

ANN HILL RESEARCH

Interview with ALLAN and EDITH HODGSON

5th December 1986

Allan Hodgson (born 1926) and his sister Edith live at Toppinghead, and have done all their lives. Their mother, who died 3 months ago, was for many years church caretaker. Their granny also worked in the Manse. It follows that their knowledge of Church affairs is probably unique in the parish. Alan Hodgson has also been involved in numerous aspects of parish life - especially carpet bowling.

I got so much from the first interview that we agreed to go back the following Friday.

o.c.

Their father was a mason and a monumental sculptor. Their grandfather was Mr Turnbull, beadle till he died in the great-war in 1915.

Their Hodgson great-grandfather, John came from Penrith to Kirkpatrick Fleming.

School            Their mother used to say that the head was a horror - Mr McKerchar - very good with the boys but hard on the girls. She much preferred, indeed really liked Mr Christie (a turn up for the books!). Elizabeth Rae (?) see Nelly Miller - 'Lizzy Rae') was in the same class at school, now lives in Carlisle, widow of John Graham, who was driving force in the church (42 St. Peters Drive, with a Mrs Frey - but may be reluctant to talk about the past).

The present school was built in 1881. Previously there was a wee school at Irvington (see Dave Mitchell), and one at Graham's yard, Holmwood. Their father said this house was the schoolhouse.

Their mother's mother had the soup kitchen and cleaned the school. Now a cousin Mrs Holt (m.s. Turnbull) cleans it. The local farmers used to supply free vegetables for the soup kitchen, and the butcher would maybe give a bone.

Mr Hodgson was at the school in Mr Hogg's time. He can't recall his first teacher, but later came Misses Guthrie and Young (his favourite - Gretna area), Mr Kennedy and Mr Hogg. He liked school, and lived too near to play truant. Hogg was a very strict old man. He then went to Gretna Township school.

Their father may have gone to Irvington. At that time he lived about the Five Road Ends. He left aged 12/13. I saw a photo of their father at school - all boys, an elderly master, with white side burns. They thought it might be Breconbeds.

Mr Hogg was a good singer.

Another photo was possibly Kirkpatrick Fleming school, with (?) Miss Crooks (later Mrs Jim Irving), who was the infant teacher when (?) Miss Hodgson went to school.

They had heard their mother mention other teachers - Miss Brown, Miss Bole.

When Miss Hodgson went to school in 1946, Mrs Irving took the infants, then Nelly Douglas (who travelled daily by train from Carlisle, belonged Langholm). W.J. Doull was the headmaster, but soon left, to be replaced by S.S. Hope. When her sister was there, Doull always had a school concert, but Miss Hodgson does not recall any in her day. Hope was easy-going. He was followed by David Mitchell, who still lives in Langholm.

After Mrs Irving, Miss Hodgson was taught by Miss Wishart. A Miss Inglis taught the infants, perhaps in the 1940's before Mrs Irving's return. She married and went to British Honduras with the camp manager (Mr Philips). Miss Douglas was still there in 1953, left when the trains stopped.

D. Mitchell came in 1953. No concerts in his time. In these days schoolmasters were almost automatically community leaders - church elders, perhaps would chair the hall committee, but the later teachers didn't want to. (I assume from the context that D. Mitchell was the last to be actively involved.) The next masters were Mackie (no relation of the farmers), Bennett, Gibson (young man), Ferguson (retired, in Kirtlebridge, treasurer of 'Firparkneuk') Mackie was from (?) Hightee (now deceased).

#### Church

See introduction. Their mother's father, George Turnbull, was church officer and elder (Funeral 19/8/1915 - see Parish Magazine for appreciation by John Walker). Their grandmother cleaned the church, then their mother, from 1954, now them. John Turnbull, the beadle, is their cousin. They had heard that John Walker had said that he and their grandfather had some grand times together. The family gravestone at the back of the church, behind the vestry, is one of the few still to have railings, put up in the 1930's to stop people walking over the grave. At one time there were a lot with railings, but the policy nowadays is to remove them.

Their granny used to work at the manse and milked the cow for Mr Walker. Mr Graham was greatly regarded in the parish. As his gravestone says, it was erected by the parishioners. Mr Hodgson has a pair of carpet bowls, going back to the formation of the club, which belonged to Mr Graham. They have a mother of pearl disc with 'D.G.'. When he died his grandmother got the bowls, which she kept in a bag, hanging from a hook in the ceiling. She wouldn't let anyone use them until at last their uncle persuaded her. But he found they were no good. They'd hung too much and had lost their correct weight - as Mr Hodgson has confirmed. Made from lignum vitae.

The historical notes on the church were made by John Grimson, and have recently been re-issued.

Mr Hodgson was christened by Mr Walker, the Sunday before he left (There were actually 3 christenings on the same day - 29/8/26 - Peggy White, daughter David and Janet Turnbull; Allan H. - son of William and Georgina Turnbull; Margaret Lockhart, daughter of Edward and Leah Jane Cork, Fauldingcleugh).

He remembers Mr Fyffe as an awful nice wee man, died in 1938 (Do not print). He was a nice man and a good minister. He had a lovely garden. Some of the daffodils he planted are still there. He didn't farm the glebe, as Walker had done - but used to go around, on occasion, in clogs. In these days there was an outer and inner glebe. The church still has the outer glebe (between Notwen and Dunskeillyrig). It was 16 acres, but has been reduced.

Eric Duncan next. Jim Irving said he used to play tennis with his lasses. Very clever, nice, easy to get on with. Still had Bible Class (as had McKenzie). He is possibly still alive. He gave up the ministry to teach or lecture. Had a young family. (Now living in Stirling.)

Mr McKenzie was a plumber by trade. Nice, more 'ordinary', clever, approachable, no airs/graces. Rode a bike (Duncan hadn't a car either). From Papa Westray, to Fauldhouse, Aberdeen. Now lives in Edinburgh, has daughter in Wetheral. Left 1954.

Next was Mr Cartwright, who cut down the choir railings

(Editor's note: See also page 10 of the original (Don't quote!). English. Cut down choir railings, which caused a huge row. The Kirk Session all denied knowledge of the matter. The cutting down of the

railings effectively finished the choir, for Miss Wyllie and Miss Graham wouldn't sit there. (I think Miss Hodgson said some of the younger ones continued for a time, but the choir broke up). It wasn't a big choir, so a few leaving it would destroy it.

Still a Bible Class, and Cartwright tried to set up a youth organisation, the Boys Brigade, which didn't last long. There was a story about Cartwright coming across a book in Edinburgh which had a lot of Kirkpatrick Fleming church history in it. He said that the book said the Kirkpatrick Fleming pulpit had once been at 2 levels, the upper level being used for the sermon. This is supposed to be a very unusual feature which was occasionally found in Scotland. (I have found no sign of this in the Heritors' Records, where they talk about 'the pulpit' - singular - but that doesn't contradict the story). Mr Cartwright went to Orkney, died almost at once.

Mr Grimson has just retired - see December Life and Work. From about 1962 to 1966 or so. By now no choir, no Bible Class. In 1962 Alan Hodgson became an elder.

Dr Horsburgh, possibly the best preacher of them all, died on 5/11/1967 after only 5 months, of a brain hemorrhage. He'd been for 10 years in South Queensferry, 15 years in Oban, and said he hoped to stay 15 years in Kirkpatrick Fleming. Very clever, hard working. He had 2 gowns, his blue PhD gown being his 'happy gown' for weddings, harvest thanksgiving.

After a long vacancy, James Gregory, a Londoner, now in Blantyre, here 9 years. He loved hill walking, which always somehow came into his sermons.

Black came on a 'terminable appointment', and ran into difficulties over his strict interpretation of rules for baptisms and so on. There was only one baptism in his 18 months. Very religious, could preach, and some sympathised with his stand. Nonetheless, difficult to co-operate with because he wanted his own way. Wouldn't come to Sunday School (before church) - said he needed the time to prepare himself for church service - but still insisted he was in charge of it. But many said you couldn't get a nicer man to come into your house.

By now financial considerations helped to promote the Union, so that Kirkpatrick Fleming and Gretna are a Union and services are held once a month. There is still a Sunday School - around 21 children (compared with 90 about 40 years ago). It is run by Miss Hodgson her two sisters and Moira Cowan (Holley). Her sisters

became teachers during the post McKenzie vacancy, Mr Cartwright asked Miss Hodgson.

They think there are still some old cash books and the like in the church.

They think Mr McKenzie used to put out a church letter.

The organist before Mrs Collinge was David Johnstone, who went to Hoddam.

One ambitious scheme, which failed, was Mr Cartwright's Easter services in 1960. A little coloured/illustrated sheet was printed, and there were services every night. Not well attended. They have copies of the service sheet.

Miss Hodgson is still church treasurer. Last week's joint communion brought £300, but the union has hit attendance. Only about 9 or 10 are willing to travel to Gretna. They prefer their own church.

Without question John Graham was the most active elder in their day. Also Jim Irving and Tom Beattie. Jim Irving, Shawrig, treasurer, choir, was very knowledgeable in church law. Tom Beattie could be hard to deal with, but paid a lot of attention. When something needed done their mother would get these three, often, to sort it out without needing complicated procedures.

The bell from the belfry was dislodged by the earthquake. It seems to say 1735, which doesn't fit too well with the usually given dates. Last week a metal ventilator was blown off. The church is unusual in having an outside staircase to the lofts - Springkell, Mossknow, Kirkpatrick. Springkell loft still has some of the traditional matting. Hamish Rae is still a member, but Springkell and Mossknow never come. It is fairly big - seats about 500 - but is only full for big funerals.

They wondered where Alex Monilawes was buried. Said to be in the churchyard - perhaps the big stone, marble, now illegible against road wall.

John Graham from Waterbeck/Langholm way, Lourie's Close - married here, worked at Hillhead, East Scales. See below (carpet bowling).

Sport and Entertainment

Carpet Bowling. Mr Hodgson was secretary/treasurer of the club for 26 years, till about 1983. Now George Richardson. Before that, John Graham for 10 years (the elder and session clerk). Allan Hodgson is still president. The minute book he had went back to the 1950's and he knows of no minutes before that. The club had stopped for the war, was restarted about 1946, and at its peak, 1948-60, had 105 members. Now, with T.V. and other distractions, it is down to the 20's. Allan Hodgson has won the cup 13 times, more than anyone else. In one year, 1953 or 1954, he won all 3 championships - singles, doubles, rinks. He took ill 3 years or so ago and has not been able to practise since, but he still won the singles a year or two back. The nearest rival in titles won is Sandy Proctor, East Scales. Other good bowlers were John Graham, Jim Johnstone (Raeburnhead), Willie John White (Irvington) (Johnny White at Eastriggs is from that family).

Bowling Green. At the hall there is a photo of the opening of the green in 1905 - see Katie Anderson, caretaker. The green was behind John Johnston, the clogger (over the hedge from garden - at cottage on road fork for new houses). They suspect it stopped in World War 1.

A house in Hollee has recently been up for sale called 'Bowling Green Cottage'. No-one can understand how it got the name.

The quarry was working when the green was made, and Lamb had something to do with it.

Quoits. Like carpet bowling started up after the war - about 1946/47, with quite a lot of members. It stopped in 1952 as a result of the death of James Connell, Newton, the chairman (although not a player), who gave the pitch. It is now the yard/car park behind London House Cafe. His widow sold the pitch, thinking they had stopped using it - didn't realise it was a summer game. She offered another site, but it wasn't suitable. Allan Hodgson had got blue clay by tractor for the pitch.

Tennis. They showed me the tennis court behind their house. It finished at start of World War 2, and is back in field. The pavilion was taken down. Only one court, they think.

Football. In Mr Hodgson's day there was a team, Kirkpatrick Thistle, for whom he was goalkeeper. Green jerseys, white pants. No outstanding players. Now there is 'Station Inn'.

Whist Drives. A lot of once. Still WRI once a year. They tried one for the church 2 years ago. They are not card players. Their mother called cards the 'Devils Bible'. They did play dominoes and darts. And they used to help make fireside rugs in the evenings (although I don't think this should come under 'entertainment').

#### Economic

Their grandfather was at one time foreman at Corsehill Quarry. They have a photo of the workmen, father (W.H.) and mates building house at Merkland, the only one left now (Taff Rae, Eaglesfield, identified sitting in front). Another photo of Corsehill Quarry men shows their grandfather with a watch chain.

The name they associated with Cove Quarry cottage was Thomson. Their mother was born at Jolly Buildings, which they had a photo of, with - presumably - all those who lived there - including their grandfather, George Turnbull. There was a big pend/entry as if for carts. Built into Jolly Buildings was a stone with a man's head, now in possession of Mrs Robertson, 9 Nelson Place.

Woods. The British Honduras camp was below the church, left side of the road. They cut wood mainly Ecclefechan way, left perhaps 1945/46. Then German prisoners for a short time till it was taken down and went back to field. (One below cemetery.)

The forest/wood opposite Toppinghead (on the west) was cut by Niven.

The Italian camp was in Hollee - see Lochanview, which was at the entrance.

Two houses have been built where the Hondurans were - Kirtle Holme, occupied by Jim Irving of Shawrigg (previously Hamish Rae?) and Dalefield.

The Italian camp became a squatters camp - people just moved in. Demolished in 1950's.

Station Inn - Moffats had it for one year, sold it to an Aberdeenshire man. Now Hamish Rae's daughter, whom see for history. Under state management during the war.

Toppinghead was about the last to get electricity in the 1950's. The village had it long before, and Newton farm certainly had it in 1941, when Allan Hodgson went there.

The woods at Hollee were cut and replanted. At one time they belonged to Mossknow. Cove Quarry wood was cut during the war, while Allan Hodgson was at Newton (i.e. not before 1941). There used to be big beech woods, both sides of the road, on the Mossknow estates. The one on the left cut in 1930's - they used to load it on to the trains on horse wagons. The other was cut for the dual carriageway - then beech and oak (since replanted with conifers).

The last station master was George Johnston. Kirtlebridge was more important, and latterly Kirkpatrick Fleming usually only had a porter and signalman. George Johnston would be the last to live in the house. Now in Carlisle. He was injured while at Kirkpatrick Fleming unloading a wagon - by a crane? - and left lame.

Haulage. Henry Graham started as one of the Davidson's workmen and then set up as a rival. His horse was 'Beauty' and Davidson's 'Sampson'. Henry Graham came from Langholm. John Davidson's son, Clarence, now lives in Gretna. During the war you had to register with one merchant, their's was Graham, but C. Davidson used to deliver next door and would offer a bag 'for old time's sake' - perhaps hoping to poach custom (better not print that).

Toppinghead now consists of 3 cottages, but theirs (nearest village) and the middle one have been combined, the third turned into a garage/store, all belong to Hodgsone. There used to be another, at the village end. They are all old, but the middle one was older than the others, as can be seen from the raised roof. It is estimated to be about 250 years old. They all belonged to the Kirkpatrick Estate.

Railway closed early 1960's.

Farms

Allan Hodgson worked at Newton 11/40 - 1953, for James Connell, a good man to work for. Newton was then 256 acres. Raeburnhead (which included Raeburn) was probably the biggest farm. He worked there too, at one time, and later in the railway.

Gentry

- See remarks under church, economy (Mossknow, Kirkpatrick).

Miscellaneous See Mrs Gordon, 4 Burnholm Road for William Anderson, the gardener.

See C.? Johnstone, last house in Irvington, whose husband had Wayside Garage, caretaker, for Hall Committee.

See Mrs Weal and Agnes Anderson (Irvington, on Kirtle Road) for that part of the parish. Old inhabitants, their father was in Nouthill and then a railwayman, have lived in Irvington since 1940's. Weal's (C.J. sister) are natives - Birkshawhead.

Home Guard - wartime - photo with names given to me. Affiliated to KOSB, own badge in Balmorals - 22nd platoon, E company, 3rd Dumfriesshire battalion. The first cycle platoon in Britain. Allan Hodgson joined aged 16 - they wanted him to join the ATC, but that meant going to Annan, so they let him join and he got his uniform when he was old enough (But surely Mr Doull organised an ATC, or so I thought I had been told. Check!).

Sergeant Major was Jimmy Bryant (Victoria Terrace), Captain Broodis (Carlisle). Photo in school playground - shows shelter in background.

Jim Rogerson (Williamfield), Arthur Thomas (now Edinburgh), George Turnbull (cousin), Tom Rae (Half-Morton), Harry Davidson (Hayfield), James Harkness (Stoneylee? - now Whiterashes, Cummertrees), William Turnbull (cousin), Jack Burnett (Nouthill, to Broadlands), the Rigg blacksmith, Jardine Moffat.

Row 2 - Archie Johnston (Annanlea), Clem King (V.T.), Allan Hodgson, Johnny Little (Nouthill Cottages), Robbie Thomson (Half Morton), John Watson (now Hayfield Cottage), George Richardson (Dad - Raeburnhead Cottage), Jimmy Bell (Calvertsholm), George Richardson (son of above), John Mackie (Calvertsholm).

Row 3 - George Clark (Holley), John Turnbull (cousin, now Meadowview), Sergeant Kirkwood (Station Inn - then to Blue Bell, Annan, dead), Sergeant Major Bryant (dead), James Duff (dead, Grahamhill Square, then Redhall), Henry Johnston (Howgillside), Sandy Hogg (Newton), Sandy Proctor.

I have one note I can't remember about. It seems to associate Moffat's shop with Jolly Buildings, and a great granny Currie. Were we looking at 2 photos at the one time?

# HODGS 4

Follow Up Visit

19 December 1986

School Only the incidental mention that Miss Douglas was a really good teacher.

School outings - at one time 6/7 busses, to Blackpool, Whitley Bay and elsewhere - probably replaced Sunday School outing.

Edith Hodgson won the Dr. Carruthers medal - doesn't claim to be clever, went to Lockerbie Academy, took Commercial Course. Worked lawyers office Carlisle till stopped to nurse mother. Bill (brother) also won medal but Allan was third to Dorothy Irving (Shawrig), who - like her sister Catherine - went to University.

Edith Hodgson remembers the children's outing to Silloth one year. The Minister usually went but that year he couldn't because Mrs. Noon's son died.

In Doull's day there were great school concerts. Also A.T.C. Their brother, Bill, who left about 1950, remembered it.

Church Mr. McKenzie had occasional news sheets.

Their great granny worked for Mr. Graham (see before) - Jenny Currie. Communion materials were kept in Manse until Mr. Cartwright said it was the wrong place and sent them to the Church. The form of communion has always been a communal cup for the elders, but individual glasses for the congregation. The bread is given in triangles at the pew end, each person breaks a piece off. Usually ruby port, occasionally vino sacro. They wonder if the union will lead to a standardisation.

Miss Hodgson knows that Mr. Haston took some books to the Manse, and some are still in the Church.

The Guild ended about the time of the union, but perhaps not because of it. New regulations forbade their getting a schoolroom, so they met in each other's houses. Then the Church used a room at the Manse as a Session room. The stalwarts were Misses Bess and Janet Graham, Under Newton. Bess ran the Sunday School when Edith Hodgson was a child (1940's, early 50's). The sisters were both very involved in local affairs, and last year a new alms dish was got in their memory.

Another leading light was Hannah Wylie (Miss), who was the Guild Treasurer and also in the W.R.I. She came from Half Morton, lived with her mother at Ashbank, worked in Carlisle for Osborne (Seed Merchants), died about five years ago.

These and the Mackie sisters were great church organisers. There were, for example, sales of work every year until recently. Mr. Gregory and Mr. Black disapproved, said Churches shouldn't require to raise money that way.

The Church was also the focus of local Drama. Jim Irving, for example, organised sketches (and plays?). (see later - farming)

Mark Simpson - Elder - see economic.

Leslie, Communion tables, - see economic.

Graveyard and manse on sandstone - economic.

See also Addenda for list of Ministers and dates.

#### Economic

Notwen. They claimed to have little knowledge of the Poor House, but then said quite a lot. They mentioned that the name is 'Newton' backwards. Tramps used to use it. It had a big garden, where they grew their own vegetables, and sold some. In winter they bought railway sleepers which were chopped into kindling wood, and taken down to the village in two-wheeled barrows. It was said that the poor were rather hardly dealt with. The poor were buried - without headstones - in a large plot at the bottom of the cemetery, and in a bit near the gate in the new one. They weren't in uniform but were dressed in similar style - grey tweed trousers, grey jacket - typical working men's clothes. Some were sent out to work (i.e. sell wood) who didn't really look fit to be out. They thought it closed as a Poor House about 1950. Leslie had the reputation of being very hard towards those who wanted parish relief.

They mentioned a Mrs. Rutherford who quite recently organised a Barbeque at Notwen on behalf of the Church. She taught at Chapelknowe, Mount Pleasant and Breconbeds.

The biggest businesses now, they thought, would be T.K. Kirkpatrick (agricultural building), Halliday (haulage), Davie Johnton (about 5 lorries), Jock Simpson (at old Smithy), Agripoint (ag. machinery) and Grahams (coal, and also the livestock business). Previously, White (builders), who recently paid off a number of men.

Several of these are comparatively new. At one time there were no Kirkpatrick Fleming builders. Rae (Eaglesfield) did most of the local work, although White was also in Eaglesfield. He came to Kirkpatrick Fleming about 30 years ago. Halliday was maybe a bit earlier. Davie Johnston had the Wayside Garage.

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Mark Simpson, the last Blacksmith (beside school) was a Church Elder, and retired in the 1960's. He was a good man with horses, but latterly farm gates were the main thing. He made the gates into the Church. His wife kept the post office - a room in the house, which had a double door to enter.

G. & T. Moffats is an old business. Johnston made clogs until very recently - and also repaired shoes. Allan Hodgson and his mother both got clogs there, and the last owner, Bill Johnston, is still in the village - Edengrove, second house right by what used to be Nelson's Buildings on road to Wicket-thorn. The shop was open in the 1970's. Bill is the son of John, not Doodley Johnston. Doodley had a triangle rented from the railway at the A74 side of Toppinghead 'Doodle's Cabin' was referred to as a location after it had gone. But he lived at the Newton end of village.

The 'Station Inn' is still the more popular inn, but not busy.

There used to be a barber - Davie Dunnigan and his wife had a shop in Victoria Terrace. So had 'auld Kate Johnston'.

His father, who worked at the Quarry, said that Lamb was a bit strict and one of the workmen, Henderson, a bit slow. On one occasion Lamb said 'Henderson, I've an old clocker at home that could scratch more out than you'. Reply 'Div ye really, Mr. Lamb. Ah'slike to see a set o' its eggs. I do like to see an industrious hen'. On another occasion Henderson had made a mess of something, and Lamb said it was so bad he wouldn't even offer it to a pig, to which Henderson replied, 'Who's the pig, you or me?'

In his garage he has a name plate with Coulthard on it, the blacksmith before Simpson. The joiner at Mossknow used to make carts, and Coulthard would hoop the wheels. The last Mossknow joiner was Johnny Johnston, who served his time with Leslie. Leslie is said to have made the communion table and chairs after World War I from an oak tree at Mossknow.

They explained the transfer of the war memorial. For electrification the bridge had to be raised. The railway said that the blasting might damage the memorial, and they would shift it free - otherwise they'd not accept any responsibility for any damage.

In the '47 snowstorm the railway was open but the roads were closed. Jim Connell organised food distribution via a tractor. The tractor was loaded with bread at the station. To get to Dunskeillyrig for milk they couldn't go by road (drifted up) but they could drive through the fields to a point where it met Dunskeillyrig loaning. They then drove round the houses to deliver.

There was an old quarry at Kirkpatrick House (which I had walked past earlier when Hamish Rae was showing me round). Sandstone runs to Toppinghead - see signs where it 'surfaces' in the railway cutting, on Manse Road. The Manse is built on rock and there is a lot of gravel under the Church, probably with sandstone under. Boiler burst in the boilerhouse but it drained amazingly quickly. There's a lot of water in the new cemetery, perhaps because they are cutting across old field drainage patterns.

He mentioned - with doubt - a limestone quarry at Caldronlea.

He recalled his father getting oatmeal from Beltenmont Mill, and carts taking corn to get meal made by Mr. Fraser.

Gravel pits? - Yes, one at Nouthill

Other economic material - see farming (e.g. lime supplies).

Other socio/economic material - see miscellaneous.

#### Farms & Farming

Newton. 3 houses have been demolished. One beside Wayside Garage (up field, wee wood beside it, field called 'Tom Gass's', so he probably lived there. Another was called Newton Mag, (first house up Dunskeilly Road, by a well - founds as turn to Dunskeillyrig). The fields were sold last year, Graham Rae has field from house to railway.

He'd never heard of Higgs village. In Newton Hags field (I think), there was a big garden, a pear and a damson tree, both now gone. At Newton Hagg lived Bella Temple, or Noon - who had a shop (Greenfield) where caravan site is.

Jim Irving of Shawrigg - great singer, jovial wee fellow, involved in Drama and Church activities, but not really interested in farming - although he claimed to be. Not really his thing. His two daughters (no son) share a house, divided in two, in Suffolk - Catherine Irving, Oaklands, Fressingfield, Eye, Suffolk (037-986-264). She lived at Kirtleholmehill. She retired about two years ago. Dorothy is married. Jim smoked a lot of cigarettes. Not so prosperous as same.

In modern times Colin Davidson of Hillhead is the main prize-winning farmer, with Holsteins (as a notice outside the farm advertises). Burnett (Nouthill and Cranberry) used to win prizes for horses and cattle. Craig Connell, who used to show, emigrated to Canada but often comes to Scotland and has become quite prominent. On a recent television interview he said he might return to Scotland.

Another very successful farmer is Jim Johnstone of Raeburnhead, who 'studies the weather' and has an unrivalled knowledge, locally, of sheep. He used to live in the middle of the three Toppinghead cottages and (I think) earlier was in 'Bottom Toppinghead', or Clarence Cottage - a little further from the village.

Jim Connell (Newton) was president of the local N.F.U. died - in Ireland - young. His wife still lives nearby. It was Craig Connell (Jim Connell's youngest son) who introduced embryo transplants for cattle, locally - an idea which Allan Hodgson seemed to disapprove of as unnatural. Newton had the first tractor he could recall - a Fordson -, and Jim Johnstone in the same year (1935). A lot didn't approve. Burnett of Nouthill - horsey people - told Connell it was a waste of time; but soon they had one too.

Jim Farish had Newton and their uncle, Jim Turnbull, worked for him. They were followed by Selby Griffin (some of whose family are buried locally, bottom cemetery, white marble stone). Jim Connell bought the farm while Allan Hodgson was working there. (Probably 1940's). Previously he tenanted it. Jim Farish's sister married Bob Davidson in Wicket-thorn, who later took the tenancy of Kirkpatrick House.

John ? Notman was by far the most important milkman - with only a little competition from Little and Armstrong. At first he had a horse and cart, with milk churns with taps. You took out your container. The horse, 'Daisy' would wait so long outside each house, then move on if as was his wont - he stopped too long to blether. He had to give up when pasteurisation recently became compulsory - he not having facilities.

Lime. Waterbeck area had lime. But they got their lime from Cumbria - a sort of pinky coloured magnesium lime, from a place with a name that sounded like 'Bothwell'. Bothell?

The quarry on the road to Newcastleton was also mentioned.

Features. No-one in Kirkpatrick Fleming has grown oil-seed rape. Raeburnhead still grows corn - some for race horse people who want oats/hay.

A lot of old farms had dovecots - Newton's for example, is still there. Newton also had a horsemill, which was taken down, on the excuse that it was badly in need of repair (it being a listed building). Newton had huge beams, holes 18 inches square which the cog wheels fitted into. It was turned into a calf shed in Allan Hodgson's time there. (I think I've got this mixed up). Newton had a lovely ploughing harness set. The ploughman, of course, was the highest paid farm worker. He was expected also to build stacks in the stackyard. Each had two ploughmen. Next in the pay scale came the orra men, as they were called - the 'odd' men.

Some farms specialised, others didn't. Newton, Hillhead and Redhouse were dairy farms, but never Raeburnhead, Southwoodhead nor Fauldingcleuch. Nouthill and Cranberry had dairies. He recalls the horses bringing the milk to the station.

The cow fields were kept in permanent pasture, and limed, and dunged in the winter. If they got weedy they would have to re-seed them. During the war the demand was for more grain and potatoes, so that the fields were ploughed which some old people had never seen ploughed before - for example one across the road (from Toppinghead ?). (My note says Davidson only let the fields as grass parks - Davidson, I presume being the tenant of Kirkpatrick House). Jack Notman grew the grain in the fields in World War 2.

There were no Kirkpatrick Fleming seed/potato merchants. At Newton a lot of potatoes were grown from certified seed, and they were inspected and rogued twice a year. They dealt with McAllister (Dumfries).

(A note about field opposite, all in potatoes, 1950's - the same field?)

Silage. Newton had none. He only ever saw it at Newhope, where old Jimmy Dunlop made it in a sort of tower thing, with treacle in it.

There was usually a seven year rotation. Turnips had to be seven years apart for fear of finger and toe disease. Roughly it would be corn (with lambs maybe grazing on the stubble), then turnips or potatoes, then plough again and crop with corn and grass seed, and then several years in grass. Along with grass seed red clover was sown, and lambs would be bought at the back end of the year to feed on the clover fogue(?).

Sport and Entertainment      The Mossknowe Flower Show had stopped before Allan Hodgson's time, but their father used to talk about it as quite a good day. The Eaglesfield show had also stopped.

Sports days. There used to be one held on a Saturday where the playing field is now. Then it went to Newton Farm. It had slow cycling races and so on. This lasted till around the 1950's.

There was also the annual children's trip, which replaced the Sunday School outing (G.V.)

He had no recollection of the orchestra.

Willie Wilson was long Hall secretary and organised a lot of events. He lives (?) in Kirkpatrick Fleming. Before that the schoolmasters were often the Hall secretary.

The Victory Band had Davie Johnston as drummer, and Mrs Collinge on piano and her brother John Notman on fiddle. They played at all the dances. One of the big occasions was the Auld Year's Night Dance.

Jim Johnstone used to get bands from a distance, sometimes broadcasting bands, such as Jimmy Shand and John Johnston's - and Wally Bryden's, a local band as well as Max Houlston's. There was dancing of all types. Recent bands and activities were also mentioned

- one from Wick (a broadcasting band) and so on. Ceildhs were mentioned too, although nowadays it tends to be disco music. Bands are dear, but there were bands for the recent gala.

Until last year Kirkpatrick Fleming was the only local place of any size without a gala.

There was no pigeon racing tradition in the parish. David Warwick in Hillhead Cottage keeps them - but this is recent. So are greyhounds.

Ploughing Matches. He recalled a horse ploughing match at Hillhead.

#### Miscellaneous

Crime - Mossknow wanted the 'murther' gravestone taken down - perhaps in the Colonel's time, certainly a good while ago.

Also William Farries farmer in Waugheslee their son who was shot returning from Langholm Fair upon the highway by William Armstrong tenant there on the 21st November 1821 aged 52 years.

Another murder concerned a man shot (my notes say Gilnockie to Langholm - but that wouldn't go by Kirkpatrick Fleming). (Same as above ?)

Accidents. One of the biggest and saddest local events, since I started collecting material, was the death of Pamela Collinge, in ~~the~~ car crash on her way home from work. The Church was packed for the funeral. Three young lads were once killed at Toppinghead (I have a note, which I've forgotten the meaning of - Pamela's uncle, then (a separate item?) Harry Graham, livestock. Harry was one of the three killed.)

Their brother Bill remembers an army wagon going through the bridge at Toppinghead. A convoy from Annan was going to the Chapelknowe road, met a Camp Coffee lorry, which tried to avoid the convoy and tipped on its side. an army lorry ended up hanging over the bridge. Express trains had to be stopped.

Billy Niven's father, who worked at ICI still lives at Hollee. Not a churchgoer, but his son became a minister. (he might help with information, depending on his mood.)

Listed Buildings. If Toppinghead is a listed building, they've never been told - but regulations, such as retaining a stone pillar in the windows) were imposed when they were making alterations. The middle house

had been rough-casted (before their time). It shouldn't have been.

Beltenmont Cottage, which was listed was taken down recently.

(I have a note about 'Harold's field'. This is a field at Toppinghead where Davidson (coal merchant) kept a horse in summer. 'Windhoek' is now built there.)

Politics. There used to be a Unionist branch, of which John Graham may have been the leading light but there has been very little political activity. This is the only local area without a community council. Such is the apathy that only one candidate - Grieve - held a local meeting at the last local elections. Only 8 turned up. He lost.

Edith Hodgson had a slight memory of the rents row, and means test controversy. She thought Tom Beattie had given great offence by suggesting that council house tenants' children should be classed as lodgers.

Hamish Rae - who previously lost to Grieve - would no doubt win the Kirkpatrick Fleming vote, but lose elsewhere. He was a helpful councillor.

Gentry They had a brother who worked in the Mossknow gardens as a boy - there being also 2 boys. The gardener then was Coulthard, a Cumbrian.

See elsewhere for: Mossknow Flower Show  
Hamish Rae (misc.)

Addenda In preparation for my second visit, they had noted down the material below:-

David Graham

John Walker	1906 - 1926
William Wilson Fyffe	1927 - 1938
Eric Marr Duncan	1938 - 1944
Alex. Henderson McKenzie	3/1945 - 8/1954
Harry Cartwright	2/1956 - 3/1962
John Alex. Grimson	12/1962 - 1966
Dr William Horsburgh	6/1967 - 11/1967
James Charles Gregory	2/1969 - 1/1979
William Black	1/1980 - 9/1981

Kirkpatrick Fleming ATC, 1943 - 1950, 1152 Squadron, 1st Dumfriesshire Squadron.

W.J. Doull, Flight Lieutenant; Lightbody - Wing Commander (c/o Dumfriesshire); Sergeant W. Hodgson; Corporal J. Currie. About 15 attended, met weekly at

school, to Chapelcross for training and weekend parades, Heathhall for flying. Flew in De Haviland Dominie bi-planes.

Went to 303 Rifle Range at Chapelcross and 22 Range in a basement at Annan.