

ANN HILL BEQUEST

Interview with Mrs. Collinge

2nd November, 1986

Mrs. Collinge (nee Notman) had lived all her life in the parish, and still teaches the piano privately. She has been, for many years, the Church organist. During the second part of the visit her son was present - with whom I have a common cricketing heritage. He was extremely forthcoming. Mrs. Collinge prepared the the visit by getting a photo copy of Ferguson's Paper (1901) and by making a list of the area as it was 26th January, 1939.

Entertainment There was a Jazz Band including her brother and (?) her sister, now Mrs. (?) Leighton.

There used to be fetes at Mossknow or the Manse.

Wee James Rae was 2nd fiddle in the orchestra.

Grand parties associated with Mr. Fleming (Woodhouse).

Scout concerts - with boxing tournaments - organised by Brian Johnson-Ferguson - Eaglesfield v Kirkpatrick.

In the 1950's there was a Summer League football team, playing on a sloping pitch at Fauldingcleugh. Then (?) a pitch was made across from Newton Farm. About 12/15 years ago, they joined the league, won 1st Cup about 9 years ago - (? 'Station Inn').

Then when the league seemed to be collapsing they joined the Carlisle and District League, very successful first year, but then went downhill when it became a Saturday thing. Now in Dumfries Amateurs.

The W.R.I. often organised whist drives (Mr. Collinge said he was brought up on whist and tobacco smoke). Prominent players - the Mackies, Fleming, Bessie and Jenny Graham (both now dead - their brother Jim was the blacksmith). Pim Lockhart and (? George) Notman used to come to the house twice a week for whist.

There used to be 4 dances in the season - the Rural, the Curlers, Farmers and the Bowlers. Jim Johnstone (Raeburnhead) and perhaps J.J. Graham and Mr. Hodgson arranged the Bowlers' Dance.

In the orchestra she mentioned John Mackie, Notman, Lockhart and the wee laird. It folded up before her

time. Willie Walker, the ministers son, worked in Dumfries and was well known in singing circles.

Dave Johnston was mentioned as an earlier organiser of dances.

Church

Mr. Walker. Then Fyffe: very nice - stammer - suicide. Sister may still be alive. Mrs. Collinge was organist for 35 years. Then Eric Duncan. Then, no longer in order, but working back Haston. Black for about 2 years, very difficult to work with, son still lives in village. Left after big row. Gregory was there for quite a long time. Progressive measures introduced, like women collectors. Also scouts and guides.

Dr. Horsburgh, not long here, died tragically, about 1967 (when her grandson, Duncan was to be christened). On checking she gave 5/11/1967 as his death (I think as organist she had a notebook which this was in). An earlier Minister, Grimson, c 1950, was a big stout man. The previous one was a noseey fellow.

J.J. Graham was the last local session clerk. He died at a Church Meeting 17/4/1973. David Johnston was possibly the one before (my notes obscure). His (or J.J.'s) widow lives with a Mrs. Frew in Carlisle. Try Alan Hodgson (Church Officer - and possibly Session Clerk) for information. Cartner, who died on the bowling green, was joint Session Clerk at Gretna.

A new organ was installed 17/3/1968. There have been various organs. The mice ate the bellows. The singing was led at the dedication by Rev. C. Stewart, retired Minister, formerly Dornock - still alive.

The present (?) clerk is Mrs. Wilma McKeand, assisted by Angus Currie.

Edith Hodgson and family cleaned the kirk for 30 years.

The congregation is now down, but gives well ('about 30 good givers').

School

The school was originally next the smiddy. Then no houses opposite.

Economic

She listed a number of buildings and tradesmen around 1939.

Nat Taylor (my mis-noting of Nat Wallace, Tailor).

Davie Dunnigan, the barber, near top of village.

Jo Johnstone, clogger, at the very top. With small

shop.

Tom Irving, butcher (now Post Office).

Bryn gwyn (?) ('Georgefield'?) being built when she was a girl past the cottage, Henry Graham, coalman and haulage contractor. Same family there.

Mrs. Noon, grocer's shop where caravan site is.

Station Inn was just known as 'the Pub'.

Moffat's shop (George Moffat) - cycle agents later.

There were at least 2 water pumps, one at very top of Cove Drive, one below Moffat's shop. Moffat's shop was small at first. After being cycle agents became general merchant.

Poor House at Notwen.

There were then three little houses before turning down to the station - now more modern house(s). In the end one was John Davidson, coalman.

Opposite Village Hall, Coultard, blacksmith, with various daughters. Jess perhaps still alive.

Then Kirkpatrick Fleming primary school.

Going towards Toppinghead, George Johnstone 'Doodley' had a little wooden hut where clogs were repaired. His brother was John Johnstone.

Past crossroads, Hodgson, tennis courts opposite (? and also at North end) and bowling green.

At Beltenmont Mill was an old worthy. Mr. Fraser was the miller (?Was he the worthy?). She thinks the mill wheel perhaps still there. Beside it is a very old cottage, listed, but to be taken down as a traffic hazard.

The Post Office opposite the Hall, had been moved from the top end of the village. She (who?) married Mark Simpson, the second blacksmith, and moved down to the old smiddy.

Hollee - 'Fairy Row' - houses now modernised - with Mrs. Bell's small grocer's shop and C.S, Collinge (her husband, painter and decorator. Eric continued the business till he had an accident and now works, I think at Chapelcross. She thinks the Collinge business started about World War 1. 3 generations. (C.S. Collinge's mother = 'Sumnor house' - a place?)

Mabel Richardson, the station master's unmarried daughter, was at St. Brides. I think it was her brother who was with Mrs. Collinge's brother in the Jazz Band. It may be she who is now 'Mrs. Lighton'.

At Irvington was one small shop, famous for home baked bread, ran by 2 or 3 sisters.

George Ritchie (not of Cove) had a shop. Married a school teacher.

People

Various stories about Ritchie of Cove.

I have notes about Sheila (?) McClearie, and her granny (?) Mrs. Forteith. One of them was a great knitter - but my notes here are confused. Her name comes up again - 'Sheila McClearie sold farm, got lot'. In connection with Raes?

Fergus Graham - Scout leader. Sunday School trips were often local, for example to Mossknow.

I have a note about G.G. Irving - perhaps took over Ritchie's shop. William Beattie was local councillor. Not always sweet tempered.

Miscellaneous

Beech house - where she lives - was the residence of Harry Bryson, the registrar and poor law officer. She showed me the sort of grille where they chapped and got a ticket to spend the night free, at the Poorhouse (later Notwen). They hated this, because it entailed getting de-loused.

Next door is Ashcroft which - I think - she thought was where Leslie lived.

In her notebook she found that on 28/6/69 a new bridge was being built at Duns Kellyrigg. (Her interest being because she is a Notman - presumably was born there.)

Church

At the end she suddenly remembered the name of the other Minister - 'Nosey McKenzie'. One night he came to the door, but she expected Pim Lockhart so she shouted - 'Com in ye old besom'. Mortified. McKenzie went around on a bike.

Mr. Lamont - a worthy - was church officer until he became an elder.