was born in Armagh to James Hanlon and Mary McDonnell or McDonald Hanlon and died in 1920 in Quarter in the New Buildings at the home of his daughter Ellen who was married to a William Robson. I pretty much know what happened to his siblings and I am in touch with most of my Hanlon cousins.

I am still not satisfied that I know enough about grandfather Hanlon's mother. She was Mary Dickson from Hamilton and was a silk weaver. She and my G grandfather Patrick Hanlon lived in Blackswell Lane in Hamilton. The house is the only house left standing on the right as you turn off Townhead St. on to Blackswell. Her father was William Dickson, a weaver, and his death certificate shows that he died in that same house. His widow, my GG grandmother Elizabeth Baxter died in Quarry St., Hamilton. Her father was Robert Baxter, a postman and her mother was Mary Swan. The Church of Scotland marriage records didn't give very much information. I've read that the Dicksons, Baxters and Swans are border families. I'm hoping to learn more about these clans on my next visit. I have reason to

believe that my Dicksons were descended from the union of a Mary Mutter born in Stonehouse and married in Lesmahagow to a James Dickson in 1792.

I mentioned my Hanlon and Mulrooney connections in Quarter. I also have Conlin relatives from Quarter. My grandmother Mary Conlin Hanlon's sisters Bridget, Catherine and Annie were all born at 17 New Rows. Bridget Conlin married Michael Aloysius Dougan from Quarter in 1920 and went to Detroit. They had six children. In recent years, I have spoken with their son Michael and their daughter Pat. Pat's daughter Clarise, who is a nationally certified genealogist in the United States, and I keep in contact by phone and email. My grandmother's sister Catherine Conlin married Robert Carr from Larkhall and moved to Fife and at least a couple of their children ended up in Australia. Granny's sister Annie Conlin married Robert Carr's cousin Jock Burns and they spent most of their life in Larkhall. Michael Conlin married Teresa (Tess) Nevins and settled in Philadelphia in the 1920's while another of Granny's brothers Thomas Conlin married a widow called Jean McMurray and lived in the Hamilton area, I think Meikle Earnock. In 1892, my great-grandfather's brother James Conlin of 20 Furnace Row married a Mary McKeown of 19 Furnace Row, literally the girl-next-door.

Writing about Quarter has brought other thoughts to the surface. One night during the war, the Germans dropped a bomb and blew our front door, in Larkhall, out into the street. Our mother ran out holding my hand with her right hand and carrying my brother in her left arm. She was screaming. I could see our radio lying close by. It had been blown out through the window. Our father frequently worked 16 hours a day at Rolls Royce in Clydebank where they made Spitfire engines. He was at work. Our mother was terrified. I remember the air raid warden emerging from the darkness, pushing us back inside the house and standing the door up against the empty doorway.

Over the years family and neighbours said that bomb landed in the "old mines" in Quarter. I never did ask exactly where the old mines were located but the impression was that they were a couple of miles away from Larkhall. No one was hurt in Quarter or Larkhall that I remember. Apparently the Germans on occasion had to get rid of a leftover bomb as they detoured through Scotland on their return to Germany after their forays further south in Britain. At least that was the consensus of opinion in my circle.

I hope to learn more about Quarter as time goes by and I do plan to visit there again in the near future. The Quarter folk I knew were fully rounded souls. They didn't have much of life's luxuries, but they worked hard and seemed to get more enjoyment out of life than most people. They were decent people who displayed a great sense of humour and were neither bored nor boring.

## Patrick Hanlon

Patrick Hanlon, my mother's father, was born on New Year's Day in Ferniegair in 1884 and died in Quarter in 1948. This photo was most likely taken on the occasion of his marriage in 1907 to my grandmother Mary Conlin. Patrick was the son of Patrick Hanlon of Armagh, Ireland and Mary Swan Mutter Dickson of Hamilton. He and my grandmother had nine children and have descendants in Scotland, England, Wales, Germany and the United States.



## MARY (CONLIN) HANLON -

Our mother's mother and her son PATRICK HANLON. This photo was taken about 1957 while our grandmother was still living at 38 Limekilnburn Road.



## BRIDGET CONLIN

My grandmother's sister. The photo was taken in 1920 - probably around the time of her marriage to Michael Aloysius Dougan of Quarter. They went to Detroit in the U.S.A. shortly after their marriage. They had six children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



This photo was taken in 1971. The ladies sitting at the far left and far right are my grandmother's sisters, Catherine Conlin (L) born in 1894 and Annie Conlin (R) born in 1895 at 17 New Row, Quarter, Parish of Hamilton. Catherine and Annie survived well into their nineties. As I mentioned previously, Catherine Conlin married Robert Carr of Larkhall. They moved to Fife and raised a large family. Annie Conlin lived further up Limekilnburn Road from my grandmother's house, when she and Jock Burns were first married. Later on they moved to Larkhall.

Seated between her aunts is my mother's sister Mary Hanlon. Aunt Mary was born in Quarter and lived there at 38 Limekilnburn Road with her parents. She was stricken with meningitis as a young baby and was not expected to live. She survived and, as a result of her illness, walked with an unsteady gait. However, there was nothing wrong with her thinking capacity, her ability to express herself, her sense of humour or her warmth as a human being.





## BRIDGET HANLON -

Our mother - as she looked at 23 when still unmarried and living in Quarter. Photo was taken in 1935.

## Thomas Hanlon

Born in Quarter, Thomas was the son of Patrick Hanlon and Mary Conlin Hanlon. Uncle Tommy was highly intelligent. Named Dux of the Roman

Catholic School at Quarter Road End, he went on to Our Lady's High School in Motherwell. He knew more about the history of Hamilton, the High Parks, Chatelherault and Mary Queen of Scots than anyone else I know. I loved listening to him. When my husband, daughter and I were in Scotland in 1971, Uncle Tommy took us to see the White Cattle in the High Parks. He has many descendants, some of whom live in the Hamilton area.



## William Hanlon

Bill Hanlon in 1956 at age 31. Born in Quarter, Bill was the son of Patrick Hanlon and Mary Conlin Hanlon. He spent a good part of his adult life in England and relocated to New York City in

1956. Bill with another miner his friend and neighbour. I remember him well but have forgotten his name. This photo was taken about 1941. Bill followed us to New York and lived with us till he married.





## John Hanlon

Uncle John Hanlon was our mother's brother. He was a very sweet, pleasant man with a fine sense of humour. I remember Uncle John arriving at our door in the dead of night. He had walked from Quarter to Larkhall in the dark to bring my mother the sad new of their father's death. Uncle John fought in France in World War II. He once told me about his experiences at the Siege of Caen under Field Marshal Montgomery. Uncle John died suddenly in his early forties.

## Jim Hanlon

This snap was taken in Quarter in the mid 1930's. My mother's brother Jim Hanlon is on the right. I know the other man's face so well but don't remember his name. I do remember that walking down the Thinacre or the Dargaber was a favourite pastime of Quarter men.

Some of the men in Quarter also enjoyed the thrills or otherwise of the "Tossin' School". Since gambling was illegal, the "Tossin' School" was conducted under clandestine conditions. I've no idea where it was held – somewhere in the hidden wilderness I suppose and probably not in the same place two days in a row.



Jim on the right with the melodeon. I don't know the other fellow. It looks like they may have been performing in a show with the western scarves, Jim's hair etc. Jim moved to England. He and his wife Aunt Millie also vacationed with us here in the States. I have had conversations with their children but as yet have never met these cousins.



## Helen & Catherine Hanlon

This is obviously a studio photo - taken of my mother's two sisters. Helen (Ellen) is on the left, Catherine seated in front of her. This photo was taken during World War II probably toward the end of the war while they were living in Quarter. This is what they looked like when I first remember seeing them together. That was at a big block party in 1945 in Larkhall celebrating the end of the war. My family were participating in the festivities with our neighbours when my two aunts arrived. I remember they had just returned from visiting a friend in Erskine Veterans Hospital.

They visited us in America on more than one occasion in the nineteen seventies and eighties and all of us here thoroughly enjoyed their companionship.

## The Castle, Quarter

This is the photo of the building known as the Castle. The bus pulled in and turned around to the right of this building. The first door opening on to the pavement in the single-storey row of houses on the left of this photo is 38 Limekilnburn Road, Quarter where my grandparents Patrick and Mary Hanlon lived. The next door to the left is where the Higgins family lived. To the left of the Castle can be seen the chimney and doorway of the small end house where Mary Dunn lived. In the middle of the photo are the electrical wires where the Hanlon pigeons were electrocuted.



## The Hanlin/Hanlon Family

### 1881 CENSUS

Dwelling: Eddlewood Bldgs, Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

						<u>Birthplace</u>
PATRICK	HANLIN *	Head	Coal Miner	34	Married	Ireland
MARY	HANLIN *	Wife		36	Married	Hamilton
JAMES	HANLIN	Son	Coal Miner	10		Hamilton
MARY	HANLIN	Daur.	Scholar	7		Hamilton
JOHN	HANLIN	Son	Scholar	5		Dalsarf
WILLIAM	HANLIN	Son		3		Hamilton
PATRICK	HANLIN	Son		2 m.		Hamilton

### 1891 CENSUS

Dwelling: 19 Furnace Row, Quarter, Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

PATRICK	HANLON *	Head	Coal Miner	46	Married	Ireland
MARY	HANLON *	Wife		45	Married	Hamilton
JAMES	HANLON	Son	Coal Miner	20	Unmarried	Hamilton
WILLIAM	HANLON	Son	Coal Miner	13	Unmarried	Hamilton
PATRICK	HANLON **	Son	Scholar	7		Hamilton

### 1901 CENSUS

Dwelling: 21 Furnace Row, Quarter, Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

PATRICK	HANLON *	Head	Coal Miner	59	Married	Ireland
MARY	HANLON *	Wife		55	Married	Hamilton
JAMES	HANLON	Son	Coal Miner	30	Unmarried	Hamilton
PATRICK	HANLON **	Son	Coal Miner	17	Unmarried	Hamilton

\* Our great grandparents,      \*\* Our grandfather

### OUR QUARTER HANLON MARRIAGES

1907	HANLON	PATRICK *	CONLIN	MARY	Hamilton
1901	HANLON	WILLIAM **	HALEY	MARGARET	Hamilton
1898	ROBSON	WILLIAM	HANLON	ELLEN ***	Hamilton
1893	GAFFNEY	JAMES	HANLON	MARY***	Hamilton

\* Our grandparents,      \*\* Our grandfather's brother,      \*\*\* Our grandfather's sisters

### OUR GREAT GRANDPARENTS MARRIAGE

1873            HANLON    PATRICK    DICKSON    MARY            Hamilton

Our great grandfather PATRICK HANLON's parents were James and Mary Hanlon (nee McDonnell) of County Armagh, Ireland. .

Our great great grandmother MARY MCDONNELL's parents were Patrick McDonnell and Susan O'Kellighan of County Armagh.

Our great grandmother MARY SWAN MUTTER DICKSON'S parents were William and Elizabeth Dickson (Nee Baxter) of Hamilton. They were married in 1844 in Hamilton.

Our great great grandfather William Dickson's father was John Dickson.

Our great great grandmother Elizabeth Baxter's parents were Robert and Mary Baxter (nee Swan).

## The Conlin Family

### 1891 CENSUS

Dwelling: 17 New Row, Quarter, Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

					<u>Birthplace</u>
THOMAS CONLIN *	Head	Coal Miner	34	Married	Coatbridge
BRIDGET CONLIN *	Wife		35	Married	Barrhead
MICHAEL CONLIN	Son	Scholar	9		Barrhead
MARY CONLIN **	Daur.	Scholar	6		Paisley
PATRICK CONLIN	Son		4		“
THOMAS CONLIN	Son		2		“
JOHN CONLIN	Son		1		“

\* Our great grandparents. Bridget Conlin's maiden name was Mulrooney. She is the sister of Quarter Householders - John, Thomas and William Mulrooney whose Census info is included in this document.

\*\* Our grandmother

### OUR QUARTER CONLIN MARRIAGES

1920	BURNS	JOHN	CONLIN	ANNIE *
1920	DOUGAN	MICHAEL	CONLIN	BRIDGET *ALOYSIUS
1919	CARR	ROBERT	CONLIN	CATHERINE *
1907	HANLON	PATRICK	CONLIN	MARY **
1892	CONLIN	JAMES ***	MCKEOWN	MARY
1908	CONLIN	MICHAEL ****	NEVANS	THERESA
1919	CONLIN	THOMAS ****	MCMURRAY	JEANIE MCGUIRE

\* Our grandmother's sisters

\*\* Our grandparents

\*\*\* Brother of our great grandfather Thomas Conlin

\*\*\*\* Our grandmother's brothers

## The Mulrooney Families

### 1881 Census

Dwelling: 1 Carscallan Row, Quarter

Census Place: Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

Source: FHL Film 0203693 GRO Ref Volume 647 Enum Dist 26 Page 32

					Birthplace
John MULROONEY	Marr	Age	Sex		
	M	38	M		Ireland
Rel: Head					
Occ: Coal Miner					
Elizabeth MULROONEY	M	38	F		Ireland
Rel: Wife					
John MULROONEY		13	M		Barrhead, Renfrew, Scotland
Rel: Son					
Occ: Coal Miner					
Ann MULROONEY		11	F		Barrhead, Renfrew, Scotland
Rel: Daur					
Occ: Scholar					

William MULROONEY	9	M	Barrhead, Renfrew, Scotland
Rel: Son			
Occ: Scholar			
Bridgit MULROONEY	5	F	Dalsersh, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Daur			
Occ: Scholar			
Elizabeth MULROONEY	1	F	Dalsersh, Lanark, Scotland
Rel: Daur			

Dwelling: 23 Carscallan Row, Quarter.

Census Place: Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

Source: FHL Film 0203693 GRO Ref Volume 647 Enum Dist 26 Page 36

	Marr	Age	Sex	Birthplace
William MULROONEY	M	32	M	Barrhead, Renfrew, Scotland
Rel: Head				
Occ: Coal Miner				
Barbara MULROONEY	M	28	F	Waterside, Dunbarton, Scotland
Rel: Wife				
Ann MULROONEY		4	F	Barrhead, Renfrew, Scotland
Rel: Daur				
Jane MULROONEY		2	F	Barrhead, Renfrew, Scotland
Rel: Daur				
John CAMPBELL	U	37	M	Catrine, Ayr, Scotland
Rel: Boarder				
Occ: Coal Miner				

### 1891 CENSUS

Dwelling: 16 Store Row, Quarter, Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

					<u>Birthplace</u>
JOHN MULROONEY *	Head	Coal Miner	48	Married	Ireland
ELIZABETH MULROONEY	Wife		48	Married	Ireland
JOHN MULROONEY	Son	Coal Miner	23		Ireland
WILLIAM MULROONEY	Son	Coal Miner	19		Renfrew. Johnston
ELIZABETH MULROONEY	Daur.	Scholar	12		Hamilton
CATHERINE MULROONEY	Daur.	Scholar	10		"
THOMAS MULROONEY	Son	Scholar	8		"
SARAH MULROONEY	Daur.		3		"

### 1891 CENSUS

Dwelling: 5 Store Row, Quarter, Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

					<u>Birthplace</u>
THOMAS MULROONEY *	Head	Coal Miner	30	Married	Barrhead Renfrew
MARY MULROONEY	Wife		29	Married	"
BRIDGET MULROONEY	Daur.	Scholar	8		"
WILLIAM MULROONEY	Son	Scholar	5		"
PETER MULROONEY	Son		4		"
JOHN MULROONEY	Son		2		"
ANNIE MULROONEY	Daur.		2 mos.		Quarter

## 1891 CENSUS

Dwelling: 13 Furnace Row, Quarter, Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

				<u>Birthplace</u>
WILLIAM MULROONEY *	Head	Coal Miner	40	Barrhead Renfrew
BARBARA MULROONEY	Wife		30 **	Dunbarton Watersid
JUNE MULROONEY	Daur.	Scholar	12	Renfrew Barrhead
BRIDGET MULROONEY	Daur.	Scholar	9	“
JOHN MULROONEY	Son		4	Quarter

## 1901 CENSUS

Dwelling: Store Row, Quarter, Hamilton, Lanark, Scotland

WILLIAM MULROONEY *	Head	Fireman In Pit	50	Barrhead
BARBARA MULROONEY	Wife	Married	49	Dunbarton
BRIDGET MULROONEY	Daur.		19	Quarter
JOHN MULROONEY	Son	Scholar	14	Quarter
MARY MULROONEY	Daur.	Scholar	9	Quarter

\* Brothers of our great grandmother Bridget Mulrooney

\*\* Age discrepancy. Other records indicate that Barbara Mulrooney was born around 1853. Only five Mulrooneys were left in Quarter in 1901. The other Mulrooneys mostly either returned to the Barrhead area or settled in Cambuslang, Rutherglen, or Motherwell, etc.

### MULROONEY MARRIAGES - QUARTER

1898	HIGGINS	THOMAS	MULROONEY ANNIE	HAMILTON
1901	MURRAY	HENRY	MULROONEY BRIDGET	“
1900	DEVINE	THOMAS	MULROONEY JANE	“
1919	HIGGINS	ARTHUR	MULROONEY MARY	“
1910	SULLIVAN	PETER	MULROONEY MARY	“

### OUR GREAT GRANDPARENTS MARRIAGE

1880 CONLIN THOMAS MULROONEY BRIDGET BARRHEAD & LEVERN, RENFREW

THOMAS CONLIN'S parents were Michael Conlin of County Roscommon, Ireland and Mary Nelson of County Leitrim. They were married in Coatbridge in 1852.

Michael's parents were Thomas and Anne Conlin (nee Doyle). Mary's parents were James and Mary Nelson (nee McCue).

BRIDGET MULROONEY'S parents were William and Bridget Mulrooney (nee White) of County Sligo where they married in 1841.

William Mulrooney's parents were William and Honora Mulrooney (nee Flanigan) and Bridget's were Martin and Mary White (nee Gallinagh).

## The Cochranes of Quarter

by Linda Kaden

There are still a number of descendants of my great grandparents living around Hamilton although I am not in contact with many of them. I am hoping they may get in touch if they recognise this photograph or the following information. Featured in the photograph taken about 1901 are Walter Cochrane and Lizzie Paterson with their first three children Lizzie, Cecilia and Nellie.

Walter Cochrane and Lizzie Paterson had the following children who were all born in Quarter:-

Elizabeth Paterson Cochrane (Lizzie) born 1896

Cecilia Cochrane born 1898 at

Helen Cochrane (Nellie) born 1900

Minnie Cochrane born 1902

Catherine Rodger Cochrane (Kate) born 1904

Walter Cochrane born 1906

Mary Cochrane born 1912

Thomas Paterson Cochrane born 1914

David Cochrane born 1918

James Cochrane born 1922

Walter Cochrane was born in Ponteland, Northumberland in 1876 to Cecilia Cochrane whose family originated in Tranent. Walter died at 72 Limekilburn Road, Quarter in 1949.

Elizabeth Paterson was born in Quarter in 1878 to Thomas Paterson and Elizabeth McMunn, who were married in

Glassford in 1866. Lizzie died at 72 Limekilburn Road, Quarter in 1945. Thomas Paterson died at 96 Darngaber Row, Quarter in 1909 and his wife in 1915.

Walter Cochrane's grandfather (also known as his father)

David Cochrane, a coalminer, lived in Quarter until he died at 48 Darngaber Row in 1917 and Walter's brothers David, William and Henry were also coalminers in the village according to the 1901 census. I would be delighted to share information with other members of the family.





# Uncovering our Family's History in Quarter

by Irene Barkby

Having moved to Quarter in 1999, to a home and environment which I love, I used to constantly comment to all who knew me on how I felt as if "I belonged here"! This was something which was confirmed beyond doubt when in early 2005 I was given a bible which had been passed from generation to generation and dates back to the 1870's.

It was on receipt of the Family Bible and having read the publication by Alan Johnstone "Quarter And Its People", which prompted me to search our family history with the support of one of my daughters, Victoria. Between us we have spent endless hours searching the "Scotland's People" website, visiting the local library and even wandering around Larkhall Cemetery. Needless to say the search continues and to date we have found that not only did our descendants live in and around the village but that they did so for over 100 years.

*(It's no wonder I feel so at home!)*



To date we have traced back to my great, great, great grandfather William Pollock who was born in 1806. It was his third born David Pollock, my great, great grandfather, who started the aforementioned family Bible. David married an Ann Winning in 1872 but tragically by 1880 Ann, David and two of their children were dead. Leaving my great grandfather William Pollock and his sister Ann to be raised by his uncle and aunt Gavin and Mary Frew Pollock pictured here on the left outside their home in Quarter.

William, who worked as a coal pit pony driver, married a Jeannie Bryce in 1896. My grandmother Annie

Winning Pollock, was their fourth child born in 1903. Annie (my grandmother) at Quarter Primary in 1910 seen below age 7 she is sitting at front in right hand corner of picture



The Pollock family continued to live in and around the village until approximately 1950.

Searching our family history has been and continues to be an absorbing pastime, which I am sure will continue to fill many more hours and possibly years. It has however, been extremely interesting and both Victoria and I continue to get immense pleasure and satisfaction in tracking down even more family members. For those of you who have never given your family history

any thought it is something I would recommend. It sure filled our winter nights and the findings have at times been more enthralling than the "soap's" we used to watch on TV.

The following pages contain just some of the relatives that have been uncovered so far.

## The Pollock Family of Quarter

The Pollock family and their descendants have lived in and around Quarter since approximately 1845. The working class background is evident from the records of them working in the mines and on numerous local farms as servants over the years. The first Pollock to move to the area was William and it is the tracking of his family which has led to the discovery of an extensive family history in and around the village.

William Pollock was born in Cambusnethan on 12 February 1806 to James and Ann nee Fleming. James's father, having been a farmer, originated from Chapelton. Prior to the first recorded entry of William living in Quarter he had lived in Low Waters with his first wife Ann Hamilton, whom he married on 22 February 1829. Their children were Ann born 1832, John 1834, Elizabeth 1836, William 1843, James 1843 and Robert born in 1845.

Following the death of his first wife Ann, William married his second wife Charlotte Wilson on 22 July 1849 and thereafter lived in High Quarter. Charlotte and William had three children, Gavin born in 1850, Charlotte 1851 and David 1854.

William married for a 3rd time following the death of Charlotte, marrying his neighbour Janet Wilson who was some 15 years his junior on 22 December 1865. They continued to live in High Quarter till his death on 10 December 1872. It is reported that he died suddenly from a heart attack at age 67 in the Joiner's Shop of Quarter Iron Works where he worked at the time. What follows is a condensed family history of Williams 9 children.

Ann Pollock born 1832. The first born child of William and Ann Hamilton she grew



James Craig, Ann Pollock and children

up in Low Waters and recorded in the 1851 census aged 19 as being employed by John Kirkland, Patrick Court, Hamilton as a House Maid. Ann had an illegitimate son at home in Quarter born 8 August 1859, whom she named James. Ann married, at the age of 30, to James Craig a silk weaver from Strathaven on 4 April 1862 at Quarter Parish. James was a widower with four children from his previous marriage. James children were Jean born 1853, Andrew 1855, Margaret 31 Jan 1856 and John born 20 July 1858. Ann and James lived in Craig's land in Sandknowe, Strathaven where they had five children. William born 18 Oct 1864, James 15 April 1867, Catherine 29 June 1870, David 29 July 1872 and

Elizabeth born 27 September 1875.

John Pollock born 1834. John the second child shown in the 1851 census age 16 as a Farm Servant working for a widower Janet Smith at Muttonhole. In the 1861 census he was a coal miner living at home in High Quarter where the family occupied number 25 and 26. Still at home although now living at numbers 19 and 20 High Quarter in 1871 he was recorded as a mineral borer which remained his recorded occupation for his working career, but was later found to be living in Raploch Street, Larkhall and then Duke Street, Hamilton. John appears to have remained single and at age 68 his last known address in the 1901 census was with his brother Gavin and his family as a boarder at Thorniehill Cottage, Limekilnburn.

Elizabeth Pollock born 1836, having grown up in Low Waters then High Quarter, Elizabeth the third child was recorded as working as a Domestic Servant in the 1861 census although living at home with her family. By the 1871 census she was living at No. 4 High Quarter with no employment listed, most likely house keeping for her brothers and taking care of her 5 illegitimate children. The children were: - Ann born 27 June 1857 recorded as Ann McPherson in the 1871 census, David 1859 recorded as David McKendrick in the 1871 census, James born 3 July 1861 recorded as James Wilson in 1871 census, Janet born 1 March 1865 recorded as Janet Wilson in 1871 census, Elizabeth born 20 August 1869 recorded as

Elizabeth Wilson in 1871 census

Elizabeth married on 1 October 1875 to William Paterson a coal miner and widower who was born in Ireland but was living at No. 9 High Quarter with his mother and son Donald, following the death of his first wife. Elizabeth and James had three children, Jane born 17 April 1889, Mary born 18 September 1879 and Barbara born in 1881. Elizabeth died in 1914 age 78 with a history of apoplexy for 8 days at Clyde Place in Bothwell Haigh.

William Pollock born 1838, the fourth child of William and Ann Hamilton was recorded at the age of 12 working as a General Servant at Thorniehill Farm in the 1851 census. In the 1861 census he was living at home in High Quarter and working as a coal miner. To date there is no further details of William's whereabouts thereafter.

James Pollock Born 1843, the fifth child was recorded as a scholar in 1851 census and by the 1861 census was working as a coal miner and living at home in High Quarter. James married on 31 December 1868 at Commercial Road Strathaven to Lillias Frew a single mother, David her son was born on 14 April 1866 at Barnet Street, Strathaven, who was working as a domestic servant. James who worked as a coal miner and Lillias lived at various addresses in and around Quarter where they raised their seven children:

Ann Born 26 May 1867 - Thinacre Farm William - Born 21 May 1871 - Wellbog Farm  
Helen - Born 15 July 1873 - High Quarter Lillias - Born 26 May 1877 - Mid Quarter  
Janet - Born 7 March 1880 - Mid Quarter Margaret - Born 17 July 1883 - Mid Quarter and  
Gavin - Born 27 May 1885 - Mid Quarter

They were recorded as living at High Brimleton in 1891 and at 144 Mid Quarter in 1901

Robert Pollock Born 1845, the sixth child of William and Ann Hamilton. Robert was recorded as a coalminer in both the 1861 and 1871 census and living at home. To date however there is no further details of Robert's whereabouts thereafter.

Gavin Pollock Born 1850, the first child born to William and Charlotte Wilson and was brought up in Quarter where he went on to work as a coal pit pony driver and miner. Gavin married Mary Frew a farm servant in Quarter Parish on 23 January 1874. Gavin and



Mary lived at 21 Low Quarter till moving to Thorniehill Cottage Limekilnburn sometime between 1881 and 1884. They also had seven children: William born 17 February 1875 Quarter, Alexander born 13 April 1877 Low Quarter, Gavin born 15 February 1879 Low Quarter, Janet born 8 April 1881 Low Quarter, Charlotte born 26 February 1884 Thorniehill, James born 4 January 1886 Thorniehill

Elizabeth born 17 September 1887 Thorniehill, John born 1 August 1890 Thorniehill

Following the deaths of Gavin's sister in law Ann and brother David, Gavin and Mary also cared for their nephew William from the age of 7.

Charlotte Pollock - Daughter of Gavin and Mary Frew Pollock. Taken approximately 1905

Gavin and Mary's Golden Wedding  
Anniversary in 1924

Left to Right:- James, John, William,  
Elizabeth, Gavin, Janet, Mary, Charlotte,  
Alexander, Gavin Jnr. Gavin died 23  
September 1928 and Mary died 11  
December 1932. Descendants of Gavin's  
family continue to live in Thorniehill  
Cottage, Limekilnburn.



Charlotte Pollock (Nelson/Neilson) born 1851

Charlotte the second child of William and Charlotte Wilson grew up in Quarter and was recorded as working as a Farm Servant when she had her first child William illegitimately on 15 January 1870. Charlotte married her husband John Nelson, later to be recorded as Neilson, a pithead man from Union Street, Larkhall on 13 February 1874 in Quarter Parish and lived at 53 Glengowan, Larkhall. Charlotte and John had three children who were:  
Robert Pollock Nelson Born 13 March 1874, Quarter John Nelson Born 13 Jan 1876 Quarter  
And Charlotte Nelson Born 1879

Charlotte died age 28 on 11 December 1880 at 53, Glengowan following a 3 month history of Phthisis (Tuberculosis). On her death certificate her name is recorded as Neilson. John remarried and had three further children Elizabeth born 1882, Agnes born 1888 and Isabella born 1890 however in the 1891 census he is again recorded as a widower living at 62 McNeil Street, Larkhall with children from both marriages.

David Pollock born 1854, the third child of William and Charlotte Wilson was brought up in Quarter and was recorded as a coalminer in the 1871 census. David married on 19 July 1872 in Cambusnethan to Ann Winning who had been working as a Farm Servant for the Hamilton Family in North Quarter Farm. Ann and David lived initially in Quarter and then moved to 49 Glengowan, Larkhall. They had 4 children: William Born 25 July 1872 Quarter, Ann Born 12 March 1874 Quarter, Charlotte Born 29 March 1876 Glengowan, Charlotte died 25 June 1877 with liver enlargement. Elizabeth Born 2 April 1878 Glengowan, Elizabeth died 10 May 1879 with Tuberculosis.

Ann died on 9 May 1878 following the birth of Elizabeth. David died at home with Pulmonary Haemorrhage in High Quarter on 5 April 1879. Their three children were taken in



by their respective families. William was cared for by Gavin and Mary Pollock and Ann and Elizabeth was cared for by Ann's family where Elizabeth died the following year. Descendants of David's family continue to live in Quarter.

Mary Frew Pollock outside Thorniehill  
Cottage, Limekilnburn

## Hamilton and District Young Farmers Club

The young farmers group in this area was started in 1946 by Matt Fallow while working on the East Crookedstone Farm. In 1947 they held a Halloween party at the Limekilnburn Hall on Friday 31st October, when Matt was the secretary and Tom Penrice was the treasurer.



Halloween Party 1947 at Limekilnburn

From Left to Right :- Back Row

Scott, Jim Bryson, Helen Penrice, Barbara Cullen, District Nurse (Mrs Lindsay), Andrew Hornal, Elma Massy, Helen Hamilton (Highlees Farm), Netty Hodge, Tom Penrice (treasurer & brother of Helen), William Hamilton,

Front Row

Danny McGlin, Jean Frame, Matt Fallow (secretary), ? , Alex Mathers (Knowtop Farm), ? .

## General Observations as to Coal

Survey and report of Lanarkshire Minerals by Robert Brown, December 1850.

All the seams of coal not exceeding 4 feet in thickness should be wrought on the English plan or Longwall System by which means the whole Coal of the thin seams could be taken out, whereas by the present Scotch or Stoop and Room System, one fourth of the Coal is left in the Mine for Stoops or Supports of the roof. By adopting this improved system as suggested there would be a saving of coal of one Sixteenth over the Coal areas and a corresponding profit to the Proprietor.

Much of the profits derived from Mines depend on the good management of them. The expense of carrying on Mining operations is incurred in two ways; -

1<sup>st</sup> On the wages paid to the operative Collier - A great saving in this case might be made by getting the Collier to acquire habits of sobriety, economy and constant industry and in place of only working 4 days in the week and 6 hours in the day which is too frequently the case, to work constantly 5 days and a half in the week and 8 hours in the day. In this way the employers would gain 20 per cent on their labour while the workman might still earn from 15/- to 18/- per week, have their comforts increased, their morals and physical powers improved and their condition in society much ameliorated.

2<sup>nd</sup> A great improvement may be made in the management of Mining Operations in regard of the oncost or extra labour in the Mines, such as making under ground roads, levels, air courses, etc. and also at the pit mouth when Minerals are brought to the surface. This department should be carefully attended to by the Greaves and Overseers, otherwise great waste will be committed and needless expense incurred, which it will be difficult to check, to the loss of owners and Tacksmen of Pit and Works.

In short, these two things cannot be too much attended to, in order to render such mines profitable to the proper extent.

It should be a condition in all coal leases that it shall be optional to the owner of the coal mines let, to calculate the Lordships to be received by him, either at the Pit mouth according to the weight of the coal after being put into the trucks, or waggons, or by measuring the excavation made in the mines, according to the number of cubic yards extracted from them, the present mode of ascertaining the output by merely measuring and counting the hutches without weighing them, leads often to great uncertainty of weight to the prejudice of the owners of mines.

Moreover let it never be lost sight of that the magnitude and extraordinary value of the Duke of Hamilton's Minerals is such as will require time and a considerable time too and that also no ordinary degree of energy experience knowledge economy perseverance and intelligence will require to be exercised both by Proprietor and Tacksmen and also by whoever directs the management of their mines to turn them to proper account during the lives of several generations for the benefit of the heads of the Noble House of Hamilton for the time being.

# **The Central Coalfield of Scotland**

## **Area VIII**

### **East Kilbride and Quarter (1917)**

#### **Chapter VI**

#### **Coal Measures, Quarter Area**

**By R.G.Carruthers, F.G.S. & C.H.Dinham, B.A.**

The Coal Measures which fall within the Quarter Area VIII. are separated from the Limestone Measures by the great Dechmont Fault, which crosses the extreme N.E. corner of the area between Newhouse, south of High Blantyre and Blantyre Park and enters it again in Quarter sheet 17 SE south of Meikle Earnock Station and continues to the south-east through the village of Quarter. The red sandstones of the Barren Measures were once believed to rest unconformably upon the Carboniferous Limestone in this district, but mining operations must soon have proved that the junction was a faulted one. This fault has a somewhat irregular course in places. It is flanked by a belt of faulting in which the strata are so disturbed that it is impossible to prove the actual amount of throw; in such cases it is only possible to indicate the effective displacement – that is the relative heights of the metals in the undisturbed tracts on either side of the troubled belt. At Newhouse, Blantyre, red sandstones of the Barren Measures, which may be as much as a hundred and, as is shown later, are probably at least fifty fathoms above the Ell Coal, are thrown against the Middle and Under Limestones of the Hosie Group. The throw here is accordingly between 320 and 370 fms. One mile further to S.S.E., where the fault appears to have split into two branches, the throw of the main branch is about 50 fms less. Further to the south-east, in the neighbourhood of Quarter, the general dip of the strata on either side of the fault is in contrary directions, so that its throw progressively diminishes. South of Meikle Earnock Station it is about 240 fms, while where it finally passes out of the area at Knowtop the effective throw is only 100 fms. This diminution in throw is assisted by the splitting of the fault into two branches, one of which, running from the Strathaven road towards Quarter Station, is about 12 fms., the other, near Darngaber Farm, 15 fms.; the latter dies out with a compensating steepening of dip before reaching the Wellbog Burn.

The main branch of this fault appears to cross the Blackbog Burn about 50 yds. above the passenger railway embankment. West of this point the Orchard Limestone is seen, while to the east near the embankment, the Splint Coal is said to have been formerly wrought open-cast. This report seems to be borne out by one of the bores put down close by, which found Ell Coal 6 ft 4 in thick, but the other bores show that this patch of Productive Measures must be a highly disturbed block lying in the “vees” of the fault.

To the east of this boundary fault, the structure of the Quarter coalfield is simple. The general dip is to the N.N.W., but the N.E. tilt given to the strata near the Dechmont line of disturbance produces a basin, the lowest point of which lies about 150 yds. East of Quarter No 8 Pit, the Splint Coal being there 190 ft. below sea level. The faults nearly all have an E. by N. direction. The “Brockhill” fault, which has a 35-fms. throw where it crosses the Avon near the north margin of the area seems to die out near No 8 Pit. The fault passing south of No 7 Pit, at first believed to be about 100 fms., was later known as the 22-fm. Fault, but within this area it is doubtful if the throw reaches 11 fms.

The Coal Measures of the Quarter district occupy an area of about 1½ square miles; a small area of ¼ square mile also occurs near Blantyre Park. This formation is divided into two groups:

- (1) The Upper Barren Red Measures.
- (2) The Productive Coal Measures.

The whole sequence of the Lower group (2), comprising some 950 ft. of strata, occurs within the Quarter district. Erosion has removed an unknown thickness of sediment from the top of the Upper group; the portion remaining is about 250 ft. thick near Quarter and perhaps 300 ft. near Blantyre Park.

### Productive Coal Measures.

#### General Section.

	Thickness			Depth below
	Fms.	Ft.	In.	Skipsey's Band
	Fms.	Ft.	In.	Fms.
Skipsey's Marine Band	0	0	8	...
Strata	46	0	0	...
Ell Coal	1	1	3	47
Strata	7	4	0	...
Pyotshaw Coal	0	2	0	55
Strata	4	0	0	...
Main Coal	0	4	3	60
Strata	7	2	0	...
Humph Coal	0	1	2	67
Strata	5	0	0	...
Splint Coal	0	5	6	73
Strata	1	0	0	...
Virgin Coal	0	1	0	74
Strata	3	3	0	...
Musselband Coal position	0	0	5	78
Strata	7	2	0	...



	Thickness			Depth below Skipsey's Band
	Fms.	Ft.	In.	Fms.
Quarter Blackband {Ironstone 0-11 in.} {Coal      5-10 in}	0	1	0	85
Strata	7	3	0	...
Roughband Ironstone position	0	0	6	93
Strata	1	4	0	...
Virtuewell Coal, say	0	1	9	99
Strata	12	4	6	...
Kiltongue Musselband Ironstone and Shale	0	1	4	108
Strata	8	3	0	...
Kiltongue Coal, say	0	1	0	116.5
Strata	3	0	0	...
Lower Kiltongue or Jewel Coal, say	0	1	0	119.5
Strata	3	0	0	...
Upper Drumgray Coal, say	0	1	4	123
Strata	6	0	0	...
Lower Drumgray Coal	0	2	0	129
Strata	4	2	0	...
Watstone Musselband Ironstone position	0	1	0	134
Strata	3	0	0	...
Coal (Thinacres) 10 to 16 in.	0	1	4	137
Strata	8	0	0	...
Wellbog Coal	0	1	2	145
Strata	0	2	0	...
Wellbog Musselband Ironstone	0	0	6	145.5
Strata	9	2	0	...
Foul Coal 1 to 3 ft.	0	1	6	155
Strata	4	0	0	...
Crookedstone Slatyband Ironstone	0	0	5	159

The large and increasing throw of the Dechmont fault together with the contrary dips on either side of the dislocation have the result that a hundred fathoms of strata between the Ell Coal and the Wellbog Musselband do not crop within the area, unless in the obscure and disturbed belt which flanks the fault. In addition, some 30 fms. of strata overlying the Ell Coal are entirely obscured by surface deposits.

Our information regarding these 130 fms., which include all the most valuable coals, is consequently derived entirely from bore journals and underground workings.

The chief horizons will now be described in detail, beginning with the base of the Productive Measures.

The *Slatyband Ironstone* of Crookedstone, which is adopted as the base of the Coal Measures in this district, is well exposed in the south bank of the Crookedstone Burn, west of the site of Darngaber Castle. Another section of the Slatyband is exposed some way upstream, 400 yds. due west of Crookedstone Farm. Here it is even thinner (4 in) and contains more pyritous parrot. Small *Lingula* are not uncommon in the parrot parts. On the south side of this exposure the 30- fm. fault, throwing up the Calmy Limestone to the south, is clearly seen in the stream banks.

Although so thin and pyritous, the Slatyband was formerly mined hereabouts to a considerable extent, the workings having apparently started between 1845 and 1868, and the stone being taken to the Quarter Iron Works.

Bores on the Crookedstone and Wellbog Farms show that the Slatyband is, as usual with this type of Ironstone, very variable in thickness. In many cases it is wanting, but where found, is from 2 to 7 in thick. There is generally foul coal and blaes, 1 ½ to 4 ft. in thickness, about 4 fms. above the ironstone, but this distance varies, since the sandstone, which forms the roof of the working, usually about 3 or 4 ft. thick, may swell out to as much as 20 ft. as in the section given above.

Owing to the local unconformity at the base of the Millstone Grit, the thickness of strata between the Slatyband and the Gair or Calmy Limestone is exceedingly variable. West of Crookedstone Farm it is probably as much as 30 fms., but in a bore put down in the Crookedstone Burn, half a mile north-east of the farm, the intervening metals measure only 18 ½ fms. The Slatyband lies 14 fms. below the Wellbog Musselband and Coal, and 45 to 55 fms. beneath the Kiltongue Musselband.

The Crookedstone Slatyband was formerly supposed to be on the horizon of the Upper Slatyband of Birkenshaw on the River Avon, but there is now no doubt that the latter seam is represented in this district by the Wellbog Coal and Musselband, described below, and that the Crookedstone Slatyband is the equivalent of the Lower Slatyband of Birkenshaw. The general character of the seam, the occurrence of *Lingula*, the nature and sequence of the associated strata and the depth below known horizons common to the two districts, all point to this conclusion. Whether the Crookedstone Slatyband is on the same horizon as the Slatyband of Crofthead, generally adopted as the base of the Coal Measures in the Lanarkshire basin, is a question which cannot yet be finally determined; though this view which was held by Grossart, is very probably correct.

The *Wellbog Musselband and Coal* and their associated metals are well exposed in the Darngaber Burn, south of Knowtop, but the strata are almost flat and the sequence consequently insignificant. The seam itself crops out at the waterfall 200 yds. E.S.E. of Darngaber and follows the top of the bank for three or four hundred yards downstream.

Similar strata are seen in the Crookedstone Burn to the south: in the cliff 100 yds. east of the site of the Darngaber Castle, the coal (at the top of the section) is 16 in thick, but the Musselband below, though weathering out in large slabs is not very fossiliferous. Some 40 ft. of the underlying strata are visible here, but the rocks present no feature of special interest. They consist of sandstones and blaes with clayband ironstone balls, and one or two inches of coal.

The Wellbog Musselband and Coal lie about 14 fms. above the Crookedstone Slatyband and 32 to perhaps 42 fms. below the Kiltongue Musselband. It should be noted that the coal lies above the Musselband; this fact serves to distinguish this horizon from the Kiltongue and Watstone Musselband, in which after the usual manner a certain thickness of

bright coal is normally found beneath the parrot and musselband. This character of the Wellbog Musselband is shared by the so-called Upper Slatyband of Birkenshaw, the equivalent of the Slatyband of Cherryhill near Larkhall, mussels being only found in the base of that seam. These considerations together with the distance of each from the Lingula-bearing Slatybands of Crookedstone and Birkenshaw, show that the Wellbog Musselband and Coal is equivalent to the Upper or Cherryhill Slatyband, formerly wrought as a blackband ironstone in the River Avon two miles to the east and not to the Watstone Musselband of the same place. The Musselband of Wellbog thus passes eastwards into a blackband ironstone. Confirmation of this correlation and of this change of character to the east is obtained at Thinacremuir, a quarter of a mile east of East Crookedstone, where the seam crops again in the Plotcock Burn.

A pit was sunk close by to the seam in 1842 and found:-

Top ply, rather coaly, 7 in.

Under ply, fairish ironstone, 9 ½ in.

It was described as “a seam of Blackband containing Mussels”. Some of the “char” or calcined ironstone can still be seen about 100 yds. downstream from the crop.

Between the Wellbog and the Watstone Musselbands, a distance of 11 fms. the strata are chiefly fakes and blaes. Two or three fms. below the Watstone Musselband, there is constantly present a coal recorded in more than one bore as 16 in. thick without any parting: this is probably the seam exposed in a mine near the top of the east bank of the Crookedstone Burn on the farm of Thinacres, opposite Wellbog steading.

The *Watstone Musselband Ironstone* was at one time wrought at the farm of that name near Stonehouse and the seam could be traced through Birkenshaw at least as far north as the railway viaduct at Larkhall. This horizon has been definitely recorded from the Quarter district, but since there is no reason to doubt that it would be found if looked for in a diamond bore or pit sinking, its character may be briefly described.

The *Drumgray and Kiltongue Coals* have been recorded from bores at two places only within the district, near Quarter No 8 and No 6 Pits. Although these seams are close together, they are easily identified in the neighbourhood of Larkhall, but as we pass to the west and north-west, the intervening strata show so much variation that a correct identification of the seams in that direction becomes a matter of considerable difficulty. Since up to the present time the Lower Drumgray has been regarded as the lowest workable coal in the neighbouring areas, few attempts have been made in this district to prove the metals below the supposed equivalent of that seam. The absence of the "mussel" horizon, which in other parts of Lanarkshire generally overlies the Upper Drumgray, renders the correlation of these seams in this district dubious and it will be advisable to refer to their character in the nearest areas where they are better known.

In the bore in Quarter No 6 Pit the Lower Drumgray is recorded as 12 fms. from the Upper Drumgray and 25 ½ fms. from the Kiltongue Musselband. These distances greatly exceed those met with elsewhere in the neighbourhood and it is possible that this coal represents a seam below the Lower Drumgray, the latter being cut out by a small fault. The coal found 16 ½ fms. below the Kiltongue Musselband near No. 8 Pit and known as the Upper Drumgray, may be the Lower Drumgray, the ironstone rib in the roof being characteristic of this seam in the Cadzow and Eddlewood district.

The *Upper Drumgray* has been proved in bores at several localities to the west of the River Avon, but beyond the limits of the present area; the seam there varied from 15 to 20 in. in thickness, but in the neighbourhood of Meikle Earnock and Hamilton, where it is sometimes known as the Kiltongue, it occasionally exceeds 2 ft. A coal wrought at Plotcock

under the name of the Upper Drumgray, but not certainly identified as such, was 16 to 20 1/2 in. in thickness.

The section being:-

	Ft.	In.
Kingle	1	2
Fakes	1	4
Black blaes	0	4
Coal, daugh and fireclay	2	6

The distance of the Upper Drumgray from the Kiltongue Musselband in the neighbouring districts can be found from the preceding table, in the Quarter area it is 13 1/2 fms. near No. 6 Pit and is recorded as 16 1/2 fms. near No. 8 Pit, but as stated above, the identification of the seam in this case may be erroneous.

In the absence of the overlying "Musselband" referred to above, the chief feature in the identification of the seam is its non-coking character.

The *Lower Under or Little Kiltongue*, also known as the *Jewel Coal*, lies midway between the Kiltongue and the Upper Drumgray, rarely more than 3 or 4 fms. above the latter. This coal has seldom been wrought in the neighbourhood, although very constantly present. At Birkenshaw, where it attained the exceptional thickness of 2 ft, it was a non-coking coal "very cheaply worked". At Plotcock the coal known as the "Lower Kiltongue" lies 5 1/2 fms. above the so-called Upper Drumgray. There is no record of its thickness here; in the neighbouring bores it varies from 9 to 16 in., but was probably locally thicker, since some 9 or 10 acres of coal appear to have been taken out. The seam may be expected to average about 1 ft. in the south part of the Quarter coalfield and to become thinner in the north, as in the direction of Hamilton it is generally only 9 in. thick.

The Kiltongue Coal in the district south and east of Larkhall is a constant and workable seam, but towards the north and west it becomes both thin and inconstant, and though over 2 ft. thick near Birkenshaw was only 10 in. in Fairholm No 3 Pit. This variation seems to be partly due to the occurrence of wants, and partly to the splitting of the seam into two or more leaves, separated by a few feet of fireclay. North of the area under description, in the direction of Hamilton, these unfavourable characters are still more marked: the coal wrought at Hamilton as the Kiltongue is often the Upper Drumgray.

The depth of this seam below the Kiltongue Musselband at various localities in the neighbourhood is given below:-

	Fms.
Struther, Shaws and Machan	5 to 8
Sunnyside and Fairholm	6 1/2 to 7
Near Quarter No 2 Pit	5
Near Annax Lodge	6 to 8
Broomelton	5 1/2
Meikle Earnock	6 to 7
Near Quarter Nos 6 and 8 Pits	8 1/2

The Kiltongue Musselband is one of the most constant horizons throughout the neighbourhood and its position has rarely been missed in bores. It consists of lenticular layers of clayband ironstone separated by films of coaly matter, with very abundant remains of *Carbonicola*. This musselband is usually underlain by a thick fatty fireclay, but a bright, though more or less impure, coal of very variable thickness sometimes intervenes. The ironstone is generally most abundant at the base of the musselband, which passes up more or

less gradually into a parrot coal without ironstone and usually without “mussels,” but containing abundant fish teeth and scales. This parrot was formerly distilled for oil – in this neighbourhood in particular at Kittymuir (Stonehouse) and Swinhill, but though often called a “shale” it is of a quite different nature from the true oil “shales” of the Lothians. Near Quarter No 6 Pit the “shale” was found 9 in. and the Musselband Ironstone 8 in. thick, near No 8 Pit their combined thickness was 15 in. Above the parrot in this district come 3 to 6 ft. of blue blaes with thin clayband ironstone ribs.

The base of the Kiltongue Musselband, where proved within the Quarter district, lies 12½ or 13 fms. below the Virtuewell Coal. This distance diminishes northwards to 11 fms. or less, to the east and south, however, it increases to 14 or 15 fms.

The Virtuewell Coal in Quarter coalfield is separated from the Kiltongue Musselband by thick sandstones with considerable intercalations of sandy fireclay. The Ladygrange Coal and Bellside Ironstone of other districts are not recorded within the area, though outside it to the north and in the Powforth Glen to the east, there is a thin coal 5 fms. below the Virtuewell, which may represent the Ladygrange.

In the district lying south-west of Hamilton the Virtuewell is 15 to 20 in. thick and is apt to contain ribs of fireclay, but the coal becomes thicker towards Larkhall and may occasionally reach 3 ft. It was 27 in. at Fairholm, 28 at Millheugh and 30 in. in the Avon banks at Laigh Quarter; and has been found to average about 2 ft 2 in. in the western part of the Quarter coalfield.

Within the Quarter district the Virtuewell lies 19½ to 21½ fms. below the Splint Coal, this distance increases to 25 fms. in the eastern part of the field.

Above the Virtuewell there is throughout this part of Lanarkshire a very constant association of strata which may be conveniently grouped together under the name of the Roughband Ironstone Position. The characteristic sequence is as follows:-

Black or very dark blaes, sometimes slightly parrotty, with some CB. I. Ribs	4 – 8 ft.
Roughband Ironstone	0 – 16 in.
Fireclay with ribs of fake or sometimes of CB. I., together with some faky blaes	6 – 14 ft.

The Roughband Ironstone itself is a lenticular impure limy ironstone. Where thin, the ironstone may be comparatively rich, but in a few yards the seam may thicken out to a hard ochreous – weathering silicesus kingle, containing a certain amount of lime and magnesia. The iron is often distinctly granular in form (sphaerosiderite?). Owing to the lenticular nature of the seam the Roughband Ironstone itself may often be missed in bores, but the black blaes and fireclay rarely fail to be recorded in the journals.

In the western portion of the Quarter coalfield and in the ground to the north, this group of strata generally rests directly on the Virtuewell seam. Towards the east, however, a sandstone begins to intervene, this is only 5 ft. thick at Millheugh, but increases locally to 3 fms. further to the east.

This Roughband Ironstone is similar in character to the Roughband Ironstone of Cleland and if not the same seam, must lie very nearly on the same horizon.

The Quarter Blackband Ironstone is on the same horizon as the Airdrie Blackband (Mushet’s Ironstone). It had not begun to be worked in 1845, though its position “15 fms. below the Splint coal” was well known and its presence at Quarter must have been suspected. The ironstone had been proved in bores by 1854 and was worked up to the year 1869. The ironstone thinned to 3 or 4 in. in the direction of Fairholm and towards the west became very coaly. This seam has recently been proved in No 7 Pit, Quarter, where it is represented by 16½ in. of inferior coal.

Comparatively little is now known about this seam, which was only wrought in the eastern part of the Quarter field. The thickness of the ironstone averaged 8 in. In bores put down in Quarter No 4 Pit the section was as follows :-

		Thickness			Depth		
		Fms.	Ft.	In.	Fms.	Ft.	In.
(Splint Coal)							
Virgin. -	Blaes, Fakes and balls. . . . .	1	0	0	1	0	0
	Dross Coal . . . . .	.0	1	0	1	1	0
	Grey blaes . . . . .	.0	3	0	1	4	0
	“Wild gas” Coal, 4 – 12 in. . . . .	.0	0	8	1	4	8
	Strata, mostly fakes and blaes. . . . .	6	3	0	8	1	8
	Light blaes with sandy CB.I.ribs . . . . .	.2	2	0	10	3	8
	Dark blaes sometimes parroty. . . . .	0	0	8	10	4	4
Quarter Blackband	{ Blackband Ironstone sometimes very coaly, 0 – 11 in. . . . .	.0	0	6	10	4	10
	{ Dross Coal, 5 – 10 in. . . . .	.0	0	7	10	5	5
	Faky fireclay . . . . .	.0	1	6	11	0	11

In No. 6 Pit a thin (3-in) coal lies 33 ft. below the Splint and 41ft. above the Blackband. An old bore “in Rabshill Park, Knowtop, near the Stonehouse road,” shows an 8 – in. soft dross coal 23 ft. under the Splint and 48 ft. above the blackband : it is overlain by 26 in. of “white blaes and musselbed.” These thin coals occupy a position about on the horizon of the Musselband Coal. There is, however, no workable coal in this position anywhere in the neighbourhood, while the accompanying musselbed has rarely been recorded in bores, and is certainly not so thick nor so rich in fossils as in many other parts of Lanarkshire.

The Virgin Coal of the Quarter District is 9 to 13 in. thick and lies 3 to 9 ft. beneath the Splint Coal. Further to the east it is often absent. Whether its disappearance is caused by union with the Splint Coal above, through the attenuation of the intervening metals, or to the thinning– out of the Virgin seam itself, cannot be determined. The latter is perhaps the more probable explanation.

The Slint Coal, the lowest of the three thick seams has, like the other two, been almost, if not entirely, wrought out within the area under description by stoop and room and some of the last stoops are now being taken out. The following are details of the seam at three localities within the area. (a) between Simpsonland and Blackbog ; (b) near No 6 Pit ; (c) north of No 4 Pit.

		(a)	(b)	(c)
		In.	In.	In.
Splint Coal	{ Free . . . . .	.3	5	4
	{ Splint. . . . .	13	16	18
	{ Free . . . . .	.4	4	5
	{ Gas . . . . .	.0	10	9
	{ Free . . . . .	.0	9	9
	{ Splint. . . . .	10	7	6
	{ Free . . . . .	35	16	15
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		65	67	66

The 9 to 10 in. rib of gas coal generally occurs a short distance below the middle of the seam.

The Humph Coal is of no value in this neighbourhood. It has been proved all over the Quarter field by means of blind pits between the main and the Splint Coals. Six of these blind

pits have been sunk between No 1 Pit and No 8 Pit, and the thickness varies from 14 in. at No 8 to 6 in. at No 1 Pit.

The coal has often been missed altogether in bores, the position being represented by soft black blaes. Near Annax Lodge two coals, 6 in. and 9 in., about a fathom apart, occupy the Humph position and two similar thin seams were met within an old bore beside the Avon Water, about ¾ of a mile E.N.E. of No 8 Pit. These seams are about 7 fms. below the Main and 5 fms. above the Splint Coal. The Humph Coal becomes thicker in a north-westerly direction and in the neighbourhood of Hamilton, where it reaches a thickness of 3 ft., has been wrought for many years.

The Main Coal, now mostly exhausted within the area, varies from four to five and a half feet in thickness. In the shaft of No 8 Pit it was 52 in. thick.

The following is a general average section of the seam in the Quarter field:-

Freestone	
Faky blaes . . . . .	.42 in.
Main coal . . . . .	.48 in.
“Pelt” or blaes . . . . .	3 in.

The details given in the New Statistical Account of Scotland under the name of Main Coal evidently belong to the Splint seam, as is shown by the rib of parrot coal in the middle. There is only one small section of Main Coal (in No 6 Pit) where parrot coal was associated with the seam; the parrot lay on the top of the coal thus :-

Parrot Coal . . . . .	.4 in.
Coal with Ironstone balls . . . . .	24 in.
Free Coal . . . . .	.24 in.

Approaching the Dechmont fault the seam was split into two sections, the upper leaf contained large pieces of ironstone and only the lower portion, 24 in. thick, was worked. The Main Coal lies half-way between the EII and Splint seams and about 12 fms. distant from each.

The Pyotshaw Coal is less subject to variation than the Humph and has been very extensively worked in the Quarter coalfield, a large area of the seam having been exhausted when the furnaces were in blast, the coal being good for this purpose. In No 8 Pit its thickness is recorded as 39 in. and in a bore east of No 4 Pit, as 36 in., while near Knowtop it was a blaes coal 22 in. thick. At the two last-named localities an extra seam 1 ft. thick was also found 2 or 3 fms. Above the Pyotshaw. In the more eastern part of the field the thickness of the seam is recorded as 16, 24 and 26 in., while in the direction of Hamilton the average measurement increases to between 3 and 4 ft. The distance between the Pyotshaw and the Main is as usual in this neighbourhood, exceedingly variable, and in some places so small that the former has been let down into the workings of the latter seam. In general, however, a faky sandstone intervenes between the two seams. In No 8 Pit this sandstone is 12 ft. thick and the pyotshaw is 4 fms. above the top of the Main Coal. Near Knowtop this distance is 4¾ fms. The depth below the Ell Coal is 6 to 7 fms.

The Ell coal is the highest and thickest of the three valuable thick seams. Its average measurement within the district is about 7 ft.; the actual figure recorded in bores being as follows :- In No 8 Pit and near Knowtop, 7 ft. 6 in., west of No 3 Pit, 7 ft. 10 in., with 2 ft. of coaly blaes above it, close to Blackbog Farm, 6 ft. 6 in. Near No 3 Pit the section is given as :-

	{ Coal . . . . .	60 in.
Ell	{ Stone rib . . . . .	2 - 4 “
Coal	{ Coal . . . . .	<u>10 - 12 “</u>
		74 “

The stone rib, which is extremely hard, thickens in part of the field to as much as 20 in. and in that case the bottom coal, which is 15 to 18 in. in thickness, has been left unworked. It may be got in the future, but the fireclay pavement is also hard. No. 1 Pit, Quarter, was sunk to this seam, known then as the "Women's Coal," in 1815, but prior to that date the coal had been wrought from many small pits. Pillars varying from 6 to 20 ft. square were left in the workings until in 1901 the operation of taking out these pillars was begun, at the present time they are almost all removed. The head coal, 18 to 24 in. thick, which in other districts is often impure and pyritous, is of good quality in the Quarter field, and large quantities of it have been worked along with the small stoops referred to.

Strata above the Ell Coal. – One of the reasons for the adoption of Skipsey's Marine Band as the upper limit of the Productive Measures is the fact that it is one of the few horizons above the Ell Coal which show any measure of persistence from one district to another. In the district south of Hamilton it has, however, been found possible to distinguish certain groups of strata which can be followed up to the borders of the Quarter district and seem also to extend into that area. The sequence of these groups in the Quarter area is given below, with the distance of the base of each group above the Ell coal.

		Thickness.		Distance from Ell Coal.	
		Fms.	Ft.	In.	Fms.
1.	Skipsey's Marine Band . . . . .	0	0	8	47
2.	Reddish fireclay and blaes with thin coal . . . . .	.6	0	0	41
3.	Carscallan sandstone . . . . .	.4	0	0	37
4.	Avonbrae fireclays and thin coals . . . . .	.10	0	0	27
5.	Coal 12 to 16 in. at base of (4) . . . . .	.0	1	2	27
6.	Fireclays and fakes with CB. I. Balls . . . . .	10	3	0	16½
7.	Foul coal 1 – 6 ft. . . . .	.0	3	0	16
8.	Sandstone and fakes . . . . .	1	3	0	14½
9.	Fireclay fake and blaes . . . . .	.3	5	0	10½
10.	Foul Coal 0 – 2 ft. . . . .	.0	1	0	10½
11.	Fakes and blaes with CB. I. Balls . . . . .	.9	2	0	1
	Ell Coal . . . . .	.1	1	0	0

No. 10, an inconstant seam of foul coal and blaes, is probably the horizon recorded as "Upper Coal" 10½ fms. Above the Ell in No. 3 Pit : No. 7, a rather more constant seam, was 2 ft. 6 in. in No. 8 Pit, and may be the equivalent of the Upper Coal, at one time extensively wrought at Auldton and Ashgill in Dalsersf Parish, but the grey, limy, musselband ironstone which constantly occurs 3 fms. above the Upper coal in Dalsersf has not yet been found in this area.

No. 5 – This coal is found in No. 8 Pit and at Blackbog and is the most constant of the thin coals of the Avonbrae group. In the banks of the Avon Water opposite Avonbrae, less than 1 mile E.N.E. of No. 8 Pit, four coals belonging to this group are seen at intervals of 2 or 3 fms., their thicknesses being respectively 10 to 16 in., 9 to 10 in., 10 in. and 9 in., the lowest seam is a cannel. The highest coal is overlain by sandstone, probably that formerly quarried on Carscallan Farm, 200 yds. W.S.W. of No. 6 Pit.

The thin coals in group (2) are probably those seen in the burn N.W. of No. 6 Pit. The highest of these was recorded in 1869 as 18 in., but the full thickness is not now visible. The same group of marls and coals also occurs in the Blackbog Burn, between the mineral railway and the Strathaven line, where the upper coal has at one time been wrought at the crop and



may have been 2 ft. thick, the lower coal is 9 in.

It should be noted that the red coloration which is generally, though not universally, present in this neighbourhood above Skipsey's Band, becomes quite rare below this group of fireclays and blaes.

Skipsey's Marine Band, which has been found in several places to the north and east of Hamilton, was recently (1915) discovered by Mr. Tait in the banks of the Avon at Avonbrae. It is a lenticular, dark, grey, earthy limestone band 8 in. thick containing marine fossils which are generally red in colour and contrast with the grey matrix. At Avonbrae it lies about 50 fms. above the blasé of the Ell Coal, in the Quarter district the distance is probably about 47 fms. Within the area under description the marine band has not been recorded at present, but it may be expected to crop in the Blackbog Burn close to the embankment of the mineral railway and in the Limekiln Burn south of Carscallan.

Before passing to the Red Measures, it should be stated that three bores beside the Limekiln burn below the reservoir proved a 20 to 21 in. coal within 7 fms. of the surface. Other bores in the village of Quarter have proved coals 12 to 14 in. thick. All these bores, however, are situated in the disturbed belt flanking the Dechmont fault and it is not possible to fix the horizon of the coals found in them more definitely than by saying that they probably lie either above the Ell Coal or below the Kiltongue Musselband, according to the course taken by the main branch of the Dechmont fault.

#### Barren Red Measures.

These rocks appear at the surface a little north of Quarter village and extend to the north outside the limits of the area under description. Within these limits they occupy about half a square mile of ground and may be seen in the Simpsonland and Blackbog glens.

These strata vary from place to place, but the following general sequence has been made out for this neighbourhood.

	Thickness	
	Fms.	Ft.
Hamilton sandstone . . . . .	10	0
Barncluith fireclays and thin coals . . . . .	20	0
Chatelherault red and yellow sandstone . . . . .	10	0
Red and lilac blaes . . . . .	1	2
Skipsey's Marine Band		

The red and lilac blaes which overlies Skipsey's Band is of variable thickness, a variation partly due to local erosion at the base of the Chatelherault sandstone. Local unconformity at the bottom of thick sandstones is a common phenomenon and there is no evidence in this district of a more widespread discordance near the base of the Red Measures, this supports the conclusion, arrived at by Dr. Clough from the examination of other districts, that such an unconformity has not yet been proved to exist in Scotland. The Chatelherault sandstone forms the bed of the River Avon near the mansion of Chatelherault, south-east of Hamilton, and thrown up by a fault, appears in the upper part of the cliffs north of Avonbrae cottages, just outside the area. This seems to be the sandstone exposed in the burn due east of Blackbog Farm.

The variegated fireclays of the Barncluith group are generally full of irony balls, and pass laterally into fakes and blaes with posts and ribs of sandstone. The group is best seen in the left bank of the Avon at Barncluith, N.N.E. of Quarter, where it contains three or four pyritous coals 2 to 11 in. thick. Within the Quarter district two coals of 9 and 7 in., which crop in the burn 200 yds. E.N.E. of Blackbog, probably belong to the base of this group. A

thin black “limestone” crowded with broken shell-remains and streaked with coal films, seems to lie near the top of the group, but is probably not a constant horizon. The Hamilton sandstone is generally deep red in colour and of coarse grain : the lower portion is exposed in the glen north and west of Quarter No. 8 Pit It has not been quarried within the Quarter district, but was formerly wrought at Tuphall and at the Gas Works, south of Hamilton. The old quarry in the Cadzow Burn, 300 yds. S.E. of Meikle Earnock Station, shows 3 fms. of a soft red sandstone which probably lies on this horizon.

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