



Broughton Tolbooth 1582-1829

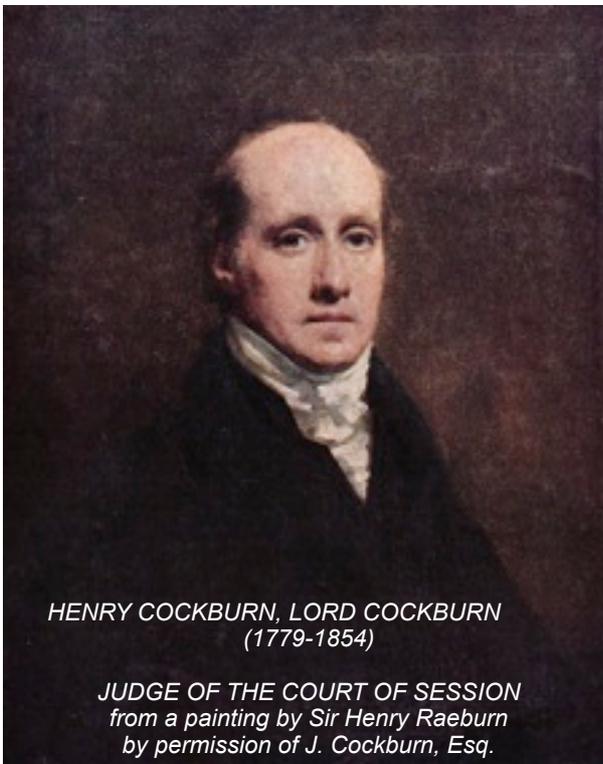
BROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Broughton in Literature

'Nothing certainly, within a town, could be more delightful than the sea of the Bellevue foliage gilded by the evening sun'



HENRY COCKBURN, LORD COCKBURN
(1779-1854)

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF SESSION
from a painting by Sir Henry Raeburn
by permission of J. Cockburn, Esq.

Henry Cockburn (1779-1854) was a lawyer, writer and very determined and outspoken Edinburgh conservationist – after whom the Cockburn Association is named. History Society member Kate Love prompted us to look at what he has to say about our area in his *Memorials of His Time*.

In 1840, Cockburn explained how *Memorials* came about: 'It occurred to me, several years ago, as a pity, that no private account should be preserved of the distinguished men or important events that had marked the progress of Scotland, or at least of Edinburgh, during my day. I had never made a single note with a view to such a record. But about 1821 I began to recollect and to inquire.'

'No part of the home scenery was more beautiful than Bellevue, the villa of General Scott. It seemed to consist of nearly all the land between York Place and Canonmills – a space now almost covered by streets and houses. The mansion-house stood near the eastern side of the central enclosure of what is now Drummond Place; and a luxurious house it was. The whole place waved with wood, and was diversified by undulations of surface, and adorned by seats and bowers and summer houses. Queen Street, from which there was then an open prospect across the Firth to the north-western mountains, was the favourite Mall. Nothing certainly, within a town, could be more delightful than the sea of the Bellevue foliage gilded by the evening sun, or the tumult of blackbirds and thrushes sending their notes into the adjoining houses in the blue of a summer morning. We clung long to the hope that, though the city might in time surround them, Bellevue at the east and Drumsheugh (Lord Moray's place) at the west end of Queen Street might be spared.

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Renewed thanks to Eileen Dickie for doing the Desktop Publishing, to Alan McIntosh for proof-reading – and to both of them for their advice.

Ideas or contributions for our next edition?
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**Apologies for the very late
publication of this edition**

But in 1802 Bellevue was sold. The magistrates, I believe, bought it; and the whole trees were instantly cut down. They could not all have been permanently spared; but many of them might, to the comfort and adornment of the future buildings. But the mere beauty of the town was no more thought of at that time by anybody than electric telegraphs and railways; and perpendicular trees, with leaves and branches, never find favour in the sight of any Scotch mason. But indeed in Scotland every one seems to be a “foe to the Dryads” of the borough groves”. It is partly owing to our climate, which rarely needs shade; but more to hereditary bad taste. Yet, though standing passive, I remember people shuddering when they heard the axes busy in the woods of Bellevue, and furious

when they saw the bare ground. But the axes, as usual, triumphed; and all that art and nature had done to prepare the place for foliaged architecture, if being built upon should prove inevitable, was carefully obliterated; so that at last the whole spot was made as bare and dull as if the designer of the New Town himself had presided over the operation.’

• wood-nymphs

Source: Cockburn, Henry, Memorials of His Time, New Edition with Introduction by his Grandson Harry A. Cockburn, T. N. Foulis, Edinburgh and London (MCMX)

They lived in Broughton

This is the sixth in a series republishing articles first printed in our local community paper *Spurtle*. Following two writers Robert Garioch and Compton Mackenzie, entertainer Harold Lloyd, soldier/coachmaker Patrick Crichton and Mrs Charles Dickens, we now have John Ross Maclean’s article about artist Anne Redpath (*Spurtle* 176, November 2009)

The recent comprehensive exhibition of Scottish paintings at the Mansfield Traquair Centre, auctioned by Sotheby’s in London on 30th September, included four works by erstwhile Broughtonian Anne Redpath RSA, ARA. She would have been astonished to find them displayed in the body of the kirk, a mere 5-minute walk away from her home in 7 London Street. She would be equally delighted to be in the company of Phoebe Anna Traquair, restored to full glory.

Many neighbours still recall with affection Redpath and her welcoming house at No. 7. She and her family lived there from 1952-65, a period when her richly textured work evolved into a freer, expressionist style, which confirmed her key role in the Scottish Colourist tradition. In the Sotheby’s sale, Redpath’s exuberant still life – ‘Summer Gaiety’ – of a vase of mixed summer flowers which features her ‘signature’ use of audacious white colours, was estimated at £80,000-120,000. It fetched £139,250.



Photo courtesy of Sotheby’s London

Memories of Broughton online

We recently paid a long-overdue visit to Peter Stubbs’s excellent website, www.edinphoto.org.uk – which prompted us to look back on its contribution to previous editions of the Newsletter

In Newsletter 25 (Summer 2009) we published a ‘special feature’ on **Place nicknames in Broughton**. ‘I’d totally forgotten the Water of Leith was called “Puddockie” there’, Bryan Gourlay posted on the EdinPhoto website. ‘I used to look over the wall, fascinated by the water rats which were as big as cats.’ On the same site Gerrard Grannum has: ‘During the school summer holidays from Puddiekie (sic) to the dam at Redbraes was our happy hunting ground. If we weren’t fishing for minnows and sticklebacks there was always a wooden raft we would be playing with.’

Two other postings on the EdinPhoto website supplemented what we’d got directly from Broughton residents past and present about the Sandies or Sandy Hills. Stewart Dickson said: ‘The now enclosed hill behind Broughton Road was the Sandy Hills.’ And Jim Duncan added: ‘The cobbled street, off Rodney Street, leading to elevated waste ground was Heriot Terrace and the waste ground was The Sandy Hills.’ There were several old sandpits in the Broughton area.



Looking up from Broughton Road, part of the Sandies was up through the trees to the left

Another online posting from Stewart Dickson was quoted in our article: 'The area next to Broughton Road Bowling Green was called the Dizzy or Dissie.' And another from Gerrard Grannum: 'Opposite the school was a Gents Public Toilet and to the right of it was the Public Bowling Greens (still there). But to the left of the toilet was our adventure area called the Dizzie. We played Japs and Commandos, and we stored all our old wood, chairs and any other rubbish that was for the Bonfire that was burnt on the road at the junction of Broughton Road and East Claremont Street... We also kept feral pigeons in cages we knocked up from old wood and chicken wire. The pigeons we collected from the old Chancelot Flour Mill which dominated the lanscape.' But why was the place called Dizzy/Dissie/Dizzie?

In Newsletter 26 (Winter 2009/10) we published a 'fascinating example of collective, online detective work', **Cullen & Co., Fruiterer and Confectioner**. The story was triggered by a posting on EdenPhoto by a John Smith in July 2008, about his great grandfather's shop in Arthur Street (Pilrig). But the story didn't take off until seven months later, with an 'update' from Peter Stubbs. Between them he and John Smith established that the family business moved to new premises, and that John's mother was positive that they were in Victoria Street. However, there was a problem: the photo didn't make sense when the slope and street numbers were checked.



But then Sarah Gordon posted this in April 2009: 'I've just had a look at the photo of the chocolate shop called Cullen & Co. which was thought to have been in Victoria Street. I'm pretty sure it is actually in Broughton Street, and is now trading as Eastern Union (No.20 Broughton Street)... on the corner of Broughton Street and York Lane.' Peter Stubbs responded: 'Well done Sarah! I think there's no



doubt that's the same shop. I photographed the shop the same day as I got Sarah's message.....The windows have changed but other features can be matched on both photos including: the tall 4-panelled door near the centre of each photo; the advert (lower-right) in old photo, and the space where it fitted; the holes at the bottom of the two pillars just above the pavement – look at the shape of the holes; the ventilation grill beneath the window; and the moulding in the upper-right corner of the photo. In both photos the shop is No.20 and the entrance beside it No.18.'

And then Bob Henderson posted: 'I think you have definitely nailed it here. The clincher is the boot scraper hole on the right-hand side of No.18. It is broken and is the same shape of break in the old and new pictures.'

Broughton First World War Project – Roll of Honour

The project's website is now online – at www.broughtonhistory.org.uk

Jessie Denholm introduced the project in Newsletter Number 30 (Summer 2012):

'In the summer of 2011 we in the Broughton History Society decided to try to identify the fatalities from our area with the aim of assembling something in time for the centenary of the First World War...

'In many communities the starting point for such a project would be the local community war memorial. We don't have such a memorial. We defined our area of interest as starting at the Edinburgh/Leith boundary at Pilrig Street and going as far west as Dundas Street. The northern boundary was the Water of Leith and the southern the line of Leith Walk to York Place. We decided we would look for fatalities with addresses within that area and research the names on war memorials which are or originally were within that area...'

Jessie went on to describe the stages in the research process and the sources used. Then:

'By pulling together information from various sources we can construct short biographical notes about most of the men (there is only one woman so far) whose names we have collected... About 560 names have so far been identified and for some of them biographical notes have been prepared.'

In the following edition of the Newsletter (Number 31, Winter 2012/13) we published another article by Jessie:

'By now we have nearly seven hundred names and we are going to set up a website. This will contain a list of names and some biographical notes for each person named. In this article I hope to give you a "taster" of the sort of information that has been gathered and will eventually be available on the website.'

The 'taster' followed, featuring six men – all of them with short biographies and five with photos. They are all included in the **alphabetical index** accessible from the website's Home page (which we have reproduced opposite). But so far only Robert Hall has his biography on the site; and there are no photos there yet.

We asked Jessie about this. She replied:

'Yes there will be more biographies in the near future. As regards pictures, the main sources are the *Evening Dispatch* and *Evening News* for the war years – there are thousands of pictures of the Edinburgh war dead there. There are, however, problems. The first is copyright. While the copyright in the original newspapers will have expired, the only way to access this material is via the microfilm copies held in the Central Library. So far as I can make out, whoever prepared the microfilm will have copyright in the images. I tried to ask about this over a year ago but the staff in the Edinburgh and Scottish Collection did not seem to know the answer. Since then there has been no opportunity

to try again owing to the closure of the Edinburgh and Scottish Collection since April last year.

This is also holding up the production of biographical material. There are lots of cases where I would like to go and look for more text from the newspapers – while a lot of research can be done on the Internet, there is material in the newspapers that cannot be found elsewhere.'

Lance Sergeant Robert Allan Hall

Robert Allan Hall was born in Edinburgh in 1891. He was the son of Daniel (a printer) and Isabella Hall. The family were then living at 13 Beaverbank Place. Later they lived at 6 Broughton Road. Robert followed his father into the printing trade and became a linotype operator on the staff of the *Evening Dispatch*. He was a good singer and was reported to have been 'an energetic member of the Bohemian Amateur Opera Company'.

He served in the Scots Guards and was killed in action on 15 September 1916. He has no known grave but is commemorated in France on the Thiepval Memorial. He is commemorated in Edinburgh on the War Memorial of **St Philip's Episcopal Church**, Logie Green Road and on the Scotsman War Memorial.

Additional Sources:

Edinburgh Evening Dispatch 2 October 1916,
Photograph 6 October 1916

The above is reproduced from the website



Robert Hall - photo published in
Newsletter Number 31, Winter 2012/134

Broughton History Society

First World War Roll of Honour

Home page

Introduction



Broughton Roll of Honour 1914-1919

In June 2011 Broughton History Society decided to launch a project to identify and research the men (and possibly women) from the Broughton area of Edinburgh who died serving in the armed forces in the First World War.

We wanted to do more than just gather together a list of names. It was hoped that we could find out something of the stories behind these names and produce a fitting memorial to the Broughton war dead of the First World War in time for the centenary in 2014.

Because we do not have a community war memorial for the Broughton area we have 'adopted' the Cross of Sacrifice which stands in Warriston Cemetery as a focus for this project (strictly speaking it commemorates only those who are buried in the cemetery, which is just outside our area).

Exploring this site

To search for an individual biography, use the [alphabetical index](#). The [index map](#) shows addresses connected with those who died and whose biographies are on this website together with location of churches. There is also a page with more information about [churches](#) and their war memorials. The [resources](#) page suggests some websites and books if you would like to find out more.

Sources of Information

The names on our Roll of Honour were gathered from:

- 1 Reports in local newspapers of deaths of men with addresses or workplaces in the Broughton area;
- 2 War Memorials of Churches and other organisations which are or originally were located in the Broughton area.

Constructing the Biographical Notes

For each of the names on the Roll of Honour we aimed to produce a Biographical Note based on information from the following sources:

- 1 The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register — www.cwgc.org
- 2 The Scottish National War Memorial — www.snmw.org
- 3 The Census and Military Records available on www.ancestry.co.uk
- 4 In some instances, information was obtained from local newspapers, books and other websites. Where such sources have been used, details are given in the Biographical Note concerned under the heading 'Additional Sources'.

If you think that we have wrongly identified someone or if you want to add to or correct the information given, please [contact us](#).

Broughton History Society

We hope you might like to find out more about [Broughton History Society](#) on the Broughton Spurtle website.

Note

This is work in progress — our group is continuing its research and what you see at present is far from complete.

Botanic Cottage's Big Day

Eileen Dickie currently chairs the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden – the Garden is all that remains of what was once Edinburgh's Leith Walk botanic garden. Here she celebrates the beginning of a new chapter in the Cottage's history



The very first meeting of a group of people who were interested in the old Botanic Cottage (or the Gardener's Cottage as it was known then) took place at the RBGE in May 2007 and, just about 7 years to the day, a large group of campaigners, RBGE staff and generous donors met to take part in the cutting of the turf on the site where the Botanic Cottage is to be rebuilt.

Those of us who had been at that first meeting could hardly believe that, seven years later, we were part of an event to mark the start of the rebuilding of the Cottage. We reminisced about those early days, remembering the large number of people who openly scoffed at the idea of applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund to research the history of the Cottage; the words 'mad', and 'totally ridiculous' come to mind. But as interest grew and more and more research was done, it became very

apparent that this was a building well worth the saving. And, among the members of the Botanic Cottage Working Group (which emerged from that very first meeting in May 2007) grew the idea of trying to get the Cottage **dismantled** and not demolished and maybe, just maybe, it could be rebuilt within the grounds of the Inverleith Botanic Garden. After all, the Inverleith Garden was the successor to the Leith Walk Garden so what could be more suitable?

We had great support from the RBGE, and the then Regius Keeper, Professor Steve Blackmore was enthusiastic about the project from the start and there was a lot of practical help from many of the staff, especially from Dr David Rae and Alan Bennell. And appreciation also for James Simpson, our own 'on the spot' conservation architect.

The Botanic Cottage Trust was established under the chairmanship of Lord Hope in 2009 and for three years worked very closely with the RBGE to work out exactly how the rebuilding of the Cottage could be achieved. Funding, methods of rebuilding, use of trainees working on historic buildings, health and safety and many other matters had to be discussed. And how would the Cottage be used, information found, experts contacted? You see the scale of the project. Fortunately, there was a great deal of expertise among the Trust members and this plus, and I can't emphasise this enough, support and help from the RBGE smoothed the path to the day that the RBGE officially took over the Botanic Cottage in all its bits and pieces and the Trust was able to disband in early 2013.



With the generous help of the contractors, and the daily enthusiasm of the workers on the Leith Walk site, the Cottage was dismantled and stones, timber and anything else which could be rescued was stored in the nursery at Inverleith.



And so on Monday 28th April 2014, the site was officially opened. Speeches by the new Regius Keeper, Simon Milne (on right) and Lord Hope, Chair of Trustees, were followed by the 100+ people present, taking spades and trowels and following the planned outline of the soon-to-be-rebuilt cottage, dug out the first pieces of turf.



Members of the Botanic Cottage Trust

Two absolutely key people in the whole project from the very start, were James Simpson (far left front row) and Jane Corrie (second from left second row). Dr David Rae is third from left on back row and Andrew Johnston of Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden is far right on front row

Previous coverage of the story in our Newsletter

You can find those previous editions online by going to www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk. On the home page you'll see **Broughton History Society** in the left-hand column: click on that for our dedicated page – and then on the righthand side of it click on **backissues**.



'The last gardener in charge of Hope's garden was William McNab, who masterminded the move to Inverleith – inventing a tree transporter so that mature specimens did not have to be left behind.'

No. 22 Winter 2007/08: 'Botanic Cottage – John Dickie of Hopetoun Crescent looks at a wee eighteenth-century building on Haddington Place whose future has been in the news recently.'

No. 23 Summer 2008: 'Broughton History in the News – Botanic Cottage press release..... The Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden has received £48,500 from the Heritage Lottery to fund



'Botanic Cottage may be one of the earliest and most neglected buildings on Leith Walk, but a local community group is launching an ambitious project to save it.'

an archaeological record of the historically significant cottage which lies between Annandale Street and McDonald Road.'



'The house still has its 18th century roof, with the original timber of a high coved ceiling discovered in the lecture room on the first floor.'

No. 24 Winter 2008/09: 'Delving in the archives for the Botanic Cottage – Dr Joe Rock is one of two researchers currently doing archival work alongside the archaeological project at the former gardener's house.'

No. 25 Summer 2009: 'Society Business – Botanic Cottage. 'First of all thanks all of you who came to the Botanic Cottage Event on the 6th of May 2009. It was great to have so many folk helping the FHCG and the Botanic Cottage Project Group to celebrate



'Douglas Bayne on the left, who lived in the Cottage for 14 years as a boy; Eileen Dickie; and Prof. Steve Blackmore, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden.'

Newsletter Circulation

We print 120 copies of each edition. Around half go to Society members. Eight non-members who have shown a special interest get it regularly; and for each edition one or two on a once-off basis. I'm currently posting it to ten other history groups. And copies go to libraries, schools and local doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms.

the end of a fascinating, if very time-consuming, research and rescue project.'

No. 30 Summer 2012: 'The Botanic Cottage Project – Dr David Rae, Director of Horticulture and Learning at the Royal Botanic Garden, traces how a building that was part of the Broughton landscape for two-and-a-half centuries found its way down to Inverleith and is now promised a renewed place in the study of botany.'



'The importance of the cottage lies in its provenance and history. The Regius Keeper at the time of its construction was Professor John Hope – on the left, with stick.'

Etching by John Kay 1786

Newsletter Online

We have a dedicated page of our own on the Broughton community paper's website (www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk). On their home page you'll see **Broughton History Society** in the left-hand column: click on that for general Society information, details of meetings, the current edition and previous editions going back to Summer 2007.