

The Coubrough Times

The Canadian Years

Falkirk Muir: 17 January 1746

Happy Summer Everyone! C'mon in! We have new cousins, and new stories about others we've known for a while. There's new gossip, too, so let's take our tea out to the garden and have a visit.

Falkirk Muir

It was late in the afternoon of a dull winter day. I was putting the kettle on for a dish of tea when I heard it: I immediately recognized the rattle of small arms fire interspersed by

the dull boom of cannon fire. We had heard that a royal army was marching west from Edinburgh. We had also heard that the Jacobite army, with its wild and savage highland clansmen, was marching east. What we didn't know was how close they would be to us when they met.

It was already getting dark when the firing began; not long after it began to rain. It must've been one hell of a fight, but it didn't last long. A few minutes after I heard the first shot the firing stopped abruptly, as if a ceasefire order had been given. More likely muskets had been discarded and the fighting became hand to hand with swords and shields. Wet powder doesn't burn and it would have been extremely difficult to reload a muzzle-loading musket in the rain. By the time my kettle had boiled, the shouting and screaming had died away. It wasn't over yet, though.

As we sat down, a low rumble came to us. As it grew louder, we went to the door to see what was going on. Almost as quickly, we slammed and barred the door and hid ourselves, for the rumble had changed to shouts and screams and the pounding of thousands of feet as English soldiers fled the Bonnie Prince's cavalry. We couldn't see

them from our vantage point under the bed, but we could hear the racket made by hundreds of Jacobite cavalymen in pursuit of thousands of royal army foot soldiers. I'm afraid we drank cold tea that night. No one in his right mind would be caught between two armies and every sensible person stayed inside, well out of the way. It wasn't until the next day that we¹ heard what had happened.

The English general, "Hangman" Hawley, had begun marching his troops westward. They had camped for the night near Stirling, and the general had sat down to lunch in the town. Upon receiving news that the Highlanders were advancing upon them, the government army got itself on its feet and moved out to meet the enemy. General Hawley refused to believe that the "rebels" were moving forward, and is rumored to have arrived on the scene with his napkin still tucked in at his neck.

On Falkirk Muir, a little less than a mile from town, Bonnie Prince Charlie had arrayed his men on a hillside, above a swampy plain that

CONTENTS

A Clue in the papers.	5
Just Mary Story.	6
Ellrigs in motion.	7
James & Jean.	7
Ellrig Updates.	8
Competition for the Coubroughs	9
Other branches.	9
Passages.	12
Question corner.	12
Subscriptions.	13
Photo Gallery.	13

¹The Battle of Falkirk was a real fight, a real Jacobite victory, in "the '45" (Second Jacobite Rebellion). The newspapers of the day, give it about the way it is here. My "eyewitness," is pure invention.

was already muddy before the rain came. Arriving at the foot of the hill, the English cannon got stuck in the mud and were completely useless. Hawley ordered his troops to charge anyway. This was not his best decision, but the only other option was retreat. And he would not be the man to order King William's troops to back down from the ragged highland savages, so "Charge!" was the order. His troops, however, being fonder of their own skins than of the king, took matters into their own hands. Seeing certain death ahead, all but the three regiments on the left flank took to their heels, heading toward the Falkirk town. What the fleeing men didn't know was that safety did not lay that way. Anticipating this very move, the Jacobite cavalry had broken off from their infantrymen and gone towards the town.

It was this pursuit that we had slammed the door on. We later heard that King William's army of 7000 had lost 350 killed, wounded, or missing, and another 300 taken prisoner. Of the roughly 6000 men in Prince Charlie's army, only 40 were killed and 70 wounded. They say that the battle was over so quickly and there was so much confusion that some men in the Jacobite lines didn't even know they had won. There were other rumours, too, one of which was that General John Cope, who had been seriously beaten by Bonnie Prince Charlie at Prestonpans at the start of the rebellion, won £10,000 on a bet that his successor, General Hawley, would be beaten by the highlanders, just as he had.



Highlander around the time of the '45.

Battle of Falkirk Historical Background

The Battle of Falkirk, 17 January 1746, was the second by that name. The first, 22 July 1298, was the major defeat of William Wallace's 6,000 Scots by Edward I's² 27,800 English in the First War of Scottish Independence. Later on, Wallace became the Guardian of Scotland,³ leading a ragtag army against the English, and eventually recruiting Robert Bruce as an ally.

In 1305, Wallace's own officers betrayed him to the English. Taken to prison in England, he was first tortured, then murdered. Bruce survived to become Robert I, which is another story. Bruce's daughter

²Also known as "Hammer of the Scots."

³This is the period portrayed in Mel Gibson's movie *Braveheart*. Robert Bruce, later King Robert I, was still undecided as to whether to side with his fellow Scots, or the English, who seemed more likely to win.

Marjory was married to Walter, High Steward of Scotland. It is from him that the Stewart (Stuart in France) kings took their name. Walter and Marjory "Steward's" descendants, Prince Charlie's half-sisters, Mary and Anne, were the last Stewarts on the Scots throne.

The second Battle of Falkirk was a major victory in "the '45," also known as Prince Charlie's war or Second Jacobite Rising. Jacobites, or followers of Jacob (Latin for James), wanted the return of the Catholic Stewart kings to the throne of Scotland. In 1685, King James VII⁴ & II, brother of Charles II⁵, was on the throne of England and Scotland. Their father, Charles I, had been beheaded in 1649, during the English Civil War. Protestant Charles II was allowed to return to his throne in 1660 ("the restoration). He held it until his death in 1685. Dying without legitimate children, Charles II was succeeded by his brother James.

Once on the throne, James VII, a firm believer in absolute monarchy, tried to provide religious liberty for his subjects. Most of his subjects, especially the English parliament, were not happy with the way James went about this. Parliament deemed the king to have abdicated on 11

⁴James VII of Scotland was James II in England. His father was on the Scots throne when Elizabeth I of England died in 1603. James VI, Elizabeth's nearest male relative, inherited the English crown and became James I of England. He is often recorded as James VI & I.

⁵Charles II signed the Hudson's Bay Company into existence, irrevocably changing the future of Canada.

December 1688. On 11 April 1689⁶, the Scots parliament agreed that James had forfeited his throne. At the time, the king had, by his second wife, Mary of Modena, one living son, James Francis Edward Stuart. But since the boy was being raised by a Catholic mother, besides being, only seven months old when his father was deposed, the English parliament chose to ignore him.

Baby James had two grown up half-sisters, daughters of their father's first marriage to Anne Hyde: Mary, born 1662, and Anne, born 1665, the only survivors of Anne Hyde's eight children. By 1689, Mary, who had been raised a protestant, was 27 years old. She had been married to William of Orange for twelve years. England's parliament invited Mary to take the throne, jointly, with her deeply protestant husband, William III of Orange. He was his wife's cousin, but she was of the more direct bloodline.

Naturally, having been the king, James VII & II was not keen on living out his days in obscurity in Europe. In 1689, he landed in Ireland in an attempt to regain his crowns. The next summer, July 1690, he was badly defeated at the Battle of the Boyne. He returned to France and spent the rest of his life under the protection of his cousin, Louis XIV. His son, however, was not so resigned.

When Queen Mary died in 1694, she left no living children. She was followed on the throne by first, her

⁶This period was later known as "the glorious revolution," when the evils of "popery" were vanquished by the "true religion" of the protestant church.

widower, then by Mary's younger sister, Anne. After his father's death in 1701, James Francis Edward Stuart, "the Old Pretender," declared himself King James VIII & III. He was recognised as such by the Papal States, France, Spain, and Modena, all of whom had refused to recognise William, Mary, or Anne, as legitimate British sovereigns. Having the face to call himself King, on 2 March 1702, James Francis was attainted for treason, and his titles were forfeited under English law.

He might still have had his half-sister Anne's throne when she died, 1 August 1714, but his refusal to renounce his Catholic faith was an impossible hurdle. Anne's last surviving son died before she did, so she left no heirs. The 1701 *Act of Settlement* ensured that none of Anne's many close male relatives, all Catholics, could take the throne of England, or, by extension, the Scots throne after the 1707 union of the parliaments. The *Act* settled the succession on protestant Sophia of the Palatinate, a sister of Anne's grandfather, the beheaded Charles I. Through Sophia, her grandson George I took the crowns of England and Scotland in 1714, even though he was only a second cousin of his predecessor. Queen Elizabeth II, his direct descendant, is today on the throne of Britain.

In 1708, James Francis persuaded his cousin Louis XIV of France to support him in an attempt to take back his father's throne. James caught the measles and the invasion was delayed. When it finally took place, the landing was driven off by Admiral Sir George Byng's fleet.

The year 1714 saw the first Jacobite risings aimed at putting "James VIII & III" on the throne. It was 1715 by the time James got to Scotland after the Battle of Sheriffmuir. Instead of going to Scone to be crowned king, he returned to France, sorely disappointed by the lack of support. France held more disappointment: Louis XIV was dead, and the new régime found James embarrassing.



A highland officer

Pope Clement XI offered James the a house in Rome, and he accepted. James married Maria Clementina Sobieska 3 September 1719. They had two sons: Charles Edward and Henry Benedict, later a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. The older son's Gaelic name, Tèarlach (Eideard Stiùbhairt), is pronounced very like Charlie. It is this, rather than Charles⁷, that gave the prince

⁷Charles's full English name was probably longer than he was: Charles Edward Louis John Casimir Silvester Severino Maria Stuart.

the romantic name by which he is remembered.

In December 1743, Teàrlach's father named him Prince Regent. In 1745, he led a rising to restore his father's thrones. He raised funds to fit out two ships: *Elisabeth* and *Doutelle* which landed him and his seven companions at Eriskay on 23 July 1745. Charles had hoped for support from a French fleet, but this was badly damaged by storms, and he was left to try to raise an army in Scotland.

with around 6,000 men. They took Carlisle, then marched as far south as Swarkestone Bridge, Derbyshire, where despite Charles's objections, his council decided to turn around because of the almost total lack of support from English Jacobites. King George II's son, the Duke of Cumberland, was by now in pursuit. They caught up with him at Culloden, 16 April 1746.

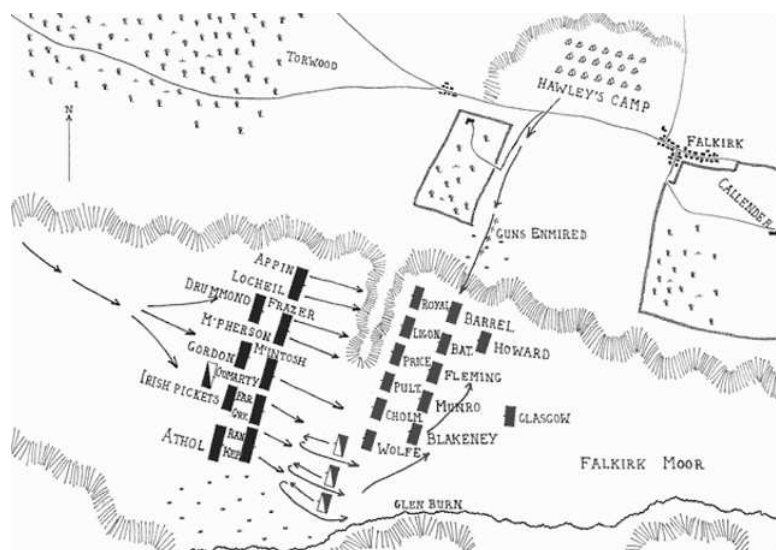
At Culloden, the final battle of the '45, Charles, ignoring the advice of

fire, was uncoordinated and unsuccessful. A few Highlanders broke through the enemy bayonets but were shot down by a second line of soldiers; the survivors fled. Highlanders called the victor "Butcher" Cumberland for the atrocities of his troops hunting for defeated Jacobites. Lord George Murray, intending to continue the fight, managed to lead a group of Jacobites to Ruthven, but Charles, believing himself betrayed, had abandoned his army and its cause.

Bonnie Prince Charlie's flight is now legendary. Everyone knows how his loyal supporters, like Flora MacDonald who took him in a small boat disguised as her Irish maid, helped him escape pursuit. Fleeing aboard the French ship *L'Heureux*, he landed in France in September. The cause of the Stuarts now lost, the remainder of his life was spent in exile.

Between Prestonpans and Culloden was another major Jacobite victory: Falkirk. The battle lasted only about twenty minutes, but gave heart to the Jacobite army. The government army, led by General "Hangman" Hawley, was surprised by Jacobites unexpectedly advancing on him. It was late in the afternoon, raining, and nearly dark. The highlanders being on a hillside, it was an uphill slog for the government troops. All but three of Hawley's regiments fled.

Falkirk Muir, where the battle took place, was less than a mile to the southwest of the town of Falkirk. We can't say for sure if any Coubroughs were at the battle, but they were all over the place at the time. Some appear to have lived in the town itself, some lived at The



Map showing troop placement at the Battle of Falkirk, April 1746

Many Highland clans, Catholic and Protestant, supported the Jacobites. When he landed at Glenfinnan, there was no response from the English Jacobites who had promised their support. Charles raised his father's standard, and a large enough force to enable him to march on Edinburgh, which surrendered very quickly. At Prestonpans, 21 September 1745, he defeated General Sir John Cope's government army. By November, he was moving south

his best commander, Lord George Murray, chose to fight on flat, open, marshy ground where his forces were exposed to the government army's superior firepower. He couldn't see what was going on from his command post behind his lines. Hoping Cumberland would attack first, he made his men stand exposed to the Hanoverian artillery for twenty minutes before finally ordering an attack. The Jacobite attack, charging into musket and cannon

Dykes, a farm about six miles from town, and the Ellrigs were about four miles away.

On a rainy day, even cannon likely wouldn't have been heard as far away as Ellrig, or The Dykes, but Falkirk Muir was close enough that anyone in the town must have heard the musket fire that opened the fight. In those days, it was common for soldiers to fire a pistol or musket once, then switch to a sword that didn't need reloading. Even if they had wanted to reload, wet gunpowder doesn't burn well. A muzzle-loading musket is useless in the rain. The big guns were useless too, stuck in the mud and out of range. The fight would have been hand-to-hand in short order.

Unbeknowst to the government army, Jacobite cavalry had split off from the infantry, moving towards town. The cavalry caught up to the fleeing English soldiers at the edge of town. The running and shouting was heard by town dwellers – including any Coubroughs who happened to be there.

Unfortunately for the Jacobites, the government had endless manpower and money. The Prince, thinking he saw treachery all around, ignored his military commanders' advice. Exactly four months after Falkirk, the Prince's army was at Culloden. Through his ineptitude, his troops were not just defeated, they were slaughtered. The failure of this second rebellion effectively destroyed any Stuart hopes of regaining the British throne.

James, the Bonnie Prince's father, died in Rome, 1 January 1766, and was buried in St. Peter's Basilica. From 14 January 1766, the Papacy

reversed its decision, recognizing the Hanoverians as legitimate rulers of Britain and Ireland. The Prince went to London once, to try to negotiate for his crown, even going so far as to convert to the Anglican church. The talks failing, he returned to Rome and to his Catholic faith. When he died in 1788, neither he nor his brother, Henry, left any legitimate offspring, and no heirs with any claim to any throne.

A Clue in the papers

We have long known that Jean was born, and probably raised, at Luketown, right next to Clachan of Campsie, in Stirling. We also knew that her father was "of Luketown," but we couldn't be sure if this meant he was the landowner, tenant farmer, or just a labourer there. Now, after more than 15 years of searching, we finally have a tiny, tantalizing clue to our Jean Muir's family. I recently found the will of James Muir "of Lukeston in Campsie," who died in June 1836. He was a generous man, almost certainly ours, and definitely not a landless labourer.

His will specifies that his "daughter Mary Muir, widow of John Muir," is to get the lion's share of his property. She is to receive a farm called Adamslee, three-fourth parts of a [farm] in Westermains of Kirkintilloch, an acre of land next to Adamslee called the Crook, and the "teinds parsonage and vicarage of the said lands, all lying within the said parish of Wester Lenzie or Kirkintilloch." Mary was also to have just about everything else he owned, except for bequests to his

other daughters, and twenty-four pounds a year for his wife, Isabella Gardner.

James may not have cared much for the men his daughters married, though he might have just assumed they could look after themselves. The bequest to his daughter Isabella was to be administered by her sister Mary. Of his moveable, (personal) estate, 100 pounds went to the "heirs nearest in kin" of his "deceased daughter Jean Muir sometime spouse⁸ of James Buchanan residing at Lillieburn". Though Jean had died less than a year before her father, he didn't specify that her share should go to her children, so she may not have had any. The hundred pounds, Jean's "bairn's part"⁹ of her father's estate, was enough to show that he cared about Jean and her family, but not enough that they could live off the interest. Presumably Jean's father had more faith in Buchanan's abilities than in Thomas Dickson's.

Young Isabella's husband, Thomas Dickson, must have been a gambler, or a spendthrift. James certainly didn't have a high opinion of Thomas' ability to look after his family. Seven hundred pounds from James' estate was to be invested in land and securities. The income from it, but not the land itself, was to go his "daughter Isabella Muir, wife of Thomas Dickson, Flesher at Kirkintilloch," for her use during her

⁸Sometime meant formerly. In this case, Jean used to be Buchanan's wife.

⁹If a man died without a will, the bairn's part was traditionally two-thirds of the father's estate. The rest was the widow's part. Using a will, people could leave their "goods and gear" as they saw fit.

lifetime, except twelve pounds, which was to go to young Isabella's mother, during her mother's lifetime. After the deaths of both James' widow and her daughter, the income would go, equally divided, to Isabella's children. Isabella's sister Mary was to hold all writs and titles of all property in which the £700 was invested. Mary was also to decide who should hold them after her. By the terms of her father's will, Mary, or her appointee, was also to manage investment of inheritances by any minor children Isabella might leave.

After specifying in detail how Mary was to administer Isabella's share, James goes on to ensure that Thomas can't get his hands on his wife's money: "I hereby expressly exclude the *jus marite*¹⁰ and all right of administration or any other right of interference whatever of the said Thomas Dickson with the foresaid liferent to his wife and fee to his children; and declaring that the same shall not be liable to be affected by his debts or deeds...not being assignable to or for him or his creditors on any pretence whatsoever." Apparently Thomas was not the favourite son-in-law.

James also felt that he had given his son David enough money already. David was to receive nothing more from his father's estate: "having made sundry advances in cash and otherwise to and for my Son David Muir at present in North America of all claims for which I now acquit and discharge him; I hereby declare that these shall be in full satisfaction of all claim for legitimum, bairn's part of

gear or whatever nature the same may be against my means or Estate real or personal.

Along with responsibility for its administration, James had given his daughter Mary the lion's share of his estate. The last of his wishes was that his bequests should not be a burden on the land that he had given Mary, but that they should be made out of his personal estate. That is, they should be made from whatever cash was available, but she was not to mortgage the land to pay them. This will was dated April 1835. It's hard to say, at this late date, but something expensive must have happened after: When Mary came to settle the estate, in August of the following year, her father's moveable estate was worth less than 20 pounds.

Though we can't say absolutely whether he owned Lukeston, he probably likely didn't, since he talks about the dues owed to his legal superiors, and about sasine, which was the installation of an heir as tenant in place of a deceased father. Whether he owned his farm or not, he had probably inherited it from his own father, and was almost certainly our Jean's brother or uncle.

Just Mary Story

Mary Muir, in whom her father placed so much faith, had been married to her cousin, John Muir. We don't know which of James' brothers was the father of John, but he had probably emigrated to America, (most likely the US), and that John was probably born there.

We don't know how long Mary &

John were married, but the marriage register for 23 December 1822 says they were cousins: "John Muir a native of ___ America, nephew of Mr. James Muir of Lukeston, and Mary Muir, daughter of the said Mr. James Muir owned their irregular marriage and were admonished."

This seems to indicate that he and Mary believed themselves married, even if the church didn't. What it doesn't tell us is whether John had come back to Scotland for a visit and met his cousin there, or if she was the traveller and they had come home to be "officially" married. Or was John back in Scotland to stay?

We know that Mary was a widow in 1835, when her father was writing his will, so John obviously died before that. But I couldn't find a will, or a death certificate, so we have no specific date. Odds are that they weren't married long. I could find evidence of only one child, Isabella Angelina, spinster, who was the executrix of her mother's estate in 1873. According to the index of wills on the Scotland's People Web site, Isabella herself died in 1884.

Isabella, Mary Muir's sister, married Thomas Dickson the same day as Mary and John owned their irregular marriage: 23 December 1822. They had called the Banns only two days before, which might mean that there was some hurry. Was it because Mary and John were leaving soon after? Did they call the Banns only once because Isabella's father was against the marriage? Hard to say at this late date, but their entry was the one before Mary & John. Isabella and Thomas had at least seven children: Margaret Duncan 10 Oct – 18 Nov 1826; another Margaret Duncan 1828; John 1830; Isabella &

¹⁰The law that gave all of a woman's property to her husband at marriage.

1832; Mary 1834; Jean 1836; and Angelina Muir in 1840.

Ellrigs in motion

Over our years of searching parish registers for assorted Coubroughs and Cowbroughs, we have often found that families appeared to move from one parish or county to another for no discernable reason. Upon closer inspection, however, we generally found that the local boundaries had moved, rather than the families. This is exactly what happened to the Ellrigs.

If the parish boundaries were fixed, William Cowbrough and his wife Mary Moir must have moved their estate house a mile or so south to a new parish. There didn't seem to be any reason for them to do this, so I went looking to see why William was christened in Falkirk, but his grandchildren were in Slamannan. At last the stars were just right: I located the Estate on a map, and within a day or two, I had found an old book that told the story.

Ellrig manor house was located on the south shore of Loch Ellrig, midway between the extremes of the lake, and within eyeball distance of the water. When the house was built, its lands were in Falkirk parish, though it was at least four miles from the parish church in the town of Falkirk. Four miles is not far, if you are walking on a dry, paved road; if you have to wade through swamps and trudge through forest, as the people in the southern part of the parish did, it's possibly a little more difficult.

In 1713, some people in the extreme south of Falkirk parish

took their children to Slammanan parish, less than a mile away, to be baptised. They didn't feel they had to pay the usual fees for being from outside the parish. This, of course, did not make the Slammanan parish folks happy, and they refused to baptise any Falkirk children unless arrangements (i.e., payment) had been made prior. There the matter rested for ten years.¹¹

In 1723, the Presbytery proposed that "the lands of Ellrig, Easter Jaw, Wester Jaw and Croftannie should be joined to Slamannan." In 1725, "the Right Honourable Lords of Council and Session, Commissioners of Plantation of Kirks and Valuation of Teinds, by a decree, dated 18th November 1725," disjoined the four estates from Falkirk parish and attached them to Slamannan.

As with many government ideas, the Church's decision on the parish boundary change was not as well-received as they might have hoped. The new parishoners were happy that they no longer had to travel the long miles to church, but the "old" Slamannan parishioners were not so well-pleased. Everyone had to pay money to the church—a sort of tax to pay the minister's salary and other costs of running the parish. Many more people were added to the parish, but none of their church money came with them. Bickering continued until

¹¹ From *The Church in Slamannan From the Reformation to the Present Day*, by Rev. James Waugh, M.A., H.C.F., (1977), Ch. 7, "Slamannan Parish Through the Changing Years", found on Tom Paterson's Web site: http://web.ukonline.co.uk/members/tom.paterson/slamannan/waugh_7.htm

1730, when it was finally decided that the Slammanan church building should be expanded to fit in the 200 people who had essentially been without a church for more than five years. The Falkirk minister of the day, the Rev. James Anderson, magnanimously gave the income from the newly annexed estates to the Slammanan parish minister and his successors. Unfortunately, he did not commit his own successors to follow his example. When he left Falkirk the income from Ellrig, Easter Jaw, Wester Jaw, and Croftannie went back to Falkirk, where it stayed until 1940.¹²

The Ellrig Coubroughs were in residence during all this struggle, and being one of the resident local landowners, probably had their say in how things should be settled. What we can be sure of is that the Ellrig estate did not move, nor did its occupants. The parish boundary move explains why the children of Mary Moir & William Cowbrough were baptised in Falkirk, but *their* children were in Slamannan.

James & Jean

We know James Coubrough and Jean Muir as the progenitors of a long line of Coubroughs. And that Jean was born at the very end of 1763, the daughter of James Muir and Jean Lapslie. We have even managed to find some evidence that William Muir and Agnes Young were Jean's father's parents, and that they had at least one other son,

¹²More than 200 years later, in 1940, the Presbytery recommended that £50 of the Falkirk income should go to the Slamannan Church.

William Muir, who was about two years younger than James. Jean Lapslie, on the other hand, is as much of a mystery as her son-in-law. We have no new evidence, but a review of early notes in light of later findings has produced some new clues.

Ellrig Updates

A note in the "Falkirk Herald" of October 9th, 1920, made mention of a Communion Cup used the previous Sunday which had been presented to the congregation in 1720. There were actually two cups presented at that time by Messrs. Mitchell of Balmitchell Fana. The year 1838 saw the church presented with two more Communion Cups: one from Mr. Waddell of Balquhatston, the other from Mr. Ralston of Ellrig.

From this, we know that the Ellrig estate existed under that name at least as late as 1838, about 20 years after the Coubroughs were forced to sell it. We also know that it existed at least as early as 1683, when John and Helen's first son, John, was christened, but we don't know how long before that. In 1818, in his depositions regarding the failure of the Falkirk Union Bank, William Cowbrough of Ellrig, Helen and John's great-great-grandson said he had inherited some of the land in the estate from his father, and he had bought more himself. While William did not say whether his father had bought or inherited the estate, it is certain that John of Ellrig came into possession of the estate in one of four ways (in order of likelihood):

- married it, along with his wife, Helen Stevenson;
- inherited it, possibly from his mother's family;
- received it for outstanding service, either to the crown or the local duke; or
- bought it himself, and built the house.

We don't know of any Coubroughs in the Falkirk area before John and Helen; either John or his father was likely the first Cowbrough there. Regardless of how he came to be there, the fact that John owned the Ellrig estate indicates that he was either of high social status, very rich, or both: An heiress would not have married a working-class man. If he inherited it, the same applies: his father would have had to be either wealthy or of the land-owning class himself. John of Ellrig could have inherited his status from either or both his parents, but there is no doubt that he had it.

If he was awarded the estate for outstanding service, he would also have had to be of a high enough class (assuming that he held to the "correct" religion and politics) to come to the attention of the duke or the king who gave him the land. And if he bought the place himself, or someone bought it for him, the family had to be rich enough to come up with that kind of cash. John appears to have been quite young—in his early 20s—when we first find him in Ellrig, so he had to have started off fairly well-placed.

It appears the Cowbroughs were of very good family from at least the

1650s¹³. Not all the branches seem to have had great gobs of cash, but their social standing was not in question. If the first Ellrig wasn't born to the landowning class, he had to have been rich enough from some other source to buy respectability for his offspring.

John Coubrough, who, with his wife, Jonet Buchanan, stands at the head of the calico factory line, was a contemporary of Helen Stevenson's Ellrig husband. Only a year or so apart in age, they were quite possibly cousins, though Ellrig had probably been born in St. Ninians parish, while the other John was from Campsie. Jonet's husband doesn't seem to have been hugely wealthy, but he was of the upper class. We know he was a farmer, though we don't know for sure if he owned the land. The word farmer in those days was used to describe the top-level tenant who leased land directly from the owner, but was sometimes also used for the owner of a small property. Either way, this branch of the Coubroughs was high enough up the social ladder that Jonet's son was able to marry the daughter of Archibald Edmonstone, the local laird. And Jonet's grandson was well-enough placed to be able to marry into the wealthy Park family.

This connection to the Parks appears to have been the source of the cash that Anthony Park Coubrough used to buy into the calico printing business. As a young married man, he bought an old house and fixed it up into the 10-bedroom house known as Blanefield. Later, he lived in a huge house called Park Lea. I don't know how he came by this

¹³Earliest available records.

property, but I suspect that he inherited it from his mother or her family.

The name of the house may offer a clue. A lea is a park, or park-like setting. The name was possibly a play on the family name: Park's park. Anthony's mother, Euphemia Stewart Park, died in 1849. He is living in Park Lea in the 1851 census. To me, this lends credence to his mother's family having been the source of their wealth.

Competition for the Coubroughs

The Coubroughs seem to have had a stranglehold on the calico printing business in their part of the parish of Strathblane. In the 1870s, a set of buildings known as the Dumbrook Works was erected, apparently to print calico in competition with Anthony Park and his sons. This enterprise is the only one known to have been erected with such a goal, but for some reason the works were never completed. After years of unsuccessful attempts to rent the buildings, they were demolished in 1905, apparently having never printed a single bolt of cloth.

In the earlier days of his textile adventures, Anthony Park had operated a bleachfield for a short time.

According to Alison Dryden of the Strathblane Heritage Society, "the 1860 ordinance survey map shows a large pond located roughly where the wall is by one of the goals on the football field. That whole area is likely to have made use of the water that abounds there, in

particular the spring near what is known as Thoms' Lane." The bleachfield belonged to Archibald Lyle and was tenanted by a number of people. In 1818 James Smith of Craigend bought it, but not profit much from it. Mr Coubrough of Blanefield bought it in 1854, but only worked it for a short time. Anthony Park operated a couple of businesses in partnership before he set out on his own. Prior to June 1851, he had been partners with one Daniel McGrigor in a calico printing operation. This notice appeared in the 30 July 1852 Edinburgh Gazette:

NOTICE.

THE Business carried on by the Subscribers, as Calico Printers in Glasgow and at Blanefield, under the Firm of DANIEL M'GRIGOR & COMPANY, was DISSOLVED by mutual consent on 2d June instant.

The Subscriber, Anthony Park Coubrough, will receive and pay all debts due to and by the Company.

DANIEL M'GRIGOR.

A. P. COUBROUGH.

ROB. LAMOND, Witness.

ARCHD. POLLOCK, Witness.

Glasgow, June 2, 1851.

John Guthrie Smith, in his book, *The Parish of Strathblane*, says the last person who used the Dumbrook Bleachfield was a Mr Crum of Thornliebank who rented it in 1855 to use while his own works were being rebuilt after a fire.

Other branches

1. **WE'VE LONG KNOWN OF** Andrew Coubrough, son of Henry C. and Ellen Smith, who moved his

family to Stonewall, Manitoba, in the 1880s. We knew that his family was well off in England, but I have recently discovered that he must have been a fairly big noise in his adopted home, too.

In *What Settlers Say of the Canadian North West*, published by the CPR in 1886,¹⁴ "Andrew Smith Coubrough, formerly of Liverpool, England," said he settled at Stonewall, Manitoba, in March 1882, with "£600 capital at commencement." The "value of farm, Oct., 1885," i.e., three years later, was £2000, and Coubrough, A. is quoted as saying "Thrive well; 5 horses and 40 cattle."

These "extension of settlement club" booklets, published by the railroad companies, were designed to appeal to "desirable" settlers: those that brought money to invest in the district, and social status to improve its image. An old saying says you catch more flies with honey than vinegar: To this end, the booklets only quoted the successful farmers. It's also likely that Andrew's £600 capital didn't include whatever he had paid for the land, nor the cost of getting his family, his livestock and his equipment from England to Manitoba. His 1882 capital was the equivalent of about 2400 Canadian dollars of the day. This being at least four years' wages for a skilled tradesman, it was obvious that only gentlemen need apply.

2. **MALCOLM COUBROUGH**, fourth son of William C & Margaret Gourley, married Catherine McFarlane, daughter of John McF &

¹⁴*What settlers say of the Canadian North-West*. Montreal: Canadian Pacific Railway, 1886; pp 4, 10, 27.).

Jane Davidson, on 28 January 1807, in the ancient parish church in Campsie. We knew that Catherine and Malcolm had 11 children, ten of whom are believed to have grown up, and we had families and spouses for all except Christina, Helen, and Malcolm. Of Helen, we know only that she had a son called James, by a man whose name she didn't admit. We still know nothing of Malcolm, but we have recently discovered that Catherine's eighth child, Christina Wardrop C, was 18 when she married Alexander Patrick on 11 May 1844, in the Abbey parish of Paisley—six months before her son David was born. They had three other children: Alexander, b abt 1847; Malcolm, abt May 1849; and Ann Miller Campbell, 6 Sept 1851.

I don't yet know what became of the sons, but Ann married Hugh Phillips on 14 Jul 1871. They had seven kids that I could find: Christina, 9 July 1871; Hugh, abt 1877; Ann, b abt 1880, d bef 1891; John, abt 1882; Margaret, abt 1885; Agnes, abt 1888; and Malcolm, May 1890.

3. I HAVE SEVERAL TIMES, IN THIS column, mentioned Richard "The Snake" Coubrough, son of Thomas Joseph Coubrough and Pauline Cormick. He seems to have led a pretty hard life, growing up in an abusive boys' home run by a church, and in trouble with the law for most of his life. He was imprisoned in the 1970s, accused of raping and murdering a nurse on her way home from a party in 1971. He applied several times for parole, but was never given it. He escaped once, in 2004, but turned himself in a few weeks later. The prison

thought him a very high risk and would not let him go.

According to the newspaper articles about his appeal, his previous criminal record worked against him. He had been convicted in 1957 for attacking and robbing at least one woman in Edinburgh, and in the 1960's, while serving a sentence for housebreaking, he had escaped and raped the wife of a prison official.¹⁵ Certainly, he was not the person you would not want for your next-door neighbour, but if the details in the newspapers are even close to correct, it would appear that either he was framed or else he was just a convenient suspect: known to the police and easier to arrest than taking the trouble to actually investigate. According to the papers, he made no statement at the time of his arrest, but three police officers, at the first trial, were all certain that they had all heard the accused utter the exact same words, in the exact same order. Seems a bit dodgy to me that their memories were all so clear and exact, several months later, but, with his record, and the testimony of several people who had "seen him acting suspiciously," it was enough for a conviction.

In 2005, he succeeded in getting his conviction appealed, and he was released on bail until the appeal was decided. One newspaper said he "emerged from the court, a small, dapper, but elderly figure." The appeal had been going on for three years, when, about 30 June 2008, having spent 37 years protesting his innocence, an unnamed illness sent Richard

Joseph Coubrough, 74, to face his maker. Strangely, his appeal is carrying on, despite its lack of a central character: Richard's lawyer says his client's last wish was that the quest to clear his name be continued. Apparently, this can happen in Scotland.

In an article dated 28 May 2009, The Scottish Sun says Richard's sister Mary Mullen of Paignton, Devon, England, had, the day before, been granted permission to continue her brother's appeal. No court date had been set. Whether or not Richard Coubrough was guilty, he has a pretty long reach.

4. ANTHONY PARK Coubrough invented two patented machines: one was a can to collect and reuse the bleaching compounds that boiled over the vats during use; the other was a method of passing printed cloth over a series of drums and blankets to dry the ink before the next colour was applied. He was not, however, the only Coubrough ever to apply for a British patent.

One Angela Coubrough and her partner Isobel Walker have applied for a patent for a golf tally that fits on the back of a golf glove and records every stroke. It can be reset after each hole, if desired. We wish them success in their venture.

5. SOME TIME AGO, IN ONE OF MY Internet searches, I came across a reminiscence of a man who had worked in a Clyde shipyard during the Second World War. One of the people he remembered was a "Miss Coubrough" who had worked in the drawing office. He didn't give her first name, and we were at a loss as to which family she might belong. Now, thanks to our Thornliebank Elf

¹⁵Paisley Daily Express, 2008 July 9

Sleuth, Miss Coubrough is now known to have been Margaret, born 1878, second daughter, of Annie Smellie & Archibald Coubrough. Archibald was the youngest son of Margaret Murdoch & James Coubrough, and, thus, a grandson of Malcolm Coubrough & Jean Buchanan.

6. CHARLES P COUBROUGH, public servant in Fitzroy, Australia, died 11 October 1911. The index to Victoria state probate¹⁶ says probate was granted 10 November 1911, but doesn't say to whom the grant was made. Charles Purvis, one of only two sons of John Coubrough & Wilhelmina Thomson to grow to adulthood, was himself survived by his wife, Ruth Ellen Roberts, and his oldest and youngest sons, Victor John Thomas and Alexander Thomson. At 16, Alexander was still underage, so chances are the grant of probate was made to either Charles' wife or his eldest son, who was probably just 21.

By the time her husband died, poor Ruth Ellen had already lost her three middle children in infancy. Lily Louise, born in 1891 or 92, Violet Wilhelmina, born 1892, and Roy William, born 1894, were all gone before their second birthdays. Less than five years after she was widowed, Ruth's eldest son would be dead on the Somme, and her youngest, though he survived the horrors of Gallipoli, and would live to old age, was physically maimed, having no use of his right arm.

¹⁶Public Archives index to probate, Victoria state, Australia (http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/index_search_details.asp?searchid=54&id=8156), File # 121/439

Of the men taken off Gallipoli in December 1915, anyone who was fit to fight, or would be after a short rest, was sent to Egypt for R&R, then shipped off to fight some more in Europe. This was the fate of Alexander's older brother, who died on the Somme in July 1916, at the age of 25. From Gallipoli, Alexander was sent home to Australia. Being so far from anywhere the war was happening, home was a destination reserved for men too damaged for further service, or too ill to recover. From this, we can assume that Alexander was not at his fittest when he came home. It must have been a terrible blow to his poor mother when her baby boy, still only 20 years old, came home a sad cripple, though it must also have been a comfort to her to have any of her children with her. Her oldest son, Victor, had joined the army early in 1915. While he had been taken off Gallipoli at the same time as his brother, he was not sent home, and his mother never saw him again.

Alexander recovered enough to go stumping about the US a couple of years later, trying to drum up money to support the soldiers in the Dardanelles. In 1918, every adult male in the US who was under 45 had to register for the draft, regardless of whether they could be called up for service. Lucky for us, Alex was in the US at the time, and like a good soldier, went to register himself. He was on safe ground, of course—being a British subject, he could not be drafted by the US army—but it does help us know him a bit better.

The back of the registration card gives a general physical description

of the registrant. There are boxes to tick for tall, medium, or short, and slender, medium, or stout. Alex's card was ticked for tall and slender, and eye and hair colour were filled in with blue and red, respectively. The next question asks if the person "has lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified?" The answer is written as "disabled right hand, injured right leg." He was likely able to walk, though: it would have been hellishly difficult in those days for someone to get around on his own in a wheel chair, let alone travel across a couple of oceans at least twice, and go on a speaking tour in a foreign country.

Home in Australia, after the war, he spent some time travelling about his own country speaking on behalf of temperance. In 1924, he married Hilda Alma Roberta Thorn, but it is not known if they had any children, and we know nothing else of Hilda. Alex died in Launceston, Tasmania, in 1972.

7. THOMAS COUBROUGH WAS born 7 June 1927 in Chicago, Illinois. He was the younger son of Robert McKim Coubrough and Ellen Johnson. His parents and his older brother were all born in England. He was married to a girl called Lorraine in October 1949. Poor Thomas was not quite 31 years old when he died in April 1958. Thomas's father was the son of Maria Akhurst and Robert McKim Coubrough, who was, in turn, the son of Margaret McKim and William Coubrough. William's ancestors were John of Ellrig and Helen Stevenson.

8. SOME YEARS AGO WE FOUND out that the William Coubrough who died at Maldon, Victoria, Australia, was born in 1808, second surviving

son of Henry Cowbrough & Wilhelmina Cowbrough. We knew that he had died in 1869, but nothing else. Not long ago, on one of my endless Internet searches, I discovered from an index to probate on the Victoria State Archives¹⁷ Web site that he was a “quartz miner” at the time of his death.

Considering the wealth and status of the rest of his family, it’s unlikely he was a hard-rock miner. It’s hard to imagine a man from a family like his being down mine running a sledge hammer or setting dynamite. Having seen various records where the people actually putting ink on cloth and the man who owned the factory were both called calico printers, I thought it might be that an Australian quartz miner could just as easily have been the man who owned the mine as the man who dug the rock.

And so it proved. More searching showed that William had died on 16 December 1869, aged 61. Probate was granted to Robert Oswald and Charles T. Cowle 10 February 1870. The index didn’t say who these men were, but chances are they were his business partners. For not only was William not the man down the mine with a hammer, he was part owner of at least two (possibly three) quartz mines in the state of Victoria.

William was a man of his times. A Victorian-era man who could afford to travel back and forth to Scotland from Australia would not be found

dirtying his hands by manual labour, even in “the colonies,” but he certainly could own property and hire other men to do the dirty work.

9. QUITE A LONG TIME AGO, we found that one of the Australian branches is descended from Alice Paterson and James Hannah Park Coubrough, who had left Dundee in 1883. We also knew that James was the youngest of the five children of Euphemia Stewart Park and John Coubrough. We still don’t know why they went to Australia, though like most emigrants of their era, they were likely looking for a better life, or maybe just for adventure.

What we have learned is that James was a drysalter in Dundee. On the city of Dundee web site, I found a picture showing a street called Overgate. One of the businesses listed was a James Cowbrough, drysalter, at number 150. The only James Coubrough known to have lived in Dundee at any time was Alice Paterson’s husband. Their four children, all born in Scotland, were: Helen, 1872; John Paterson Howard 1874; James Wilberforce, abt 1876; and Mary Sykes, 1881.

2009

Passages

The tribe has expanded a bit over the past few months.

Emmersyn Ava, first child of Shane and Jacqueline Coubrough, entered the world on 26 January 2009. Emmersyn, granddaughter of Gary & Marie (Madigan) Coubrough, and great-granddaughter to Del &

Lena (Bromberg) Coubrough, was born 178 years after her 4th-great-grandfather, Jim Coubrough, with whom she shares a birthday.

Born a few weeks later, 10 March 2009, were Jett Gary and Jaxson John Danis, twin sons of Richard and Sherilyn (Coubrough) Danis. Sherilyn is Shane’s older sister, so Emmersyn is a first cousin to Jett and Jaxson.

Welcome to you all. We’re glad you’re here.

Congratulations to Emmersyn’s dad, Shane, are also in order. He successfully completed his RCMP training in April of this year. Great job, Shane!

On a sadder note, we must also bid the final farewell to another cousin. Marjorie Hewins Coubrough, wife of Donald Coubrough of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, left us on 14 May 2009. A kindly soul, Marj was one of the first “other” Coubroughs I met when I began this project. She and Don took me into their home and treated me as if they had known me all my life. I will miss her greatly.

A little longer ago was the loss of another Coubrough wife: Rita Coubrough (née Miller), passed away 19 November 2008. She was the widow of John Coubrough of St-Hubert, Quebec. He was the son of Mary Morris McEwan & Hugh McKay Coubrough. Hugh’s parents were Mary S. McKay Smith & David Coubrough, grandson of John Coubrough & Catherine Andrew.

Question corner

Here are some of the other things I am working on:

¹⁷Public Archives index to probate, Victoria state, Australia (http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/index_search_details.asp?searchid=54&id=8156) File # 7/750

1. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF James Coubrough that married Jean Muir? Still at this one. No further ahead than last year. Though we have a couple of guesses, we have no hard evidence, and no proof of any kind.

2. SEVERAL COBREWS and Cobrows¹⁸ lived in London and Berkshire, England, in the early 17th century. The earliest we've found, a Thomas Cobbrow, was the father of several children in St. Botolph Without Algate, London. The oldest, Mary, who was christened 18 Nov 1610, died three weeks later. Next were Thomas in 1611 (also died very young); Dorothy, 1612; Henry, 1613; and John, christened 28 April 1615, and died the next day.

There was also a Katherine, christened 24 Mar 1615, who died 6 Nov 1617. Katherine's father is Thomas, and her mother is given as "Margreet," but since no mother is given for any of the other children, it's hard to say if it's the same family, even though they were all born in the same parish, and Cobrew/Cobrow is not a common name.

Another family of the same name was Henry Cobbrowe and his wife, Margate, who appear to have had four children: William, 1684; Thomas, 1686; Joane, 1692; and Clement, 1697, all in Ashbury, Berkshire. There were two other men in the same district, but much earlier: Mathew, chr 12 Jan 1621;

and Thomas, chr 30 Nov 1621. It is probable that Thomas and Mathew were brothers, but it's hard to say if or how they were related to any of the others.

The question here is: Were these people ours? The spelling is very strange compared to the Scots spelling, but the pronunciation is very similar. And if they were ours, what were they doing in England?

The English records in this case go back a bit further than the Scots ones. The Thomas who was having children in 1610 would have been born no later than 1590, and probably a bit earlier. Was he a stray from an early Scots family? Or was he the progenitor of the Scots lines?

3. WHO IS JAMES COUBROUGH, building contractor in New Zealand?

4. WHO WAS COUBROUGH, M & Co., Southbank, Shawlands, in the 1870 Glasgow Post Office Directory?

Subscriptions

One-year subscriptions purchased in January 2008 expire with this issue. Please renew soon if you wish to receive the Autumn 2009 issue. I am happy to answer questions as to expiry dates, but if you did not get a reminder card with this issue, you have at least one more coming.

This newsletter is a no-profit project; the usurious international postage rates mean higher rates outside Canada. All prices are per year (2 issues).

Canadian addresses: \$6

US addresses: US \$6

UK addresses: £7

The sole purpose of this paper is sharing family history. If you share your copy, or make copies for others, please tell them where you got it, and let them know we want to hear from them.

Text versions of newsletters (no *Photo Gallery* or *Passages*) may be downloaded from my web site www.coubrough.com though it does take me some time to get them posted. Also, should anyone be so inclined, I can send electronic pdf copies to anyone who prefers this.

Note: Please make cheques payable to **MJ Coubrough**. I can accept personal cheques drawn on Canadian or US banks only, and they must be in the currency of the country where the bank is located; e.g., a cheque on a US bank cannot be made out in Canadian dollars. Otherwise, cash or a bank draft is required.

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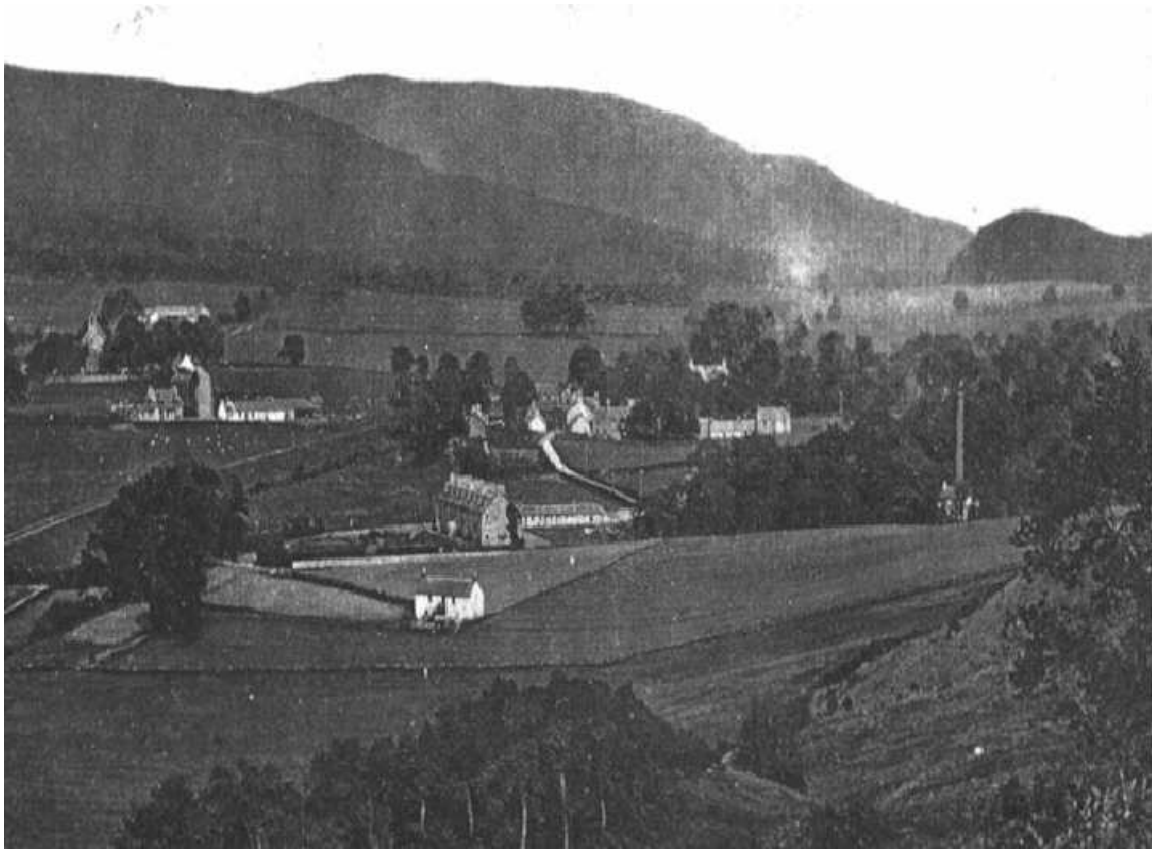
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Photo Gallery

Being pretty much out of old family pictures to publish, I am looking for more. I can return them after copying. Pictures in this addition are more than I found on the Internet. They illustrate various places Coubroughs lived or worked.

¹⁸The "ew" here was pronounced "o", the same as the "ow" spelling; e.g., "sew" as in using a needle. Similarly, the name Mathew was pronounced with a long "o" sound at the end.



View from the Gowk Stane road showing the site of the Dumbrock Bleachfields.



Overgate Street, Dundee, Angus. The fish shop at the right is 126, so No. 150 will be down the street into the picture.