Johnston — c.1130, *Strath Yrewen,* Celtic, "green river". Cf river Irfon, Cardiganshire, Welsh, "*ir afon*".

AP, F 8.6.1945, 4cd — There was a severe outbreak of plague in Glasgow during the mid 1640s. As a result the University classes for the sessions 1645-46 and 1646-47 were taught in Irvine. Irvine was suggested because the Professor Divinity, David Dickson, had previously been the Minister of Irvine.
[In 1945 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of this, the Provost, &c., of Irvine were invited to a dinner in Glasgow by the University.]

AA, Th 23.5.1822, 4c — Case heard in Ayr Sheriff Court about the rights of the Incorporated Trades of Irvine. They were established in 1646 - the six trades being Hammermen, Websters, Tailors, Cordiners, Wrights and Coopers. See the reference for fuller details of the case.

Caledonian Mercury, M 19.5.1735, 4a — The annual gun prize of the burgh of Irvine, originally founded by Sir Hugh Montgomery of Skelmorlie, is to be shot for on Tuesday 27.5.1735. The prize is a dozen silver-handled knives and forks.

A Tour Through most of the trading towns and villages in Scotland
[1778] — A royal burgh and seaport, and held of the crown. It lies in the bottom of a deep bay, and shallow water; in other respects is well sitauted for trade; a fine country about it, and the spirit of manufactures increasing daily. There are 10 looms for stockings, 45 linen looms, 40 looms in the silk branch, and about 2900 examinable people in the parish. The export is coal and dry goods to Ireland. They have 6 herring busses on the herring fishing, which are employed in the coal and coasting trade during the intervals of the fishing seasons. There are two master builders, and the trading people here are ready and willing to promote navigation by taking shares of ships with industrious young seamen they build ship sof 200 tons measurement, which is 300 tons deadweight. They have a good ropery; and James Kennedy, the Board's stamp master, has a good bleachfield. There are about 32 sail of shipping belonging to the port, each about 65 tons at a medium. House rents are moderate, wages high at present. Mr Gammel, an old shipmaster, supports the coal and all other branches here to a great extent.

McWilliam — .. sometimes it is a compound signature with more than one town-marking feature. Irvine ... has three; a parish church demurely Georgian, a skinny Grecian town hall and a powerful big-skirted gothic free church. They have lately been joined by a cluster of tower-block housing of less distinctive profile.

AA, Th 7.8.1806, 4a — Being sold: 31A 1R 27F in Irvine, the property of Patrick Warner of Ardeer.

Census, 1831 — Irvine. 'Since 1821 a part of the parish of Irvine (containing nearly 3000 inhabitants) has been legally disjoined and annexed to the parish of Dundonald.' 114 are employed in coal-pits.

AA 9.5.1895 — Building Operations. Ex-Provost Wright has just completed a couple of ornamental cottages, 2 storeys high, on the rising ground in line with

Rowanbank. Plans were passed at Dean of Guild Court on Tuesday for 2 cottages Mr Curle is about to build at the harbour, also plans for 2 blocks of 2 storey houses which Mr Connor, joiner, proposes to erect in Bridgegate. Parish Church Mission Hall is in process of erection.

1921 - 1924 — Irvine had a licence limitation resolution in force. Approved 1920, became effective 1921, but repealed before April 1924 licensing court.

ACC, Planning Cttee 13.9.1960 — Proposed CDA (Fullarton/Halfway area?). ITC proposed **T Findlay Lyon**, Uddingston, as consultant.

MARYMASS

1968
AA, Th 8.8.1968, 12cd — Marymass Folk Fair, Sa 17 to Sa 24.8.1968. Acts include Humblebums, Jean Redpath, Aly Bain, High Level Ranters.

IRVINE BAY REGENERATION PROJECT
C21 — Part of Irvine Bay Regeneration Partnership project. Master plan for Irvine: **BDP**.
Some specific projects are by **Urban Splash**.
Other elements of the master plan are by Austin-Smith:Lord (Kilwinning) and the Halcrow Group (Three Towns).

AP, F 31.5.2013, 16 — Appointed Deputy Lieutenant, 2013. Was Chairman, IBRCo, 7 years. She retired in 2008, and has subsequently been Vice-Chariman, Ayr Renaissance. Lives in Seamill.

FULLARTON

2SA, 1845, 687 — Burgh of Barony in 1707. Population in 1841, 2813.
Groome, 1884, 63 — Pop, 1881, 4009; pop, 1891, 4530.
Groome, 1884, 324 — Absorbed in Irvine, 1881.

PROVOSTS
July 1923 - November 1928 — R. M. HOGG (Died Sat 5.1.1930. Head, Bank Street School. AP 10.1.1930, 11b)
xxx - xxxx — Matthew LAMONT. Awarded OBE, AA Th 6.1.1955, 13ab. 72, ex-provost.

BURGH OFFICIALS

TOWN CLERK

Alexander NISBET — fl 1760

John Norval MURRAY — died 6.10.1907

David GILLIES — fl 19123

Robert McQuillen WYPER — 1944 - 1972

Died 21.1.1972. KS, F 11.2.1972, 22def [University of Edinburgh Journal, 25, 1971-72, gives name as Robert McQuillen WHYTE, Town Clerk since 1944.]

James GORDON 1972 - Was Depute TC, and has been appointed to succeed Wyper. KS, F 11.2.1972, 22def.

BURGH SURVEYOR

Fl. 1932 William L. WEIR
Fl. 1948 J.A. GRAHAM,
Fl.1950 R.W. MORRISON

BURGH CHAMBERLAIN

Fl. 1945 Hugh MacQUEEN

FREEDOM OF THE BURGH

ITC, TCiC 13 January 1948 Sir Andrew DUNCAN

UNSORTED

AA, Th 14.4.1808, 4b To let, house property of, and p.p. by, James Crichton, collector of customs. Dd+4, &c.

ANCHOR BAR

EG, Tu 17.8.1915, 1283a Application for sequestration of Mary G. Davidson, Anchor Bar, Irvine.

BELLEVUE

ASH, Sa 8.9.1877, 1b For sale, Bellevue, Seggan Bank - dining room, drawing room, parlour, library and seven bedrooms. House "is of modern construction". 5 minutes walk from station - well stocked garden - and two vineries in full bearing.

BRIDGEGATE

ASH, Sa 13.3.1875, 1a Contractors wanted for block of 3-storey buildings to front Bridgegate, for the Irvine and Fullarton Literary and Social Institute. **John Armour, junior**, architect.

BUTE AND AYRSHIRE ARMS

TT, F 7.4.1899, 5b Application by Mrs Crawford to Dean of Guild Court for minor alterations delayed for a site visit.

[John CAMPBELL]

AA, Th 8.6.1809, 4c During the celebrations of the King's Birthday, a flag was hoisted at "top of that new building, lately erected by John Campbell, Esq."

CASTLE PARK

C&I, 1896 Died 7 June 1896, Duncan Gilmour, iron forger, Castle Park, Irvine. Sons, at Castle Park,: Alexander Gilmour, iron forger, and John Husband Gilmour, engineer.

COFFEE HOUSE

AA 22.7.1886 Report of 7th Annual Meeting (i.e. founded c.1879)

HALFWAY, TENEMENTS

ASH, Sa 26.9.1874, 1a — Contractors wanted for 4 3-storey tenements, Halfway. John Armour, junior, architect.

HOUSE

ASH, Sa 24.4.1875, 1a — Contractors wanted for a house at Halfway for Adam Cousar. **John Armour, junior**, architect.

HYSTER Ltd.

E A Darley, Certificate Book, 1964-1974 — E A Darley: certificates issued 1965: house for Mr Lewis.

IRVINE LABOUR CLUB

KS 17.12., 24.12.1976 — Immoral acts case.

MONTGOMERY (POET), BIRTHPLACE

AA, Th 13.3.1828, 3cd — "The house in which Mr Montgomery was born stands on the north side of the mouth of an alley called the Braid Closs, in a long regular street leading to the harbour, and the little chapel in which his father, a Moravian clergyman, long preached is to be seen behind the same, being now used in the capacity of a weaver's work shop, though still known by the name of the Moravian Kirk."

RAVENSCROFT

AA 1.1.1824 — To sell, "built within last 3 years".

AA 4.12.1828 — To sell, "recently built".

RITZ

ACC Planning, A9539 — January 1956. Convert Ritz Theatre to Dance Hall, with additions and alterations, for Thomas McMillan.

HOUSE, T RUSK

AA 3.6.1847 — Contractors - house - Timothy Rusk, pawnbroker.

HOUSE, TOWNHEAD

GM, Th 7.4.1785, 109b — House to sell near Townhead, of 4 storeys, 'nearly finished'. Has stable, garden, &c.

ESTATE AGENTS' PARTICULARS

Kidsneuk Cottage — November 1982

GENERAL

PROPOSED THEATRE TOUR, 1948

ITC, TC 11.11.1947 — See Ref. Promoter is John Hanau, Edinburgh.

© Rob Close 2026