Johnston 1275, *Girven*, Gaelic *gearr abhainn*, "shore river".

GENERAL

Girvan Town Council minutes contain many references to holiday and attraction promotion, show ground lettings, &c., which are not repeated here.

ATD 62/9 CH 18.8.1911 "... in the reign of Mary Queen of Scots ... Girvan still consisted of sand-blown hillocks, dotted with broom and furze. But in 1668 Robert Boyd of Ballochtoul conceived the idea of turning the wilderness into a most desirably situated, and for this purpose he procured a charter from King Charles II. This charter was renewed to Sir Archibald Muir of Thornton into whose possession the estate of Ballochtoul had passed, by King William III in 1696, but it was not until 1785 that the charter was put into execution by which time the Laird of Bargany had assumed the position of superior".

Imp gaz, I, 727 [1793] Heron, in 1793, said "the houses are huts more miserable than those of Ballantrae. They are so low as to seem, at the south end of the village, rather caves dug in the earth, than houses built upon it."

Census, 1821, 496 Girvan 'A considerable increase of the cotton manufactory has taken place at Girvan.'

Census, 1831 Girvan 'The great increase in population in the parish of Girvan (1940 persons) is attributed to the influx of operational weavers, principally Irish.'

Census, 1841 'The return for the parish of Girvan (which is a Burgh of Barony) includes a number of Irish labourers on their way inland in search of employment.'

2SA, 1845, 347 Population has increased due to influx of Irish weavers.

Imp Gaz, I, 727 [1857/65] "Even the recently built erections are, in a large proportion of instances, small houses occupied by the lowest order of immigrant Irish, who come hither in search of employment in cotton weaving."

"Girvan Harbour, till very recently with from 9 to 211 feet of water at the mouth of the river, admitted only vessels of small burden; but it is now so far improved as to admit of a steamer of from 90 to 100 feet keel, and to afford some facility for the exportation of coals and agricultural produce."

Groome, 1884, 88 Village until recently, now a 'delightful and health-giving resort' with 'fair public buildings and numerous commodious private houses'.

In 1696 received Charter of Burgh of Barony. Privileges not received until 1785.

In 1832 there were 1800 hand looms, now only a few.

1892. New sewage scheme opened. Plans to replace old wooden bridge with iron bridge.

Populations. 1871-4791; 1891 -4081.

AA, Th 5.10.1893, 6f [In terms of of new Burgh Police Act, Girvan's Police Commissioners will be reduced from 12 to 9, having a population less than 10,000]. Girvan Police Commissioners petitioning Sheriff Court to retain 12 Commissioners. [See also Maybole]

3SA, 1951, 819 1750 houses in Burgh: 439 tenements, 360 cottages, 140 villas, 195 terraced houses, and 120 bungalows. 600 houses built in inter-War

years. Since 1945 69 pre-fabs have been erected, and 71 more being built.

ACC, PC 13.11.1951, 88 — Chief Planning Officer's report on proposed listed buildings, as suggested by DHS. They are:
Manse - Town Hall - pub at north end of High Street - 31-33 High Street - 17-21 High Street - 15 High Street - 13 High Street - 11-17 The Avenue.
All acceptable to CPO except those in the High Street, which are in an already approved clearance area.

ACC, Planning Cttee 11.10.1960 — Girvan TC have proposed **T Findlay Lyon** as consultant on Flushes CDA.

AA, ATD 62/11, 65, AP 7.9.1962 — Aerial photograph.

AA, ATD 62/11, 185 — Proposed extension of burgh boundary to include Grangeston has been approved, and comes into effect 16.5.1963.

COAT OF ARMS

GTC, 18.11.1929 — Unregistered.

GTC, 28.4.1930 — Petition to Lord Lyon, King of Arms, signed. Motto, **WEAVE INDUSTRY WITH TRUTH**, adopted.

GTC, 13.4.1931 — Permission to use on china granted to W H Goss Ltd.

GTC, 11.5.1931 — Permission to use on china granted to A Gordon.

STREET SIGNS

AA 17.8.1911 [1834] — names were inscribed on street corners in 1834 [History of Burgh as part of comments on opening of Town Hall].

GTC, WksC 2.6.1924 — Recommend that painted street names should be gradually superseded by aluminium plates. A number to be put up each year.

CH, F 13.6.1924, 4b — Discussion reported. They are aluminium, with names embossed on a blue ground.

AP, Th 19.9.1968, 15e — Further tree names chosen for Glendoune: Elm Court, Maple Drive, Cherry Drive, Willow Drive, Beech Way.

AA, Th 7.11.1968, 10c — GTC agree to name a street in Glendoune Rajput Drive,after late Col G M K Young's old regiment. Request from Trustees of the Glendoune Estate.

ARCHAEOLOGY

COALPOTS, BURIAL URNS

AA, Th 20.4.1961, 13de — Report on two burial urns found recently at Coalpots.

WHEEL-CROSS

See Neilson's AA 5.11.1896 article, TYPESCRIPT herewith

OFFICIALS

TOWN CLERK

John B ROSS

AA 16.1.1851, refers to him as Town Clerk

Peter McKENNA, - 1896

C&I 1896 — Died 13 February 1896.

James SMITH, 1896-1927

GTC 14.11.1927 [†] — Town Clerk since 12th March 1896

Doune Cemetery — Town Clerk 1896-1927. Died, aged 61, 8 November 1927

Scott VALENTINE, 1927 - 1956

GTC, 5th December 1927 — Appointed.. [GTC, 9.1.1928, Depute to be James H. SMITH]

ATD 62/10 AA 14.6.1956 — Scott VALENTINE is retiring, w.e.f. 15.8.1956, as Town Clerk of Girvan after 29½ years.

John Harley CUNNINGHAM, 1956-1972

AP, F 3.6.1977, 2e — Has died, aged 66. TC,1956-72.

BURGH SURVEYOR

Thomas Muirhead BROWN (- 1918)

Fl 1916-1918, on active service

BGi 1/1/9, TC 13.5.1918 — Died in France, of shell gas poisoning, 16th April 1918

James GIBSON (1918 - 1921)

Fl 1916-18, as Interim Burgh Surveyor

BGi 1/1/9, TC 9.12.1918 — Post made permanent

GTC, 11.7.1921 — Resigns. Had been complaints about his conduct (e.g. GTC 20.6.1921)

George HARLEY (1922 - 1928)

GTC, 28.11.1921 — Short leet chosen.

GTC, 9.12.1921 — Post offered to George Harley, Dumfries.

GTC, 19.12.1921 — To commence 3rd January 1922.

GTC, 13.2.1928 — Resigning: to become B.S., Saltcoats

A G D GRANT (1928 -

GTC 16.2.1928, 20.3.1928 — Advertising; short leet.

GTC, 27.3.1928 — Post offered to A G D Grant, Burgh Surveyor, Lossiemouth.

Fl. late 1930s

James GREIG, - May 1967

AA, ATD 62/11, 869, CH 17.2.1967 — To retire in May 1967.

James McVIE, May 1967 -

AA, ATD 62/11, 869, CH 17.2.1967 — To succeed James Greig in May 1967. Has been his assistant since September 1963.

NB

AA, Th 14.2.1952, 1e — There was a fire, M 11 February 1952, in the Burgh Surveyor's offices in High Street, Girvan. Plans and records lost.

HARBOUR MASTER

GTC, 17.11.1924 — Alexander McCRINDLE appointed. First to be employed by Town.

PROVOSTS

1894 - 1903 — William McCREATH, Provost for 9 years, has died, GTC 13.2.1922.

Pre1916 — TELFER. †12.4.1918

Nov 1912 - 1921 — Alexander SMELLIE. GTC 18.7.1927, has died. Provost for 9 years

Nov 1921 - 1924 — Robert HERVEY. GTC, 22.2.1926, reference to recent death.

Nov 1924 - 1927 — James McCRINDLE

Nov 1927 - 1930 — John McPHAIL. GTC, 25.6.1934, reference to recent death.

Nov 1930 - 1933 — Charles MacKenzie LAWSON

Nov 1933 - — William McCREATH
Son of William McCREATH, above

xxxx-xxxx — Robert O ROXBURGH. He died, aged 76, 16 September 1937.

1942-1945 — Robert M HAMILTON. He died, aged 74, 29th June 1960. Born in Rankinston and became a checkweighman at Killochan. Then in business as firstly a

draper and then a baker (Old Street, for 17 years to c.1952). Retired about 8 years ago. Councillor from 1931. (AA, Th 30.6.1960, 30c)

1945-1947 W. Campbell PARKER. Colliery manager: 1930-1947 general manager, South Ayrshire Collieries Ltd, but posted to eastern Scotland after nationalisation. Retired in 1958. Died 20.11.1968, Glasgow, from car crash injuries about 14 days earlier. AA, Th 28.11.1968, 12b

xxxx-xxxx Robert G SNOW. He died, aged 68, 9 March 1963

xxxx-xxxx Albert MITCHELL. He died, aged 67, 11 December 1943

xxxx-xxxx Samuel McCULLOCH. Of 1 Montgomerie Place; died 12th September 1975 [AA, Th 18.9.1975, 2a]

HONORARY BURGESSES

7th October 1931 James BROWN, M.P.

12th January 1949 (AP 14.1.49, 8cde)
Hugh McCREATH, Ardwell, Bearsden, road metal contractor (of McCreath & Taylor)
Richard EDMISTON, Ibrox House, Glasgow, auctioneer (J & R Edmiston)

HOUSING, GENERAL COMMENT

Groome, 1884, 88 Blue and grey whinstone used for local buildings. Limestone found in east of parish.

McWilliam In Girvan yellow and red stone come together.

Old List 7 Kiirkpatrick Street - Glendoune Street - Wilson Street - Ailsa Place - The Avenue (n. end) - Harbour Street - Greenside Street (n. end)
These streets contain pleasant ranges of simple 1 storey dwellings, some of them attractively painted or stuccoed, of no particular intrinsic merit, but giving considerable character to the southern half of the burgh. Mostly early C19. C group.

Hume Weavers' cottages. Early C19. Many of the houses in the older parts of the town were weaver's cottages, some with double windows and a few with triple windows. Some good examples are at the end of Glendoune Street.

AA 1.12.1887 There is at present an unusual amount of building going on. 2 handsome villas are being reared in The Avenue while 4 semi-detached villas are going up on the Green, besides some minor buildings.

GTC, 19,.3.1923 Offer by Messrs Morrison & McLean to number the 60 new council houses accepted.

GTC, 2.11.1931 CLEARANCE AREAS. Recommend establishment of Clearance Areas fir McConnell's Square, Lagganwhilly, Cairn Place and Duff Street.

GTC 6.11.1931 To be 8 Duff Street - 1-6 Cairn Place - 12,4,5 Lagganwhilly - 3,5,68,9,12,14,.16 McConnell's square.

GTC, 25.4.1932 Duff Streett, Cairn Place and McConnell's Square Orders formally approved. Lagganwhilly to be amended.

GTC, 2.5.1932 Lagganwhilly (1, 2 Lagganwhilly) Order formally approved.

GTC 8.8.1932 — DEMOLITION ORDERS. Various sites - see ref, but including Gas Lane and 1-5 Wreck Road.

GTC, 31.7..1933 — ORDERS under Section 16, 1930 act. See ref for details.

GTC 28.8.1933 — DEMOLITION ORDERS. 4-6 Hervey Road, 5 Orange Arch, 6 Piedmont square, 7-11 Wreck Road.

GTC, 2.7.1934 — DEMOLITION ORDERS. 199-201 Dalrymple Srreet, 7 Houston Place.

GTC, 14.9.1936 — Memo from Ministry of Transport regarding Ribbon Development Act 1935.

ACC Planning, A517-A519 — December 1948. Applications for housing development (at Shore Field, Doune Knoll, and 'south end') by G.M.K. Young. All blank (no decision).

AA, ATD 62/11, 576, c.March 1965 — The Wimpey scheme at Glendoune "will be unique south of Glasgow". Is it private or l.a.? It includes 116 houses including 56 3A maisonettes.

UNSORTED

AA, Th 31.3.1808, 1b — "New, slated" house to let, opposite the harbour. Kitchen, parlour and 2 bedrooms on first flat, and two bedrooms on second flat. "Commodious" position for sea-bathing. Proprietor is Robert Dick in North Threave.

AA, Th 5.1.1809, 1a — To sell, house and yard of late Samuel Baird.

AA, Th 23.5.1822, 1b — Tack right for sale, the property of John Ross in Penkill, acquired from William McMurray in Troweir, in lieu of a debt.

AA, Th 3.7.1851, 1c — For sale. 1 storey slated house on Girvan Green, on a tack of August 1812 between Bargany and James Powell, weaver, and p.p. by Mrs Cairns, &c. Also 1 storey thatched house in Dalrymple Street, on a sub-tack of March 1813 between Powell and Janet White in Lochhead, Colmonell, and p.p. by James McKissock, weaver.

AA 24.11.1898 — Bankruptcy of **William McKinley**, grocer and builder in Girvan; started as builder 9 years ago, and built Victoria Terrace, and then built Seafield Terrace, and afterwards Daisybank and Lilybank Terraces. Then built Parkbank and Briar Terraces.
[Victoria, Perkbank and Briar Terraces still untraced]

BI 17/197 June 1906 — 9 cottages, of 3 types, for James Purdon. **Andrew L Mercer**, Ayr, architect.

ALLOTMENTS
See GTC from 28th December 1917 to 25th March 1918.

GTC, 8.12.1924 — Those in Wreck Road being given up, from February, by Mr Cairns.

GTC, 22.12.1924 — To be offered to plot holders under the supervision of Mr MacIntosh.

COMMERCIAL INN

CH, F 30.5.1924, 2e — Acquired by Frank Smith, and repainted &c internally. "It is now one of the most replete licensed establishments in the town."

GLENDOUNE

ACC Planning, A8901 — July 1955. Double Bungalow, Glendoune Estate; Samuel Stewart, Torrance, for Mr McMillan

GREEN-END

AA, Th 7.5.1840, 4a — To let: 'large house situated upon the Green-end of Girvan', belonging to John Anderson at Daljarrock. dd+4, offices, coach-house, &c.

KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL FUND

GTC, 8.6.1936 — Letter from Lord Mayor of London

GTC, 22.6.1936 — "It was agreed in view of the County Appeal made by the Lord Lieutenant to recommend that the Council for this Memorial raise a local fund for the provision of recreational facilities."

McALPINES

ACC Planning, 2282 — August 1941. Temporary accommodation, Girvan, for Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd.

OLD SHIP INN

ASH, F 2.3.1888, 5e — To be demolished. It is alleged that in the early C18 the first post-Reformation mass in Scotland was celebrated in an upper room here, for emigrant Irish hand-loom weavers.

PROVOST'S LAMPS

GTC 18.3, 8.4.1929 — Proposal to get new lamps, from a design of Alder & Mackay, rejected.

GTC, 2.2.1931 — Design approved and recommended to GTC.

VICTORIA ARMS

CH, F 6.6.1924, 2e — Renovated, &c., by Walter Myron, with horseshoe counter.

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