

Scott McFarlane

Angus Council

Please accept my e-petition and handwritten petition sheets regarding the renaming of Cumberland Close in Kirriemuir. Firstly, this petition is not politically motivated nor influenced by any other individual or party. I have spent many hours researching this subject and concluded that this name was chosen and paid for, like many others in Kirriemuir in 1909. I have enclosed many interesting facts and the timeline of the changes that were bought and paid for by a native of Kirriemuir.

The source of my information was obtained from books, Angus archives and the local library.

In my submission paperwork you will find the name John Gordon, born Kirriemuir 1854. John Gordon headed south, became successful and went on to become the Conservative Lord mayor of Leeds, this man chose to change various street names on return to his native Kirriemuir and paid the town council for the pleasure.

I believe his motivation to change the name to Cumberland Close was, to honour the memory of Butcher Cumberland and remind the townsfolk of his presence in Kirriemuir.

I do hope you read all the paperwork I have submitted, as well as the article from the National newspaper. The National ran two articles on the subject and The Courier also printed a sympathetic article. Both publications have asked me to keep them updated on my progress.

I met with my MP Dave Doogan and he agreed with what I was doing and wished me luck. Dave Doogan also mentioned that this could be funded from the Kirriemuir and Dean common good fund.

I propose to rename this location Visocchi's close, in honour of the Visocchi family who served the wee red toon for nearly 80 years. The family who still own 6 Cumberland Close have given me their blessing. I also have the signatures of Michael and Elena Visocchi on my petition. Michael and Elena were the last in the family to trade in the ice cream parlour. At no point have the Visocchi family approached me, rather I approached them with my suggestion.

At present we have a close in Kirriemuir named after a mass murderer which is a scar on the face of our town. We do not need a reminder of this man and his truly awful crimes against humanity. In stark contrast we have the Visocchi family, Italian immigrants who brought their customs and culture to Kirriemuir in 1930. The Visocchi family brought joy, employment and happiness to the town and it would be fitting to remember them for their significant contribution to Kirriemuir over many years. The Visocchi family were an integral part of the square in Kirriemuir serving the public with their cafeteria, famous ice cream, fish and chips and even a 500 seat cinema. The Visocchi family were a very charitable and kind family and their soda fountain served as a youth club for generations of children and teenagers for many generations. the inclusivity of the population of Kirriemuir also played a part in the welcoming of the Visocchi family and many warm relationships were formed with the family over the years.

I would urge you to consider this change of street name and look forward to hearing from you in future.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Scott McFarlane.

Scott McFarlane

Renaming of Cumberland Close, Kirriemuir



Started

16 April 2023

Why this petition matters



Started by Scott McFarlane

This location was named after the Duke of Cumberland who stayed overnight in the original Gairie inn on the site.?

The Duke, known as butcher Cumberland led his Kingston horse brigade and Kerrs dragoons from Culloden, passing through the glens of Angus, raping and murdering men, women and children with no quarter given.

We find it highly offensive that we celebrate the memory of this man in our proud town and would like the name changed to reflect good and not evil.

We the undersigned would urge the authorities to change the name of Cumberland Close in Kirriemuir.

Prince William, Duke of Cumberland

Commander



Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland KG KB FRS, was the third and youngest son of King George II of Great Britain and Ireland and his wife, Caroline of

With the Royal troops desirably stirred up for the occasion, Cumberland's plan for victory was falling in to place. On this fateful day, he and his men would commit large scale atrocities on and off the battlefield, killing and wounding not only the Jacobite forces but also those who retreated, as well as innocent bystanders.

The bloodthirsty campaign to finish the Jacobites did not end on the battlefield. Whilst securing his victory, Cumberland gave orders from his headquarters, sending out several contingents of troops, backed by the Royal Navy.

The instructions were to effectively wipe-out and destroy any semblance of life in the Highlands, in what could be described as a genocide of sorts, played out by Royal soldiers setting alight to homes, murdering, imprisoning and raping as they meticulously carried out their instructions.

Sandy Whitecross, a native, who became an ardent apostle and intimate friend of the reformer John Knox, quartered here on his arrival. Afterwards he was stoned to death by the Popish mob whom he endeavoured to convert to the faith he had espoused in 1649.

It was also graced (?) by the presence of the Duke of Cumberland while on his butchering career here during the Rebellion of 1745.

A good deal of the switch-back sensation is experienced while doing Thrums. "The T'nowe-heid" is down and then up, by way of the Tannage Brae—the house of Jamie Donaldson, "Kirrie's oracle."

St. Malcolm's Wynd (Airlie Street) leads on to Back Wynd (Reform Street). The Manse Close is allied to the past by its connection with the ingenious David Sands. He was so skilful a weaver that he wove three shirts without a seam. He completely finished them in the loom, with buttons, button-holes, hemming and stitching, also putting ruffles on them. One was sent to the King—Charles I., another to the Duke of Athol, and the third to the Society for Encouraging Arts and Manufactures. The whole benefit he reaped was £5. He also wove cloth for staymakers, double and stitched, thus saving every part of their labour, except shaping and putting in the whalebone.

In 1798 a Company of Volunteers was raised here, which was commanded by Captain James Sands (James, great grandson to David), with Messrs Douglas and Couper as Lieutenants. When the Duke of Portland's letter was read to the men by their Captain they answered the request it contained with three cheers, and an offer of their services to any part of Great Britain, or wheresoever their officers would lead them!

EXTRACT

FROM

THRUMS AND

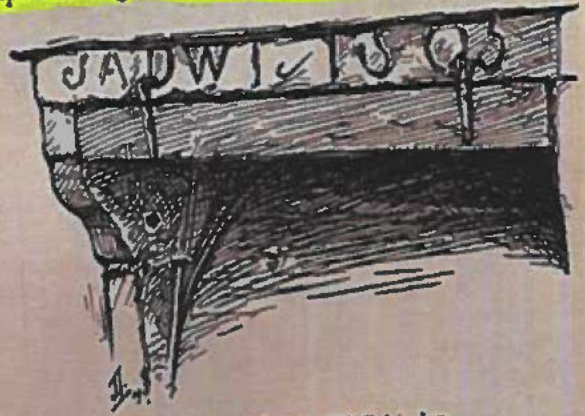
ITS GLENS

1896

EXCERPT FROM
THE REGALITY
OF KIRRIEMUIR
ALAN REID



In old days this entire western section of the town was a nest of small public-houses, workshops, and brew-seats with their attendant kilns, some of which are remembered by their names in certain portions of the locality. Millar's Lane, a title borrowed as in many other cases from an owner or prominent occupier, was known of old as Burial Wynd. Funerals from the west approached the Parish Churchyard by this narrow avenue, and many a funeral party forgot their woes within its old Gairie Inn when their mournful duties were over. This ancient hostelry is still in use as business premises, and is well worthy of attention. There is a tradition, of some repute, that when the Duke of Cumberland was scouring the glens for rebels, after Culloden, he slept one night within its humble walls. It is one of the



Fireplace Lintel, Old Gairie Inn.

oldest houses in the town, and shows its age on a lintel dated 1603, which remains *in situ* over the old kitchen fireplace. The house was used as an inn till 1879, and kept its old thatch roof till about fifteen years ago, when it was slated, and otherwise "improved" almost beyond recognition.

From the friable nature of the Old Red Sandstone, the buildings are apt to assume a dilapidated appearance that



square and dates back to 1604, although considerable architectural alterations to its original rectangular rounded walls seen now. On the right-hand side of this picture Karriemuir Soda Fountain and the businesses were run by the well-known Visocchi family. The Regal operated from 1911 until the late 1920s when it was replaced by a cinema in Morrison Street. Some of the buildings in the area illustrated here were later knocked down which is well-known for its confectionery delights is the Star Rock Shop, which is situated in the street named after the 'Starry Rock' that he sold. This got its name because of the star-like shapes which were rolled.

MILLERS GROCERS SINCE DEMOLISHED.
THIS IS NOW THE CAR PARK LEADING
TO CUMBERLAND CLOSE.





1909 John Gordon
 Made changes
 (not Cumber)

0 1921/22
 1851
 Millars Wynd
 Lindseys Close

↑
 1865
 Lindseys Close 1850
 Close of Old Gairie Inn - 1603
 Lespies Close 1850
 Gairie Inn - door date?

IRK WYND

Arch Wynd. Marriage lintel '1F

NOWEHEAD

NOWEHEAD CRESCENT

Shop store in Glamis Road, was
180's and 70's and started to offer

Ground running along the north
Westmuir to Meikle Mill road.

INSURE CENTRE

1899 - 1989.

James Lennie, were the landlords
) of the Crown Hotel. The Crown
gave its name to the Ogilvy Arms in

LILYBANK

Lade of Brae, between Brechin
and Drywell Brae. Now converted to

Follows the route of the Gairie Burn from the
Denhead to the Old Forfar Road.

Between Glamis Road and Slade Road. Named
after the Lindsay manufacturers who owned
most of the property. The 1862 VR shows that
James Lindsay (Sen. & Jnr.) had 24 tenants;
Henry Lindsay (Wester Logie) had 13 tenants;
Alexander Lindsay and David Lindsay had
14 tenants between them.

LINDSAY'S CLOSE

From High Street to Crofthead in 1851 Census
(site of the Old Gairie Inn) see also Millar's
Wynd. Now known as Cumberland Close.

Houses built off Brechin Road in former garden
amenity ground of Lisdén House.

Farm off the Westmuir Road.

Houses built 2007. This is the first street name
in the district to apply the word WAY however it
is appropriate, as it lies not far off the line of the
Roman via which passed through on its route
past the Cloack Mill to the camp at Inverquhar.

LITTLE ROADIE

(The), Southmuir - A path from the Dykies to
Glamis Road.

(also known as the Narrow Roods). Lower part
of the Roods from High Street. Home of Star
Rock shop since 1833.

At the junction of the Glengate and Cortachy
Road. Takes its name from the mill at the top of
the Den and would have been water driven from
the outflow from Kinnordy Loch. The mill lade is
still visible below the Coffin Brig. Mentioned in 1841 Census. Houses built 1961 to 1998.
See Distillery.

LINEAR PATH

LINDSAY STREET

LISDEN GARDENS

LITTLE HERDHILL

LITTLE HERDHILL WAY

LITTLE ROODS

LOCH MILL

GEORGE PLACE

This was in the Brechin Road vicinity according to a Scouting Certificate of 1910.

GILLESPIE'S CLOSE

This was another name for Cumberland Close and Lindsay's Close. The street took its name from David Gillespie, the publican of the Old Gairie Inn. David Gillespie moved out from here about 1880, to his New Gairie Inn at the corner of School Wynd and Marywell Brae. His daughter and son-in-law Mr Jack Graham carried on the New Gairie Inn for a number of years. See the dated lintel, which came from the Old Gairie Inn, at the back door of the Visocchi's.

GILLESPIE'S LANE

Probably the same as Gillespie's Close.

These were 4 cottages at West Town End (Part of Claypit or Claypit acre according to a pre-1887 Sasine). The houses were built in the 1880's and named after the PM of the time - Prime Minister W E Gladstone of Fasque.

GLADSTONE TERRACE

Southmuir - From the Moon, southward towards the neighbouring village of Glamis. BUILDINGS Window in Thrums; St Andrew's Church built 1903; Webster's Seminary built 1836, closed 2000-1; burnt down 2006 & demolished 2007; and South Parish Church built 1836. The building erected in 1853 (appears to have only been a jail from about 1885 to 1895) prior to the Reform St Police Station being opened. See Webster's Seminary.

GLAMIS ROAD

GLASSWELL'S CAIRN

Boundary marker at the western boundary (Herdhill) of the estate of Glasswell and Tarbirns.

Possibly Glas-bhaile, green fermtoun, farm on the east side of the town.

GLASSWELL

GLEBE

(The) - North of Reform Street (Now Rosefield Gardens) including the grounds of Day Care. 4 acres of ground to the north of Reform Street, from the Roods in the west including the Manse (now Glebe House) to Glebe Terrace on Brechin Road.

GLEBE

Off Rosefield. A in the former ga

GLEE

Off Brechin R. constructed in 1

Runs from the F from the High S Park). Contains Hall (former St 65 used to con former floodlig of first post off

Built as a place Church of Scot

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GLOBE

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of considerable antiquity; but the date of its charter of erection is unknown."

It is a source of pride that Kirriemarians have always regarded the old names as part of their heritage and it is in that spirit that we seek to record many of the old names and attempt to explain the origins of some of the more recent ones as well.

We are not the first to be concerned with the recording of the names.

It is interesting to note from an article re-published in the 'Kirriemuir Observer' on 2 January 1925, that the Street Names of the town of Kirrie were "painted on glass" way back in 1866.

BACK TO THE OLD NAME

Then in September 1909, the Town Council received a suggestion from Mr John Gordon, ex Mayor of Leeds, but a native born on 12 November 1854 in Kirriemuir, to revert to the old names of the streets in Kirriemuir, and should they agree to this, he would defray all expenses connected therewith.

The Town Council accepted the offer and the changes made were as follows: -

The Roods instead of Roods Street;

Tillyloss for Newton Bank

Schoolwynd for James Street

Marywell Brae for Marywell Street

Bellies Brae for Baillie Street

Tannage Brae for Bridge Street

Glengate and Denhead for Glengate Street

St. Malcolm's Wynd for Airlie Street

Seceder's Close for Kirk Close

and

Crofthead for Croft Terrace.

KEY: **KIRRIEMUIR** **STREET NAMES** **DAVID ORR**

OLD NAME

NEW NAME

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in

ADAM GEORGE

Northmuir - Off Shiel
for 'retired country fol
just after Northmuir
Burgh Boundary .

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AIRLIE S

ALMSH

Off The Roods, abc
the property of Jan
1884 Valuation Roll

ANDERSO

Northmuir - Off Ar

Northmuir - Bel
Cortachy Road.

Off Tannage Brae. 84 residents in the 1871 Census.

CROFTHEAD or CRAFTHEAD

CROSS STREET

Northmuir - Shown in 1881 census, probably led between Shielhill Road and Cortachy Road.

Between High Street and Crofthead it was known in the 1850's as Lindsay's Close. Site of 'Old Gairie Inn.' The Duke of Cumberland ('Butcher' of Culloden) is reputed to have stayed for one night in this old inn when he was in the area searching for refugees in the glens after the fateful fight - hence the name. See also Gillespie's Close.

CUMBERLAND CLOSE

CUTTLE WELL

It was a favourite trysting place in a wooded dell in the Den by the Gairie Burn, at the head of the Den. Colin Sievwright (1819-1894) in his poem "The Banks of Gairie" says:

"When early summer's verdant smile
Bedecks the woody dell,
Where flows the Gairie's little stream,
Where springs the Cuttle Well.
The streamlet sparkles in the sun,
The ivy evergreen
Climbs o'er the rocks, and adds it rich
Dark beauty to the scene.
A little further up the stream,
His grandsons show us still
The place where lived in former days
The miller of Clock mill;
And here, 'tis said, the Roman hosts
Displayed their burnished spears
When marching to the north to crush
The hardy mountaineers."

DAISY BANK

Complimentary name for houses at Quarrybank.

or Damie. Farm off of R Maryton, beside the Gai Stones of Balmuckety" the road from this farm Fletcherfield cottar house railway was being laid.

DAVID DON LANE

Westmuir - This street Lawson who as a young just north of these he owned this piece of land here. David Lawson built the farm at Hillhead, finished 2007.

DAVID SI CONVALESCE

1938 and finally demolished

Southmuir - Off Glac to the burgh of Kirk or recreation ground solicitor: "ground a Road to be held as playground." It was George Sampson's name

Off Rosefield Garden Church Manse at the

DELUIN

SECTION

ALL PAPERS

Course and Taste
Stock.

1d PER PIECE

ds.

Borders to Match
Days in Stock.

Printed Free.

Sent—Town
Country.

Paint, High Gloss in
Colours for Inside
Namo Black for
Sily Black-Leading.
or Floors and all
in Stock.

Stewart

Painter & Glazier,
KIRRIEMUIR.

Pan Loaves

each.

ARTS, 1d each.

ELSON'S

of Bread

Kirrie Street Names.

Some That Are Unfamiliar.

CAN YOU PLACE THEM ALL?

For its size Kirriemuir has a remarkable number of streets (so called), closes and lanes, and it is safe to say many people living at one end of the town are quite unfamiliar with the street names at the other.

How many people, for instance, could say offhand where Elspitacre is? or Hobart Street, or Gairie Place, or Croft Lane, or Church Lane, or Mill Road, or Hillbank Terrace, or Kilnbank Lane, or Kirktonhill Road, or Milne's Row, or Douglas Street, or Victoria Place, or Webster Place, or Viewbank Terrace.

These are a few at random. People living near or having friends in these places, or passing them daily will know them at once, but it is certain that many people could not fix their position without recourse to considerable thought.

There are 81 named streets, closes, lanes, and "lands" in Kirriemuir, and the town is honeycombed with them in parts. Many of them are cul-de-sacs and mere frontages to dwelling-houses, and they can only be called streets as courtesy titles.

A Unique Feature.

A unique feature is that street names are given to blocks of buildings—Den Terrace, Gladstone Place, Glebe Terrace, Gordon Place, King Edward Place, Mulroy Place, Victoria Place,

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There is history behind the street names of Kirriemuir.

In 1909 a wealthy native of the town bore the whole expense of changing the street names, as they are now. Before then, they bore different names. St Malcolm's Wynd, for instance, was Airlie Street; School Wynd was James Street; Roods was Roods Street; Glengate was Glengate Street; Reform Street was Back Wynd; Bank Street was once called Mary Street; Marywell Brae was Marywell Street; Cumberland Close was Lindsay's Close; Bank Lane was Gardiner's Close; Bellie's Brae was Bailie's Brae.

"Coercion Street."

The Glengate in these days stretched from High Street to Gordon Park, now called Park Street (Coercion Street was another name, the result of an acrimonious lawsuit). The rest of what is now Glengate used to be called Westtown-end, and stretched from

went to prison bench.

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GARDENS OPE

By the courtes

ARTICLE FROM KIRRIE FREE PRESS
FROM 18TH MAY 1933 RELATING
TO NAME CHANGES BY JOHN GORDON.

LORD MAYORS OF THE CITY OF LEEDS

17:04



Municipal year	Lord Mayor (party nomination - electoral ward if councillor)
1897-1898	Sir James Kitson, MP for Colne Valley, 1892 (Lib)
1898-1899	Thomas Walter Harding (LUP)
1899-1900	John Gordon (Con)
1900-1901	Frederick W. Lawson (?)
1901-1902	Ambrose Edmund Butler (?)
1902-1903	Sir John Ward ^[9] (?)
1903-1904	Arthur Currer Briggs

JOHN GORDON
(NATIVE OF KIRRIEMUIR)
BORN 12TH NOVEMBER
1854. BECAME
CONSERVATIVE MAYOR
OF LEEDS. ON RETURN
TO HIS TOWN OF BIRTH
HE PAID THE TOWN
COUNCIL TO RENAME
MANY STREET NAMES
INCLUDING
CUMBERLAND CLOSE
FROM MILLER'S LANE

1d each.
N'S
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ning Rolls

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d Tea Bread

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3d each.

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KIRRIEMUIR.

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A Unique Feature.

A unique feature is that street names are given to blocks of buildings—Den Terrace, Gladstone Place, Glebe Terrace, Gordon Place, King Edward Place, Mulroy Place, Victoria Place, Viewbank Terrace, Watson Place, Webster's Lane, and Wilkie's Land, Barrie's Land (or Muckle Close), Milne's Land (or Milne's Row), McGregor's Land, and Craik's Land.

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Marywell Brae used to run where Wilkie's factory now stands, but when the factory was built the brae was diverted to its present position.

Wellbank used to take in all the ter-

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MILLAR'S LANE

Property owned by Mrs. Mary Millar, grocer,
32 High St., VR 1895

The memorial flagstone that honours the 3 local men who were awarded the VC for fighting for good against evil, 1914-1918, 1939 - 1945.

This memorial sits below one of the 3 signs paying homage to Cumberland. I believe this makes it even more imperative that we do the right thing and erase the location name.

