

Background Research from Angus Archives

Cumberland Close, Kirriemuir

Taken from the Kirriemuir Town Council minute book K/1/1/13 and K/1/1/14.

Summary of findings:

- The above street seems to have taken its many names from the proprietor of the first house/business in the close. It was Lindsay's Close from at least 1855 to 1885 when the Lindsay's owned the first property in the close. The Lindsay's sold the property and it was eventually bought by Mrs Mary Millar. Mrs Millar kept the original name at this point but then renamed the street.
- It became Millar's Lane sometime between 1886 and 1895 when Mrs Mary Millar owned the first house.
- It is possible that, due to the constant change of name, Kirriemuir Town Council and Mr Gordon, the proprietor at the time, decided to change the name to a more permanent one, when they replaced the name plates.

After reading the minutes of the Kirriemuir Town Council I can determine that:

On 11th February 1909, Kirriemuir started a programme of retarring roads and laying pavements throughout the town.

On 11th March 1909, a report on the state of the Kirk Wynd mentioned:

“the street is a public one and is frequently used for through vehicular traffic..... there is a very narrow part where the dyke of Gairie House [later the Gairie Inn] juts out on the roadway where it will scarcely be possible to have pavements, but there are no entrances at this part, and in time it may be possible to get the street widened at this particular part.....”

23rd July 1909:

“I am quite sure, that, treated as a separate matter, the Council will gladly accept your offer of a part of the jutting out property in the Roods, for the improvement of the roadway and they will also as a separate matter take into consideration, your proposal anent reverting to the old names of some of the streets, if you will give me a list of the changes which you propose. I think you are under some misapprehension in regard to the Bailie Street property. The Council have never served any Requisition for the laying of pavement or kerb there, and so far, as I know, they have no intention of doing so. At the same time, they cannot bind their Successors in Office in regard to this matter, and I am sure you would not expect them to try it. Yours faithfully Archd. Smith.”

19th July 1909:

Mr John Gordon and Mr Archibald Smith trade letters which are written into the minutes in which they discussed the renaming of roads in Kirriemuir.

John Gordon states:

“I should like it to be quite clear that I am not offering to give the town any part of the property that juts out into the Roods. My recollection is that some years ago we were asked to sell it to the town. No money consideration would induce me to part with it.

But if the Council will revert to the old street names, which is a point on which I have a strong sentiment and will supply free water:

I will give the Way leave

I will give part of the house in the Roods, & I will pay for the new street name plates. From this you will gather that the question of the old street names should be decided first. All that the Council has to do is say they assent. The other points of Way leave; giving part of a house; and paying for new name plates, will then be borne by me as a matter of course.”

9th September 1909:

“There was a letter approving the three additional alterations proposed by the Council, in renaming certain streets. The Council therefore unanimously resolved in virtue and in terms of Section 144 of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892 to alter the names of certain streets in the Burgh and revert to old names as follows:

1. Roods instead of Roods Street
2. Tillyloss instead of Newton Banks
3. School Wynd instead of James Street
4. Marywell Brae instead of Marywell Street
5. Bellies Brae instead of Bailie Street
6. Tannage Brae instead of Bridge Street
7. Glengate instead of Glengate Street
8. Seceders Close instead of Kirk Close
9. St. Malcom’s Wynd instead of Airlie Street
10. Croft Head instead of Croft Terrace

9th December 1909:

There was read Mr Gordon’s letter of 21st October last in which he made suggestions in regard to a number of street names which might in his view be changed to the old names in addition to those already dealt with and asked the Council to consider his suggestions. After consideration the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council as follows:

1. Gordon Park for Park Street
2. Pierhead for Kilnburn Place
3. Rogers Close for Rogers Lane
4. Bank Close for Bank Lane
5. Ogilvy’s Close for Ogilvy’s Lane
6. Lilybank for Lilybank Road
7. Wellbank for Wellbank Terrace
8. Craig’s Close for Craig’s Lane
9. St. Mary’s Close for St. May’s Lane
10. Cumberland Close for Millar’s Lane

The clerk was asked to write to Mr Gordon to see if this would meet with his approval.

After much back and forth with Mr Gordon, the Council went ahead and ordered the new name plates for the above 20 properties on 14 July 1910.

“The Committee further recommended that the name plates for the streets as renamed be procured and put up as formerly resolved upon by the Council.”