



Society News

The Society's new website is now up and running at www.eafs.org.uk

Membership Subscriptions

As everyone is aware, 2020 has been a difficult year due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Society has had to cancel all of our monthly lectures and outings since April and while we are able to carry out a limited excavation at Cammo Estate we appreciate that this is not suitable or convenient for all members. Accordingly, the Committee has decided that all those whose annual subscriptions could not be renewed for 2020 will be retained in full membership until Spring 2021 for renewal if desired. However, payment can now be made by Bank Transfer. Details from the Secretary if required.

Reminder for polo and sweatshirt orders

Val Dean still taking orders for EAFS polo shirts and sweatshirts with the EAFS logo on the front. She is still a few short of the minimum number in order to get the best price. The polo shirts are 100% cotton and would be in Royal Blue. The sweatshirts are 80% cotton and 20% polyester and in Navy Blue. Sizes (to fit chest): S 35/37, M 38/40, L 41/43, XL 44/46, XXL 47/49. Last year's prices were £17 and £25 respectively but that may be slightly different this year. If you would like to make a provisional order, please contact val@valdean.plus.com as soon as possible.

Chairman's Report Autumn 2020

I can repeat all the commonplace phrases about how unprecedented this phase of our lives is but we have all heard them time and time again.

At the end of March, we closed the areas of EAFS activity that required members to meet each other. This was a difficult but necessary thing to do. Our excavation at Cammo was put to bed and our lectures were cancelled.

Planning for the 50th Anniversary

We resumed our Committee meetings in June but on zoom. This was an interesting way to do things with a range of technology expertise or most obvious – lack of expertise to overcome. It was especially important to keep the discussion going as it will be our 50th Anniversary next spring and we hope to be able to celebrate it with you all, and in style.

We are planning an exhibition in the Museum of Edinburgh and work has been done to plan objects and words to show the breadth and depth of EAFS member's interest and expertise in and involvement with the Archaeology of Scotland.

We have some hope for a Civic Reception. We have had warm words of support from Frank Ross the Lord Provost, but it all depends on the state of the pandemic, just what will be possible.

Plans for the 2020 AGM.

Our AGM may need to be held on-line and our Treasurer, Norma Johnstone is attending an on-line seminar with the Charities Regulator to find out about this. We will keep you informed.

One way to restart our lecture programme would be on-line or to find another venue where social distancing is easier than in the Video and Ciné Club. Currently this would be against the current Government Covid guidelines but we are hopeful they may become less restrictive again if the R number improves.

Cammo: The story continues

An Early Owner of Cammo

Ann Kerrigan has been hard at work on investigating the background to the families that had owned Cammo. Through her work on tax records some of the servants begin to emerge as people we can name and allocate jobs to. This is great information to have, as it is the buildings that they would have worked in and lived in that we are having such a great time discovering.

Ann begins with James Wilkie, whose father, William, had bought the estate of Cammo, married Catherine Young of Leny and had several children but none survived as the estate was inherited by Rachel Wilkie who was born on 26 February 1652 several months after her father James Wilkie had died in 1651. Nothing is known of her early life.

The banns are posted in Cramond on 1st March 1679 for the marriage of Mr John Menzies in the parish of Coulter, Lanarkshire and Rachel Wilkie in this parish and the ceremony was carried out in Edinburgh on 13 March 1679. John is designed as advocate. They had several children Catherine 1680, Jean 1681, Agnes 1682, Mary 1683, Rachal 1685, Alexander 1686, John 1687, and James 1688. All were born in Parish of Edinburgh apart from James who was born in Cramond.

There is a report dated 3 March 1684 that "At the criminal court, Mr John Meinzie, brother of the Laird of Coulterallers and sundry others are forfeited in absence, on probation led that they were at Bothwell -bridge, though Menzies fell but accidentally among them"

The battle of Bothwell Bridge 22 June 1679 was the last of a series of battles between the Covenanters and government troops led by the Duke of Monmouth and James Graham, Viscount Dundee. Although the Covenanters had a superior number of troops, they were defeated mainly due to the lack of leadership and discipline. Approximately 400 were killed and 1200 were taken prisoner. The latter were marched to Edinburgh and imprisoned in a field beside Greyfriars Churchyard awaiting transportation to the colonies.

Why was John Meinzie at Bothwell Bridge? The parish of Coulter is in Lanarkshire, just south of Biggar so Bothwell Bridge is not on a direct route to Edinburgh.

On 20 November 1689 Mr John Menzies, advocate was made a Burgess and Guild Brother by right of his wife Rachel Wilkie, daughter of James Wilkie, merchant, Burgess and Guild Brother.

Rachal Wilkie died the following year and was interred in Greyfriars Cemetery on 19 February 1690, aged 38. Presumably that is when John Menzies acquired Cammo after the death of his wife.

On Saturday, 28 November 1691 the banns of John Meinzie, advocate and Janet Bruce are posted in Cramond and the wedding takes place in Edinburgh on 5 December 1691. He is designed as advocate and Jannet Bruce as daughter of William Bruce. There do not seem to be any children.

As a major landowner and therefore a heritor in the Parish of Cramond John Menzies took an active role in all its affairs including upkeep of the church, poor relief, discipline, and education.

Minutes of the Kirk Session, the church court, provide detailed information regarding the conduct of parishioners who infringed the rules and regulations of the Church of Scotland and describe the punishments handed out.

Sinners of Cramond by Alison Hanham provides details of events in the parish that involved John Menzies in his capacity as an elder.

On 27 August 1690, a baby was delivered to a lady from Edinburgh in the Young family home on Cramond Island. The local midwife had attended the birth. When the minister became aware of the event, he and the kirk treasurer visited the lady and she admitted that she had given birth. John Menzies, laird of Cammo, who was an advocate in Edinburgh and the local JP having obtained a warrant set off on 11 September 1690 together with a servant, the kirk treasurer, assistant treasurer and two sheriff 's officers to arrest the lady. Arthur Forbes who had brought the lady to the island gave a bond of caution for £400 Scots to produce the lady in front of the Kirk Session on 9 October. Shortly after they disappeared and despite attempts to trace them, they were not found.

In 1692 John Menzies as the kirk treasurer is involved in trying to secure a fine imposed on a young woman but is unable to do so as she had left the parish. Another parishioner was involved in a disorderly marriage and John Menzies as JP was asked to expel him from the parish. Around this time the laird of Cammo along with other heritors in the parish were not paying their dues to the Kirk Session for repairs to the church etc.

John Menzies had a fine new house built at Cammo in 1693 by architect, Robert Mylne.

Robert Mylne, born into a family of masons and builders, inherited the title of Master Mason to the crown from his grandfather and his uncle to whom he had been apprenticed. He carried out work on Edinburgh Castle and worked with Sir William Bruce on Holyrood Palace for Charles II. He was involved in the construction of the new water supply to Edinburgh. Robert also acquired land and built tenements and courts, including Milnes Court now student accommodation. He is buried in Greyfriars churchyard.

In 1694 the land acquired from the Cammo Estate by Sir Patrick Hamilton in 1620 was sold to Alexander Howison of Braehead and John Menzies of Cammo.

In the same year Poll Tax was collected from landowners and the lands of Cammo yielded Lib12.14.0 in total. 15 named people were levied.

After many years of war and religious intolerance Scotland was in a difficult economic situation due to English legislation affecting trade and the continuing crop failures. The Company of Scotland was set up in 1695 by Act of Parliament to improve foreign trade. Establishment of a colony to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans at Darien was proposed by William Paterson and was subsequently adopted. Subscriptions began on 26 February 1696 in Edinburgh and on 17 March 1696 John Menzies, advocate, invested £200 in the Darien Scheme. Approximately 20% of Scotland's wealth was invested. Several ships left Leith and New Edinburgh was constructed on the Darien Peninsula but poor planning, lack of food and the climate led to many deaths. England did nothing to assist the settlers as they did not want war with Spain. In consequence of these factors and despite a second expedition in 1699 the settlement was finally abandoned in 1700. This disaster is reputed to be responsible for the Act of Union in 1707.

John's second wife Janet Bruce dies and is interred in Greyfriars Churchyard on 7 May 1697.

John Menzies had perhaps financially overextended and acquired a smaller mansion called Whitehouse (now occupied by JK Rowling} in parish of Cramond in 1699 and eventually sold Cammo to John Clerk of Penicuik in 1710. In 1714 John Menzies was declared bankrupt and at that time he owed £100 to the parish funds.

2. Cammo: The excavations continue.

July 2020

On Friday 03 July, a small group went to tidy up the site, remove recent "structures" and renew the hazard notices and tape. Unfortunately, one part of the structure had been used as a fireplace resulting in heat damage to part of one stone slab. We also took the opportunity to continue clearing the west room corners revealing some pottery, window glass and nails. The Piggery was so extensively covered by weed and sapling growth, almost to roof height that it was provisionally agreed to defer further work until this died down in Autumn.



Having finished the clearance of the 'Cammo Cottages' site, the process of recording it in detail began. A nearby site [called on some current maps 'The Piggery'], was renamed to 'The Steading' as a piggery is only a small part to the South end of the range of buildings. Exploration of the large enclosure at the North end. At first it was thought to have been an open enclosure but the amount of slate that has been uncovered has put paid to that theory.



Some interesting fireclay pieces (marked Lilliehill, Dunfermline) were found. It was thought they could have been for animal feeding troughs but a recent find of one with a slate mortared on it has led to another conclusion. Consulting Mark Cranston, it has been confirmed that they were roof ridges. The evidence so far in the enclosure indicates that metal and possibly woodworking activity had been undertaken in this area. There is evidence on a Bill of Sale from the late Nineteenth Century that the Estate had a 'Wright's Shop and a Tool House'. This seems a distinct possibility.



Work clearing the West room continued, again observing the required social distancing. There was a good assortment of worked stone, brick, nails, ceramic and glass recovered. Main finds were a decorated stoneware jar, possibly for storing butter or salt, a carved bone-handled "tin opener?" and a stone with a round hole carved in it. We also located another possible recess for a bay window at the west end of the South wall. We will probably have another week or so to finish the room off and then the plan is to move on to the North extension of the Piggery near the main path to examine the East doorway which has been cleared by some heavy duty strimming – many thanks for that.



Monday 13 July was a major milestone in the Cammo Project as the Offices were finally cleared, ending a task started in December 2017. The final two corners of the West room were completed, revealing a bay window on the south side and a foundation string course on the north side. Among the last few items recovered were a small metal brooch, another carved bone handle with a section of knife blade, a bone handled fork and a fine-tooth comb. We had three very welcome and helpful visitors in David Kyles and John Lawson from the City of Edinburgh Council and Geoff Bailey of the Falkirk Community Trust. A start was also made in clearing some stones around the north doorways of the enclosure to the north of the Piggery, revealing a cross wall.





On Monday 20 July work restarted in the northern enclosure of the Piggery, clearing more rubble and opening two small trenches, one central and one at the East doorway. We were turning up lots of slate, possibly from a roof or lean-to along with some pottery, stoneware and window glass. We also turned up a lot of sections of fireclay pig trough stamped “Lilliehill Dunfermline” like the one found earlier this year outside the enclosure. The major surprise came late on when we cleared a tree stump to reveal a short section of what looked like gas pipe, most probably acetylene, with a tap on the end. This is intriguing as we did not find any evidence for gas lighting in the Cottages, only some oil lamp parts. Also found was some worked stone including a section with a deep u-shaped channel. Thanks again to Geoff Bailey and to Geraldine and Stewart who came along to help. We also made a start on re-drawing the Cottages to plan the new areas excavated.





Tuesday 28th July saw further progress on the Piggery. First a correction to last week's report. What we initially thought to be a gas pipe was in fact solid metal, although the "tap" on the end did look quite convincing. (apologies for the quality of the photo) Anyhow ground conditions were very good – no flooding so work continued in clearing the floor down to fallen slate level and excavating the NE doorway and an area clearer of large stones in the centre of the enclosure. probably the most interesting was a stone with a possible mason's mark. We did recover some stoneware including part of a handle of a large crock, a teapot lid and window and vessel glass. Further investigation was carried out on the fragments of fireclay animal feeder troughs and we noted at least three trough sections of 64 cm length and 3 makers stamps "Lilliehill Dunfermline" - Lindsay and Anderson whose works operated from 1873 until the 1920's.





However, the be “find of the day” [by Christine and Michael] was the stamped makers disc for a stable safety lamp in trench 3. Details are: The inscription on the disc is possibly “ROWATT’S PATENT SAFETY STABLE LAMP EDINBURGH”. Thomas Rowatt and sons operated from 1862 to mid-1890’s at Lothian Road and at 126 Fountainbridge in Edinburgh, first as an agent for James Young and later as a manufacturer of oil lamps from 1875. He also had an Oil Works at Kilrenny in Fife.



There is a comprehensive history in the Scottish brick’s history website <https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/lilliehill-fire-clay-works-dunfermline-fife/>

We will issue an update on events at Cammo in December

Other Activities and Reports

1. Excavation at Laurieston

An excavation in very wet conditions assisted by Tanja and Ben from Edinburgh University uncovered part of the stone base of the Antonine Wall with kerb stones and clay cheeks. More to follow when Geoff completes his report



2. Metal Detecting at Mumrills

Geoff Bailey also reports that 6 intrepid metal detectorists met on Sunday 07 October braving the elements and refusing to leave until they had found that elusive Roman coin – which only took 3 ½ hours! Buoyed up by its discovery we stayed another hour – just long enough to get thoroughly soaked and frozen.

The coin is a copper alloy one, probably of Trajan, put rather worn. We also got a lead spindle whorl, a bag seal and a thin strip of pewter/silver. And quite a few pieces of lead.

Allan found a blue glass bead, which still has to be dated and Kenny/Robert a burnt mortarium sherd.

So thanks to all those who turned out and helped in poor weather conditions, and for making the day a success.

3. Kinneil Kirk

A week long excavation as carried out by Falkirk Community trust at Kinneil Old Kirk. A copy of the excavation report is available from the Secretary.



Other Publications, Events & Exhibitions

1. 'The Ochils – A Special Place' Stirling University Saturday 10th November 2018

The Forth Naturalist and Historian (FNH), in partnership with the Friends of the Ochils (FotO), is presenting a conference on the Ochils. It will also be a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Ochils.

There are a number of speakers, all specialists in their field, and a wide range of topics, each of which is concerned with a different aspect of the Ochils. We trust that the conference will be both enjoyable and informative; perhaps out of it will emerge ideas on how a positive future can best be achieved for the Ochils.

The conference booking form available on the FNH and FotO websites <http://www.fnh.stir.ac.uk/> or <http://www.friendsoftheochils.org.uk/>)

Note: This conference has been postponed until November 2021

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be issued in the Spring of 2021. All Contributions welcomed.

Until then, enjoy your archaeology!

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(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society, its Committee and Members, or the Editor).