

EDINBURGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SOCIETY

Scottish Charity No. SC006520

News

Issue 221 – Spring 2024



WALLED GARDEN GLASSHOUSE FOUNDATIONS DISCLOSED

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR MARCH 2024

The year got off to a good start with 2 very successful lectures. The first by our own President John Lawson was very well attended and an engaged audience enjoyed his talk and discussion on the excavations in Leith prior to the Tram works.

The second speaker was Derek Alexander, Head of Archaeology for the National Trust of Scotland. He gave an enthusiastic lecture on 'Pioneering Spirit' the collaborative project between the NTS and The Glenlivet. We all learned a great deal about the history of both illicit and legal distilling in Scotland. Unfortunately for the lively crowd there were no free samples.

In March we held our AGM. Holding the AGM in March was designed to avoid the bad weather which has caused cancellations in the past. The weather wasn't wonderful but we had a reasonable turnout and enjoyed drinks and nibbles as well as a book sale. One member brought to our attention his problems of access to the venue. As the move was intended to improve access to lectures this was a significant concern. Your committee is looking into alternative venues because of this and because of the costs which have increased.

Outings arranged by Ann have been interesting and popular so more are being planned. Please let us know if there are any places you think we should arrange to visit in the future.

Cabinets have been donated to us by City of Edinburgh Council for use at Cammo to exhibit finds and information about the archaeology of the Estate. Unfortunately we are currently unable to access the Murrayburn Store where most of our finds are located due to a Health and Safety issue. Finds work will resume when the embargo is lifted.

CAMMO REPORT

We have been steadily excavating the Glasshouse foundations at the North Wall. Excavation work has been completed and now the work is that of recording. This consists of a written record, photographs and drawings. As we are training people how to record archaeological work properly this is quite a time consuming job.

Whilst that has been going on, a well near the South wall, has been discovered, excavated and recorded and filled in again. We have had oral testimony which suggests there is at least one other well yet to be traced. Geophysical survey would be the most efficient way of pinning down its whereabouts so this is on our 'to do' list

We have continued excavation of the 'potting shed' at the rear of the South wall near the entrance gate. It is much longer than we anticipated going well past the bee boles. It seems to have been built after the Gardener's Bothy as the wall lines do not abut each other. The 'Potting shed' is slightly wider than the Bothy. Although this building is shown on the 1895 map to be glass roofed there has been relatively little glass recovered from inside it.

Our next area of investigation stems from the 1805 map which shows a range of buildings to the East of the South Avenue. We hope to put in small trial trenches to see if anything remains of these buildings. There is the hope that this will be the remains of the 'Grand Stables' which predates the 'New Stables' finished in 1811.

Neil has already marked out the area for trial trenching so , weather permitting, this will be our Easter project.

It was with great pleasure we welcomed Diane and Iona, Daughter and granddaughter of one of our founding members Keith Mitchell. Unfortunately Keith was too unwell to join them. They spent time with us getting to know a little of the history of Cammo and having some hands on excavation experience in the Glasshouse area. As a child Diane excavated at Fast Castle and Cramond with her Father and it was obvious her skills were still sharp – good training?

Next month we have been approached by the Make a Wish Foundation to make a young person's wish 'to become an archaeologist for the day' a reality. We are happy to facilitate this and feel privileged to do so.

Recently we have been given two glass cabinets to be in Cammo Lodge to hold examples of the finds from Cammo. This will help tell the tale not only of the Cammo Estate but also the work EAFS has been doing in the Estate. Thanks to City of Edinburgh Council for the cabinets.

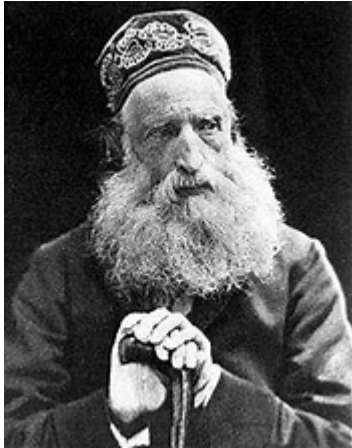


Emily, Doris, Iona and Diane at the Cammo Glasshouse March 2024

-Christine McPherson

CAMMO CHARACTERS - Mungo Ponton and Robert Tennent

During my research into the occupants of Cammo I came across two nineteenth century men who have connections to the development of photography - Mungo Ponton and Robert Tennent.



Mungo Ponton was born on 20 November 1801 the son of John Ponton, a farmer in Balgreen, and the grandson of Mungo Ponton 1731-1791. The grandfather was one of a group of men who had a New Year celebration on 4 January 1777 at Bristo Port which included James Watson, owner of New Saughton. Other members of the group were narrated in Mungo's will as trustees. John, the third son of Mungo Ponton inherited the lease of Balgreen and Carricknowe farms and the lease of half the farm of Hillend.

Mungo Ponton, the grandson, according to the Dictionary of National Biography proceeded to a legal apprenticeship and became a Writer to the Signet in 1825. In 1838 Mungo became a solicitor to the National Bank of Scotland and in 1840 became secretary of that bank.

Outside of work his main interest was science and in 1834 he was admitted as a Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh. Between 1838 and 1845 he was awarded two silver medals by the Society of Arts for Scotland, firstly for his part in development of the electric telegraph and secondly for the development of a process regarding the temperature of photographic paper. He also developed shorter exposure times for the calotype process in 1845. Science was to be his interest for the remainder of his life as he suffered from ill health causing him to give up his legal and banking career.

Mungo's connection to Cammo was due to his marrying Helen Scott Campbell, sister of Alexander Campbell, owner of Cammo 1873-1896. Helen and Mungo had seven children, but Helen died in 1842, and he then remarried in 1843 and again in 1871.

He moved south to Clifton, Bristol, died there on 3 August 1880, and was buried in the Arnos Vale Cemetery in Bristol. Both Helen and Jane his third wife are buried in Edinburgh.

Robert Tennent was the father of Margaret Louisa Maitland Tennent, initially tenant and then owner of Cammo and grand father of Robert Tennent and Percival Tennent, Margaret's children. Robert Tennent was born in 1813, eldest son of Patrick Tennent WS and Margaret Rodger Lyon who had married on 17 April 1812. The family were connected to J & R Tennent, brewers in Glasgow.



A keen sailor, he along with his younger brother Hugh Lyon Tennent and other members of his extended family, sailed around the Western Isles in 1838. A year later Robert had emigrated to Tasmania, sailing from Leith. He soon moved to Port Philip in what is now Victoria and then with his cousin, Charles Hugh Lyon acquired 30,000 acres at Gnarkeet. In 1853 he disposed of his share and returned to Scotland. In 1859 Robert married Wilhelmina Meldrum and subsequently lived at Lynedoch Place and then Buckingham Terrace.

Robert and his brother Hugh were both members of the Edinburgh Calotype Society which was the first photographic society in the world established in 1843. Calotype, a photographic process using paper coated with silver iodide, was developed by William Henry Fox Talbot in 1841. From the negative several photographs could be produced unlike the daguerreotype process. These two photographic systems ran in parallel for several years. Talbot had patented his invention, but as English patent laws did not apply in Scotland, Scottish photographers used this process. The members and associates of the Edinburgh Calotype Society included David Brewster, Cosmo Innes and John Adamson whose brother would be part of the well-known Edinburgh firm of photographers Hill and Adamson. A volume of photographs "Pencils of Light" is in the National Library of Scotland and contains many photographs by Robert and Hugh Lyon Tennent. These photos were primarily of boats, locals in Fairlie and family members but strangely none of his daughters. The calotype process continued to be used until it was overtaken by the albumen and collodion systems.

Robert Tennent, FRSE died in 1890 at Kincaple, Fife and was buried in Dean Cemetery Edinburgh.

- Ann Kerrigan

DINBURGH UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY FIELDWORK FAIR

Two members, Norma Johnstone and Joyce Herriot, attended Edinburgh University archaeology society Fieldwork Fair at The Old College Edinburgh University on 4th March.

The day was very successful. A busy day talking to students and providing information about the society to them. A good number students were very interested in the ongoing excavations at Cammo Estate.

There was also an opportunity for EAFS to talk to other stall holders, make connections, gain ideas and information from all those attending.



Norma Johnstone and Joyce Herriot

Promoting EAFS at

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY FIELDWORK FAIR

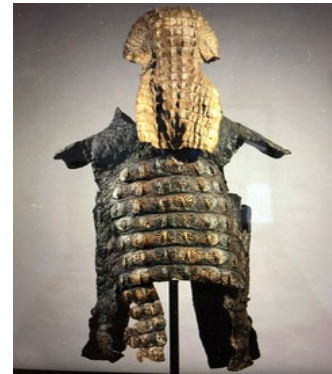
LEGION: LIFE IN THE ROMAN ARMY

This exhibition, on show at the British Museum until 23 June 2024, explores the life of soldiers in the 300,000-strong Roman army, from the lowliest auxiliary to the high-ranked centurions; how they joined up, trained, fought, relaxed and died. And die they did: the term of service was 25 years and only 50% survived to retirement. However, for the fortunate ones who reached retirement, the reward was a **generous** pension, land and, most important for the non-citizen squaddies, citizenship which could be passed on to your sons.

At its peak, the Roman Empire stretched from Mesopotamia to Hadrian's Wall and its mighty army was fully occupied defending borders and suppressing rebellions. The troops came from all over the Empire and some were more valued than others – North African horsemen were particularly prized whereas the soldiers from this island were referred to as 'Brittunculi' – 'wretched little Brits'.

The exhibition is based around the life of one real auxiliary, Claudius Terentianus, a non-citizen Egyptian soldier in the time of emperor Trajan, whose letters home, written on papyri, were discovered at Karanis in Egypt. Having failed in his attempt to join the prestigious Legionaries, which for non-citizens necessitated, amongst other requirements, two references from high-born officials, Claudius Terentianus signed up to the lowlier and poorer paid Marines. He was posted east (probably to fight the Parthians) but was less than happy with his lot. A fair proportion of Claudius's letters are to his father imploring his assistance in acquiring those important references (greasing the palms of potential referees was common) thus improving his chance of transferring to the Legion, or to send supplies, such as more sandals ('I am wearing out two pairs each month') and thick felt socks.

The exhibition is well spaced but dimly lit which, together with the exhibits of rusted iron, stone and blackened leather, conjure up the grit and sweat of military life. Over 200 objects have been curated, including the world's only perfectly preserved legionary shield, armour made of crocodile skin and a perforated ox's skull used for target practice. The exhibits are labelled clearly and there is an accompanying trail for children guided by Rattus, a cartoon soldier rat (in the style of the Latin textbook character Minimus) with dedicated information panels, dressing-up costumes and hands-on activities.



BRITISH MUSEUM EXHIBITION 'LEGION'

My only reservation about the otherwise impressive exhibition is the lack of attention paid to the non-combatant side of military life, particularly the women who supported the soldiers. Despite what the marketing material states, references to the *vici* of a fort, the households of auxiliary officers on the frontiers, or the extra-mural community of wives, slaves and children that followed the army, were few and far between. A tablet written by Claudia Severa, wife of a Roman auxiliary unit commander, invites the commander of Vindolanda and his wife Sulpica Lepidina to visit for the religious celebration of Claudia's birthday; the Regina Tombstone from Arbeia fort at South Shields shows Regina, a freedwoman from the south of England and wife to the Syrian Barates, holding a distaff and spindle which were symbols of womanly virtue and domestic skills; and Claudius writes home for permission to buy an enslaved woman, probably to free her to become his wife: 'It is something I have been thinking about for two years'. But considering the wealth of non-military artefacts discovered at sites such as Vindolanda and Corbridge, let alone in the other regions of the Roman Empire, by almost disregarding this important aspect of life with the Legion, the British Museum has missed an opportunity. Or maybe they are saving the material for a future exhibition? We can only hope.....

- Deborah Russell

TRIBUTE FOR Dr HUGH DINWOODIE

It is with great sadness that we record the death of longtime Society member and supporter, Dr Hugh P Dinwoodie. Dr Dinwoodie, MB, ChB (Glas), DObst, RCOG, MRCGP, FSA Scot was a man of many talents who, for many years, operated as a General Practitioner from his surgery in the Trinity area of Edinburgh. To describe Hugh's personality and contribution to the Society is to some extent quite difficult, particularly due to his inherent dedication to the task in hand, no matter how large or how long the project.

However, it is important to stress that amongst Hugh's many attributes, one fact perhaps shines out above all others - that he was indeed a true gentleman. Having spoken to several members about Hugh, most have readily acknowledged this description. Clearly Hugh's manner and way of conducting his life shone out in the way he lived his life on a daily basis. He was in reality the essence of a very gentle gentleman of a type you very rarely now find in today's world.

Hugh joined EAFS about 1990 and it was not long thereafter that he began to make his mark on the inner workings of the Society. About that time, volunteer research was ongoing at the National Museum of Antiquities in a basement store room in Queen Street. This involved the extremely time-consuming task of cataloguing and researching most of the 25,000 small finds discovered during the Society's excavations at Fast Castle, situated on the Berwickshire coast not far from Coldingham. This included the very therapeutic and

pleasurable activity of reconstructing parts of assorted pottery vessels from the large collection of sherds recovered during the excavations.

Normally a very small group of volunteers met at the museum every Thursday, and it was clear that the task at hand definitely required more help if it was to be completed in any kind of timely fashion. As a result, a general appeal for additional help was made at the end of one of the Society meetings. During refreshments at the conclusion of the main event, Hugh very kindly offered to help at the museum. Little did he realize what he was letting himself in for!

Volunteering at the museum involved several people over the years, including the late Hugh Robertson. Both Hughs contributed much to the progress of the mission which, although slow, eventually concluded successfully. Part of the work in which Hugh immersed himself was helping to research several categories of small finds, including copper alloy, lead, pewter, iron, wood, organic material, shells, stone, coal, charcoal and cinder, slag and last, but not least, the stunning, very small but exquisite, gold enamelled button. All these subjects were published in the Fast Castle excavation report published in 2001.

Subsequently, it was decided to enter the report, entitled "Fast Castle Excavations 1971-1986" into the British Archaeological Awards (Pitt Rivers section) for 2002. As a result, both Hugh and Keith travelled by rail down to Liverpool where we took part in the ceremony, along with Denis Smith who happened to be there at the time. It was with some surprise that we learned that the Society had been awarded this prestigious honour, so it was with much pleasure that both Hugh and Keith accepted the certificate, plate and cheque from Sir Neil Cossons, OBE, in the presence of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool.



British Archaeological Awards Ceremony 2002
Dr Hugh Dinwoodie (centre)

Although, due to the time factor, Hugh never took part in the main Fast Castle excavations, there was one occasion in 1994 when he actively participated in an on-site experiment connected with the use of a crane, situated on the cliff edge of the outer Lower Courtyard. This is shown on an English plan of the castle drawn in 1549 for the 2nd Earl of Rutland, which is assumed to be connected with the loading and unloading of ships waiting in front of the great cave below.

In an attempt to discover what length of crane jib would have been required to create a clean drop to the cave entrance and sea level, a rough construction was made from an old clothes pole and an architect's extending measuring rod joined together. This was attached to a long length of rope and a bucket. A heavy granite cobblestone was then placed in the bucket for the purposes of stability. Various aspects of this project ended up being successful, with the exception that, in the process, the cobblestone was accidentally dumped in the water.

When the National Museum of Antiquities in Queen Street closed and merged with the Royal Scottish Museum, the work of processing the Fast Castle finds was carried on as usual at the new Museum of Scotland in the work area used by the ever helpful Jackie Moran.

After assisting in depth the lengthy and complicated process of producing the Fast Castle excavation report, Hugh single-handedly took on the task of cataloguing all the finds for accession to the National Museums of

Scotland, a task of mammoth proportions. Upon completion, Hugh then worked at the RCAHMS where he detailed all the excavation records, later assisting Historic Environment Scotland by listing all the EAFS minutes for accessioning to Canmore. It must be acknowledged that this was in itself an extremely prodigious effort for any one person to undertake.

Aside from being involved with the above volunteer work, Hugh found time to help with other aspects of EAFS activities. He took part in some of the excavations at Cramond, as well as joining in various ground resistance surveys around the country. Hugh also made several visits to Corroul Old Lodge¹, Rannoch Moor, recording the building as it stands today. Not only did Hugh involve himself in the strictly archaeological workings of the Society, but for many years gave much useful help to the group as a Committee Member and from 2001/02 to 2007/08 he diligently took on the responsible post of Honorary Treasurer.

During the years in which we had the privilege to know and work alongside Hugh, particularly in the museum, it goes without saying that his contribution to the Society must be deemed as having gone well beyond what might be thought of as typical for a volunteer. It was certainly an honour to know and work alongside him, and the Society extends its deepest condolences to his son Colin and family, in the knowledge that Hugh's commitment and enthusiasm within the Society will be greatly missed.

Keith L Mitchell FSA Scot K. Robin Murdoch FSA Scot
(Hon. Member) (Hon. Member)

Note¹: Corroul Old Lodge
Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group,
Vernacular Building Vol.35, 2011-2012

COMING EVENTS

Rhind Lectures 2024 - Two 'Little' Ice Ages and an Anomaly: Climate, Environment and Cultural Change in Medieval and Early Modern Scotland

Prof Richard Oram FSAScot will navigate participants through an era where dearth, abundance, sustainability and resilience shaped Scotland.

Date: Friday 31 May - Sunday 2 June

Archaeological Research in Progress (ARP) conference will take place on Saturday, 25th May 2024, at the AK Bell Library in Perth. The event is being organised this year by Archaeology Scotland in partnership with the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Archaeology Scotland Summer School will be held between the 10-13 May.

This year the Summer School will explore the island of Bute.

The Summer School was last in Bute in 1996. During this return to Bute after 24 years, the intention is to bring participants up to date on the discoveries made since the last visit. The primary source comes via the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme, 2008-2012, working in conjunction with RCAHMS, which sponsored and enabled a wide range of archaeological investigations on Bute.

EAFS lectures for 2024/2025

Held at

The Augustine United Church, George IV bridge, Edinburgh

Dr. Helen Spencer	The Glass Industry in Edinburgh and the Lothians from the early 17th c. onwards	Wednesday 8th May 2024
Kath Page	The Role of Red Deer in Scottish Prehistory	Wednesday 9th October 2024
Dr. Tony Pollard	Waterloo Uncovered	Wednesday 20th November 2024
Geoff Bailey	The Antonine Wall Fort at Falkirk	Wednesday 8th January 2025
Philip Karsgaard	Cramond Regis	12th February 2025

This Newsletter was compiled by Alan Calder, member of the EAFS Committee, with contributions from Committee Members.

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

Next Newsletter will be issued later this year.

All Contributions welcomed.

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