

CAIRT

Issue 14
January 2009

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

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SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

The Forum was initiated by the National Library of Scotland in January 2002:

- ♦ *To stimulate and to encourage multi-disciplinary map use, study and research, particularly relating to Scottish maps and mapmakers*
- ♦ *To disseminate information on Scottish maps and map collections*
- ♦ *To record information on maps and mapmaking, particularly in a Scottish context*
- ♦ *To liaise with other groups and individuals with map related interests*
- ♦ *To build on, and to continue, the work of Project Pont*

CAIRT

The newsletter is issued twice a year. "Cairt" is Gaelic & 17th century Scots for map.

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Great Reform Act Plans and Reports, 1832

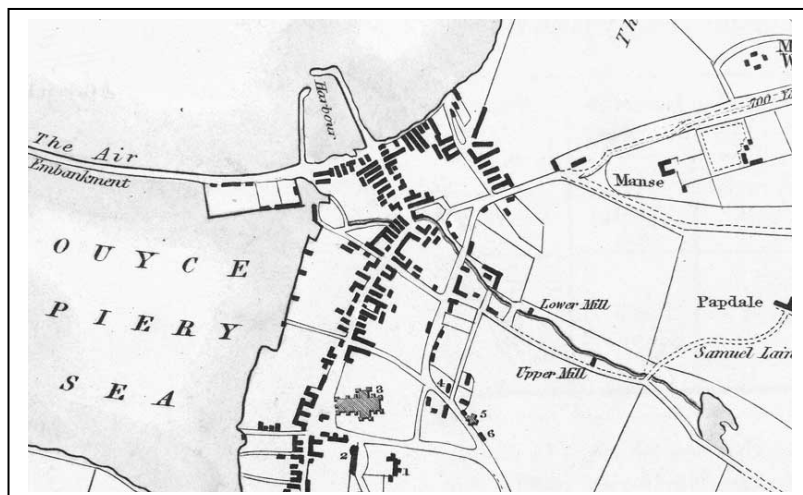
The Great Reform Act Plans and Reports have just been added to our maps website. The plans depict and name many urban features of importance for 75 towns in Scotland, including major streets, public buildings, industrial premises, docks, canals, and bridges, as well as surrounding farms and villages. Compiled for the purposes of implementing new parliamentary boundaries, their consistent style and scale (of six-inches to the mile), along with their accompanying burgh reports, make them a valuable snapshot of urban Scotland.

Although John Wood published plans of over fifty towns in Scotland in the 1820s, the 1832 Parliamentary Boundary Commissioners mapped a further 36 towns. For fifteen of these towns, these are the earliest recorded printed plan that exists.

Background

The First or 'Great' Reform Act of 1832 granted extra seats in the House of Commons to larger manufacturing towns and cities that had expanded especially in the previous 50 years, and took away seats from those with a very small population. The Act also expanded the electorate, from around 4,200 in Scotland in the 1820s, to over 65,000 after 1832. This sixteen-fold expansion, also increased the Scottish burgh representation in Parliament from 15 seats to 22, and established 'parliamentary burghs' (such as Greenock and Paisley).

Continued on page 2



Great Reform Act Plan – Kirkwall (extract)

Great Reform Act Plans and Reports, 1832 (continued)

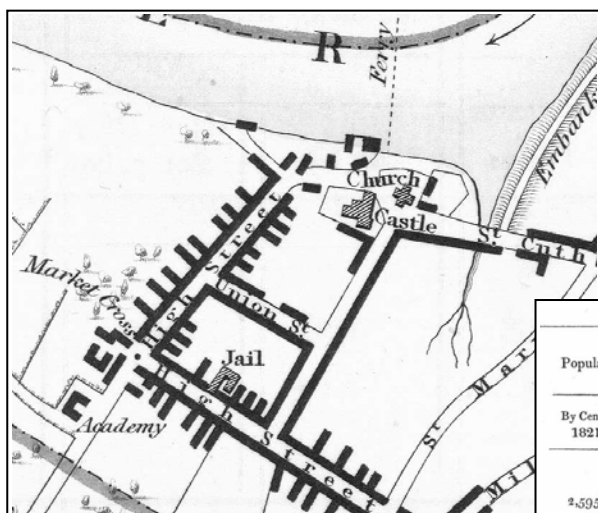
Some older royal burghs, such as Aberdeen, Dundee and Perth, were given a Member of Parliament for the first time, whilst Glasgow and Edinburgh were each given two MPs.

The passage of the Act was welcomed by those seeking a fairer franchise, and represented an important shift of power from aristocratic and landed interests to the growing urban middle-classes and those house owners with property valued over £10. However, the Act was also criticised for only enfranchising the respectable classes, and with no secret ballot, landowning interests still held an important sway over new voters. Even after 1832, only one in eight adult males were eligible to vote, and the later Reform Acts of 1868 and 1884 went much further in extending the franchise. Many unskilled labourers, the Irish, and all women were not able to vote until 1918.

The plans were published in a Parliamentary Paper: *Reports upon the Boundaries of the several Cities, Burghs, and Towns in Scotland in respect to the election of members to serve in Parliament*. (House of Commons Paper 1831-2 (408) XLII.1). The website includes a complete facsimile of this publication.

The **Reports** include:

- * a statement of the current trade, manufactures and general circumstances of the burgh
- * a statement of the population and number of residential houses in the burgh and its suburbs, including those with a value of over £10
- * the amount of assessed taxes payable by the different burghs
- * a detailed description of the proposed new parliamentary boundary, with fixed points indicated on the accompanying plans



Population of Burgh.		Number of Houses in Burgh.		Number of Houses in the Burgh of £.10 and upwards.		ASSESSED TAXES payable from the Burgh.
By Census 1821.	By Census 1831.	By Census 1821.	By Census 1831.	Parl. Ret. p. 53.	Inhabited House Duty Ret. p. 80.	
2,595	2,690	348	368	176	62	£. s. d. 216 1 6

Surveying and engraving the plans

The burghs were visited by two commissioners, Mr William Murray and Captain JW Pringle of the Royal Engineers, and plans drawn up to illustrate the verbal descriptions of the new boundaries. According to their Report, 'all the burghs were visited twice, some of them oftener', between November 1831 and February 1832. They were given clear instructions to form unambiguous and precise new boundaries, preferably using permanent urban features, described in their Report. A number of London engravers were employed, including Benjamin Davies, Thomas Ellis, James Gardner, J. Henshall and Henry Martin.

Earlier and later municipal boundary mapping

These plans form the most significant body of maps drawn specifically to illustrate urban boundaries in Scotland. Only a few, isolated examples exist of earlier mapping: for example, Tain in 1750, and the map of the extended royalty of Glasgow, ca. 1824. Unlike the Reform Act plans for England and Wales in 1831-2, that were drawn at a range of smaller scales, the Scottish plans were all executed at the more detailed six-inch to the mile scale. This scale was soon adopted as standard by Ordnance Survey in Ireland and then Scotland.

By the time of the later Reform Acts in 1868 and 1884, state-funded, centralised mapping by Ordnance Survey was largely available for the purposes of illustrating parliamentary boundaries, and so there was no repeat of the 1831-2 mapping. For this reason, only a few 'local' burgh boundary maps were produced after 1832: Kirkcaldy (1840), Inverness (1841), Oban (1846), Aberdeen (1862), Arbroath (1863) and Dumbarton (1869).

We are very grateful to the late David Simpson for donating his volume of these plans for the purposes of disbinding and easier scanning for website display.

Chris Fleet

View the Great Reform Act Plans and Reports at www.nls.uk/maps/towns/reform/

Far left:
Enlarged extract from Great Reform Act plan of Kirkcudbright

Left: detail from Report (Kirkcudbright)

MAPPING THE ANTONINE WALL

David Breeze, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic Scotland, and Co-ordinator of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, describes the importance of maps behind the recent successful WHS status granted to the Antonine Wall.

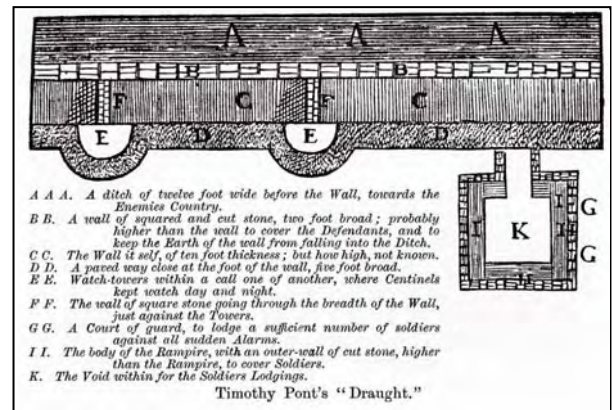
On 7 July 2008, Rome's North-West frontier in Scotland, the Antonine Wall, was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by the World Heritage Committee meeting in Quebec. It joined Hadrian's Wall and the German limes as part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. Thus ended six years of planning and preparation.

The inscription of any property on the World Heritage List is a long and complicated process. The monument has to be defined, the proposal justified, and all measures for its protection, conservation and management set out. A key part of the process is defining the proposed new WHS. This involves not only inspecting the monument on the ground but also recording the monument and the proposed boundaries of the WHS on a map. Or rather a series of maps, for the nomination document for the Antonine Wall was accompanied by a portfolio of 59 maps.

These maps were all prepared by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. RCAHMS not only houses and maintains the national archaeological data-base for Scotland, but it holds the folios of maps recording previous surveys of the Antonine Wall. Amongst these are the folios recording the work on the Antonine Wall by Sir George Macdonald, mainly in the 1920s and '30s, and the surveys undertaken by the Ordnance Survey in the 1950s and 1980s. Earlier important maps, of course, include the survey undertaken by William Roy (1747-1755).

The first step undertaken by RCAHMS was to digitise the 1980s survey. A GIS for the Antonine Wall was thereby created. This formed the basis for two projects. One was to record all 'events' on the Antonine Wall (mainly surveys and excavations) and the other part of the project was to create the maps for the nomination. Although the 1980 survey was invaluable, some additional fieldwork was required to check the visibility of the Wall today and improve the definition of features.

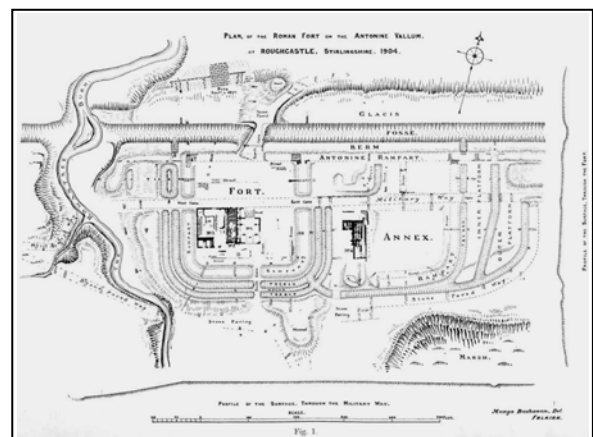
Two decisions were then required: how many maps at particular scales were necessary; and how should the Wall be depicted. The Wall was shown at a series of scales from a map of the whole Roman empire down to 1:5000. The maps at intervening scales place the Wall within its Scottish location, providing details on local authority areas, protection through scheduling, the buffer zones, and the surrounding archaeology. The basic series of maps are at 1:25,000 showing all elements of the Wall, their state of survival and proposed boundaries of the Site and its buffer zones, and at 1:5,000 at which scale all details of the proposed WHS were depicted together with the boundaries of the protected (scheduled) areas and the proposed WHS, but not the buffer zones.



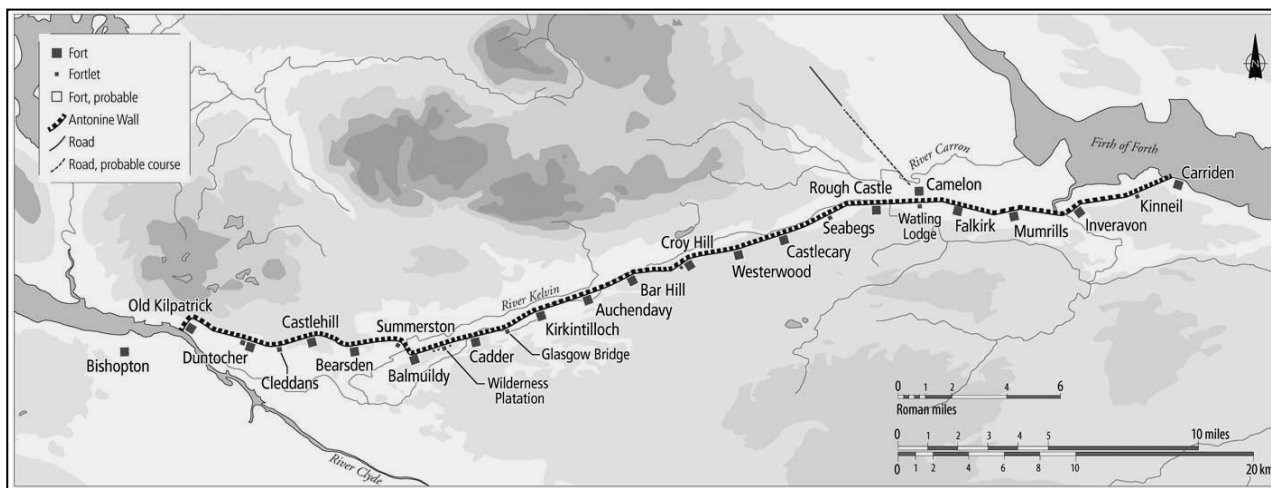
Antonine Wall, from William Camden's Britannia (London, 1695), based on drawing by Timothy Pont

At both basic scales, the various elements of the Wall were mapped symbolically. Different depths of shading indicated whether the line of the rampart, ditch and upcast mound were visible, known or unconfirmed. To determine this was quite a task. But then the width of the ditch and its upcast mound varies: as the map was symbolic, should the symbols remain at the same width? After much discussion it was decided that the map should reflect reality as much as possible, not least for the benefit of the people living along the line of the frontier. The result was the creation of a map which is as accurate as possible and providing the most up-to-date record of Rome's Scottish frontier.

One further element of the work depended on mapping, this was the definition of the buffer zones. The contract to advice on this was awarded to Land Use Consultants. One part of their methodology was to create an intervisibility map of the Wall and its surrounding area, an important step to determining the possible extent of the buffer zones. Of course, other elements played a part, such as the protection awarded to the environs of the Wall. In the end, all the proposed buffer zones lay in areas already designated as countryside or green belt land.



Plan of the Roman Fort... at Roughcastle, 1904



Mapping the Antonine Wall (cont.)

When the work on preparing the maps and the text was well advanced, the realisation that we had a problem hit us. The maps were all being prepared and numbered running from west to east, which is the most appropriate order. However, the text was being written from east to west, which has been the traditional pattern for describing the Antonine Wall and seems to have been the order used by the Romans. One cultural approach had to give way and, as it would have been so much more difficult to change the text, the maps were re-numbered. I would have to admit that my deeply embedded consciousness of the right order of mapping still causes me problems when I seek a particular map in the portfolio and find myself turning the pages in the 'wrong' direction. The result of these mapping exercises was to create a most valuable and essential part of the nomination documentation. The documents were well received by UNESCO, and by the World Heritage Committee who only took 10 minutes to decide unanimously to award World Heritage Site status to the Antonine Wall.

One further action which flowed from the work on mapping the Antonine Wall may be mentioned. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland has produced a new map of *The Antonine Wall : World Heritage site*. Scale: 1:25,000. (Edinburgh : RCAHMS, 2008). Priced £5, it is available from bookshops.

Bartholomew Archive Project update and new website

We are pleased to report a wide range of ongoing work on the Bartholomew Archive. A detailed survey and **report** was completed by Susan Woodburn in September, the previous listing and arrangement of the **business records** has been expanded and consolidated, and a **summary list of maps and plans** has been compiled. The report incorporates recommendations for further work required (including conservation surveys) to make the archive fully accessible, and provides a basis for further bids for funding.

We are extremely grateful to the Bartholomew family, particularly Mr Ivon Bartholomew, for organising substantial donations of further material to the Archive over the summer.

The ongoing **conservation and cataloguing of the Printing Record**, (a copy of everything the Bartholomew firm printed between 1877 and 2002) continues. By December 2008 we had conserved 52 volumes, covering 1877-1913, and catalogued 21 volumes, covering 1877-1895. This work will continue until 2010.

View new Bartholomew website at:
www.nls.uk/bartholomew

A **new website** has been completed to promote and provide access to the Archive. It includes descriptions of the family and firm, its background and significance, and highlights of selected publications. In particular, it describes the growing range of ways in which the Archive can be accessed, with links to inventories, summary lists, and catalogues. We will continue to add material to the website, through active scanning and a curators' blog.



Royal Scottish Geographical Society – Making the Connections between People, Places and the Planet

Margaret Wilkes, Convener of RSGS Collections & Information Committee, provides an update on the recent changes to RSGS' location, staffing, and awards

In late September 2008 the Royal Scottish Geographical Society bade farewell to Glasgow and to its rented suite of rooms in the University of Strathclyde and moved to a new permanent home in the 'Fair City' of Perth – and we have survived the move! Perth lays claim, justifiably, to be at the heart of Scotland, in a key geographical position allowing travel there within 90 minutes from 90% of Scotland's population, so is a most fitting location for RSGS with its 14 diversely spread Talks Centres.

Our New HQ, Lord John Murray's House, was originally the stables for the town house of Lord John Murray (1711-1787) a senior British army officer, (half-brother of Lord George Murray commander of the Jacobite forces in the mid-18th century uprisings) and MP for Perthshire for many years. The building lies next to the new, iconic Perth Concert Hall and is largely early 18th century in date but incorporating extensive reconstruction, including remnants of a possible medieval merchant's house frontage. The Society intends, but not until we have the necessary funds in place (and an extensive programme of fundraising is currently in progress) to undertake some refurbishments and to build an extension to the rear of the adjacent and interlinked Fair Maid's House, not least to house much of our historic collections, now in store locally. Brought to prominence and given its present name through Sir Walter Scott's novel of the same name, the Fair Maid's House was largely reconstructed in the late 19th century through the efforts of an admiring Walter Scott fan, but incorporates much earlier building work from the medieval period. The Society will rent the Fair Maid's House as it belongs in perpetuity to the Common Good of Perth, and has an exciting programme of educational, environmental and cultural activities proposed – using our map and other collections to full effect - for its ground floor once the refurbishment and additions are completed, perhaps in 2-3 years. But we shall be celebrating the Society's 125th Anniversary in 2009 with a wide-ranging programme of activities.

The Society has also seen major staff changes following the untimely death of Maureen Thomson, our long-serving Accounts and Membership Manager, in February 2008 and the resignation of our Director, Professor David Munro, in March 2008. In their place you will find Mike Robinson, who joined us in August 2008 to occupy our newly-created Chief Executive post, and who came to us from his role as Head of Development in the Royal

Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and prior to that Head of Marketing in RSPB. Mike has a very impressive tally of fundraising behind him, is also Chairman of Stop Climate Chaos (Scotland), has keen environmental interests and, most significantly for the Scottish Maps Forum, is a map addict! Marilynne Johnstone, our Administrator, has also moved to Perth with the Society and, with help from two postgraduate students from the University of Strathclyde's Information and Library Studies course, managed and effected the move of the Society's collections to Perth – no mean task! For the present these collections remain in store and not available for study, though a selection of images from them is available on our new website as a result of our very successful HLF-funded Images for All Project, completed in 2008.

At our RSGS Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony in October 2008, Professor Charles Withers, Professor of Historical Geography in the University of Edinburgh and well known to Members of the Scottish Maps Forum for his Talks and his superb summing up at SMF Seminars, was awarded RSGS's prestigious Centenary Medal for 'his outstanding and sustained contribution to historical geography, the history of cartography and to the history of geographical knowledge.' I am sure all SMF members will be delighted by this well-deserved award.

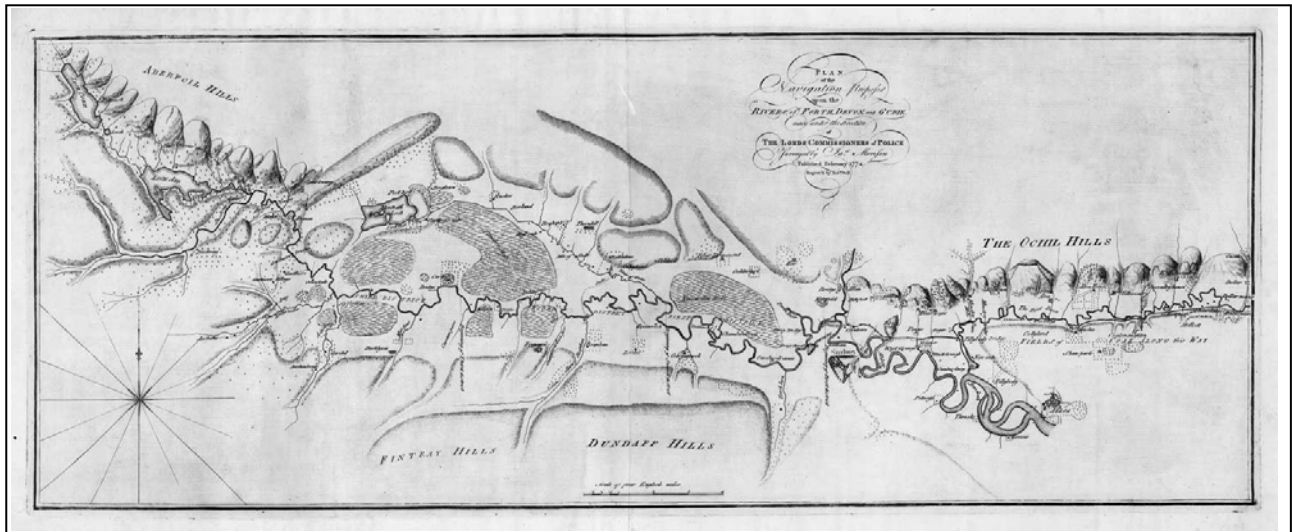
Finally, our Collections Committee has some weel-kent SMF faces on it – Diana Webster, former Map Library Manager in NLS, Pat Martin, former Head of Science (including maps) in Glasgow University Library and, newly, Steve Connelly, Perth & Kinross Council Archivist, as well as two prominent map world people, Bruce Gittings, GIS specialist in the University of Edinburgh Institute of Geography and now Vice Chairman of RSGS and Tim Rideout, Managing Director of the XYZ Digital Map Company.

Please note our new contact information (and do look at our new website!).

Royal Scottish Geographical Society,
Lord John Murray's House, 15-19 North Port,
PERTH PH1 5LU
Tel: **01738-455050**
E-Mail: enquiries@rsgs.org
Website: <http://www.rsgs.org>

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Forth and Devon Canal?

Plan of the navigation proposed upon the Rivers of Forth, Devon and Gudie, made under the direction of the Lords Commissioners of Police, surveyed by James Morison.
Published February 1774. Engraved by Andrew Bell.



This recently purchased rare broadsheet is the only known example of this plan in a public collection. It shows the Forth River Valley from Loch Ard in the west to Alloa and Dollar in the east and depicts the proposed canalisation of parts of the River Forth and its tributaries, with the purpose of improving trade between the upper and the lower Forth, such as the lime quarries at Aberfoyle, and the coalfields of the Hillfoots.

The plan was in the collection of James Watt (sold at Sotheby's in 2003), and indeed was surveyed by Morison to accompany a scheme of Watt's to build the canals. The account of the scheme by Watt includes a reference to the map:

"As the map of the Upper Forth is not yet finished, the distances of places I have given there are to be considered only as estimated, principally from memory, from a plan of 1767, which I have not seen since. I therefore recommend to those, who want an exact knowledge of these distances, to measure them upon Mr Morison's map of that river which he is now making out, and will soon publish".

Morison does not appear in Tooley's *Dictionary of Mapmakers*, but it is clear from the account that he was working with Watt on this scheme.

The canals were never built. The "interested gentlemen", meeting in an Edinburgh coffee house to discuss the scheme, demanded a cheaper, abridged version to be drawn up by Watt and Morison, with revised lower estimates of the cost.

The requirement for the purchase and subsequent loss of a total of 78 acres of prime arable land seems likely to have been the principal stumbling block of the whole plan, being too expensive to purchase, and the landowners too reluctant to let it go. There were also significant engineering challenges involved, such as clearing away various fords in the rivers and building bridges instead, which would have been time consuming, inconvenient to the local population and, again, expensive.

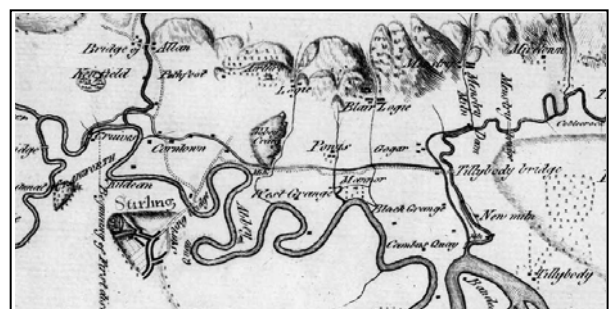
As for many other canal maps, this plan depicts an intended but unrealised scheme, also illustrating the late 18th century optimism for this new means of transportation.

References:

Watt, James. *An account of the scheme for rendering navigable the Rivers Forth and Devon with estimates of the expense*. Edinburgh: printed by William Auld, 1774.

Paula Williams

Below: detail from above plan, showing proposed canal route alongside River Devon and north of the Forth



NEW ACQUISITIONS: A new social order at Orbiston?

Plan of the estate of Orbiston the property of General Hamilton, surveyed by James Knox, 1804.
Lithographed by Walter Ballantine 1828.

1828 was the year in which the social experiment "The Orbiston Community" fell apart. Perhaps this plan was produced for a report on the collapse of the experiment - from its size and the folds on the plan, this certainly seems possible. The real extent and scope of the Community is only partly hinted at on this map. Knox's survey shows the estate in 1804, years before the Community was settled; this lithographed copy by Walter Ballantine dates from 1828 when the Community was disbanded and its land sold off.

Also known as the "First adherents to divine revelation at Orbiston" the Community was based on the ideas and principles of Robert Owen, of New Lanark fame. It was designed and initiated by two of his adherents A.J. Hamilton and Abram Combe.

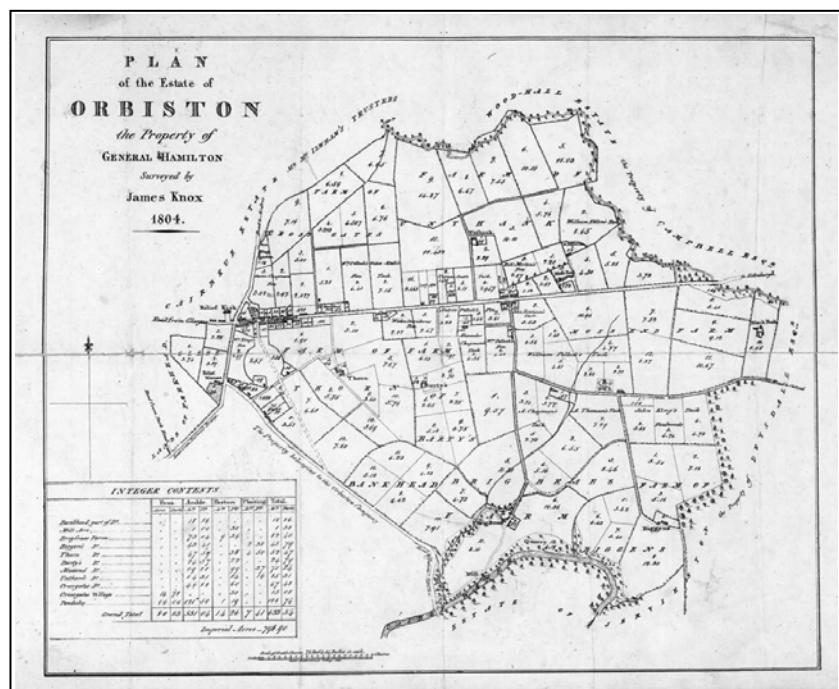
The site chosen was part of the Dalzell Estates, owned by Hamilton's father, and sold to Combe for £19,995, its price reflecting the high quality of the arable land and proximity to the River Calder.

The Community buildings, which became known as "New Babylon", were to be large (680 feet long by four stories high), and ultimately to form the quadrangle or parallelogram touted by Owen as the optimum for social living. Each adult (male or female) would have their own bed-sitting room, 16 ½ x 12 ½ feet, and access to communal kitchens and dining rooms. Children would sleep in dormitories and attend the community school. Only one wing of the building was ever completed, but the members of the fledgling community received their first meal from the kitchens on 10th April 1826.

Although Combe worked hard to establish the Community, organising companies for different aspects of production, including building, dairy, horticultural, iron foundry, weaving and domestic (doing the cooking, cleaning etc for the Community) the venture ran into financial difficulties and it became impossible to maintain the ideals of equal distribution and cooperation. Combe became ill and retired back to Edinburgh; he died believing that the Community was well established "beyond the probability of failure". His brother William took over, and within months the increasing demands for payment from the bondholders meant that he had to ask the members to leave. The Community disbanded in late 1827. The estate was sold to the Douglas family who owned neighbouring land and Combe's family were left destitute. Hamilton also lost his money and went abroad. Some members of the community were jailed as debtors. The buildings were razed to the ground shortly afterwards and no trace now remains.

References

Cullen, Alexander. *Adventures in Socialism: New Lanark establishment and Orbiston Community*. Glasgow: Johns Smith & Son, 1910.
The Orbiston Community 1825-1828. Burgh of Motherwell and Wishaw Public Libraries, 1972.



Above: Plan of the estate of Orbiston the property of General Hamilton, surveyed by James Knox, 1804.

Below right: enlarged detail



NOTES & QUERIES

During a recent enquiry a photocopy of a map entitled:

MAP / OF THE PARISH OF / ABERDOUR / BY ALEX. FLOCKHART / 1837. //

came into our possession. The original was lithographed by Kirkwood. It covers the whole parish from Marion Moss (Moss Morran) in the north to the coast in the south, and from Kirkford and Pinnel Hill in the west to the discontiguous part of the parish, enveloped in Kinghorn parish, near Galliston Quarry, in the east. The scale is 3 inches to the imperial mile. It depicts roads, woodland, buildings, including some drawn houses, and relief by hachures. We have been unable to trace the original, either in its lithographed, or manuscript form. If anyone has any further information, either about the map or about Flockhart's survey we would be delighted to hear about it!

MAP TALK

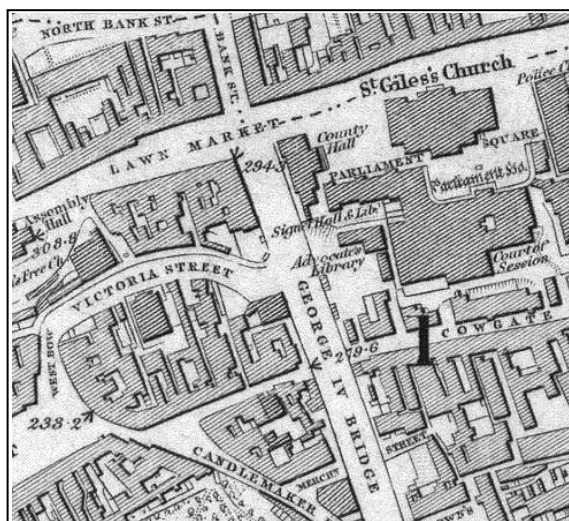
Mapping Mid-19th century Edinburgh

Thursday 26 March 7pm

National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge

The Ordnance Survey six-inch Country Series mapping of Edinburgh (first surveyed in 1852) shows the natural landscape and built environment with great accuracy and in fascinating detail. The OS map was recently published as a facsimile *City Map* by Cassini Publishing Ltd. Graeme Cruickshank, local historian and author of the detailed notes on the map, takes us on a tour of its main features and content.

To book your free place(s), please phone 0131 623 4675 or e-mail: events@nls.uk



Enlarged extract from O.S. 6-inch map, Edinburghshire sheet 2 (1852)

NEW GEO-REFERENCED HISTORICAL MAP OVERLAYS

We have recently made available geo-referenced maps of Scotland as overlays on top of modern Google and Virtual Earth satellite and map layers. Through switching layers off and on, the past can be directly compared to the present through a simple, intuitive interface. Also, with maps mosaicked as a seamless layer, the all-too-familiar problem of discovering your place of interest split onto four separate sheets is potentially a thing of the past!

So far, the following maps are available as geo-referenced overlays:

- OS Quarter-inch to the mile, Scotland, 1921-1923. 10 sheets
- JG Bartholomew & Son, Half-inch to the Mile maps of Scotland, 1926-1935. 29 sheets
- OS One-inch to the mile, Popular edition, Scotland, 1920-1930. 92 sheets
- OS One-inch to the mile, New Popular edition, England and Wales, 1945-1947. 114 sheets
- OS Six-inch to the mile, 1st edition, Scotland, 1843-1882. 2,123 sheets
- OS large-scale town plans of Scotland, 1847-1895. 62 towns, 1,900 sheets.

In addition, it is also possible to search the OS town plans maps using a modern street gazetteer, by National Grid Reference, and by zoomable smaller scale maps. View the town plan overlays at: www.nls.uk/maps/townplans/

View all historical geo-referenced map overlays at: geo.nls.uk/maps