RQR, March 1872 — 'From the isolated position of the parish old maids are on the increase'.

GREAT CUMBRAE (LANDWARD)

ESTATES

BUTE

VR 1855-56 (VR 93/1/7, folio 11)
Breakough - Mid Kirkton - Nether Kirkton - Pinmachrie - Upper Kirkton - lands about Millport - Sheriffs Common - Garrison Park.

GLASGOW

VR 1855-56 (VR 93/1/7, folio 11) Portrye - Figgaloch - Down Craigs - Ballochmartin - Craigengour - Ballakillet with mill. 16 'field at Kames'. Gowgang Common. Gowgang House and smithy.

BALLOCHMARTIN

LMN 5.4.1879 — Conts - house and steading, Ballochmartin. Dets: W J Armstrong, estate office, Fairlie.

BELLEKELLET

GA, 9.5.1791 — Farm to let; adjacent mill is 'newly erected'.

DOWNCRAIG

VR 1855-56 — Glasgow estate, tenanted by gamekeeper.

NATIONAL WATER SPORTS TRAINING CENTRE

Willis — Completed 1976. Architects: **James N Rennie** and **Robert D McPhail** of Frank Burnet, Boston & Partners.

RIBA Award 1980 — Photocopy herewith.

STRAHOUN LODGE — [Is this the house at the SW corner of the island?]

Largs & NAFHS, 33, Winter 2000 — Robert Reid (Senex) (c.1772-1865), Glasgow merchant and author of Glasgow Past and Present died at Strahoun Lodge, Isle of Cumbrae.

TOMONT END

MONUMENT

List (Landward) 1 — Stone obelisk erected in memory of 2 midshipmen of HMS Shearwater who were drowned by the upsetting of their boat near this spot, 1841. B.

J R D Campbell, Millport and the Cumbraes, 1975
Inscription (now illegible) read: "To the memory of Mr Charles D Cayley/ aged 17 years/ and/ Mr William N Jewall/ aged 19 years/ midshipmen of HMS Shearwater/ promising young officers drowned in the upsetting of their boat near this place 17 may 1844/ this monument is erected in token of their worth by/ Captain Robinson and officers of the abovenamed vessel".

ROADS

AO, Tu 19.3.1833, 4b — A road around the island is 'in contemplation'.

J R D Campbell, Millport & The Cumbraes, Irvine, 1975, 7
Coast Road was completed in 1875.

WS, Sa 27.6.1908, 2b — Thomas Shields, 83, died at Barend Street, Millport, 21.6.1908. [2c: he was a contractor in Beith with one Joseph Reid. About 50 years ago

they built the first public sewer in Beith. In late 1860s Shields went to Millport 'to make the present much-admired road round the Big Cumbrae'.]

LITTLE CUMBRAE

GENERAL

Early Ayrshire Criminal Trials, V, in AA, Th 5.6.1890, 7a

1515 "The disturbed condition of the country [during the reign of James V] and the prevailing lawlessness is suggested by a letter bearing date October 28 1515 to Hew, Erle of Eglintoune, 'making him and his assignees keepers overseers and suppliers of the Isle of Little Comeray, the deer, rabbits and wild beasts being therein, until the King's perfect age of fifteen years, because Robert Huntar of Huntarestoune, forester of heritage of the said Ile, is nocht of power to resist the personis that waste the same, without supply or help.'"

Lamb, Parish Annals, 1896, 110 Population in 1818 was 20. 4 families in 1896.

See also Campbell, JRD, 2004.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Lamb? Some Remains of Beehive House. St Beya's Chapel, †896, traditionally said to have been here. Fragments of foundations half mile NW of castle. Probably, Ailan-na-ingen, The Islet of the Virgins. Church of Tighernac is referred to in the Annals of Ulster, who stated that in 714 AD Scoto-Irish called it Chaibal Bhay. Small foundations 42' by 20' over walls. 20' is the choir, which was divided into 2 sections. NSA describes walls as 3' thick; tomb to N had 2 flat stones, on one of which, now broken in two, is some tracery resembling Danish stones.

Grave Kists. few paces to W of chapel is Gurag Meyer or Lady Lakelet, and 12 yards to SE are 2 grave kists composed of rude slabs. One may be Sy Vey's burial place. Larger stone is 7' long with vlock of porphyry at W end. Other stone lies a few feet away, lies N-S with slab at W end.

Old House. 80 yds SW of chapel is foundations of old house. 22' square.

Round Tower. 50 yards SE of old house are foundations 30' long with round tower at E end. ? a belfry.

Belstane. Pointed pyramid lying 100 yards to S of round tower. About 5' high.

FARM

GM, Th 2.3.1786, 71a Island of Little Cumbray; to let.

Duncan Campbell, The Isles of Cumbrae - A Short History, typescript, 1993

[The island] was also the home of a Miss Mary Ann Woodrow in 1785 before she went to America to become one of the ancestors of present day politicians bearing that name. It seems strange to think that in the diary of her residence on the island she can speak of dances being held 'on Friday as usual'.

Campbell JRD, 2004, 38 Mary Ann Wodrow's dairy for 7 September 1787 refers to foundations of new house being laid.

NAC, Gh 1/4/9, Eglinton Rental, 1815

House and yard let to P Miller, 38 years lease from 1804.

House and yard let to Mr Woodrow's heirs, 57 years from 1806.

AO, Tu 27.11.1832, 1a — Little Cumbrae to let. c.500 Scots Acres or 630 Imperial. Presently possessed by John Hunter. 'It is chiefly stocked with rabbits'.

Sas Minute 2783 of 1849 (Ayrs) — refers to "William Motion farmer Island of Little Cumbrae".

ASH Sa 26.7.1862, 1b — To let, "the steading is commodious, having been recently enlarged and repaired".

Duncan Campbell, The Isles of Cumbrae - A Short History, typescript, 1993

The island was sold by Eglintons to Mr Evelyn Parker in 1900. "he had the garden of the house laid out professionally by the well-known landscape artist **Gertrude Jekyll**.

VR 1905-06 — Prop, Lord Eglinton. Evelyn S. Parker, **tenant**.

DNB, Agnes Jekyll, 1861-1937 — [Filed under Graham in my people files]. Agnes, 6th daughter of William Graham MP (1817-1885) was born in Largs 12th October 1861. In 1881 she married Sir Herbert Jekyll, 1846-1932, brother to Gertrude Jekyll.

Tooley & Arnander, 200 — Garden Plan, 1916, Gertrude Jekyll for Evelyn S Parker

Campbell JRD, 2004, 15 — says sold to Parker in 1913 for £5000

CHURCHYARD

Cunninghame MIs — The few stones include two of the Parkers - Kenneth Evelyn Parker, Wing Commander, RAF, 25.1.1904 - 2.3.1969
- Ian Robertson Parker, October 1902 - 23.11.1959.

JONETE WODROW'S BURIAL PLACE

Lamb, Parish Annals, 1896, 131 — Enclosure 12' square on edge of cliff to S side of island. 2 tombstones. Inscription: *This ston is erected to perpetuate the memory of John Woodrow, daughter of Mr Robert Woodrow, and Anne his wife. She died on 17th April 1774 in the fourteenth year of her age, and was intered heir at her own desire. Death is the crown of life, was death denied, pour mortel live in vain*.
Stone replaced after 1860. James Brown in "Sketches on the Clyde", 1860. speaks of stone as being in ruins.
Other stone. A W Archibald, born 28th June, died the 4th July 1790. "Tis God that lifts our comforts high/ Or sinks them in the grave, /He gives, and blessed behis name".

LIGHTHOUSES

[Cf also Lamb ref under castle)

Lamb, Parish Annals, 1896, 128 — Act of Parliament in 1756 for erection of wharf and road from it to lighthouse. First lit with coal in December 1757 (Reid).
Rebuilt 1794. Keepers house and garden adjoining. 80' above sea-level on ledge on W side of island. Lantern 120' above sea-level to be lighted on 1st October [Gents Mag., 1793], but old light continued in use. New one had 32 lamps with silvered glass reflectors.
Altered 1826. Altered to 15 oil lamps with reflectors. Cost £60 each.
Improved 1836.
Dioptric lens introduced 1864.

AA, Th 22.11.1838, 4e — Married, Cumbrae Lighthouse, 8.11.1838: John Robertson, Captain, Royal Victoria steamer - Jane, eldest daughter of John Clark, Esq., Clyde Bank, Glasgow.

EG, F 19.11.1869, 1446ab1447a — Clyde Lighthouses. Bill to repeal/amend/alter act of 29 Geo II, which authorised lighthouse on the Little Cumbrae, and established management. Have responsibility for Little Cumbrae, Toward, Cloch, &c. Bill seeks to change constitution of the Trust.

LIGHTHOUSE, NEW

List 3 — Present lighthouse on the W shore replaces one built to the design of Robert Stevenson, RLS's grandfather. B.

LG 27152, Tu 9.1.1900, 156b — Proposed change of light from a fixed light to a double flash every 30 seconds.

LG 27168, F 23.2.1900, 1276 — From fixed light to an electric group flashing light.

LIGHTHOUSE, OLD

List 2 — Remains of 200 year old coalfired lighthouse which was the second to be erected in Scotland. Consists of a circular stone tower 30' high. A. [First was Isle of May]

Duncan Campbell, The Isles of Cumbrae - A Short History, typescript, 1993 — One of the first lighthouses in Britain was established here in 1755. Originally it took the form of a coal fired beacon.

James Clelland, Annals of Glasgow, vol.I, 1816, p.297 — Opened 22 August 1793.

LITTLE CUMBRAE CASTLE

List 4 — An islet off the east shore bears the remains of a tower occupied by Robert II in 1375 and 1384, and destroyed by Cromwell in 1653. A.

Lamb, Parish Annals, 1896, 120 — Keepership of Little Cumbrae assigned to Hew, earl of Eglinton on 28 October 1515. [Reg Privy Seal]

Reg Mag Sig, III, no.463 — Charter of Custody of lands of Little Cumbrae granted to Robert Huntar and Jonete Montgomery, his wife: yielding: 'necnon edificando mansionem cum politias'. Dated 31.5.1527, and earliest charter of Little Cumbrae in Reg Mag Sig.

Reg Mag Sig, III, no.1264 — Charter of Feu Ferme of lands of Little Cumbrae granted by James V to Robert Symple, son of William, lord of Symple: "ac edificando mansionem et politas solo corresponden". Dated 23 Feb 1533.

Reg Mag Sig, III, no.1432 — Charter of lands of Little Cumbrae granted to Robert Hunter of Hunterstoun by James V, "ac edificando mansionem cum aula, camera, coquina, horreo, bostari et aliis politiis solo corresponden". Dated 23 Dec 1534.

Reg Mag Sig, III, no.1675 — Charter of Revocation of Feudferme of lands of Little Cumbray by Robert Hunter of Hinterstoun in favour of Hugh Earl of Eglinton in favour of granted by James V, with "potestate edificandi turrim &c". dated 5 June 1537.

Fraser, Montgomeries, II, 142 — Charter mentions lands of Ile of Litle Cumraye with tower and fortalice. Dated 31 18 August 1546. [Earliest mention of tower in Eglinton Charters].

Reg Mag Sig, IV, no.1674 — Charter of Confirmation granted by Queen Mary to Hugh Earl of Eglinton of Island of Litill Cumray with tower and fortalice thereon. Dated, 8 Nov 1565.

MacGibbon & Ross, C&DA, III, 172 — Island was under guardianship of Hunters of Hunterston from early date. 1515 passed to Hew, earl of Eglinton because Robert huntar "is nocht of power to resist ye personis yat waistis the samyn without suple and help". Castle probably built by Eglinton. 1568 (Glasgow Burgh records), Hew Erle of Eglintoun contracted with George Elphinstoun, glassin-wricht, burges of Glasgow that the said George suld uphald and mantene the places of Ardrossan, Eglintoun, Polnone, Glasgow, Cumray in glassi warke, as also the place of Irvin", to be receive "twa bollis meill, and ane stane cheis" "and gif it happinis the said Erle to hald house in ony of the foirsaidis places when it sal happin, the said George to wirk, the said George shall have his meit the tiem that he wirks, and als when the said George turis creillis of glas and leid to Irvyn, Ardrossan, Eglintoun and Cumray, the said Erle sal caus ane carrage hors to turs the samyn out of Glasgow".

ASH, Sa 8.2.1873, 2d [C16]	Contract in Burgh Records, Glasgow, 1568, between Hugh, Earl of Eglinton, and **George Elphinstoun**, 'glaisin wricht', Glasgow, by which Elphinstoun 'suld uphold and maintane the places of Ardrossan, Eglintoune, Polnoun, Glasgow and Cumray in glaisin work, as also the place of Irvine".
2Sa [1837], 270	Remains of tower 35' high with battling. 38' by 15'. Walls 6' thick. 1st storey vaulted with stone arches. Destroyed by Cromwell.
MacGibbon & Ross, CDA, II, 183	Simple tower, 3rd period, 1400-1542, 1 of group with Fairlie, Law and Skelmorlie. Resemble each other in plan and exterior. Oblong, 41'3" (also at Law), just over 29' wide, 45'10" high (4'6" higher than Fairlie). Kitchen and hall on 1st floor. Access by wheel-stair from ground floor entrance. Hall - screened by stone partition to form kitchen. Kitchen very small, 4' by 14'. Fireplace with arch separating it from rest of kitchen. Entrance to kitchen through hall. Entrance originally on 1st floor later altered to ground floor, led straight to hall. Cumbrae is only one of group to have 2nd vault over hall. 2nd floor: 2 rooms, each with fireplace and garde-robe. Upper work: Corbelled (same designas Fairlie), continuous course, above a checkered arrangement of corbels. Roundels at 3 corners (Fairlie has 4).
Lamb, Parish Annals, 1896, 128	Castle had been used as beacon light before 30' tower erected on it. 12' in diameter. Ruin standing but staircase broken.

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