

TODAY'S NEWS

Have I got old news for you?

LEAF OF LOCAL HISTORY

1870

Aid for the Wounded. Miss Graham and the ladies have been contributing linen and making bandages etc. for the Relief Fund for French and German wounded. The schools are working gratis for the same purpose

1879

4 Trowels Thief. Mr A Steel a bricklayer, residing in Lochwinnoch was found guilty of stealing 4 trowels. Having previous convictions he was sentenced to 12 months in prison

1821

Sale or Let. Boghead Mill

At present a cotton mill with dwelling houses and buildings. Good supply of water.

1898

Continued ... The formation of **Castle Semple Loch** into a trout-fishing area has been increased by the arrival of a couple of boats, but, so far, the erection of a boat-house and hatchery in a field at the side of the loch has not been begun. The cleaning out of the pike may prove a more formidable undertaking than the enterprising directors of the Angling Association think.

To be continued @ pbthecairn



The village of Lochwinnoch originally was nothing more than a few low thatched cottages clustered round the old church.

Its streets, or rather lanes, were narrow and confined, and, altogether, it had, according to the account given of it by the Rev. Jones Steven, who was settled as minister of the parish in 1773, "a very poor appearance." The aborigines were confined to a few families of very ancient origin, many of whose descendants still maintain "a local habitation" and a name in the parish even at the present day. These were the Orrs, Ewings, Glens, Barbour, Barclays, Brodies or Brydens, Fultons, Crawford, Aitkens, etc. among whom the Orrs and the Glens appear to be the most ancient. The name of Orr has long been



1886

Continued ...From time to time the question of supplying Lochwinnoch with **gravitation water** has bulked largely with a number of people in the village and surrounding districts, and now the Board of Supervision have brought the matter to a crisis. The ground of the proposed water tank has been surveyed, and on Tuesday Messrs. Haddock & Niven, engineers, showed a large number of the intending offerers for the contract over the proposed route. The principal reservoir is to be constructed on Gillsyard Farm. The proposed water scheme is said to be under £3000,

To be continued @pbthecairn

1876

In these days **feuds** between parishes, families and individuals were common. Even to this day the Kilbarchan people think that the inhabitants of Lochwinnoch either from jealousy or other cause, dislike Kilbarchan folk and this sometimes led to brawling at Kilbarchan Fairs and Markets.

1849**Cholera Lochwinnoch**

The disease has appeared here in a virulent form, chiefly amongst the operatives at the cloth mills. An elevated part of the town, known as Kildale, is the quarter most affected. This the first visitation cholera ever experienced in the village Lochwinnoch.

common to Renfrewshire, and particularly in the parish of Lochwinnoch.

The old "Kirktoon" of the parish is fast disappearing from the local site on which it stood for centuries. The recent extension of the "Auld Kirkyard" has almost entirely swept away the whole east side of the former clachan, only one solitary cottage being left on the way upwards to Johnshill. It is understood that this humble little dwelling is also doomed to destruction as soon as the intended arrangements can be made. But this "wee auld house" has a history still cherished as very dear to many not only at home, but also to others far away from the scene of early youth and pleasure.

Robert Orr, younger son of John Orr, who was laird of Midhouse in 1701, married "Elena," daughter of Robert Barclay, in Kirktoon. They were proclaimed for marriage in 1719. They had issue, sons and daughters. The youngest of the family was Janet Orr, baptised at Lochwinnoch Kirk in 1733. At this time, it appears, there were three families of Orrs in the Kirktoon, namely—Robert Orr, merchant; Robert Orr, tailor; and James Orr, smith, usually known as "Smithie Orr." They were all well-to-do in business, and had property in the "toon"

Part of Lochwinnoch, still called "The Factory Close," owed its origin to a weaving factory, small at first, but the present large building was erected in 1752, and was filled with looms and weavers for the manufacture of linen and cambric. Several skilled and experienced weavers were brought from Paisley to Lochwinnoch to carry out this new trade in the place. One of these was Matthew Burns, long and well-known afterwards both in Lochwinnoch and surrounding parishes as a dornick and damask weaver of first-rate abilities.