

# TODAY'S NEWS

*Have I got old news for you?*

## ANDREW CRAWFURD OF LOCHWINNOCH

Author of Cairn of Lochwinnoch matters. 1827-1837.

Family Histories and Genealogies etc

### 1811 Death

Lately at Middleton, in the Parish of Lochwinnoch, **James Campbell Esq.** By the most **unwearied** industry, and most **sordid** habits, he had, in the course of a lifetime, raised himself from the humble station of a **ditcher**, to the possession of upwards of **£20,000**, which, at his death, devolved upon about 20 poor persons, very distantly related to him.

### 1816 Death

At Lochwinnoch, **John Riddle**, Labourer. He knew nothing of his age but that he was nine nights old at the windy Saturday. In his earlier years he was a man of extraordinary **bodily strength**, and performed many rustic feats of wrestling and pugilism worthy of more **classic times**. He wore a bonnet of unparalleled magnitude, the **elevated or slouching** attitude of which was thought by the youth of the neighbourhood to prognosticate good or bad weather.

### 1990 Bowling

Thurso's triple, skipped by Ann Sinclair, lost to **Helen Wylie's** Lochwinnoch **triple** in the Scottish Women's Bowling **Championship** at Ayr.

We regret to announce, in our obituary of this day, the death of Andrew Crawford, St John's Hill, Lochwinnoch. The doctor was born in 1787, and had, consequently, at the time of his death on the 27th instant, reached the 68th year of his age. He was a distinguished student of the Glasgow University, where he graduated as an M.D. in 1813 and, under the especial patronage of his then class-fellow, the late Marquis of Bute, commenced his professional career at Rothesay. He practised there for a few years with marked success but, on the establishment of the Dollar Institution, he was induced to become a candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy in that institution. He was the successful candidate. When the intelligence of his appointment reached him, however, the doctor unfortunately had a paralytic attack, from which he ultimately recovered, but with the partial loss of his speech and power of his right side. In these circumstances he resigned the chair at Dollar. He also at the same time relinquished his medical practice at Rothesay, and retired to the place of his



**1889**

**Parish Church Restoration:** The work has now been completed to the satisfaction of the heritors, and Mr. Davidson, their architect. The difficult work of rebuilding the **spire** was carried out by Mr. James Barclay, of Paisley. The Slater work was were executed by J&M Eadie & Sons, Lochwinnoch. The present Minister is evidently much respected amongst the people for the **church is well filled**.

**1885**

**A Silo 20 feet** long, 10 feet wide, and 12 feet deep, filled in **August** [1884] last with newly-cut hay and grass, was successfully **opened** at Heathfield, on the estate of Mr. Muirshiel, Lochwinnoch, on Saturday. [**February** 1885] The stock **ate** the silage greedily. A number of leading agriculturists witnessed the formal opening.

**1935**

**Sale** at short notice at **Garthland House**, Lochwinnoch. **Antique** and **Modern Household Furniture** and Appointments.

**Set of 8** Hepplewhite Shield back armchairs, white enamelled and handprinted, with floral design backs and seats covered in striped floral wool tapestry. **Rare** old English two-door lacquered cabinet, 3ft 4in. wide. Profusely decorated with hand-painted baskets of flowers and interior fitted with 11 drawers on dark oak stand with cabriole legs on claw and ball feet.

[Just a few of a **long** list of furnishings. Editor: pbthecairn]

birth (St John's Hill, Lochwinnoch) where he applied himself to literary pursuits.

Among other works, he wrote a voluminous supplement to Dr. Jamieson's Scottish Dictionary, which has within the last two years been purchased by the Messrs Blackie and Sons with a view to publication. He assisted Mr Paterson in his "Families of Ayrshire." He also, at the solicitation the publishers wrote the glossary to the last edition of our humorous friend the "Laird of Logan," besides contributing largely, in the shape of anecdote, to the work itself. And, in particular, gives us pleasure to know that had just completed a most voluminous work, extending to no less than 44 quarto M.S. volumes, all relating to historical and antiquarian matters connected with his native county. In these volumes will be found many curious and valuable notices regarding most the leading families of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire etc.

### **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 1904**

Mr McDowell was in the chair. The minutes of previous meetings where read, confirmed and signed by the chairman. Several parents were present to show cause why their children did not attend School. Following the usual promises they were duly admonished and allowed to go. The following offers were accepted in connection with the new high school; Messers Bennett ltd Glasgow - furnishings; Mr John Guy, Lochwinnoch - painting and decorating work; Messers W. T. Samson, Kilmarnock - for laying of grounds and providing shrubs. It was agreed to produce a gong for the hall. A long discussion took place about the fixing of a brass plate on the school, giving the names of the Board members and other officials responsible for the election of the school, date of opening, etc.

The salaries for teachers in connection with continuation of classes were fixed. Mr R Logan £65, Miss Johnstone £35, Miss Campbell £10, Mr J. D. McGee £4, Dr Martin £3.

# TODAY'S NEWS

*Have I got old news for you?*

## The Late Provost John Barr, Ardrossan

### 1907

#### Health of the County

The prevalence of infectious disease in the District continues at a comparative low ebb, only 23 cases in the course of a month. Of these 22 were of **diphtheria**, mostly in or near Lochwinnoch. In view of the prevalence of the disease the village schools were closed for almost 4 weeks.

### 1900

#### Christmas Entertainment

In the Parish Church on Christmas evening, the children attending the Sabbath School were entertained to a lecture entitled "**Britain and Boer**" illustrated by lime-light views. The Rev. Stevenson presided. Mr. Blair read the narrative, and Mr. Ferguson manipulated the lantern.

### 1897

We had distinguished **visitors** in Lochwinnoch last Saturday. The Bridgeton Division Liberal Association, numbering about **500**, came from Glasgow by special train.

*This is another old name now dropped from the long list of "Lochwinnoch worthies" who, in former times, went forth into the busy world from that country village and parish.*

**H**e was born at his father's residence, in the Main-street of the town, in the year 1795. His father, Matthew Barr, was long known as one of the largest proprietors of house-property and weaving-shops in the place. Immediately on the erection of the cotton mills,—the old mill being built in 1788 at Calder Park, the new mill in 1789 at Calderhaugh, and a third at Boghead about the same time,—Lochwinnoch soon increased in size and population, and before the end of the century had become a thriving manufacturing village. The erection of these factories necessarily caused a demand for workers and house accommodation—hence the granting of many additional feus by Mr. McDowall, of Castlesemple, the proprietor, and the origin of the New Town, by which not only the population, but the industry and circumstances of the whole surroundings, were improved and augmented in a surprising degree. Fifty-three new houses were built in the village, and ground feued for many more, between the years 1788 and 1795.

The population had increased from 1530 individuals in the year 1755 to 2613 in 1791. Besides the trades common to the place and the

**1867**

**The Glasgow & South Western Railway Co.** offer extra facilities at present for transport to and from Lochwinnoch Loch. For the practice of the invigorating exercise of skating.

**1904****Lochwinnoch Rainfall**

During the Month of October 3.9 inches of rain fell being 7.33 inches less than the same month last year.

**1897**

There seems to be **laudable** attempts being made for establishing industries in Lochwinnoch other than those we already have. There has been talk for some time of a Bleachwork being started, but nothing has, as yet, come of the proposal. The latest however, is a calico printing work which will employ a few hundred people. The two cabinet factories which are presently being erected are, I hear, expected to employ **double** the number of hands which were employed in Calder Cabinet. So the prospect is hopeful.

cotton workers, there were 135 weavers, and that number on the increase till there were about fifty workshops containing nearly 200 looms for weaving silk and cotton. Matthew Barr, the father of the future Provost, being a weaver himself, brought up his sons in the same trade, and had added house to house and shop to shop till he was proprietor of four different weaving shops and house accommodation for about twenty families.

Three of these shops for weavers were about the centre of the Mains-street, almost opposite the foot of the "Crawroad" and "Pinnimie's Well." The shops had each a distinct name, by which they were well known all over the locality. Matthew Barr's "front shop," "the back shop," and "the end shop," were all filled with looms, and were generally well let. The fourth shop was in Church-street, along with four or five of the dwelling-houses. Matthew Barr had his sons, who were put to the loom when very young, under his own care in one or other of his loomsteads in the Main-street. Indeed, juvenile labour was much in request in those days. Both boys and girls were to be found seated at a loom, or sent to the cotton factory, after getting a little schooling during day, the rest of their education being picked up in the evening schools afterwards. At the mills, work and wages were found for the youngsters who before that had nothing to do. Weaving was brisk and paid well, so that Provost Barr might well make the remark, which he sometimes did in his more exalted station, that "he was able to earn three shillings per day when he was only eleven years old."

# TODAY'S NEWS

*Have I got old news for you?*

## Certificate of the Sufficiency of the Kirk according to Contract

**1860**

On **Sabbath afternoon** past, a considerable sensation was excited in the vicinity of this village by seeing two persons of considerable respectability in a helpless state of **inebriation**. In process of time large numbers convened. On being **recognised** by one of their well wishers, they were conveyed to a farmhouse out of the public gaze.

**1860**

On **Sabbath evening** last, a young man from Johnstone, who came under **serious impressions** during the recent revivals, addressed an open air meeting at Factory Close. The attendance was good, and marked **attention** and **decorum** pervaded the assembly. Several meetings have been held here by converts from Johnstone, and others are announced. Earnestness and seriousness are prominent characteristics of those addresses.

We, James Baird, mason in Paisley, and Robert Kirkwood, mason in Sunnycroft, being called and desired by the patron and heritors of Lochwinnoch Parish, in a meeting this day, to inspect the Parish Kirk, which is lately rebuilt, and compare the same with the undertakers' contract, and give in our condescendence thereafter - accordingly, after meeting and inspecting, we find the whole kirk to be built conforming to the whole dimensions in the said contract, and that the whole stone and timber work is sufficient, and that in place of the arched window in the south isle, the same is placed on the south side of the east end of the kirk. Also, we find, over and above the articles contained in the said contract, that the bell-house and deall-place is better than Kilbarchan; also, the south isle door is raised two foot, together with the two laigh windows there, and the stair of the said isle repaired, and the steps of the stair of the west door, which is not contained in the contract.

In witness thereof, these points, written by John McDougall, servant to Colonel McDowall of Castlesempole, we have subscribed these presents, at Lochwinnoch, the second of February, seventeen hundred and thirty-one years, before these witnesses, James Orr, wright at Lochwinnoch, and the said John McDougall.



# 1873

The Lands of **Boghead**, in the Parish of Lochwinnoch, were exposed on Tuesday last for **sale** by public **roup** by Mr. James Thomson, Glasgow, as trustee on a sequestrated estate, and were purchased at the **upset** price.

**Roup:** auction    **Upset price:** Reserve

# 1846

## Serious Accident.

On Tuesday, last week, a boy about **eight years of age**, who was herding cows on the banks of the Calder, at Little Cloak, above Lochwinnoch, made an attempt to **separate** two of them which were fighting with each other, when one of the infuriated animals ran at the little herdsman, and with its horns **tossed** him over the Raven's Craig, a remarkable precipice, from 60 to 80 feet high. Fortunately the fall of the boy was broken by the trees on the bank, but he was found **insensible** and severely injured. Dr. Carswell, of Lochwinnoch, having been speedily sent for, found the skull severely fractured, and the head seriously cut. The usual remedies were applied, and the unfortunate youth was restored to sensibility, and it is hoped he is beyond danger from the wound.



Raven's Craig

## Francis Semple - Poet

### *A letter to the Stirling Observer 1944 Re Auld Lang Syne*

Frequently referred to as the National Anthem of Scotland, this now is almost universally recognised song for winding up all social Gatherings, so often, however, inaccurately rendered, even in Scotland, was not originally the work of Robert Burns, as is so generally but quite erroneously supposed, for it was actually first composed by Francis Semple, the youngest of four generations of that distinguished Renfrewshire family the Semples of Beltrees, who resided in the parish of Lochwinnoch, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, all four generations being also gifted, if minor, poets. But while it is quite true that this world famed Scottish song does appear in all editions of the works of Burns, and is usually accepted as being his work, the fact remains, and "facts are chiefls that winna ding," that Auld Lang Syne is but one of the many others which the National Bard merely revised and adopted, or, to use the words of Dr. J. Clark Murry, it "grew, through subsequent revisions, into the imperishable song of Burns"

Yours, etc., H. TERRELL