

# Cumnock . . .



## Banks and Bankers, Shops and Occupants



Excerpted from a  
Historical Series  
in the  
"Cumnock Chronicle," 1961.

Compiled in large measure  
from information  
supplied by  
Mr Jack Hill, Hartfield.

## Cumnock Banks & Bankers, Shops & Occupants –1961

Some members of Cumnock History group were invited by Caroline Paterson, editor of the Cumnock Chronicle, to the paper's offices on Ayr Road to look through some old books and photographs prior to the Chronicle's move to the offices of the Ayrshire Weekly Press, in Ardrossan.

Caroline and her editorial staff very kindly offered CHG the choice of any historical artifacts that were surplus to their requirements. This included, amongst other things, a copy of this booklet; Cumnock Banks & Bankers, Shops & Occupants which collects together excerpts from a historical series of articles from the Cumnock Chronicle of 1961. This was compiled mostly from information supplied by Jack Hill of Harthill, Ayr Road Cumnock.

We have reproduced this interesting and fact filled booklet which contains many historical facts about the people, business and shops of Cumnock as there has been some discussion on our Facebook group; Old Cumnock, about where these shops were situated. The booklet is fully illustrated throughout.

Sadly, the great majority of these business have not survived but many of the premises do.


We hope you enjoy this journey through Cumnock's commercial past.



Bobby Grierson  
Chair – Cumnock History Group  
Feb 2015

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# CUMNOCK BANKS AND BANKERS

**THE RECENT ARTICLE** which we published with reference to "The Blue Tower" occasioned considerable interest and comment, and aroused many queries relative to the disposition of various shops and businesses in and around The Square. In the course of subsequent inquiries we learned something of the history of the Clydesdale Bank, and this sparked off further inquiry into the origins, so far as is ascertainable, of the other banks within the burgh.

Today we are privileged to publish photographs of the town's five banks and, in addition, photographs of the staffs of these branches as at New Year, 1961.

Positive information regarding the early days of all of the banks has not been ascertained, but such facts as we have elicited from the respective

bank managers and other sources are included as a matter of interest and for the record.

The first detailed account is that with reference to the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank, Ltd., and we feel we can do no better than quote from the information provided

by the present manager of the bank, Mr Ian Sim:—

The Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank, Ltd., has had a bank office in Cumnock for 104 years. The building at 30 The Square presently occupied, was built by the Bank about 1881. Prior to that, the Clydesdale Banking Company, as it was then called, owned and occupied the premises at 18, 19 and 20 The Square, presently occupied by Messrs J. & J. M'Jannet, grocers, on the ground floor and Mr Alex. M. Mathieson above. This property is still known as "Clydesdale House," and the original title dates back to 12th March, 1807, and was granted by Wm. Howat to James Baird.

The latter sold the property to the Trustees for the Ayrshire Banking Company in 1834 — the date of their entry being Whitsunday, 1834.

The Ayrshire Banking Company appears to have retained the property until 1847, when they transferred it to the Trustees for the Western Bank of Scotland, their date of entry being Whitsunday, 1845.

The Trustees for the Western Bank of Scotland sold the property to the Clydesdale Banking Co. with entry at Martinmas, 1857, and they in turn sold the property by public roup to David Brown Cree with entry at 17th April, 1883.

In each of these subsequent Writs the description is in similar terms to that in the original.

Mr D. B. Cree was a pawnbroker and sold the property to Dr. Kerr, who was in partnership with Dr. James M'Queen. Dr. Kerr sold the property to Mr Alex. M. Mathieson's mother in 1907.

Although the title deeds do not show when "Clydesdale House," as it is today, was built, it is possible that it was erected by the Western Bank of Scotland between 1845 and 1847. The bank's manager or agent at the time this building was vacated was Mr William S. Ogilvie who was also the first manager in the present premises. On his death in 1902 he was succeeded by his son, Wm. G. Ogilvie, who left the bank's service in 1907 and is, we believe, still alive and living in South Africa. Succeeding managers were Mr John Fleming in 1907, Mr C. N. Morton, 1916, Mr A. Muir, 1929, Mr G. Fredericks, 1943, and the present manager, Mr Ian A. Sim, 1955.

## CLYDESDALE & NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANK.





## CLYDESDALE & NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANK.



**THE STAFF.**—Mr Eric Smith, Mr I. A. Sim (manager), Miss E. K. Macrae, Mr J. Robinson (accountant), Mr A. G. Lorimer and Mr R. W. F. M'Combe.

## THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.



The first positive information regarding the Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Cumnock appears to be with reference to the purchase of a fire-proof safe for the branch on March 3, 1856. Further documents indicate that premises were rented for ten years from this date and, ten years later, in 1866, following on the granting of a Feu Charter, it is to be surmised that the present building was erected in Glaisnock Street.

One of the earliest "Charge Book" entries lists the names of prominent merchants and tradesmen of that era, notably: Murdoch, mason; M'Leod, joiner; Paterson, draper; Ballantine, stationer; M'Geachin, ironmonger; M'Latchie, joiner; Gibb, plumber; Willock, painter; M'Cririck, carrier and Merry, blacksmith.

Royal Bank of Scotland branch agents at Cumnock:—January, 1856 - 1879, Mr Andrew White. 1879 - 1933, Mr Archibald Brakenridge. During this period Mr John Hume was appointed joint agent from 1916 until his death in 1924, and Mr Thomas Russell was joint agent from 1916 until 1924. Mr John Craig was joint agent with Mr Archibald Brakenridge from 1924 until 1933, when Mr Brakenridge died. Mr John Graham, was, at the same period, joint agent (from 1924 - 1947). In 1947, Mr John Craig was appointed sole manager and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1954, when, on 9th January of that year, the present sole manager, Mr John Robertson, was appointed.



## THE BANK OF SCOTLAND



The Bank of Scotland first opened in Cumnock on 2nd May, 1838, under the joint agency of Messrs Hamilton Rose, writer and Matthew M'Kerrow, cloth merchant. The branch was then situated in M'Kerrow's house, part of which had been converted. Mr M'Kerrow retired in 1863 and Mr Rose in 1868.

New premises were acquired in 1870 and the present building erected. The change-over took place in January, 1873.

It is interesting to note that Mr H. B. M'Lellan, who succeeded Mr Rose, was Agent from 1888 until 1908—forty years.

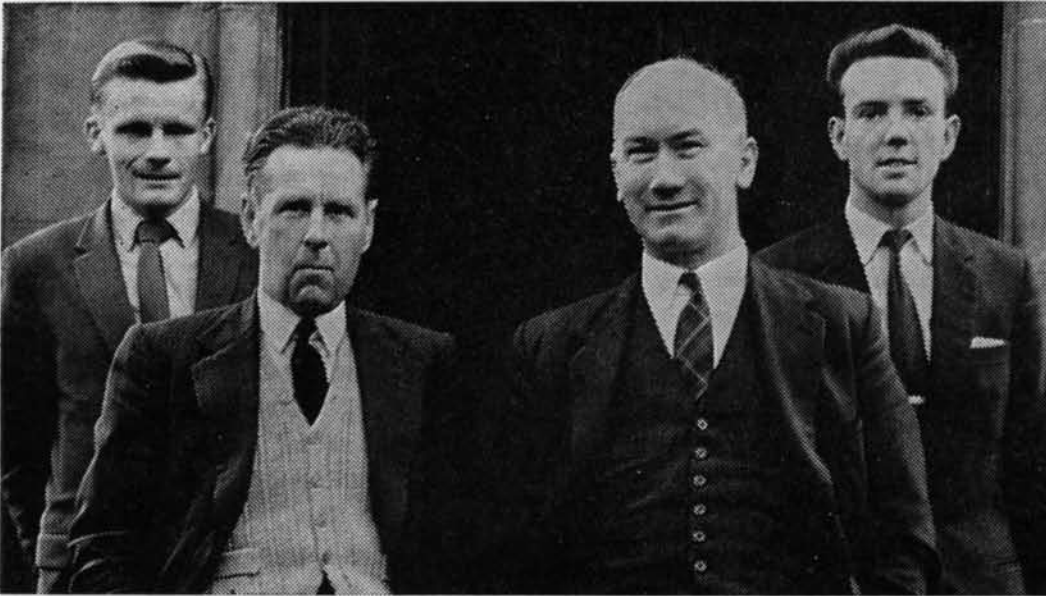
## THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.



**THE STAFF.**—Mr J. Harkness, Mr H. H. M'Gavin (accountant), Miss E. S. J. Ferguson, Mr John Robertson (manager), Miss Ann Wallace and Mr W. W. Ferguson.



## THE BANK OF SCOTLAND.



THE STAFF.—Mr J. J. M. Anderson, Mr S. J. Strain, Mr A. Murphy (manager), and Mr J. Ross.

## THE NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK



Just over forty years ago the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd., opened a branch in Cumnock, the late Mr R. D. Hunter being appointed agent, a post which he held until his death in 1941. He was succeeded by his son, the present Town Clerk of the burgh, who is now associated with Mr J. B. Watson as joint manager. The first accountant at the branch was Mr Bernard A. Reid, who later became manager of the bank's Sandgate office in Ayr and it is interesting to note when Mr Reid retired from the service of the bank a few years ago it was Mr

R. D. Hunter who made a presentation to him on behalf of his fellow managers in Ayrshire.

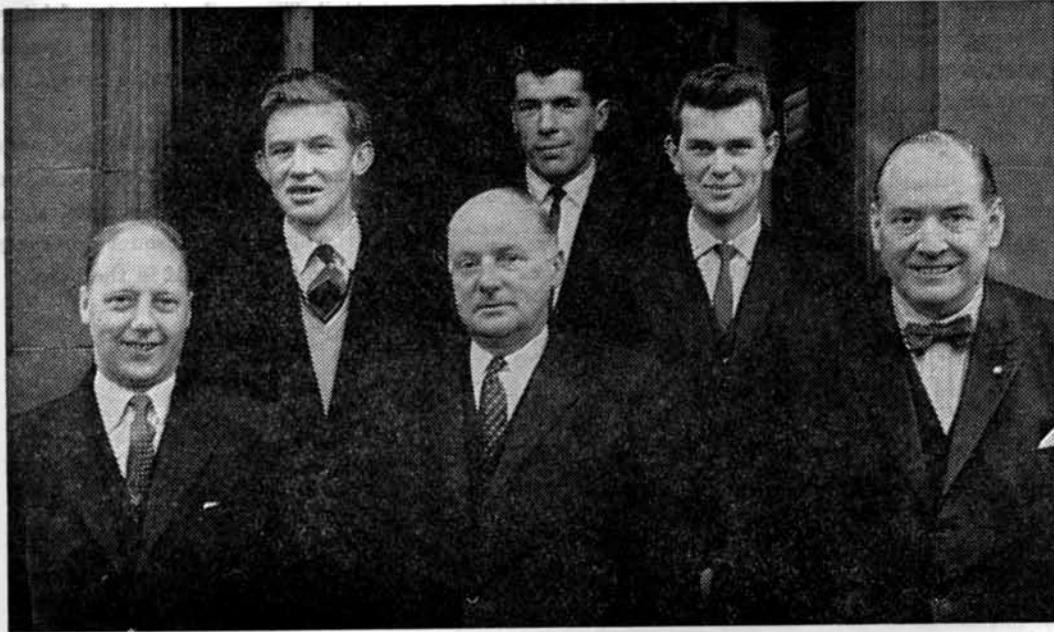
The site on which the present bank building stands was occupied prior to 1875 by a grocer's business conducted by the Hunter family. In that year Mr William Hunter, who had been studying at Glasgow University, returned to the town and started trading as an ironmonger, cycle agent, gramophone dealer and optician. Wm. Hunter was succeeded by Mr Hugh D. Hunter and from No. 1 The Square the ironmongery side of the business was conducted. No. 2 The Square was the cycle and gramophone shop, the rooms above being used in connection with the optician's practice.

It was in No. 2 The Square that the bank established its business, the premises next door being purchased six years later. The building was demolished shortly afterwards and the reconstructed premises opened for business in 1927. While the work was being carried out the bank occupied temporary premises in the Black Bull Close in the building previously occupied by Mr James Davidson, undertaker, and from which today Mr James M'Call conducts a fruiterer's business. In these times there was little heavy traffic using the roads and it was quite an occasion when the large Chatwood safe from the bank was moved across Glaisnock Street to the Hotel Royal on steel rollers, man-handled by a dozen men.

In 1959 the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd., amalgamated with the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., to form the National Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd., the general manager of the former at the time being Mr Ian Macdonald, a native of Cumnock. Following the merger, Mr Macdonald became chairman



## THE NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK.



**THE STAFF.**—Mr D. M. Farquhar, Mr W. H. Brown, Mr J. B. Watson (joint manager), Mr E. B. D. Ingram, Mr W. Crate and Mr R. D. Hunter (joint manager).

of the combined institution, while Mr David Alexander, general manager of the National bank, continued to hold that post in the National Commercial.

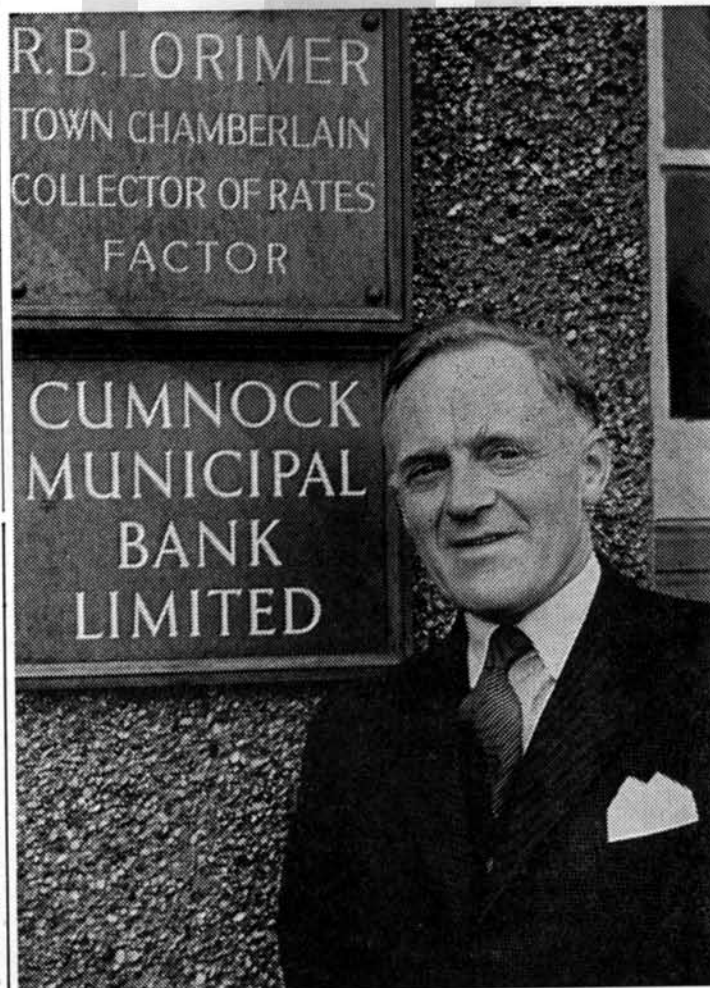
The rapidity with which, on the relaxation of credit restriction, various British banks in 1958/59 entered into hire purchase finance is easily explained. Plans to do so were in hand before the "squeeze," but it is worthy of note that the Commercial Bank of Scotland had led the way by acquiring in 1954 the share capital of Scottish Midland Guarantee Trust, Ltd. This company is now owned by a holding company, Lloyds and Scottish Finance, Ltd., in which National Commercial and Lloyds Bank each has a 50% interest; the holding company also owns Olds Discount Company, Ltd., and, through the two subsidiaries, has hire purchase interests in Rhodesia, the West Indies, South Africa and in Europe.

National Commercial is Scotland's largest bank and with over four hundred branches and seven offices in London plays an important part in the country's economy. The management are

progressive in outlook and plans are in hand to introduce electronic accounting where appropriate and to employ modern

business methods in order to give customers as efficient and comprehensive a service as possible.

### CUMNOCK MUNICIPAL BANK, LTD.



The bank was incorporated as a Private Limited Company on April 2, 1928. The original shareholders were Allan M'Call, fruit merchant, Alex. F. Borland, ironmonger, John Wilson, retired engineer, James Neil, retired electrical engine keeper, George Bridges, teacher, George M'Turk, J.P., miner's agent, and Emrys Hughes, journalist; all at that time members of Cumnock Town Council. The first directors were Messrs Borland, Bridges, Hughes and Neil with Mr Hughes as chairman.

The shareholders did not receive dividends and the directors were unpaid, all the benefits being passed to the Town Council.

The first manager of the bank was Mr John Allan, Burgh Treasurer, and the business was carried on from his office in Ayr Road.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association gave the bank wide powers to carry out all classes of work usually carried out by Joint Stock Banks but in fact the bank limited its work to gathering deposits and lending them to Cumnock Town Council.

In 1931, when Mr John Allan was obliged to become a full time official with Ayr County Council, Mr James Gibb, clerk, Post Office Buildings, Lugar St., Cumnock, was appointed as manager.

Mr Gibb died suddenly in 1937 and his brother, Mr Charles Gibb, was appointed his successor and the business of the bank was carried on from his business premises in Lugar Street.

In 1944 to widen the scope for deposits a branch office was opened in the Town Chamberlain's Office with Mr R. B. Lorimer (pictured left) in charge.

Mr Charles Gibb resigned in 1946 and from that date until now the bank has been under



the charge of Mr R. B. Lorimer, Town Chamberlain, as sole manager. All business is now transacted at the Town Chamberlain's Office in the Town Hall. In addition, Mr Lorimer holds the position of secretary to the bank.

The bank has amply fulfilled the expectation of the original sponsors who believed local ratepayers would welcome a simple and safe method of local investment.

At Mr James Gibb's death in 1937 the deposits amounted to £13,600; when Mr Charles Gibb

resigned in 1946 they amounted to £34,200 and the last balance sheet presented by Mr R. B. Lorimer in 1960 showed that deposits have increased to the very substantial total of £98,900, all of which was on loan to Cumnock Town Coun-

cil. The moderate rate of interest charged to the Town Council ensures considerable benefits to ratepayers.

At June, 1960, Mr Lorimer's report showed there were two hundred current accounts, equal to about one account for every eight households in the burgh.

CHG



# Cumnock Shops and their Occupants, Past and Present

**T**HERE has been considerable discussion on recent articles in these columns referring, in a positive or conjectural fashion, to old houses and their occupants, particularly in Tower Street. Our informant in these matters is the esteemed Mr Jack Hill, and we have encouraged him to follow up these excursions down memory lane to record, so far as possible, a more complete picture of merchants and their places of business.

This week we begin a new series in this vein, concentrating on the Square and lower Barrhill. We hope to encourage Mr Hill to continue his good work, and by so doing, we will have created a fairly sound record of business premises in Cumnock and their changes in occupance over the past eighty years or so. Even over that relatively short span of years, one's memory can make a slip, so we will welcome any comment which will enable us to amend or add to the information we hope to provide for future historians who may browse over our files. (Ed. C.C.).

Starting at the top of the "Pawn Steps," and proceeding towards Glaisnock Street, the first shop we encounter (1) was occupied by Robert MacKervail, shoemaker, then followed David B. Cree, pawnbroker, who was in the business here for many years. He was followed in these premises by John Kernahan (who later lived in Ayr Road); and then it was used by Mr Andrew ("Dusky") M'Call as a restaurant; and the shop is now

occupied by the offices of the Greenan Laundry.

Next door (2) was the shop at one time occupied by Samuel Galbraith, grocer, afterwards by J. Spence, grocer, and later still by David Thomson. This is the building at present occupied by James M'Intyre, licensed grocer.

Then we came to the shop owned by Mrs Mathieson (3) which was well renowned for the high quality fruits and confections which could be obtained

there (a reference to Mrs Mathieson, in other premises, occurs later in this article). This shop was then occupied by Agnes Neil, confectioner, and at a later date cosmetics were sold here in W. O. Kay's "Apothecaries' Hall." For a time, also, William Buck, barber, was occupant. The Mathieson building (4) was later taken over by a Sea Food shop—then as a restaurant by Donnelly's and later Rutherfords, and is now the Electricity Board showrooms.

In early days a Kilmarnock fishmonger named Wright was to be found in the next shop

(5), which was later taken over by J. A. Bingham, fishmonger, Robert Hopkins, fruiterer, and Mrs Turnbull, fruiterer. Ultimately the premises housed the shoe shop of the late Miss Nan M'Grady.

The adjoining shop (6) was that of the late James M'Grady, and it is continued by his late son's widow.

R. B. Houston, grocer, was in the next building (7); he always had his windows full of reading sweeties on Fair Days, and he did a big trade with the fairings. Afterwards, the Houston premises were taken over by Mr Carrick, grocer, later by the Misses A. and M. Bryce, milliners, and still later by Miss Elizabeth Laidlaw, who sold similar merchandise. The shop is now part of R. Robertson's

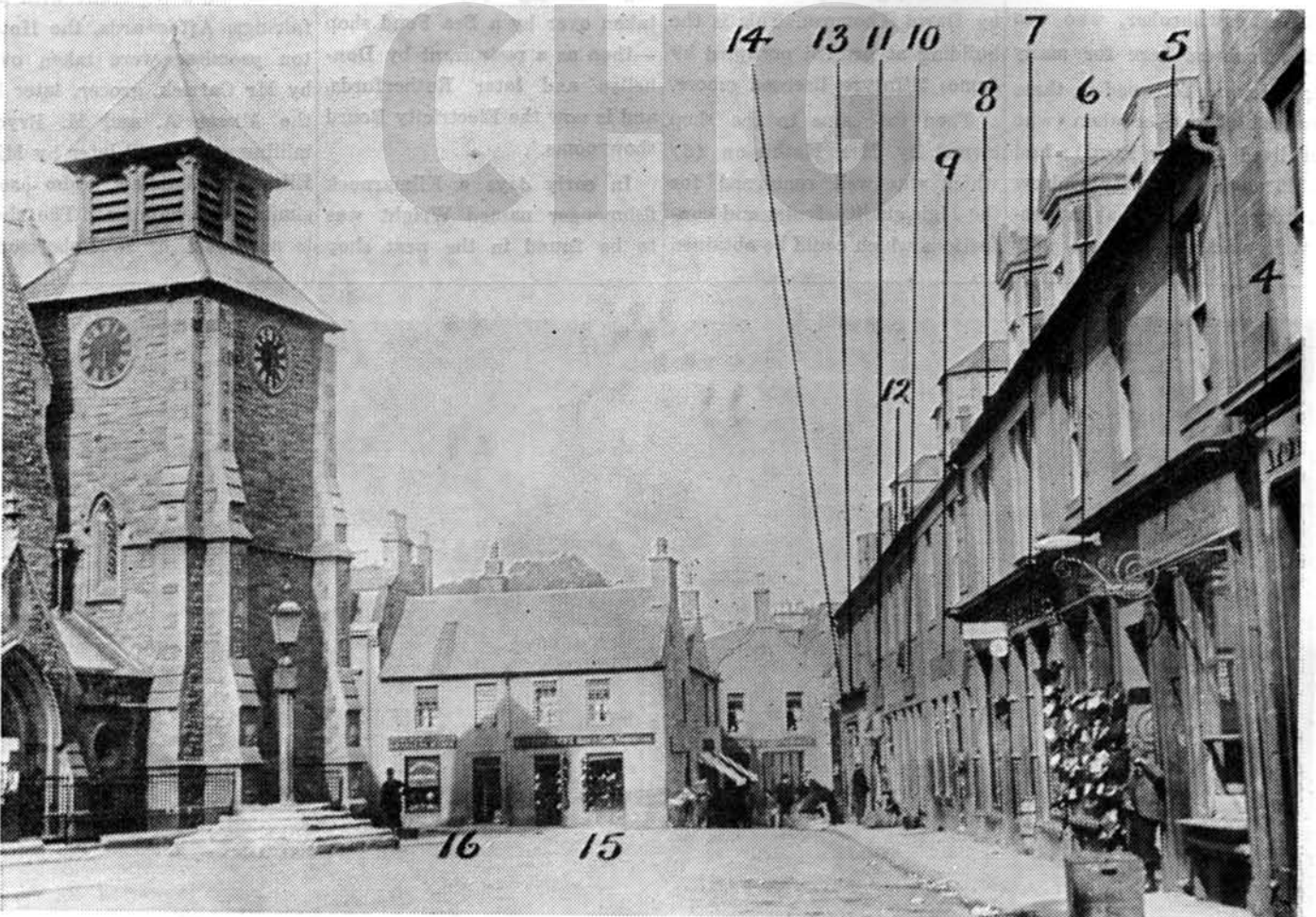




watchmaker and jeweller's premises. was formerly occupied by Robt. Crawford, who succeeded Mr Black, clockmaker and jeweller, so that this specialised trade would seem to have been concentrated in this locus for a considerable period of time. Robert Brown, Catrine, succeeded Robert Crawford.

This is the shop (8) which

was formerly occupied by Robt. Crawford, who succeeded Mr Black, clockmaker and jeweller, so that this specialised trade would seem to have been concentrated in this locus for a considerable period of time. Robert Brown, Catrine, succeeded Robert Crawford.



The Square round about 1890. The figures relate to the present-day picture on the opposite page, and those in parenthesis in the text. It may be noted that even in those days the clock faces were at variance — and the street has its share of litter.





The next shop (9) was occupied by George Moore, clock and watchmaker, who lived in the upstairs dwelling house. It has now been long occupied by Cadam M'Clure, confectioner, and is still run by his daughter, Miss Jessie M'Clure.

Next door (10) was a draper's shop in the charge of William Drummond, and later of D. C. Smith, draper, who was ably assisted by his son Willie. Still later, John Miller, draper, was occupant. This building—along with M'Geachin's shop next door—now forms the frontage of Greenlees' shoe shop.

M'Geachin's ironmongery (11) (later owned by Mr William Ritchie) also provided part of the present building occupied by Messrs R. D. Hunter and Co. Upstairs above the "Easiphit" shop is the hall (12) in which the Cumnock Gospel Hall members meet.

The next two shops at this part of The Square were occupied by David Shields, postmaster and ironmonger, and this was, in fact, the post office for the town at that time. These premises (13) and (14) were

This is a now and then picture for comparison with the older one below. We fancy the smaller one would be taken on the same day as its counterpart showing the Carruthers corner before the general alteration. This of course is again circa 1890.



later taken over as a cycle and ironmonger's shop and as a grocer's shop by the Hunter brothers, Thomas and William, who came from New Cumnock. Thomas was the grandfather of our present Town Clerk, so it is interesting to note that "R.D." still retains such a close

interest in the building as joint manager of the National Commercial Bank.

Across the road, on the Black Bull side of The Square, the first shop we came to (15) was that of David Kennedy, boot and shoe merchant, which was afterwards occupied by David

Carruthers. The adjoining shop (16) was occupied by Hugh Climie, butcher. He was the great-grandfather of the present well-known butcher of that name who now carries on business at Glaisnock Street. A new building was erected at this part of the town around 1892 and a



new shop was therefore created on the site formerly occupied by D. Kennedy. This shop was occupied by David Carruthers and thereafter by ex-Provost John Carruthers, and this now houses the business of the Mary Hannah shoe store. Earlier in its history, this shop was occupied for a few years by Robert Hopkins, fruiterer.

The same shop (16) was occupied by James Purdie, saddler and fancy goods merchant, and later by the Misses Lindsay, drapers, and Mrs Robertson, confectioner.

The next building (17) was the Eagle Inn, occupied by Mrs Mary Climie, widow of the above

Hugh Climie, and later by John M'Gowan, innkeeper and auctioneer, and then by James Guthrie and Robert Barrowman of the Hotel Royal. It is now occupied by Messrs Stevensons' Dairy Farms. It should be noted that Hugh Climie, son of the said Mrs Mary Climie, commenced his business in Tower Street in the shop formerly occupied by Mrs Thomas Connelly, china merchant, which business later removed to Glaisnock Street.

Next to the inn came the shop of David "Batchy" Smith (18). His bakehouse—at the top of Waterside Place—was a favourite meeting place in the mornings, and political and local

affairs were always high on the controversial agenda. The bakery shop was later occupied by Robert Craig, hatter and hosier, and, at a later date, by John M'Grady, whose son, Sam, now runs the boot and shoe business at the same premises.

Continuing round the Square the traveller would come to the Black Bull Hotel (19), at one time occupied by Graham Ramage. This, of course, was before the new frontage was built. The front of the old building can still be seen. There was a small porch at the entrance with a flat roof, and it housed a parrot in a cage. It amused the children of

that day as they passed on their way to the infant school at the foot of the Barrhill, to hear the screeching parrot. If I remember correctly, its language was always "quite proper." The Black Bull Hotel was later occupied by Mrs Adams, Archibald Myron, J. Urquhart and Thomas Ross.

At the end of the Black Bull building there was a small projection which housed two more shops. One was occupied by Miss Grace K. Samson, fancy goods merchant, and the other by James Davidson, saddler. These buildings have been absorbed into the bar of the hotel (20) and (21).



East side of Cumnock Square.



Having gone round the Square to the Black Bull in our last article, we complete the story of the Square and its shops, continuing from the Black Bull, round Goldie's (Little's) corner, the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank and back round to where we started at the Pawn Steps.

The dwelling house (22) across the road (at Goldie's) was at that time occupied by Willie Hood, ironmaster, then by John Goldie, who afterwards converted it into a large drapery establishment.

Further down (towards Lugar Street) came the Clydesdale Bank (23) which was built on ground formerly occupied by Winsome Willie's School, and afterwards used as the Congregational Church. The junction of the roof of this building with that of the adjoining Tup Inn can still be seen. Opposite the Clydesdale Bank, at the north west corner of the Square, we came to the old building which belonged to Mr Robert Crawford, whose brother John Walters Crawford, was the founder of "The Cumnock Chronicle." The first shop here (24) was occupied by an Italian named Tognorelli, who sold fish and chips.

Next door (25) was Mr Stevenson, Kilmarnock, who dealt in black puddings, tripe,



This picture is probably eighty years old. It shows the north-east corner of the Square and the premises occupied by Grace K. Samson (20) and James Davidson (21). The dwellinghouse (22) was occupied by Willie Hood, ironmaster. The headgear which seems to be the fashion among the men is the round-square bowler-type hat and the deerstalker, while the ladies favour straw hats and heavy mufflers. The cart (minus horse) outside the railings at No. 22 and the general crowd scenes are indicative of the obvious lack of through traffic in those days. Reference to the lettering at A, B and C will be made in a future article.

etc. These premises were later taken over by Hugh Lorimer, tailor. The two shops just described were later joined together to make new premises for Hugh Dalgleish Hunter,



North east corner of The Square. Numbers refer to text.





West side of The Square.

ironmonger and cycle agent. This is the prominent corner site which now houses the modern Pearl Assurance Co. offices and Mr Hunter Faulds, C.A.'s office (above).

In the next building (proceeding towards the "Pawn Steps") was the "Wheatsheaf Inn" (26), at one time occupied by Mrs Findlay. John Cree was another publican in these premises, which are now known as the "Snug Bar," under the proprietorship of James Black.

The next property (27) was owned and occupied by Mrs M'Clanachan, who was followed by A. K. Kirkland, John Ward and (at present) Wm. Ferguson. We refer, of course, to the "Sun Inn."

The following (and highest) building (28) on this side of the Square was occupied by D. E. Couperwhaite, draper, later by D. Cameron, draper, and John Miller and William Carle, draper. At one time this building was styled "The Polytechnic." Next door (29), we found the shop of Mrs M'Innes, who sold vegetables and home baking and which was afterwards taken



In this rather dark reproduction of the same area of the Square (north-east corner) a part of the dwellinghouse (22) has now been converted to house Mr John Goldie's drapery establishment while two brakes at the "Black Bull" entrance are service vehicles for Cumnock Station and, possibly, what later became known as "Hendry's Bus" to Ochiltree and Ayr.

over by Jack Borland, who dealt in vegetables and fancy goods. These two last-named premises were subsequently established as a chemist's shop by Mr J. L. Galloway, who had formerly



managed W. O. Kay's "Apothecaries' Hall." Just past this building could be found G. B. Cree, baker, in a shop (30) that was later occupied by Mr James Spiers, baker, and James Hamilton, fruiterer. More recently, this building was taken in as an extension to the M'Jannet shop. Next door was R. T. Dick, draper (31) (in 1896) and here too was where Messrs Breckenridge and Henderson first started business as outfitters. Mrs Mathieson and her daughter Annie (earlier referred to in the fruit and confectionery shop on the south side of the Square) also occupied this shop after it ceased to be an outfitters. The building, known accordingly as "Clydesdale House," was occupied (at a much earlier date) as the first Cumnock office of the Clydesdale Bank, prior to their removal to the existing establishment. It most recently housed the Buttercup Dairy Company, and now belongs to Messrs M'Jannet. In the foreground, Cumnock's old Mercat Cross.



LUGAR STREET.

The Tup Inn at Lugar Street (32) was long ago occupied by Mr Jas. Tear and afterwards by his daughter, Mrs Janet Riddell. Then followed Mr Matthew Riggans and the business is now continued by Mr John Tear. The little shop adjoining (33) was long ago occupied by Mrs Marion M'Innes for her home bakery. She also sold vegetables and supplied soup to school children. She was assisted by her daughter Marion. The same business was continued by Mrs James Neil and afterwards by her daughter, Mrs Reid. It is now occupied by Miss Stewart, who sells remnants of all descriptions. The next building (34) was formerly Vallance's



Lugar Street at the turn of the century. Consult text for numbered properties.

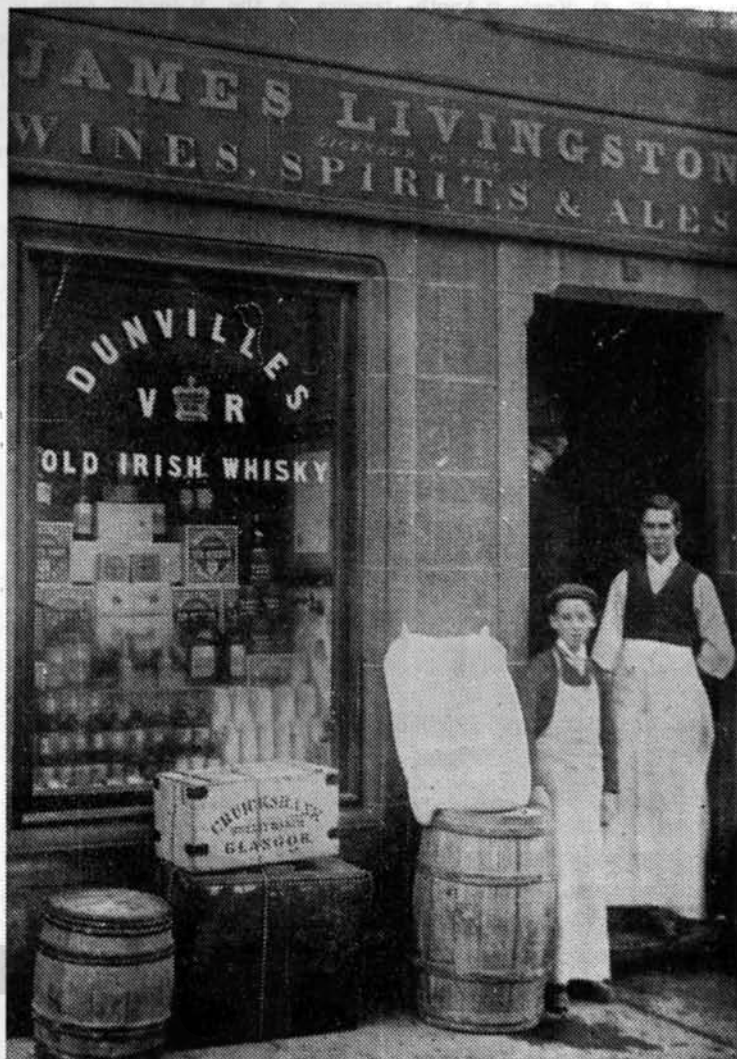


dwelling house, afterwards converted into a shop and now occupied by Mr A. Little, radio and television dealer. The little shop (35) at the entrance gate to Millbank was long ago occupied by Messrs Daniel King and Son for the sale of rough tweeds and druggot aprons, which were made at their woollen mill. The shop was afterwards occupied by Mr Matthew B. Dale, painter (established 1885), who was well known for his expert work in graining, and later it was continued by his son, Mr Matthew G. Dale, painter. It is now unoccupied.

The first shop on the opposite side (36) was originally occupied by John Baird, draper, and afterwards by John Goldie, draper, W. F. Thomson, draper, and Peter Wilkie, draper, also by John Miller, draper (Glasgow House), W. Carle, draper, 1914 (Emporium) and for a short period by John Reid, radio dealer.

It is now contained in the adjoining shop (37) belonging to Mr James Livingstone. Mr Livingstone carries on the business originally founded by his grandmother, Mrs Janet Livingstone, in 1861 and continued by

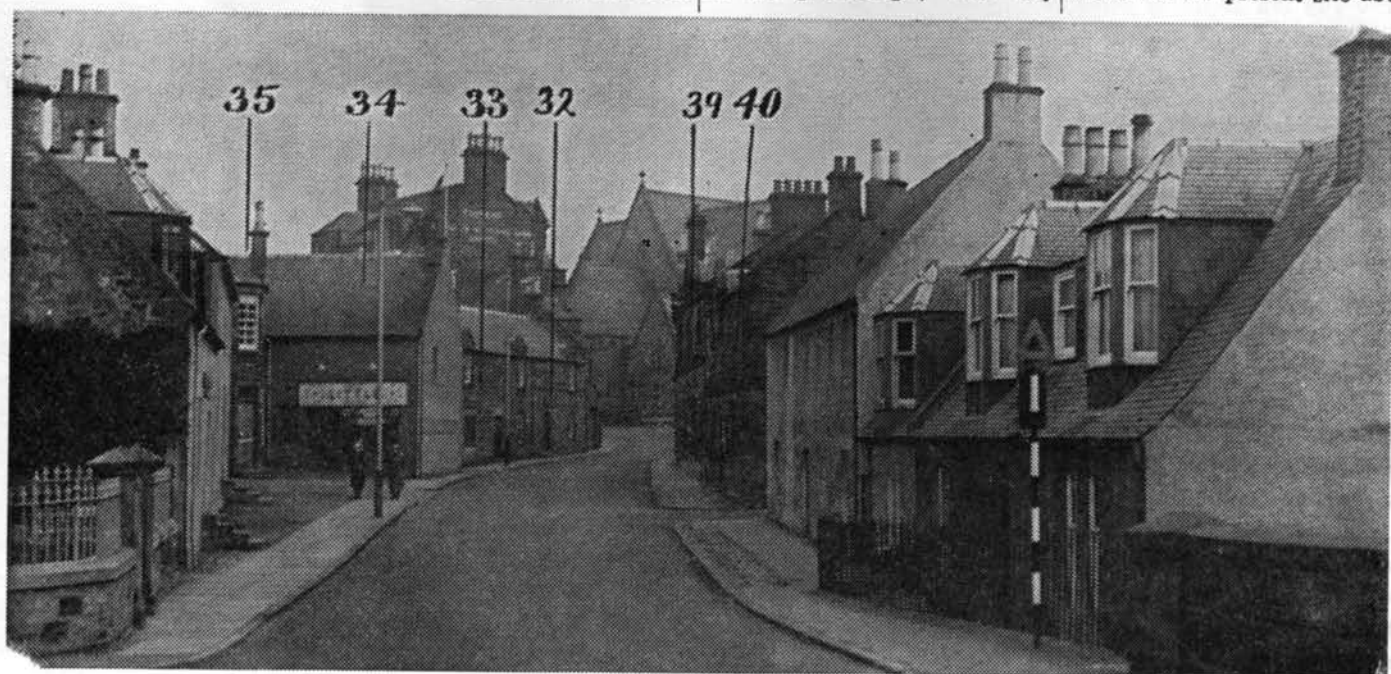
Livingstone's shop in Lugar Street before the days of the modern frontage and interior re-shaping. Standing in the doorway - senior assistant David Hannah, and the boy (happily still with us) - David Connell.



his father, Mr Robert Livingstone. Mrs Livingstone, who commenced business in the little

shop near Lugar Bridge (at the end of the railing on the right of our photograph) was very

able. She took full charge of the business when this was removed to the present site about



Lugar Street today from Lugar Bridge.



1880. She possessed all the qualities of grace and kindly interest so desirable in a good shopkeeper. Mention might be made here of a foreman in the business under three generations in the person of David Connell,

and that over a period of fifty-nine years. Mr Connell still keeps well and enjoys his daily walks. Mrs Livingstone's former small shop was afterwards occupied by Robert Macmillan, tailor, as a dwelling house and

workroom. Mr Macmillan was a cripple and he will be remembered using his self-propelled tricycle chair when he ventured out. Then the little shop adjoining (38) was occupied by Campbell the Nailor, who sold

small ironmongery goods. A red magnet was always to be seen hanging in his window and a row of small dolls in the front to attract attention. Large lumps of Irish butter were usually on his counter, and underneath he had a large tin of paraffin oil for sale. James Ritchie made nails for him in a little workshop in Elbow Lane, opposite the Green. He was also a bill-poster and when a big circus visited Cumnock in the eighties he had usually a "pass" to hand to the writer when a very small boy.

The next building was a low thatched row occupied as dwelling house and shop, the shop being occupied by Jenny Dick, whose speciality was hot peas and vinegar (39).

The building was demolished to make way for the new Post Office, grocery store and shop. The shop was first occupied by Charles Gibb, printer and stationer, and the stationery business is now carried on by Mr James Livingstone (40).



Lugar Street today—Clydesdale Bank corner.

In the picture, so far as we can ascertain, are, seated (left to right) Supt. R. Cunningham, Mr John Hume, Miss Mae Murdoch, Mr Tom Pollock, Mr David Smith, Mrs Aird (Flora M'Cartney, now 93 and living with her nephew and niece, James and Jessie Gibson, at Cardonald), Miss Jeannie Crichton, Mr John O'Neil (gas manager), Mr R. B. Houston, Mr Archibald Brakenridge, Mr John Bingham, Mr John Andrew, Mr John Walters Crawford ("Cumnock Chronicle"), and seated right forefront Rev. Wm. Mathieson, who obviously has been fidgety. Standing, Mr Andrew Miller, Mr James Morrison (half face), Mr Wm. Morrison, Mr Mitchell Taylor, Mr J. Fleming, Rev. John Warrick, Dr. Wm. Armitage, another, Mr Wm. M'Naughton, Mr Small (Burch



Personalities at the opening of Cumnock's new General Post Office in 1910.

Surveyor), Mrs R. Livingstone, Post Office surveyor, and a Provost James Richmond, another, Mr Robert Livingstone; Mr A. B. Todd, Mr James Livingstone (above), Mr Lidbury, Post Office engineer, Mr George Stoddart (Postmaster), in the dim background, Miss



Jean Stoddart, Miss Jessie Gibson and Mr John Samson; Dr. James M'Queen, Rev. Alex. MacDonald, Mr Robert Hope, Mr David White, another, Fr. Martin Meagher, Mr J. Yates, Mr M. L. Jamieson and Mr Robert Samson.



Post Office Staff 50 Years Ago.

The office and counter staff of Cumnock Post Office at the time of the opening of the new general post office in Lugar Street. Standing—John Findlay (linesman), Jessie Gibson, Edward M'Kay, Donald Hodge, Mary Howat, Robert Hope. Seated—John Samson, George Stoddart (postmaster) and Miss Jean M. Stoddart.

At one time, just after the turn of the century, there was an old, thatched row which ran from the gable of Goldie's shop

maker (C), James Purdie, saddler (B), S. Manderson (A), who dealt in remnants, Robert included James M'Kerrow, shoe-

(marked A) was made by a Covenanter, Thomas Richard. It could not be seen when I inspected it about 60 years ago, but the wall had then been painted over. It is very probable that Richard would be brought to that spot and shot on the vacant ground in front of the gable.

Kirstie Mitchell lived at the end of the row. She made first-class candy which she sold to schoolchildren. Johnnie Milligan lodged here; he was a definite "character" around town, being noted for his "forward-thinking" political ideas. Also in the row were Mrs Houston with her two sons, "Arran Hills" and "The Deacon."

This row was demolished when the new Hamilton Place was erected. Opposite the row just mentioned — where the public lavatory now stands—was another small row of thatched dwellings. The French family lived here many years ago, and the property was known as "French's Row."

This well-known Cumnock

family produced the schoolmaster for Dumfries House, John French. A large number of people were employed on the estate and a school was required for their children. A namesake, also from the same family, was the renowned violinist. It is said of him that, in Ayr, he met Neil Gow, who recognized in him a formidable rival. An assembly of some kind had gathered together, at which both Gow and French had a part to play. The Perthshire man, however, with a mixture of frolic and envy, poured some boiling water into the belly of French's instrument, rendering it useless for the time at least. Sir Alexander Boswell, who happened to be present, was jealous of the reputation of his humble neighbour. He quickly mounted his horse, rode at full speed to Auchinleck House and in an incredibly short time returned, carrying a "Strad," which he handed to French for his use during the rest of the performance. Tradition asserts that Gow did not secure all the honours that night. French is buried in the



In this old photograph the row of thatched cottages still stands, and John Goldie, draper, has not moved to the railed-in house to open his new shop. Compare with other photographs already reproduced in this series.

towards the foot of the Barrhill, terminating at the two small cottages which belonged to James Drummond. This area is now the parking place for Co-operative Society vehicles. Merchants to be found there in-

Hamilton, dealer, and shoemaker John M'Grady, who went into Manderson's shop.

Many years ago a rumour was current in Cumnock that a bullet at the shooting of the mark on the gable of the row





In April, 1956, Auchinleck Co-operative Society modernised Hamilton Place and added a second floor. The Drummond cottages mentioned were in the open space, F to G.

churchyard on the Barrhill Road, not far from the entrance gate.

Continuing beyond Drummond's cottages, we found Peter Brown's (Eastman's) (G) Can-

terbury Lamb shop. Next door was Wm. Clark, clothier (H). These two shops later became Cumnock Co-operative Society premises. Next door was the grocer's shop occupied by Coch-

rairie Hillhouse (J), and later by Robert Currie and today the present Robert Currie. The little shop (K) opposite and at the foot of Barrhill Road was then occupied by Mrs W. O. Kay,

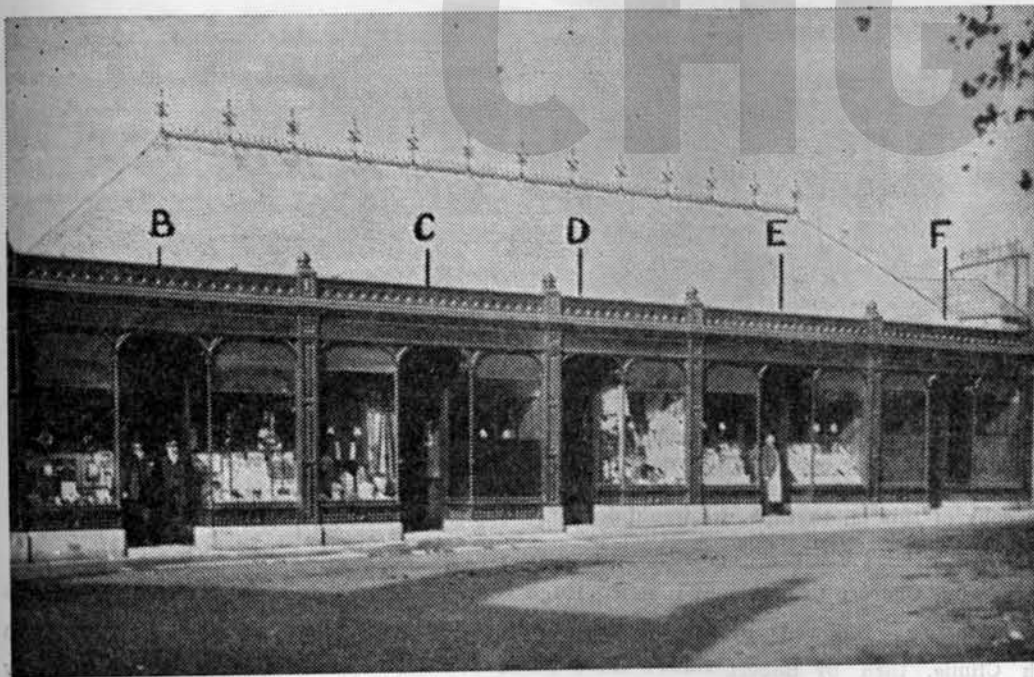
milliner. Later this was taken over by David Bryan as a fish and chip restaurant. James Garry carried on this business for a time and the shop was occupied later by James M'Kibbin, shoemaker, and at present occupied by Ernesto Luni—son of the late Mario Luni—again as a fish and chip restaurant.

Continuing up Barrhill Road and beyond the old churchyard was the studio occupied by Colin Campbell, photographer, and later by John Davidson, joiner, and by Donald M'Donald, joiner.

Next to the Bute Cottage Hospital was the shop occupied by Miss M. Patrick, grocer, and later by Miss Agnes Neil. This shop is now incorporated in the Old Church manse. At the other side of Barrhill Road was Mr Andrew Miller's photographic studio—now demolished.

Further up the hill and on the other side was Messrs Drummond's foundry and agricultural implement works, now Clark's garage.

Beyond Clark's garage and on the same side Mr Wm. Ronald has his tailoring business.



Hamilton Place shopkeepers, 1904.

The occupants of the new shops, which were opened in April, 1904, were:— John Andrew, chemist (B), succeeded by J. Prentice Taylor and later James Lees, the Misses A. and M. Bryce, drapers (C),

Miss Grace Samson, draper, (D), Thomas M'Gauchie, barber (E), and Hugh Black, solicitor (F). Miss Nellie Kilday confectioner, followed as tenant in Miss Samson's shop when she

removed to Glaisnock Street.

The whole range was afterwards purchase by Auchinleck Co-operative Society, Ltd., and converted into their main establishment in the town.



The property at the corner of Glaisnock Street and Tower Street (1) was built by John Torrance, draper, who occupied the large shop with the dwelling-house above for many years. Mr Torrance's daughter, Maggie, was a music teacher in Cumnock, and her services were much in demand for accompanying the singers at the Penny Readings. These were held in the public hall at the rear of the Dumfries Arms stables. The hall is now occupied as a church by the Brethren.

The shop and house were afterwards taken over by John Bannatyne, who later became Provost of Cumnock. Thereafter Robert Craig took over the business, and he in turn was followed by John B. Park, Hugh M'Neish and now T. L. Murray, all drapers.

The next shop (2) was occupied by A. M'Kellar, watchmaker. Then followed James Baxter, Janet Thorburn, and now W. Liddell, all fruiterers.

The next building of three shops over the Glaisnock was erected by Hugh Climie, butcher, when he left his shop in Tower Street. The first of these three shops (3) was occupied by James Henderson, grocer, then by Thomas M'Caughie, barber, George Mark, chip potato merchant, J. Patterson, general merchant, and now by Hugh Black, wallpaper and toy merchant. The second one (4) was occupied by Wm. M'Cubbin, grocer, then by George M'Millan, stationer, who was succeeded by David Connell, printer and stationer, Hunter M. Connell, and now Mrs I. Connell, newsagent and stationer. The third shop (5) was occupied by Hugh Climie, his son John and the business is carried on by his grandson Hugh Climie under that name. Crossing the lane, the first shop on the other side (6) was



Tower Street is now sealed off under Professor Robert Matthew's new street planning, and T. L. Murray's remodelled shop is shown, with the former dwellinghouse above as part of the emporium. Numbers apply to the text.



Shops 3, 4 and 5 — built on the bridge which spans the Glaisnock. Someone has a photograph taken over one hundred years ago, showing two men, one standing at and the other sitting on the parapet of this bridge before the shops were erected. If anyone has a copy of this photograph, we would dearly like to reproduce it.

occupied by Charles Crichton, and now, Hugh Climie, confectioner. Then comes the Baker. He was followed by Hugh Climie, then by Robert Buck's Head Inn (8) occupied in early days by Mrs Bain, assisted by her son James. They were followed by Mr Gardiner of Kilmarnock; Thomas Pollock, and to-day by Messrs Alexander M'Kechnie, Ltd. This public house was the scene of a disturbance on 10th June, 1833. A meeting of farmers

occupied by Charles Crichton, and now, Hugh Climie, confectioner. Then comes the Baker. He was followed by Hugh Climie, then by Robert Stoddart, baker, by his son, John Stoddart, and now the business is continued by Mrs Stoddart. The next shop (7) was occupied by James Kay, draper. Then followed James Waugh, shoe merchant, Mrs Archie Davidson, confectioner, Mrs Charles Gibb, confectioner,

had been convened to discuss what could be done with poachers who were particularly active at that time. While the meeting was in progress, the farmers were repeatedly disturbed by a group of angry poachers who had assembled at the public bar. The warning was given "that the first man who opened the meeting room door once again would be

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shot'. This was not known to David Reid, Mason of Barshare who arrived late. When he opened the door he was shot on the spot, before the man who fired recognised him, and thereafter the situation was dealt with by the normal course of law.

The next shop (9) was occupied by Dugald M'Geachin, shoemaker. He was ably assisted by his wife Maggie White, who was a well-known figure at her door, and many conversations took place across the road between her and her friend Mrs Murdoch. Dugald was a member of the Cumnock Orchestra in its early days, his instrument being the trombone. This shop was in turn taken over by Mrs Neal, confectioner and fruiterer. The shop is now occupied by Mrs Nicol. Next door the draper's shop (10) was occupied by Mrs Howatson,



Another section of Glaisnock Street as it is to-day.

who was assisted by her son Charles and her daughter Aggie, who had charge of the millinery department. The business was taken over by Richard Fowler, and on his retiral, by W. O.

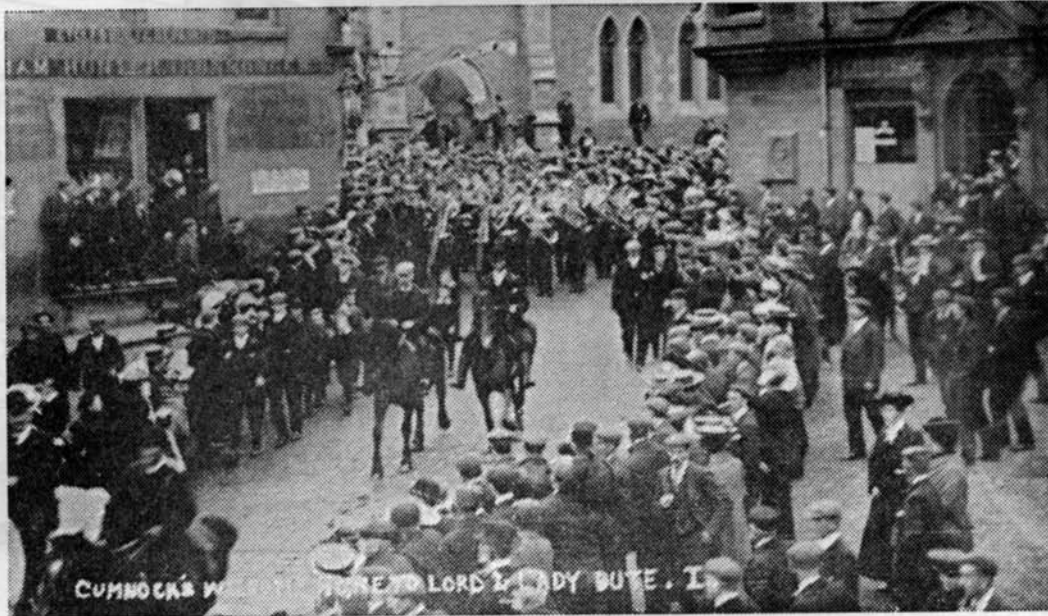
Kay and Company, chemists. Later, the business again changed. Mr James Speirs, baker and restaurateur, came to this shop from his former premises in the Square (where

he was succeeded by Mr J. Hamilton, fruiterer). On his retiral the business was taken over by Ayrshire Bakeries, Ltd., and now the shop is occupied by Wm. M'Donald, decorator.



In this fairly recent photograph the roadway is still open from Glaisnock Street to Tower Street. Note how additional main-road width was obtained by curving the bank corner.





The above reproduction this week is from a photograph of September, 1905. This depicts the beginning of the procession on the occasion, as the post-card sub-title declares of "Cumnock's Welcome Home to Lord and Lady Bute" (the present Marquis's grandparents), presumably on the occasion of their marriage. In the bottom left corner are two of the outriders, James Donaldson Auchincross, and Wm. M'Lanachan, Loganhill. These two are followed by Wm. Haddow, Cairn, and Jas. Montgomerie, Lessnessock. Walking a few yards behind, in front of the silver band, is David Holden, coachman at Garrallan House. Note the square-ended gable of Wm. Hunter's cycle and ironmongery shop, now the National and Commercial Bank, and the onlookers perched on the Hunter window-sill, the Hotel Royal steps and the Parish Church railings.



Another old post-card of Glaisnock Street round about 1910 — for comparison.



We start this week with the shop in Glaisnock Street (11) occupied by Mrs Granger, fancy goods merchant. Thomas M'Gaughie, barber, moved here from Climie's building, and after the retiral of Mrs M'Gaughie the business was taken over by Robert Wilson, barber. Later, Mr Wilson confined his barber's business to the rear of the premises, the front shop being occupied by Mrs Wilson as a china and glassware emporium. The business has again changed in character and is now occupied by William Dalgliesh, tobacconist and confectioner.

At number 12 Glaisnock Street, Duncan Ballantine, in 1852, commenced his printing business in Cumnock (12). The shop was afterwards occupied by Henry Gibb, tinsmith, and later by Matthew Smith, tinsmith. Miss Grace K. Samson now made another change of premises by coming here as fancy goods merchant, and it has now been occupied by William Dalgliesh, who continues the business of a barber's saloon, formerly carried on by the Wilsons next door. In point of fact, Mr Dalgliesh originally had his confectioner's shop at

No. 12. The business of tinsmith was for a time carried on by William M'Murdo in a small workroom through the close which separated the M'Gaughie and Samson shops.

Now we come to the corner

building (14) which belonged to William Wilson, innkeeper, and was occupied by him. He was followed in the trade by J. C. H. Kirkland, when it became known as the Burns Inn, later being carried on under that

name by Alexander Gilchrist and others. It is now the property of Inns & Hotels (Scot.) Ltd. A new shop was then contained in the premises (13) by using the living room of the inn, and this was occupied by James Tweedie,



Gala Day Procession—at the turn of the century. Immediately below the X (left top) stands Mr J. M. Hill, who contributes these articles. The trio marked with crosses in front are (left to right) Andrew Welsh, William Hunter (Templand) and Archie Climie. The gent. behind with the bowler hat is Mr Smith (Barrhill Road) and behind him (again crossed) Tom M'Cricrick (teacher).



The Buck's Head to the Burns Inn, Glaisnock Street.

(see text for number references).



barber and cycle agent, later of James Tweedie Ltd., of New Cumnock and Ayr. For many years the shop was occupied by Albert Lawrence, barber, and later by his son Bertie. The shop is now occupied by Alex. M'Kechnie Ltd. for the sale of fancy goods.

The corner shop (15) was occupied by Lily Mackervail, confectioner, who was succeeded in turn by Mary Miller, Janet M'Michael and Jenny Gilchrist. It is now contained in the adjoining shop (16) which belonged to Mario Luni, and is now owned by his son, Ernesto Luni.

There was a small shop (17) adjacent to the Bank of Scotland, which was occupied by Mrs M'Sherrie, confectioner, etc. Several of these cottages, as evidenced by our old photograph, have been demolished, but the first of those retained (18) is occupied by Duncan Macrae, electrical engineer, who estab-



Winter in Glaisnock Street — before the major alteration to the Hotel Royal building. Numbers refer to text. Those on the east side will be included in next article.

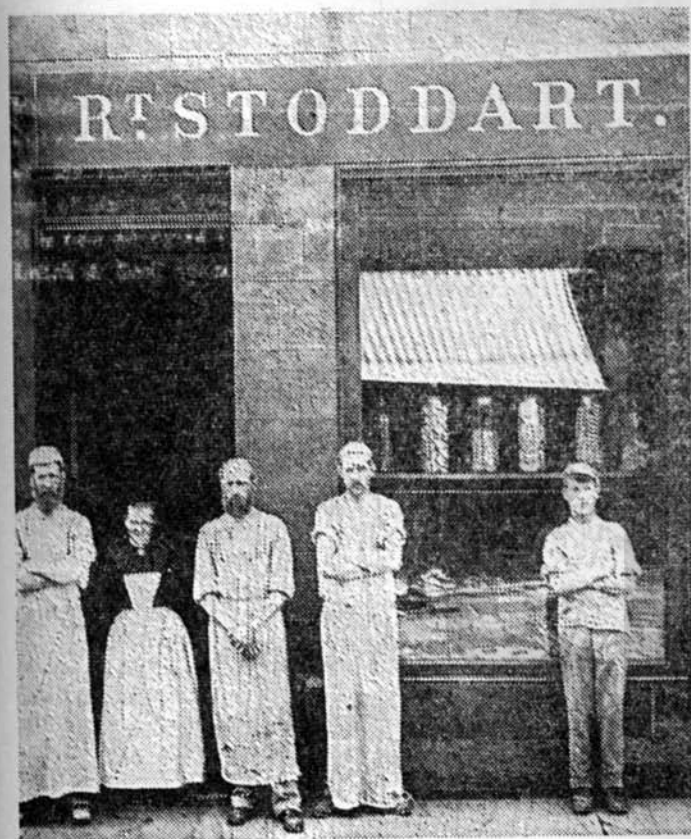


Glaisnock Street and Ayr Road Corner to-day.

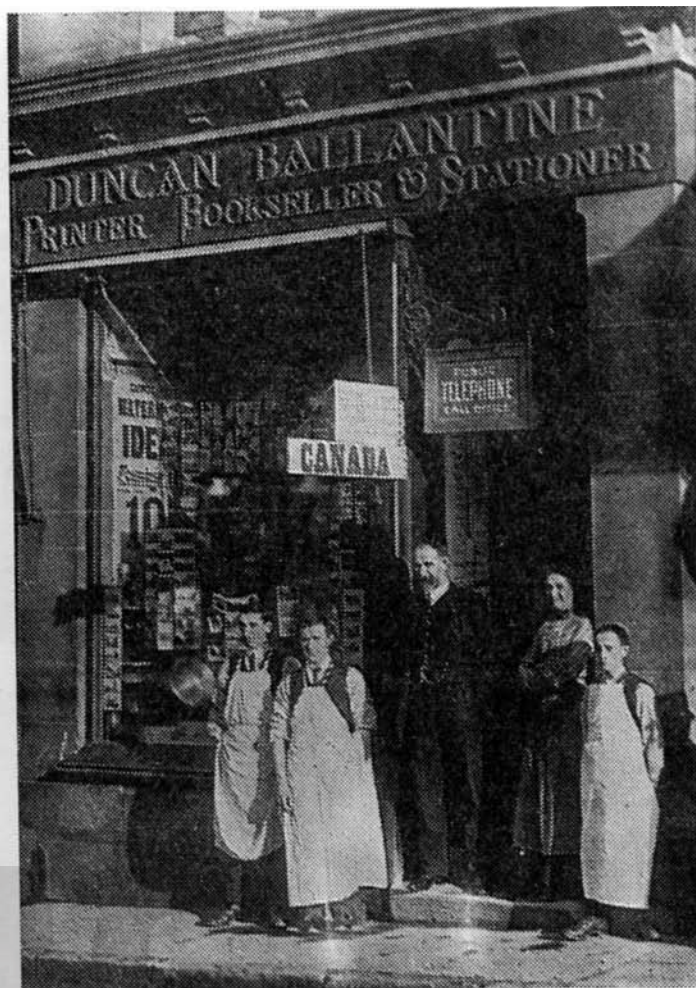


lished there his shop for the sale of all electrical goods. The next shop (19) is occupied by Mr James Kilpatrick for the sale of remnants and general drapery goods. Originally, this shop was occupied by Mrs Findlay (Bella M'Leod) and it will be recollected that the M'Leod joinery business was carried on in the workshop

behind these small cottages in Glaisnock Street. Before the back entrance to the Dumfries Arms Hotel is the office owned by the Liverpool Victoria Insurance Company which, after transformation from the two top cottages, was occupied by Mr Harry Harper as a drapery store (20).



The above picture, taken about 1897, has recently come to hand. It depicts Mr and Mrs R. Stoddart, Hugh Crawford, baker, and two assistant bakers, Bob M'Knight and Andrew M'Murdo, in front of the shop in Glaisnock Street. It shows that the window is decorated in the main by a large ashet containing 4 tarts, quite different from the present-day arrangement. Incidentally, Mrs Robina Stoddart still possesses the ashet.



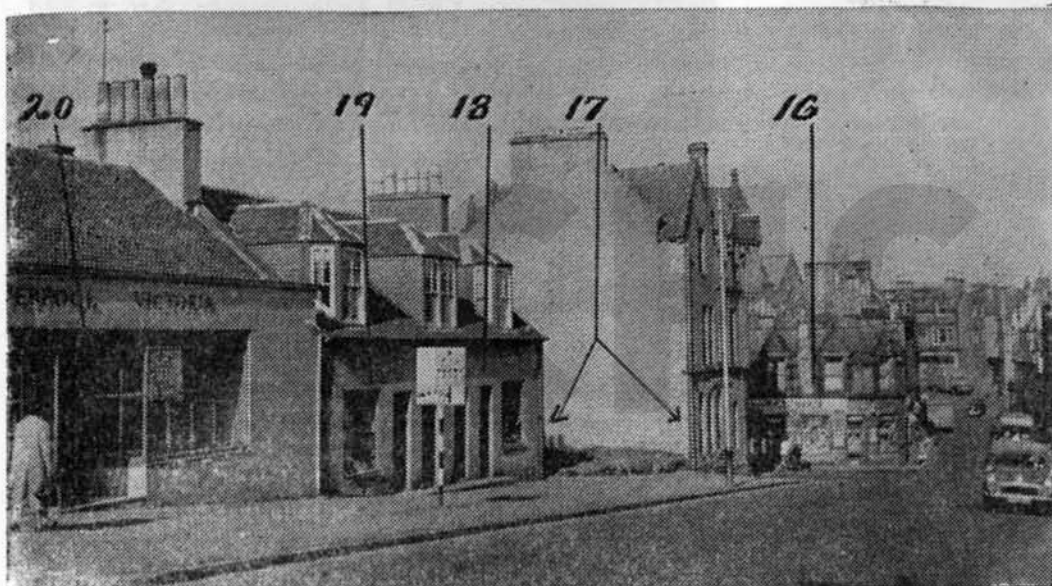
The Stoddart shop photograph recalled this other "pre-World-War-1" one of the Ballantine newsagent and printing establishment at 49 Glaisnock Street. It was to these premises, which he built, that Duncan Ballantine, printer, bookseller and stationer, moved in 1864 — having earlier occupied for ten years or so No. 12 Glaisnock Street, which of course is the present street number of the Stoddart family bakery.

Standing (left to right) Mr William Goldie (who later became associated editorially with "The Sunday Mail"), Mr Charles Gibb (foreman) and recently retired from his own business in Lugar Street; Mr James P. Ballantine, Miss Jessie Ballantine, and the printing apprentice of that day, Mr Sam M'Millan (who later became editor of "The Lennox Herald," Dumbarton).

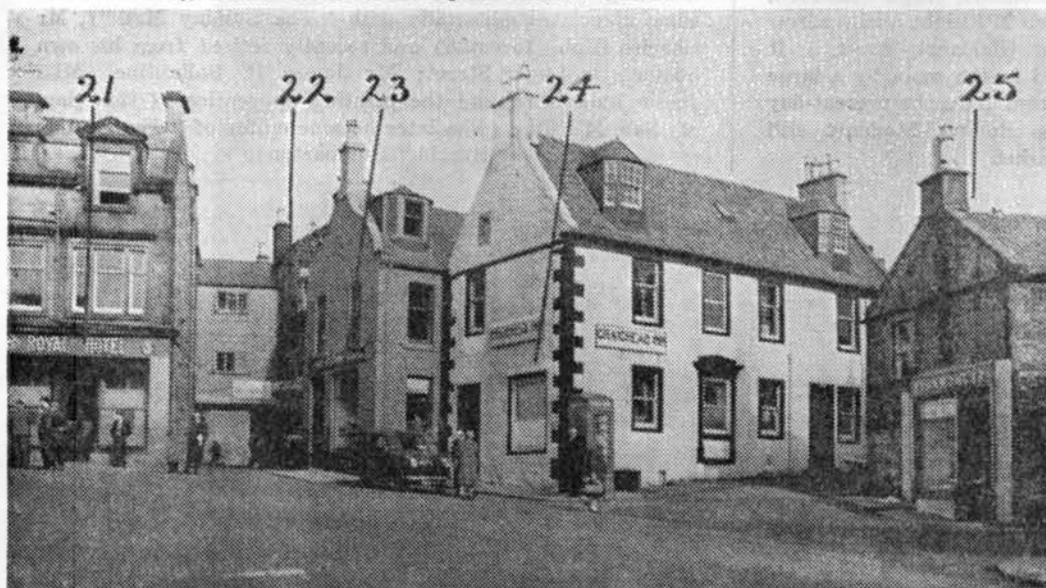




Glaisnock Street in 1901.



Corner of Ayr Road to Liverpool Victoria Office, Glaisnock Street.



Royal Hotel Corner, Black Bull Close and Craighead Close to-day, 21 to 25.

We now proceed to No. 1 Glaisnock Street. Prior to the erection of the new Royal Hotel, the shop in the building facing Glaisnock Street (21). was occupied by Wm. Drummond, grocer, afterwards by George M'Millan, bookseller and stationer. The new shop was occupied first by James Howat (cooper), as confectioner's shop, then followed Hugh Lorrimer, tailor, the Misses Irving, confectioners, the Misses Hutchison, drapery - goods-menage, and Miss Jackson, draper. It is now occupied by Stevensons' Dairy Farms as part of the hotel which they took over from Mrs Janet Young, who much earlier had succeeded Mrs Barrowman as owner.

The little shop in the Black Bull Close (22) was long ago occupied by Mrs Boyd, who sold toys and fancy goods. It was usually a busy place at Christmas time. Formerly it was the old Wheat Sheaf Inn, but long before that it, or the house which preceded it, was known as the Loudon Arms, a famous Inn in olden days. The shop was afterwards occupied by Archibald Riddell, joiner followed by Howat and Kay, and then by James Davidson and Sons, joiners. It is now occupied by James M'Call, fruiterer. The next shop (23) was first occupied by John M'Gavin, baker, who came from Sorn in 1837. It was long occupied by his son John M'Gavin, the maker of the well-known Cumnock tarts, and then by his grandson, John M'Gavin Junior. The firm is now styled John M'Gavin Ltd. The next shop in the Craighead building (24) was occupied by John Andrew, chemist, afterwards by James Davidson, saddler; Mrs Lees and her daughter Ulah, china merchants, and it is now contained in the Craighead Bar, which at the time of the old photograph, was entered from the side of the building and was occupied by James Miller.

The next shop (25) was occupied for many years by James Moodie, grocer, afterwards by David M'Culley, grocer, R. M'Millan painter, and now by Tom M'Caughie, fishmonger. In the first build-



ing, across Townhead Street entrance, was the long established business of John Samson, grocer and cheese merchant (26). The business was continued by his son, Provost George T. Samson, and it was afterwards taken over by his manager William M'Cubbin. Then followed his son John M'Cubbin, and it is now continued by John's son William. The next shop (27) was occupied by James Breckenridge, draper, clothier, and dress-maker. Then followed Alexander White, and William Carle,

and the business is now continued by T. L. Murray. The next shop was occupied by Mr M'Kechnie, the Baker, (28) better known as "Kechie". He walked rather lame, and was a great favourite of all the boys. This shop was later occupied by William Seagar, baker, John Ferguson, baker, James Blackwood, piano merchant, David Brown, fruiterer, and Allan M'Call, fruiterer.

The next shop (29) was occupied by Miss E. Miller, confectioner, assisted by Miss Aggie Robertson. Then followed

Jenny M'Gavin, famous for ice cream, and later Agnes Cummings. Robert Keenan, barber, opened a hairdressing saloon above the shop, and there J. Handley, barber continued. Above both shops Miss Nan Mackervail had her photographic studio.

The next shop (30) was occupied by Patrick M'Cormick, shoe merchant, Mrs M'Cormick, and afterwards by John Caruthers, boot merchant, James Kilpatrick, draper, Alan M'Call, fruiterer, Mrs Jean Hastings, fruiterer, and now Messrs. Gil-

mour bakers. The next shop Charles Wylie, then Patrick M'Cormick, James Murray, (31) was long occupied by George Scott, followed by his son-in-law, Livingstone Hastings, all butchers. Wm. Auld and Son, Auchinleck, took over the building and converted it into an up-to-date shop with ancillary manufacturing premises. After a few years, Messrs. Auld disposed of the business to Hugh Climie, butcher, who is the present owner. Then came the small shop (32), occupied in early days by Mr M'Kinnell, and afterwards by Mrs Christina Murdoch, who continued there for many years as a baby-linen merchant. Mrs Murdoch took a keen interest in all matters, local and national, and could express clear opinions. She was followed by her granddaughter, Miss Chrissie King, now Mrs Andrew Brown. The next shop (33) was occupied by the aforesaid Mr M'Kinnell, afterwards by Wm. Bryson, then David Ballylie and his son John, all drapers. It is now the property of Lipton's Grocery Stores. The next shop (34) was occupied by Wm. Duncan, grocer. When he vacated the shop, he was followed by John Vallance, who was a nephew of the Vallances in Lugar Street. John came from Glasgow, and continued in business for about three years. Thereafter, occupants were Gillespie and Smith, James Rae, James A. Wilson, and his son, Alexander Wilson—all grocers. It is now incorporated as a store in the adjoining shop of Messrs. Lipton.

Then we come to the shop (35) built and occupied in 1863, by Duncan Ballantine, printer, bookseller and stationer. He was succeeded by his son, James P. Ballantine, who had his sisters, Jessie and Lizzie, assisting in the shop for many years. The business is now continued there by Alexander M'Kechnie, Ltd. The next shop (36) was first occupied by Turnbull and Allan, watch-makers. It is now owned by Miss Margaret Lindsay, draper. The next shop (37) was occupied long ago by Jean Ramage, who sold small groceries and home-made ginger beer and



John M'Gavin's and John Andrew's shops on a Fair Day, about 1890 (23 to 25). The only folks identified so far are Sergeant David Smith and Constable Nivison. Does any reader know of any others?



From M'Cubbin's Corner to Gilmour's Bakery (26 to 30).



pop. She is the occupant at the time of the old photograph shown with the horse and groom at the corner of Ayr

Road and round about 1890. Then followed Miss Paterson, milliner, and afterwards Robert Brown, weaver, who sold tweeds

in his shop. Miss Paterson is the occupant at the time of the second old photograph, Glaisnock Street under snow.

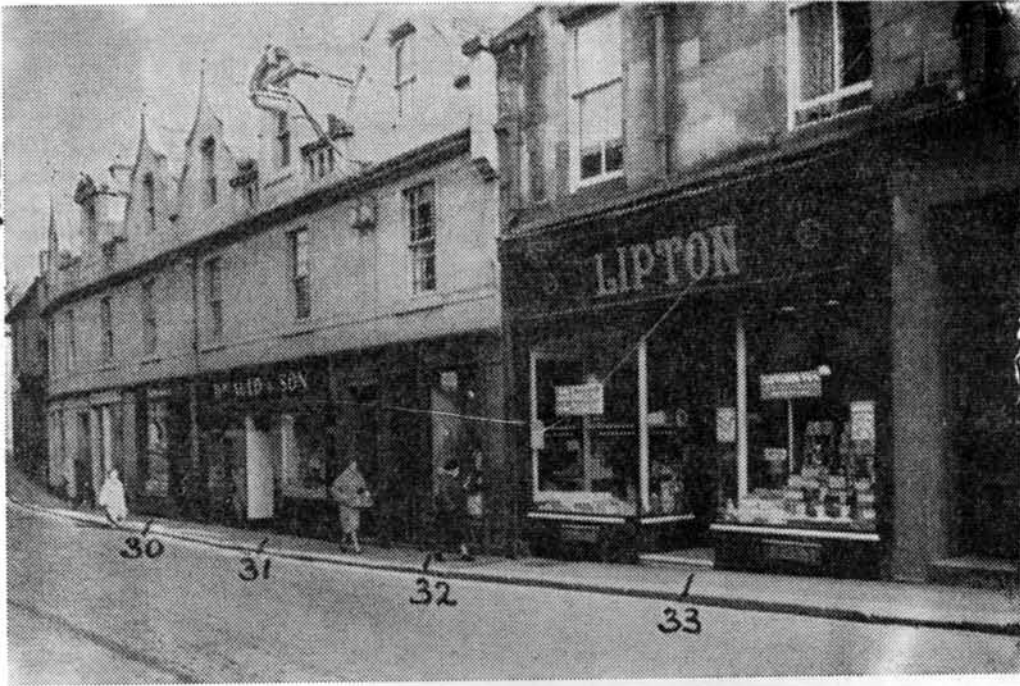


Winter in Glaisnock Street — before the major alterations to the Hotel Royal building.  
Numbers refer to text.



This old photograph depicts two well-known Cumnock personalities in Provost George T. Samson (extreme left) and "Batchie" Smith in baker's garb (front right). The other three Cumnock cronies are not known to any person who has seen the photograph.





Gilmour's to Lipton's, Glaisnock Street (30 to 33).



Lipton's to the Co-operative (34 to 37).



In 1922 Messrs Cowan & Linton who had their electrical works at Greenholm, had their town office in Glaisnock Street (38). This was also occupied for a time as a shop by John Cummings, jeweller and watch-maker. The whole of this property incorporating numbers 37 and 38 and the dwelling-

houses above, was demolished to make room for Auchinleck Co-operative Society Ltd. (Glaisnock Street Branch).

The next building was occupied by William M'Latchie, joiner, as dwellinghouse. About 1895 the front room on right (40) was converted into an office and occupied by D. A.

Adamson, solicitor. It was afterwards occupied by Breckenridge and Henderson, drapers. Then the room on the left (39) was converted into a shop and occupied by Mrs Connelly, and afterwards by Thomas Connelly, china merchants. Later the Singer Sewing Machine Company took it over, and then it

was an Employment Exchange. Both shops (39 and 40) are now occupied by Messrs Wm. Sloane, china and fancy goods merchants. Above these shops Miss Crawford had her restaurant, which was later continued by Mrs Jenny Young, prior to her taking over the Hotel Royal. More recently it housed Dr. M'Ciure, M'Lean and Rigg's consulting rooms prior to the erection of their new surgery at Millbank. Part of the second floor was occupied for a time by the Liverpool Victoria Insurance Company.

The Viewfield Laundry (41) occupies the space formerly the entrance into the old Stamp Office and here they have created a small shop.

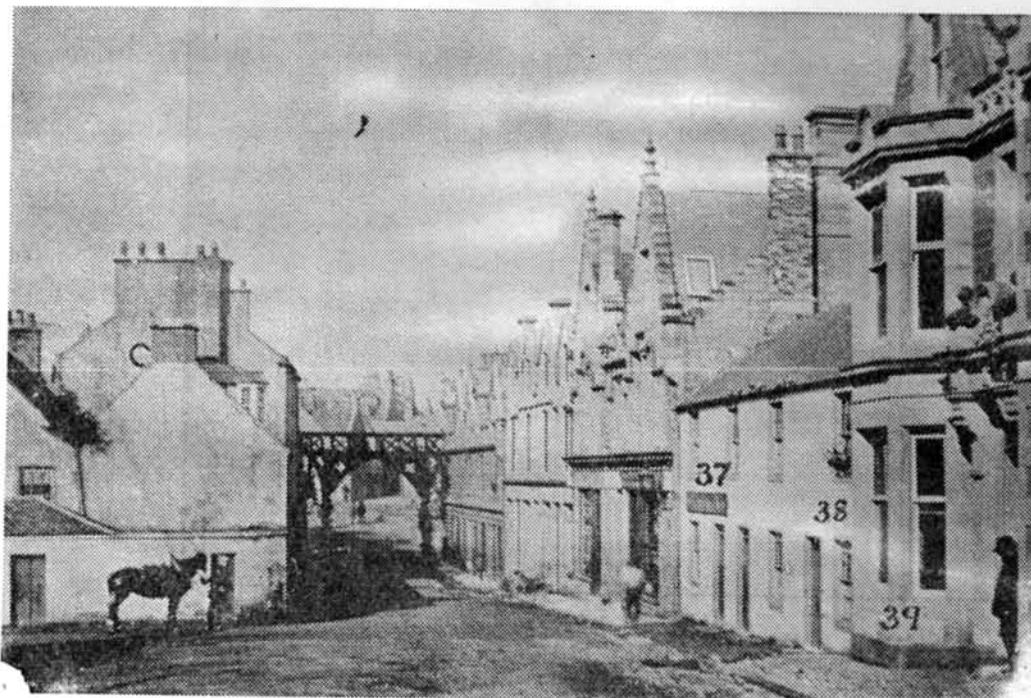
Above the Viewfield Laundry shop is the Royal Bank of Scotland. In the upper storey of this building are the law offices of Messrs Brakenridge and Graham (Mr Peter Drummond). Above the Royal Bank building there still remains the railed-off area which enclosed steps leading down to the basement in which Mr Tom M'Caughie, (later Provost) commenced his barber's business, while, in the dwellinghouse above, the Misses Kelso conducted their dressmaking business for many years. Next came the Dumfries Arms stable (42) which were later transformed into lock-up garages, above which Mr David Stewart had his paint shop and in which, at present, after reconstruction, a section of the Christian Brethren meets.

The southern section of the former Dumfries Arms stables and yard was converted into a garage (43) and occupied by Hugh D. Hunter, motor engineer and agent. These premises are now occupied by Mr Charles Ancell. At the rear of the garage, and on the first floor, there is a large hall which was formerly the public hall for the town, where all concerts and meetings were held. This hall is now occupied by another section of the Brethren as their church.

The little shop just past the garage (44), formerly the Cumnock Gas Company's office, is now occupied by the Scottish Gas Board as a show-room. Crossing over to the two-storey building—which was the former



Glaisnock Street (37 to 41).



In this photograph of fully 70 years ago the roof has been removed from the old Toll House at the corner, and road and pavement surfaces are very rough. The ceremonial arch is again in place for some special occasion.



manager's house (45) for the Gas Company, occupied long ago by Farquhar Scott, and latterly by John O'Neill, William Millar and Hugh Adams—is now occupied by the Scottish Gas Board as show and sale room and office.

Next we come to the building in the range known as the Pottery Row, occupied by the Cumnock Pottery Company for many years. The kilns and workshops were at the rear, and the articles manufactured were of the heavy earthenware type, such as butter crocks, flower-pots—plain and glazed—and the famous Cumnock motto table ware. Mr David R. Dunsmor was the manager, and his daughter Nan and Mrs Nicol were responsible for the artistic lettering on table and kitchen ware. The business commenced about the year 1850 and manufacturing ceased in 1907, the sale shop being continued for

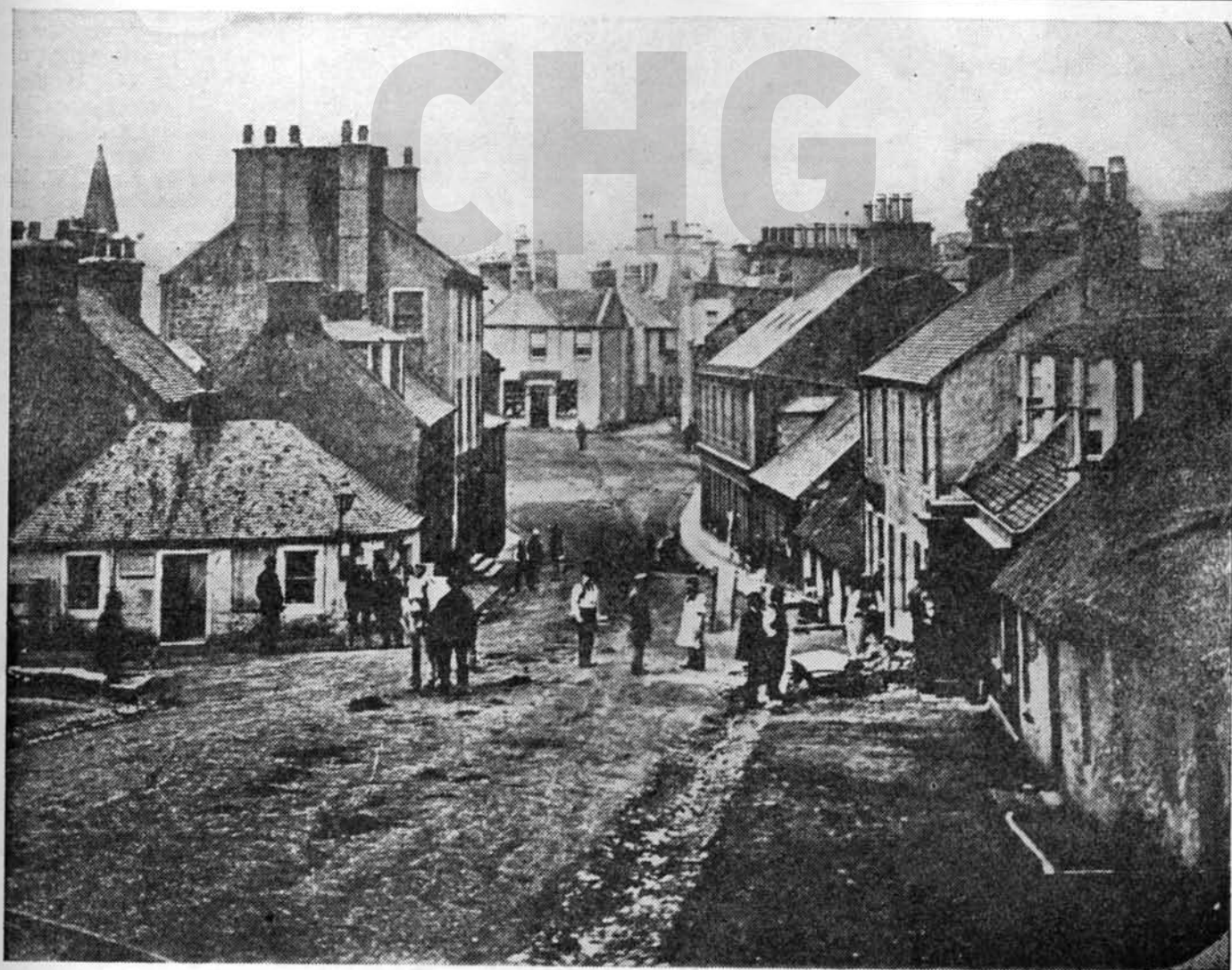
ten years longer. The front shop was then taken over by the Ideal Home Supply Company (47) owned by Mrs John Reid. The lower part of this building (46) was for a time occupied by Mr John

Bowman, confectioner. This and the former Ideal Home Supply Company building are now occupied by Mr P. Quadri as a confectioner shop and tea-room, while the former Ideal Homes store is occupied by Mr

Quadri as a fish and chip shop and billiard saloon (48). A dwelling house further up the row (49) has been converted into a joiner's workshop by David Calder. Then we come to the large garage (50) which



Glaisnock Street to-day from the Town Hall looking towards the Square.



Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, over 100 years ago.





Glaisnock Street — looking south from the Town Hall.



Cumnock Picture House — about 1913 — when the programme included films and "turns." The figure on the right is Johnnie Paton, pianist.

formerly belonged to the S.M.T. Company. This is now owned and occupied by Messrs Dick Bros. as a potato store. The next shop (51) is at the entrance to Herdston Place. It was first occupied by Mr Hugh Lorimer and later by the Misses Williamson, and now by Mr Renfrew, all confectioners. Directly opposite (52) is the shop occupied first by Jack MacKervail, confectioner, and afterwards by Mrs C. Knight. Beyond the A. and C. station bridge was the old coachworks, owned and occupied by William Kirkpatrick, who continued the coach-building work there for many years with much success, attending to the repair and painting of all the horse drawn vehicles of bye-gone days. The ground is now entirely vacant. Opposite the cemetery gates Mr R Gray has his monumental sculpture works.

On the West side of Glaisnock Street, opposite the Gas Board's show-room is Cumnock Picture House (53) originally built by Cumnock Picture House Ltd., and managed by Mr Frame. The management was taken over by Mr H. W. Morton, who subsequently bought the property and still owns it. Next door is the Dumfries Arms Hotel (54) owned by the Murray family (donors of the Murray Park) and later by Mr Robt. Munn, Mr Jas. Breckenridge, Mr Wm. Downie, Mr and Mrs Parvin, and now Mr and Mrs Purves



We reproduce the above old photograph (section only) since it is the only one we have showing the "Pottery Row." Taken during a "ploughing-in" at the Racecourse Park, it shows the row from Herdston (now Braemar) Cottage almost to the Pottery Showroom.



Going into Townhead Street from Glaisnock Street which, with Tower Street, forms the oldest part of the town, there was a small thatched row on the left. The first shop was occupied by William Crawford, butcher. Later, this was occupied by Matthew Laidlaw, chip potato merchant, Mrs Archibald Davidson, confectioner, William Templeton, shoemaker, Mrs Syme, toffee, James Parker, cycles, and James

Little, tinsmith. The adjoining house was occupied by the said William Crawford and his wife, Jacobina Rice or Crawford. The shop at the end of the row (3) was occupied in the '80's by Mrs Lennox, dressmaker, ably assisted by her daughters, Jessie and Liza. Mrs Lennox had her shop-front whitewashed weekly without fail. Later she removed to her new shop in Ayr Road, after which the Townhead shop was occupied by Mrs Jac-

obina M'Millan, Mrs Cairns, Andrew M'Call, Mrs Alex. Burns and Mrs William Richmond. A new building now occupies this ground, the shops being occupied by James Goudie, fruiterer (1), James M'Kibbin, shoe merchant (2), and Mrs Handley's ladies' and gents' hairdressing establishment (3). Before these modern shops were created, the area was occupied by the Labour Exchange, men's and women's sections,

prior to their removal to Ayr Road.

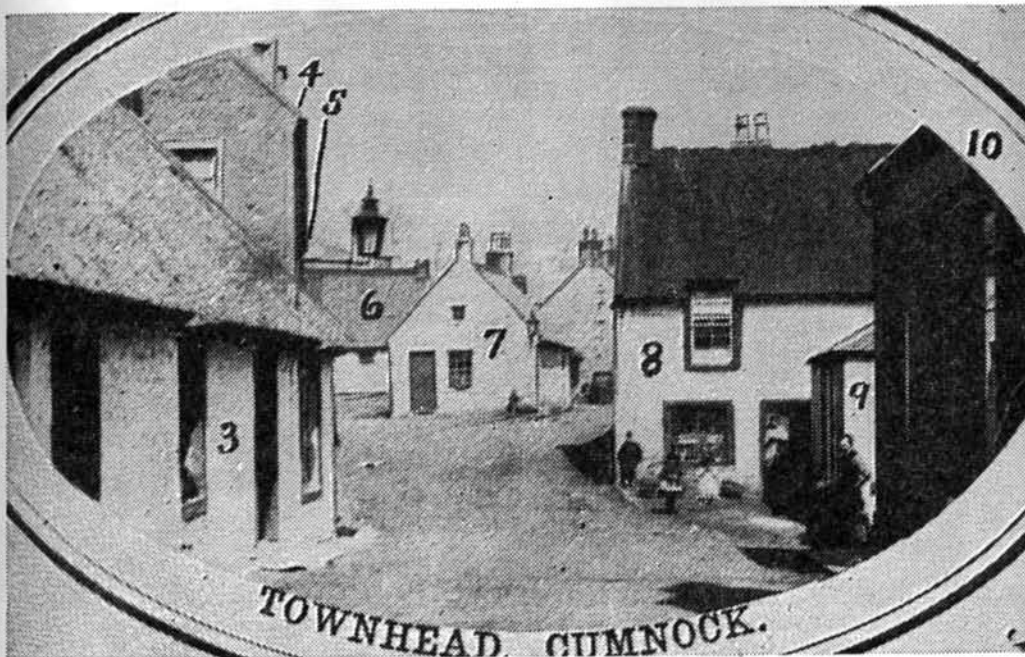
The next building contains the old-established (1859) business of Alex. Muir & Son (4), licensed grocer. It was continued by James Muir, and is now the property of James's son, Alexander. Further along was the shop occupied by James Duncan, baker (5), afterwards Thomas Shedden and David Clark, also bakers. It is now contained in Messrs Muir's shop as a store. Further along the road, the little corner shop on the road leading to the Strand was occupied by Mrs J. Begg, later by Mrs Corbett and Mrs Cook, as a sort of eating house. This building, with the other neighbouring buildings, is now demolished, and the new surgery of Drs. Campbell, M'Millan and Boyd now stands on the ground. The house across the lane (7)—now gone—was occupied by Jenny Crawford or M'Millan and her husband Andrew. Andrew's barber's saloon was opposite. Further up was Frank Digby's lodging house (6). All these buildings were demolished long ago.

Then we go on past the Police Station for a few yards and come to what was formerly Merry's Smiddy. It was first occupied by Henry Merry, who came from Maybole in the eighties of last century. After his death, his son James came to Cumnock and continued the business. He was assisted with his sons, Harry and John, and the Smiddy was a favourite place for the youth of Townhead Street. Much good work was undertaken by the firm. We recollect the erection of the iron railing round the Martyrs' Monument on Corsgelloch Hill. The heavy material had to be conveyed over very rough ground and the best way to take this was properly dialled by Mr James Wilson, Auchingilsie. Mr A. B. Todd took a special interest in the work and visited the place one day on horseback. The neat shop standing on the old Smiddy site is occupied by Mr Alex. Pollock for wallpaper and fancy goods.

Then we come to the next shop with a long history. It



Lower Townhead Street, taken from Glaisnock Street.



Lower Townhead Street some seventy-five years ago.



was occupied by Mrs Jean Mac-Kervail Stoddart over the period of 58 years. She passed away in 1903 at age 90. Her daughter Margaret then continued the business for a few years. The shop is now occupied by Mr James Wardrop, fishing tackle maker. Further up Townhead Street is the substantial new shop recently erected by Mrs G. Brine (Sarah Riggans) where a first class grocery and confectionery business (A) is carried on.

We now return to Samson's Corner. The first shop on the right (10) was first occupied by John Mathieson for the Maybole Boot & Shoe Company. Then for many years it was occupied by William Crawford and his three sons, Andrew, Alexander and Jamie, William Paton, and Arnott & Blackwood, all butchers, like the present occupiers, Messrs Veitch & Blackwood. The next shop (8) was occupied by Mrs M'Sherrie, who sold children's clothing and remnants. She kept orphan children and helped them on their way. Then came the little square building, "Batchy" Smith's bakehouse (9). Further on in the low thatched row was the shop of Tom Crawford, butcher. John Davidson, saddler, had the shop (11) above Muir's stables and store for a while, and this building is now occupied by the Continental Upholsterer.

Then we arrive at Mr David White's premises (12) where he conducted a large business as painter and joiner. Later, the joinery business was taken over by John Boyd. The building is now occupied by Mr Jack Ferguson, dentist. Behind John Boyd's yard Messrs Montgomerie & Howat had their seed-cleaning machine and general engineering works. Another extension of this yard (13) is now the site of Mr J. K. Thomson's used car depot. Part of the entrance to the bakehouse formerly used by Shedden, Clark, and now Messrs Gilmour, can be seen to the left of the picture (14).

A little past the road to Crossriggs, in the thatch row, there was a little shop occupied by Mrs M'Knight, who sold potted meat, black puddings and



Looking west down Townhead Street from Salvation Army Hall.



Townhead Street 60 years ago. The blacksmith's shop to the right with the circular stone in front on which the cart-wheels were re-shod. Most of the houses—including the Weaver's Row above the Smiddy—are thatched.



The same view to-day with Mr Pollock's paint and wallpaper shop replacing the smiddy. On either side of the broadly paved street are the modern Council houses. At the top of the street—Mr Wardrop's fishing tackle shop.



pop, and near that was another shop occupied by Ralph Johnstone, who sold sweets, rock and candy. Further on, at the top of the brae, a little shop was occupied by Sally Dougan, who sold chocolate fish, rock and black-man. More recently there was a general shop (B) in Moodie's Row occupied by William Stewart and others, and now occupied by George Loy, who repairs clocks and watches and almost opposite Mr Robert Watson has his china shop (C).



An early picture of upper Townhead Street, taken from the "Bing." The double-storey houses at the right are gone, with the exception of Mr Nicol's property. At the foot of the Brae, coming down to Moodie's Row, are the crossed-stones in the roadway marking the former site of Cumnock's Mercat Cross.



This present-day picture is taken from almost the same angle as the above, the trees on the Townhead Bing making it impossible to get exactly the same shot. The steps indicate the entrance to John Baird Street and Urbana Terrace.



As we enter Tower Street the first shop was occupied by Mrs Connell, milliner (1) Afterwards this shop formed the consulting rooms of doctors M'Queen, Armitage and Campbell. The next shop (2) was occupied by Mrs Connelly, china merchant, and afterwards by Francis and Fred M'Grady,

barbers. Afterwards it was included in the consulting rooms and it now forms part of the large drapery establishment of Mr T. L. Murray.

In the next one-storey and attic row we found James Donaldson, shoemaker, a man who did a lot of repair work. Mrs Cross and her two daughters

lived in the end house and when they vacated it in 1898 it was occupied by James Davidson, joiner and his wife and family who had just arrived from Drumlanrig. Mrs Cross's shop was in the adjoining two-storey building at the right-hand side and she was ably assisted by her two daughters, Bella and Maggie. The shop was famous in the closing days of last century for the best of everything in plain food—tripe, black puddings, potted - meat, pork bones, pigs' trotters and vegetables all "so clean". Well should she be remembered for all the good foods which she produced with her hands.

Next we arrived at the shop (3) which was occupied by James Walker, china merchant, and afterwards by John Pearson, tailor and W. M'Donald, decorator and, now, by C. Lucas, commission agent. Behind these shops Mr John Caruthers for some time had his boot and shoe repairing factory.

Next we come to the shop (4) occupied by Bailie Wm. Kay, grocer, for many years. He was assisted by his two sons, William (Hasher) and Hugh, and his two daughters, Tina and Sarah. This shop has been more recently occupied by Mrs Hugh Black as a toy emporium. Then we come to the store occupied by Messrs S.

and A. Galbraith (5). When Mr Samuel Galbraith vacated his shop in The Square in 1890 he purchased an old property at the corner of Elbow Lane and Tower Street, and converted it into a large grocery store. He also erected a large factory at the rear for the manufacturing of confectionery and jams which has long since ceased. The business is now under the sole charge of Mr Spence Galbraith.

The little shop at the end of Tower Street (6) is occupied by Mrs Anthony Druggan for the sale of fish and chips. Opposite was the little shop occupied by Mr and Mrs Wm. M'Kerrow (7) for the sale of confectionery and small groceries.

Further up Tower Street at the bend where it joins Bank Lane (8) there was a small butcher shop which in the early 1890's was occupied by Mr John Auld, butcher, grandfather of the present John Auld of Auchinleck. This shop was afterwards occupied by James Walker, china merchant, and the building has long since disappeared.

The two-storey brick building (9) situated a little above Walker's shop was erected by Matthew Riggans, flesher, and occupied by him and afterwards by his son, James. It was continued by Wm. Callan, butcher and then by John Gillespie, draper, and today Wm. White, ironmonger. Prior to the erection of the two-storey building, Mr Riggans occupied the shop at the foot of the Pawn Steps (10) which was later occupied by Andrew M'Call as a fish and chip restaurant. It is now occupied by the Greenan Laundry Company as a workroom.

In another picture, which shows a portion of Tanyard Lane, in the two-storey building where Mrs James Hope has her general store (11) there was formerly Mr Tom Nicol's pawnshop and, later, Mr Robert Brown's butchery business. On the opposite side, and before reaching the general store was the old-established business of John Andrew & Co., aerated water manufacturers, whose produce was well known over a



Past "Caddie's Close", Tower Street, on to Glaisnock Street.



Elbow Lane corner — Tower Street.



wide district. The premises are now occupied by Mr D. MacDonald, joiner. Further along Tanyard, and at the corner of Lugar Street, were the premises of Messrs H. & T. Morrison, plumbers and slaters, who employed a large staff and for many years did much work in Cumnock and district. Well do we remember the senior partner, Mr Hugh Morrison, a most attentive, obliging and reliable man. Morrison's former workshop now houses the local fire engine and fire-fighting equipment.



Looking down the "Drummer's Brae" from Bank Lane to Tower Street.



From Tanyard along Tower Street.

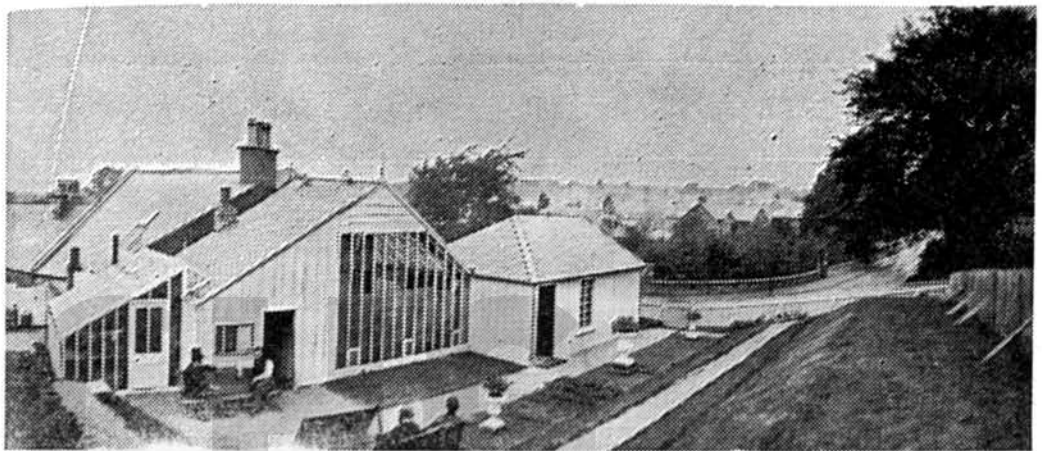




Tower Street and Tanyard junction.

The first shop in Ayr Road (1) was occupied by Miss Pater-son, milliner, afterwards by Mrs W. O. Kay, who removed from the little shop at the foot of Barrhill Road. It was later occupied by the Misses Smith and M'Cubbin, and then by Jean M'Cubbin on her own. Mario Luni, restaurateur, came next, and the shop is now occupied by his son Ernesto. The next shop (2) was occupied as a post office, and afterwards by A. F. Borland. Next door again was Mrs Lennox's (3), ladies' outfitter, followed afterwards by Miss Laidlaw. The whole property (2 & 3) is now occupied by A. F. Borland, Ltd. (Mr Robert Leitch). The next shop (4) was occupied by Boyd and Moore, ironmongers, and later by A F. Borland, and then by Mr Joel Slonimsky, general merchant.

For a brief period Cadam M'Clure, tobacconist and confectioner, had a shop here. Then came the double shop (5) occupied by David Murray, draper, and the office (6) occupied by Thomas Andrew, solicitor. The office was still later occupied by John Thomson, tailor. Recently these shops were converted into one large shop occupied by Breckenridge & Henderson (4.6). Many of our readers



Taken close on 80 years ago from John Ballantine's studio in the grounds subsequently known as "Georgeville." It will be noted there is no spire and the figures in the foreground are grouped around a frame being used for the old "printing out" process in vogue for daylight photography printing. None of the persons in the picture has so far been identified.



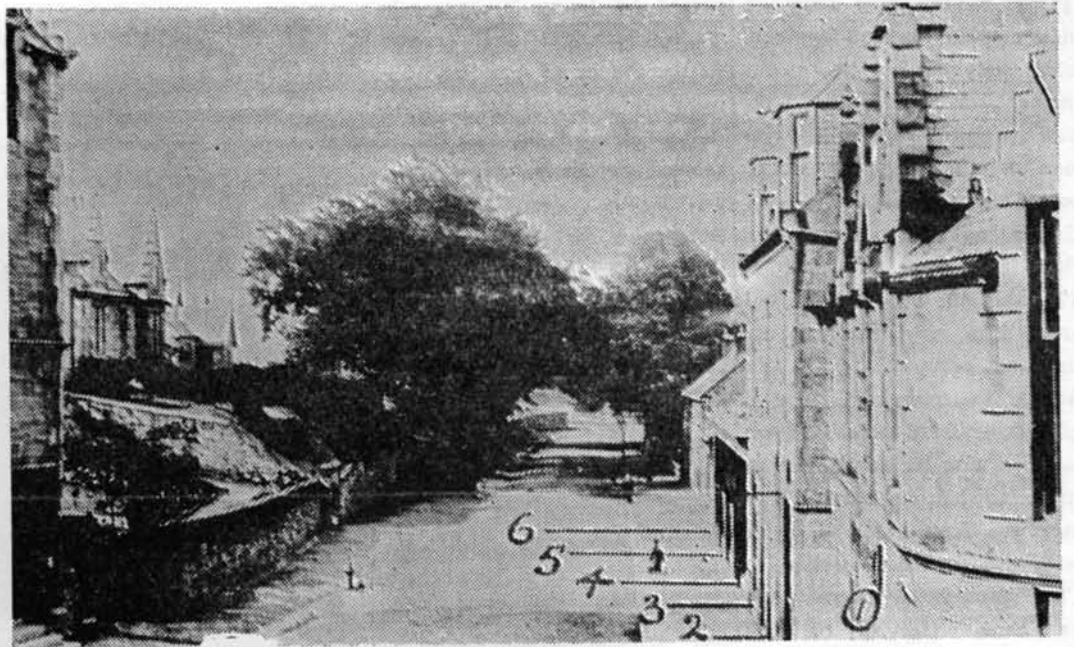
From Stevensons' Dairy Farms office to the Masonic Temple.



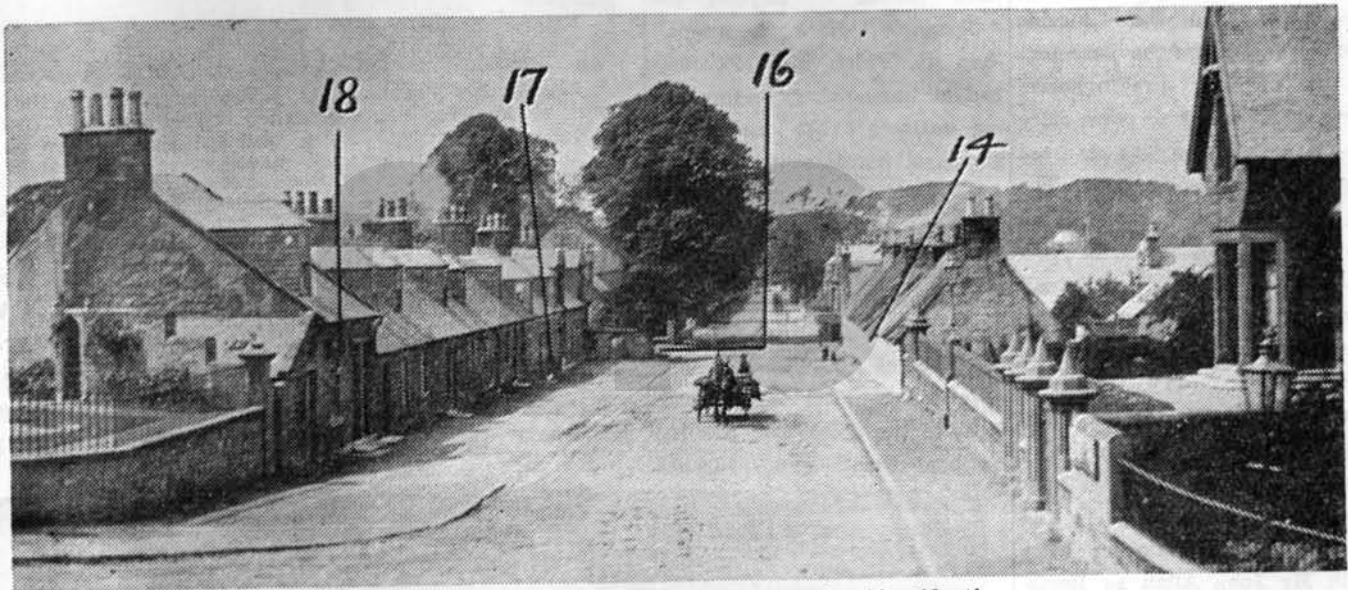
will recollect that one section of this shopping area, after the First World War, was occupied as a Labour Exchange, and later still as the local Pearl Assurance office.

Behind these shops, for many years, Messrs Davidson had their joinery workshop and building yard.

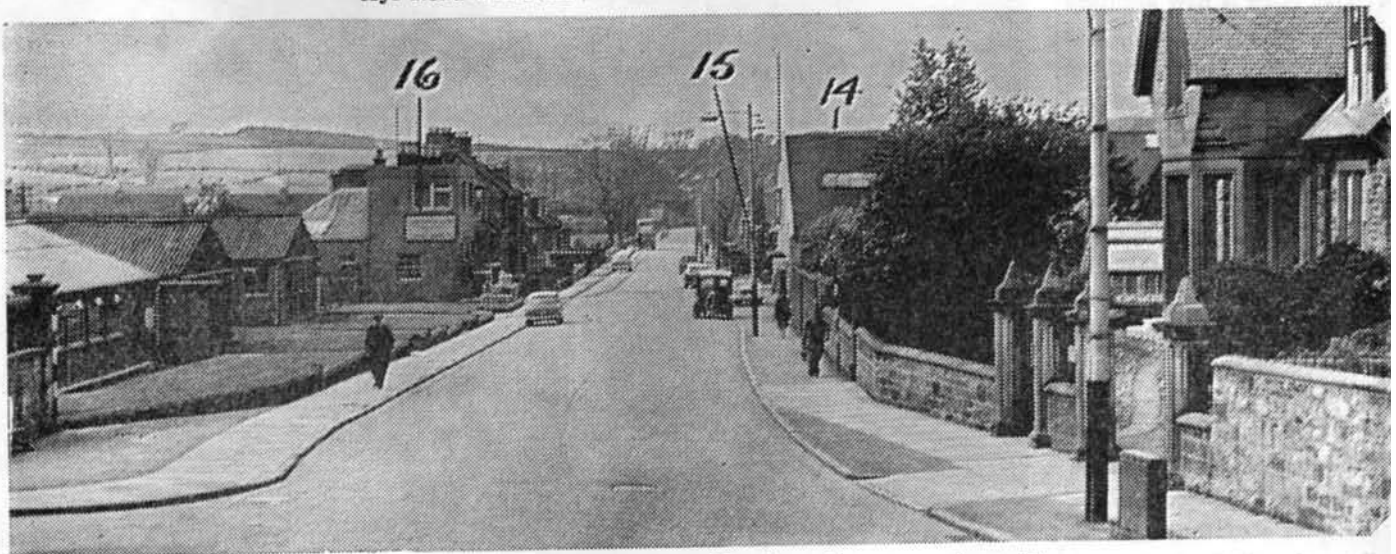
Over the lane, the one-storey building (7) was first occupied by James Parker, cycle and motor cycle builder. This building was destroyed by fire and on re-erection was the office of Mr Hugh Black, solicitor, and of Mr Hugh Morrison, C.A. It is now occupied by Messrs G. Leitch & Son, grain merchants.



Taken over 70 years ago from an upper window at the former Ballantine home in Glaisnock St.



Ayr Road about the 1880's. See text for number identifications.



Ayr Road to-day taken roughly from the same viewpoint.



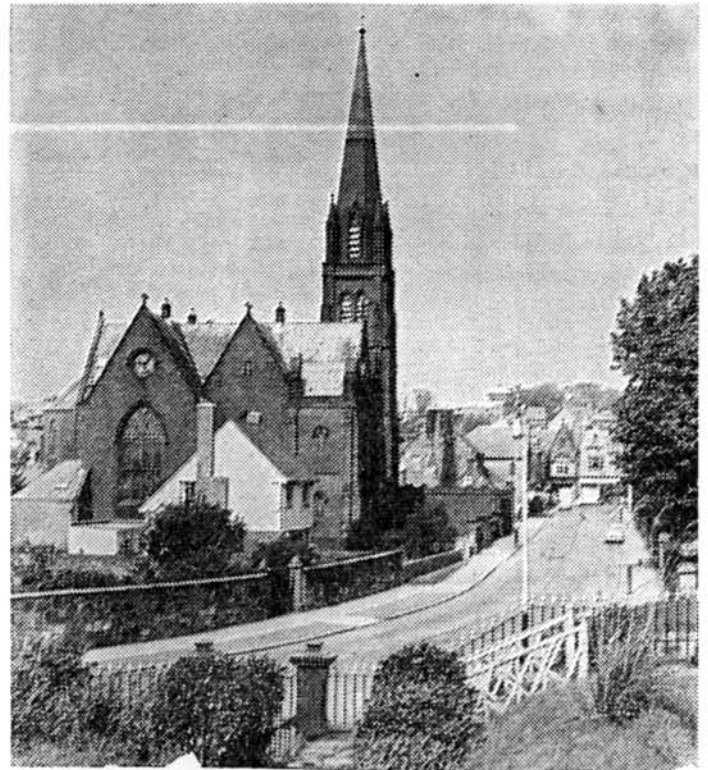
Prior to the new frontage being erected the building consisted simply of a two storey tenement with basement, the entrance being by six wide stone steps leading to a central door. This was the entrance to Miss Lamont's School for girls. When this was disbanded in 1872 and the School was converted into a dwelling house this was occupied by Adam Ramage, tea merchant. He is well remembered coming down the steps with his bag of tea to deliver to his customers. His sister was Jean, referred to in the Glaisnock Street section.

The two shops there have now been extended on the ground floor, and are occupied by Mr Walter Linton (8), electrician, and the Gateside Cleaners (9). In the basement of the original dwellinghouse, Mr Kernahan had his pawn office when the business was removed from the Pawn Steps at The Square. The barber's shop now occupied by Mr John Muir (10), was formerly a small dwellinghouse. Next to that were the shops occupied by the Misses Ross (11), remnant dealers, then Miss Nellie Gibb, home - bakery, followed by Messrs Gilmour, bakers. Next door to this shop were the Parish Council Chambers (12) with Mr John Allan as Registrar. This office is now occupied by Mr H. Black, solicitor. The office nearest the Crichton Church (13) was first occupied by Mr R. D. Hunter, solicitor, later by Mr William Scott, plumber and radio dealer, then by Miss Peacock, corsetiere, and now Messrs Stevensons' Dairy Farms' office.

All of the white-washed row (14) which extended from the garden of Mr Goldie's house (now Dr. Campbell's), is occupied by Messrs Cowan & Panton Ltd.'s garage and petrol station. In the middle of this row we recollect the little house oc-

cupied by Jenny M'Crae, who made so delightful ice cream. At the corner of Ayr Road and New Bridge Street (15), opposite the garage is Mr Jim Ewen's general merchant's store, which was formerly occupied by Mrs Dale, and earlier still by Mr William Richmond, tailor.

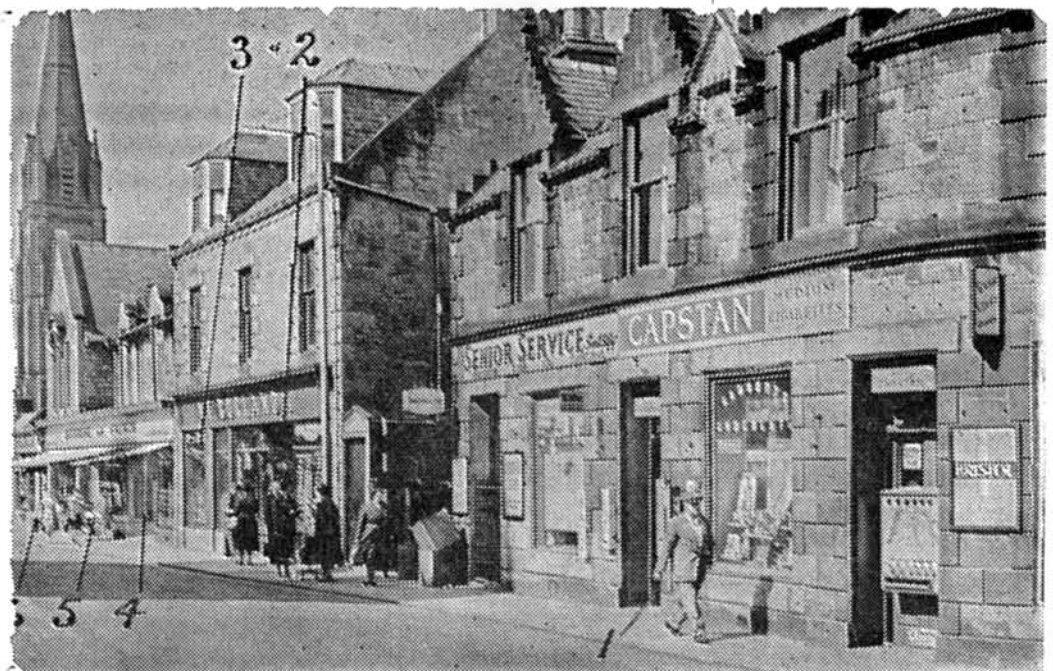
Directly opposite Cowan's garage (16), are the premises of "The Cumnock Chronicle," founded by John Walters Crawford in 1901. The building has been substantially extended on several occasions and is now a modern newspaper publishing and printing establishment, in which is incorporated the former printing establishment of the Ballantine family at Glaisnock Street. Beyond the "Chronicle" office was a small shop in which Mrs M'Callum had her home bakery and mangling business (17). Later Mrs Margaret Smith continued with a confectioner and general merchant business within the out-jutting railing next to Mrs M'Callum one door down. All of the houses from the "Chronicle" office to "Georgeville" have since been demolished. Next to the office now are the National Health and Insurance



A comparable picture today, taken roughly from the same position, showing the re-modelled upper Ayr Rd., Crichton West Church and spire, and our first picture of the new manse.

Offices, and behind these again is the Labour Exchange. Adjoining the foot of "Georgeville" garden was the little shop (18), first occupied by John Patrick, tailor, and afterwards by Mrs Jeanie Wardrop. Aerated waters and sweets were sold here. On the same side, at

the corner of Ayr Road and Car Road, John Ballantine had his photographic studio, and this was later occupied by Wilhelm Hess, photographer, Ayr. The studio was afterwards converted into the dwellinghouse known as "Georgeville," and occupied by the Roger family.



From Glaisnock Street - Ayr Road corner to the Masonic Temple.



Closing his much-appreciated account of shops and shop-owners in Cumnock over the past seventy years or so, Mr Jack Hill makes the following information additions, and one amendment.

**Barrhill Road.**

The shop in Barrhill Road next to the Bute Hospital, which was occupied by Miss M. Patrick, was later occupied by Mrs Andrew Davidson, Miss Liliastoddart and Miss Agnes Neil, who all sold small groceries.

**Lugar Street.**

Mr Livingstone's shop in Lugar Street. Mr Livingstone's grandmother had full control of the inside department, while her husband, James, took charge of all goods delivered to store. He visited the farmers weekly, buying their produce and delivering goods to them. The crack of his whip was a well-known sound before his approach as he drove through the streets in the mornings on his way to the country.

**Cumnock Cronies.**

In the issue of 5th May, the group of Cumnock Cronies included Batchy Smith and Andrew White. At the rear are standing James Murray (Dumfries Arms Hotel), Mr Andrew White (solicitor and banker), Mr James M'Gavin Nicol (The Pottery), and Mr David Smith ("Batchy"—baker), The Square. Provost George T. Samson is not in the group. The fifth figure is still unidentified.

