



Society News

Notes from the Chair.

The Committee would like to wish a very good New Year to you all. While the start to 2021 has not bought the release from Lockdown that had been hoped for, at least the potential for that release comes a little closer.

It is very bad timing for the planned 50th Anniversary celebrations. So far, the Civic Reception has been cancelled and the start of the Anniversary Exhibition in The Edinburgh Museum has receded to June (at current probabilities). Work continues on the content of the Exhibition in the hope and expectation that it will at least get an opening at some point.

A 50th Anniversary Edition of the Newsletter will support and enhance the Exhibition. So, we can still take offers of articles about the EAFS in those 50years and any photographs etc that you can offer.

It is hoped to start our lectures sometime during the year. The possibility of a 'blended' option - an "in person" talk with a dedicated YouTube channel for members who cannot attend – is being explored.

The 2020 AGM

The first ever EAFS AGM on-line went well. There was a good turnout and all the required work was completed timeously.

Major points not covered in the Annual Report was the acceptance of DR's offer to join the Committee to take the place made vacant by MC's resignation. Thanks were given to Edinburgh Airport for their useful donation that M was instrumental in arranging. Thanks also were given to GB who has made a very generous offer of financial support to the Society. Thanks to everyone who took part and made it possible. The social part of the AGM was sadly missed and hopefully this will be resumed for next December.

Society News continued.

Membership Subscriptions are now due. Subscriptions not covered by Standing Order must be paid by cheque or Bank Transfer. While the difficulty of accessing banks in the present lockdown travel restrictions is appreciated, it is hoped that you will be able to renew your subscription.

EAFS polo shirts and sweatshirts with the EAFS logo. Val D is still a few short of the minimum number to get the best price. Polo shirts are 100% cotton in Royal Blue Sweatshirts are 80% cotton and 20% polyester 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 may be slightly different this year.

Cammo – A Winter Wonderland



Cammo: The history continues.

An Edwardian Divorce

Ann K continues her research into the background to the families that had owned Cammo.

In the Edwardian period divorce was socially unacceptable and was widely reported in the press where no doubt readers avidly followed cases. This was one such case which ran from 1907 to 1911 with claim and counter claim. It involved the pursuer Margaret Louisa Tennent or Bennet Clark, Cammo House against her husband the defender David Bennet Clark, Portobello.

Margaret and David became engaged in 1884 and during the period of their engagement he asked her to sign a will leaving everything to him. This she refused to sign. They obviously got over this disagreement and the couple were married in 1887 living initially in lodgings, then Belgrave Place before moving to Cammo House as tenants in 1891. David was a bank clerk with an income of

£100-£300 per annum depending on press reports. Her father Robert Tennant was an Australian sheep farmer who had made a considerable fortune. On his death in 1890 she inherited between £70,000-£80,000. In 1898 she bought Cammo House with the title in her name. David and Margaret had two sons – Robert and Percival.

They were not happy and in 1907 Margaret initiated divorce proceedings, which were held in the Court of Session, based on his infidelity. He stayed out late at night and he had acted in a suspicious and embarrassed manner when they met a young lady in the street. At some point he made a confession in writing of improper conduct prior to his marriage and was extremely penitent. She had employed a private detective to follow the defendant in 1891 due to her suspicions but he had nothing to report. Information about the will was produced to blacken his character. In 1903 the couple were living apart. Margaret went on an extended foreign tour and on her return, she heard disquieting rumours as to his behaviour which led her to raise the divorce action.

Cross examination by defendant's team led to some strange questions. "Did you not object to his attending Cramond Church because of the women there?" "Did you never suggest that your husband hid women in the shrubbery at Cammo and did you never have it searched at night?"

From evidence produced it transpired that in August 1904 David was staying at the Edinburgh Hydropathic (now Craiglockhart campus of Napier University) and there he met Miss Valerie Hodgson for the first time. A member of staff thought they were sweethearts or lovers as they were always together. They also stayed at the Queens Bay Hotel in Portobello. A witness from a temperance hotel in Harrogate stated that David and Miss Hodgson were there during 1905 and that "the defender's conduct was not such as she would expect from a married man" Another witness said they were just friends. In 1906, again in Harrogate, David visited Miss Hodgson at her friend's house bringing gifts of flowers and fruit. The friend assumed they were engaged. Another witness thought they were brother and sister.

A statement from a bank colleague stated the Margaret had referred to the confession in several letters to the bank and he was of the opinion it was to discredit her husband .Other witnesses for the defence stated there were only friendship between David and Miss Hodgson.

Lord Salvesen, the judge, stated that he had carefully considered the case and that the evidence was not sufficient to justify a conviction of what was quasi criminal conduct. He therefore assoiled (absolved) the defendant and awarded him half his expenses.

There was more to come.

The appeal by Margaret was heard before five judges.

Counsel for Margaret stated that the couple had not been happy in the years prior to 1903 when the couple separated. David and Miss Hodgson had met up frequently at various hotels in the period from August 1904-1907. He continued, stating that David and Miss Hodgson were infatuated with each other and as neither of them were young, their behaviour was inexplicable if their intentions were honourable. Council for the defence argued that it was an innocent friendship between David and Miss Hodgson, a vicar's daughter. His wife Margaret had made him sign a confession to infidelity in 1891 and this was used to portray him as having "depraved habits and morality". During their engagement David had requested her to make a will. She refused but the information was produced to blacken his character. Margaret was extremely jealous and eccentric

and had made his life intolerable. Her behaviour had led him to being ostracised and made to look ridiculous.

The evidence of Miss Hodgson and another witness at present in California was taken on commission. It was considered unfortunate that Miss Hodgson was not present at the court. The court proceedings adjourned and then there is seemingly a gap in reporting of the case. What happened next?

In 1909 David raised an action for divorce against his wife, Margaret but by November of that year he had decided to abandon the proceedings.

In December 1910, David Bennet Clark, now living in Burntisland again raised an action of divorce against his wife, now known as Margaret Louisa Maitland Tennent on the grounds of desertion. David was required to pay £250 annually for his board from his salary of £300 per annum. In June 1903 when he had not paid his dues, she put him out the house, locked the door and would not let him return. In 1904 she tried to stop his furniture being removed from the house. The case continued through the spring of 1911 until 31 May when a judgement was given.

Lord Dewar found desertion proved and granted a decree of divorce with expenses against Margaret. In summing up the case he went on to state that “the pursuer was considerate and affectionate, devoted to his wife and children and for years displayed remarkable forbearance in most trying circumstances..... The defender was exacting and overbearing and apparently vindictive in the manner in which she treated him.”

This resume of the Cramond divorce case has been taken from the press reports in the Scotsman newspaper.

Cammo: The archaeology continues.

July to November 2020

Work continued with clearing the NE doorway to reveal a bitumen floor surface inside the stone doorstep and the floor surface to the North down to the level of the layer of fallen slates.



The finds included several metal rods, some with loops or hooks attached, a lock plate, a hasp and two metal bolts complete with nuts.



Two medium sized stone slabs probably disturbed by tree roots were revealed just to the right of the doorway and a window and doorway into the smaller compartment to the North.



The area outside the West wall which consisted of large stones including a bay window head and several tree stumps was cleared. A horseshoe and a gear wheel from a clock were found. A door or gate pivot pin was set in base of the wall.





Further items recovered were a possible part of a fire grate, a pulley wheel, an adjuster for an oil lamp and a large door pivot pin as well as a tangled mess of metal rods in the NW corner as well as clay tobacco pipe stems made by White, J Begg and a rather unusual design of pipe stem by L Fiolet of St Omer in Northern France where the design was across the stem rather than in line.

A large section of a whetstone, files and a screwdriver blade were also recovered.





Another structure excavated by the East wall was a machine base and pit constructed from three large stone blocks and a brick substructure with two large metal threaded struts found adjacent to it which may have been part of it. There were also two slots built into the bottom corners and the remnants of a wooden beam.



Some limited work was done in the North section where weed clearance had revealed several compartments and metal “keys” set in the walls possibly to support wooden partitions. Unfortunately, some vandalism had occurred as the top step of the stone stairway to an upper level had been toppled.



A final surprise was the uncovering of a fireplace and a flagstone floor surface in the North-most compartment which could indicate limited domestic occupation.



Finally, a few views of the excavated “Offices” area.



The next pictures show the cleaned-out Canal drain/animal drinking trough near the burn at the NE of Cammo Est and of the cast iron manufacturers plate from Glenfield and Kennedy Ltd of Kilmarnock set in the perimeter wall to the West of the Walled Garden.



The Kennedy Patent Water Meter Co Ltd was formed in 1863 from a syndicate of four partners and marketed the water meter patented by Thomas Kennedy, senior, and a local clockmaker. In 1865 the Glenfield Co Ltd was formed to supply castings and undertake general foundry work. The two companies shared a site in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire, Scotland, the derelict printworks from which Glenfield took its name. In 1899 the two companies merged to form Glenfield & Kennedy Ltd. The major growth period was between 1871 and 1904, under the direction of Thomas Kennedy (nephew of Thomas Kennedy, senior). ‘The Glen’ became an important hydraulic engineering concern in Britain, with substantial export orders to most parts of the world.” Any further information would be gratefully received.

Cammo update 2021

Due to the Covid restrictions the excavation and clearance work at Cammo had to be suspended. However, intrepid researchers Ann and Colin continue to “excavate” the internet and collect the history of the Estate.

Visitors doing their restriction compliant daily exercise will be able to see the information boxes that have been erected. One is beside the Cottages and one beside the Steading (aka piggery). This gives a brief description of the work the Society has undertaken and a flavour of what has been found so far. These boxes will be easy to update as the dig progresses and help give walkers a chance to learn more about the Estate and the Society.

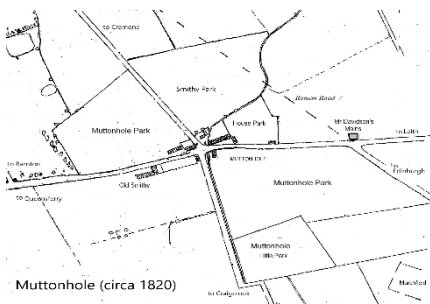
We are grateful to Rangers Susan and David for installing them and to the Friends of Cammo who keep an eye on both them and the sites.

With vaccination underway it is hoped to have at least a small team back on site in mid-March, Government restrictions permitting.

Until then planning continues for a new strand to the Cammo Project. Michael Harris is taking the lead on an Oral History Project. Some equipment has already been purchased and progress is being made on establishing a series of on-line training sessions for people interested in taking part. It seems a good way to develop skills and to maybe offer a role for people who find actual excavation too strenuous for any reason. Please contact the Society's secretary if you wish to register your interest in this exciting new project.

Other Activities and Reports.

A "Hole on the map"; Muttonhole revisited by DS.



The first printed map of Lothian, surveyed by Timothy Pont c.1600, does not mention Muttonhole by name. It shows a road leaving the West Port of Edinburgh heading north-west towards the ferry crossing of the Forth. This road passes on the east side of a loch before turning in a more westerly direction towards higher ground. This is the point at which John Adair, in his manuscript map of c.1682, places Muttonhole.

The underlying landscape of the area was defined at the end of the ice-age by the formation of a large loch containing melt water and three drainage channels flowing eastwards from it. The area was favoured by big game hunters who left their stone tools on the Craig and no doubt their mark upon the elk who came to the water below (cf antlers in NMS store at Granton).

Road construction in the area began in the Roman period creating a route between a fort at Elginhaugh and one at Cramond at the mouth of the Almond. The most likely line for this route ran just to the east of the loch and crossed over the low ridge where Muttonhole would later be situated (on a line linking modern Corbiehill Road with Cramond Road north of the Lauriston Park wall).

Records for the area are rather sparse until the 13th Century by which time the ecclesiastical parish of Cramond had been parcelled out into a series of estates. Crucial to the development of Muttonhole was the estate of Lauriston which stretched south from the shore of the Forth as far as the north shore of the loch. To the east lay the estate of Muirhouse and to the west that of Barnton. The property called Muttonhole lay on the north side of the road from Edinburgh at the point at which it crossed a small burn. Originally this would have been a ford, possibly the Foulfurde mentioned in a Barnton charter of 1549.

In 1680 an incident occurred in Muttonhole the account of which gives us a little insight into the nature of the place. Donald Cargill was a notorious preacher who was not in favour with the authorities of the time so an attempt was made to arrest him as he passed through Muttonhole on his way between Edinburgh and Queensferry. A party of soldiers lay in wait for him in an ale-house on the south side of the road in the west part of the hamlet close to the wall of the Barnton estate. When the soldiers came out to challenge the first members of his company his wife escaped and warned Cargill of the ambush. On that occasion he returned safely to Edinburgh. In 1683 William Law acquired the estate of Lauriston.

The Turnpike Act of 1751 heralded an era of great improvement in the roads to the northwest of Edinburgh. Shortly after this came the Military Survey of Scotland which gives us the greatest detail of Muttonhole up till that time. The early years of Cramond District Roads Trust seem to have been spent improving roads nearer the centre of Edinburgh but in 1759 the Trustees sanctioned the straightening of the way between Muttonhole Bridge and Cramond avoiding the detour via Lauriston. Around the same year they began improving the road from Leith towards Muttonhole. These changes are shown on Laurie's map of 1762. In 1773 a Mr Edgar, tenant of Marchfield, was allowed to dismantle the bridge at Muttonhole, in order to release flood water, provided he rebuilt it at his own expense.

William Davidson purchased the Muirhouse Estate which included Muttonhole in 1776. He later established the principal farm of the estate, Mr Davidson's Mains, further to the east just where the Queensferry Road from Edinburgh was joined by the Ferry Road from Leith.

William Ramsay, a director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, purchased the combined estate of Barnton and Cramond Regis in 1786. He began make improvements to the roads on his estate and proposed alterations to the public roads both north and south of (old) Barnton House. One early change was the closure of the Double Dykes road to King's Cramond. Proposals were made for modification of Queensferry Road but nothing was implemented till after William Ramsay's death. The final route from Edinburgh bypassing Muttonhole entirely was planned in 1820. Construction was begun about 1823 with the link to the Ferry Road from Leith unresolved until the completion of Quality Street. In 1826 the owners of the Barnton Estate were finally allowed to close off the old Queensferry Road with gates at the Muttonhole Crossroads. The plans of the old and new roads show that there was a smithy and other buildings within the area enclosed by the Barnton Park boundary.

Plans of the Lauriston Estate from 1808 onwards generally depict some of the buildings that comprised the settlement at Muttonhole but they do not indicate that they formed part of the Lauriston property. There was a connection however because Sir Walter Scott records in 1820 that in France there was a descendant of John Law of Lauriston who styled himself *Le Chevalier de Muttonhole*.

In 1835 William Ramsay Ramsay purchased the Estate of Lauriston which he later resold with the exception of five fields at the southern end of Cramond Road. Of the three fields west of this road the most southerly bounded by the old Queensferry Road was known as Muttonhole Park. A triangular piece of ground next to the burn became the site of a new Smithy in about 1812. Once called Gore Mire this field was later known as Smithy Park. Sometime after the gating of the road the old smithy and other buildings within the Barnton park wall were demolished except possibly for one cottage which was retained to serve as a gatehouse (it survived until 1937).

East of Muttonhole Bridge the ground both north and south of the ferry road lay within the bounds of the Muirhouse Estate. On the southside two fields were known as Muttonhole Park and Muttonhole Little Park. Mr Davidson feued land alongside the road between Muttonhole and the Mains for housing and this grew in importance relative to the remnants of the older village. For a number of years, the County Directories listed Davidson's Mains and Muttonhole as separate places. In 1844 James Jack, smith, became the last person entered with Muttonhole after his name. He did not move and was listed in the directory for the following year but Muttonhole had been dropped. Coincidentally this is the year that William R. Ramsay gave up ownership of the Lauriston estate and retreated behind the Barnton Wall.

The O.S. Namebook compiled in 1852 includes an entry for Muttonhole but when the 1st Edition map appeared in the following year the name did not appear on it. The 'Hole has never since appeared on any Edition or scale of the O.S. mapping.

Kinneil Kirk

A successful investigation took place in late September, just before the lockdown. Although the original causeway across the *vallum monasterii* was not found, the edge of that ditch in three out of the four trenches were revealed. It was established that the ditch extended further north than the remaining bank and that there was no berm (the slope of the ditch and bank being continuous).



At 6.3m the ditch was wider than in the previous year. The upper fill contained 14-16th century pottery, but again the middle fill was devoid of finds. The biggest surprise was the extent of the late 17th century designed landscape. The front of the bank had been retained by a facing of stone which skirted a nicely metalled path, on the other side of which was a wall. About 2m beyond this wall was a parallel trench filled with dark topsoil and a large amount of charcoal – for the box hedge or equivalent item. All of this shows that the whole area was full of orchards, vegetable, and formal gardens as well as avenues – as indicated on a plan by Alexander Edward in 1701. It had been previously thought that the elements of the plan to the west of Kinneil House were aspirational, but it can no longer be said that they were executed. The biggest mystery is why they dumped almost a metre of topsoil over such a large area on the top of the hill.

Next Newsletter

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

Until then, enjoy your archaeology!

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