



CAIRT

Issue 18
January 2011

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

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SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

The Forum was initiated by the National Library of Scotland in January 2002:

- ♦ *To stimulate and to encourage multi-disciplinary map use, study and research, particularly relating to Scottish maps and mapmakers*
- ♦ *To disseminate information on Scottish maps and map collections*
- ♦ *To record information on maps and mapmaking, particularly in a Scottish context*
- ♦ *To liaise with other groups and individuals with map related interests*
- ♦ *To build on, and to continue, the work of Project Pont*

CAIRT

The newsletter is issued twice a year. "Cairt" is Gaelic & 17th century Scots for map.

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ISSN 1477-4186 © 2011 NLS
Editor: Chris Fleet

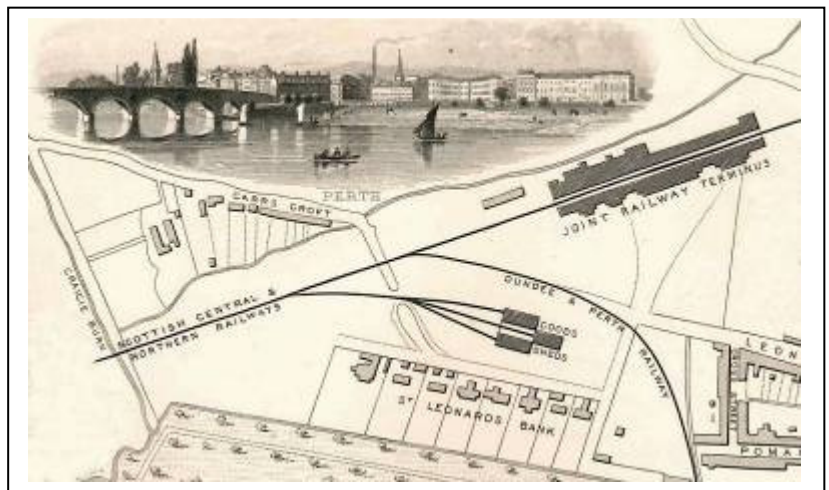
Routes across the Map - Cartography, travel and transport in Scotland

Our next Scottish Maps Forum Seminar, to be held on Saturday 7 May 2011 in the AK Bell Library in Perth, will be on the theme of cartography, travel and transport.

Maps for travel purposes have their own interesting history and take a deliberately partial view of the world. Whilst this is due to their necessary focus on transport routes, it is also due to their need to appeal to very different audiences – military commanders, investors, government officials, or tourists. More broadly, maps for travel provide an insight into how travel and transport were seen in the past, and the changes in the ways in which space and distance have been conceived over time.

The seminar will focus on recent research that has explored the value of maps in understanding the history of transport and communications. It will also look specifically at particular people who have played a significant role in developing transport infrastructure and their maps.

Dr Jeffrey Stone looks at Timothy Pont and overland travel in 16th century Scotland. This will also look at Pont's mapping of bridges across Scotland as evidence of early routeways – bridges were one of the main investments in communications before the 18th century. Dr Carolyn Anderson looks at military roads and related cartography, planned under the auspices of George Wade and his protege as Inspector of Roads, William Caulfeild, from the 1720s to the 1770s. This year marks the bicentenary of the completion of the Stevensons' famous Bell Rock Lighthouse, and Peter Mackay, a former Chairman of the Northern Lighthouse Board, looks at the interesting history of charting the Inchcape or Bell Rock. *(cont over)*



Above: Perth [drawn and engraved by J. Rapkin] from *Tallis's illustrated atlas, and modern history of the world* (1851)

Cartography, travel and transport seminar (cont.)

Dr Margaret Storrie looks at the surveyor, cartographer and civil engineer, William Bald, c.1789-1857, his early work in north-west Scotland as an apprentice to John Ainslie, and his later work in Ireland. Professor Noel Wilkins, of the University of Galway, looks at the career of the surveyor and civil engineer Alexander Nimmo (1783-1832). This year marks the bicentenary of Nimmo's admission as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh as well as to the Bogs Commission in Ireland, and this Spring, the Royal Irish Academy will publish a transcription of Nimmo's journal of his perambulation of the northern counties of Scotland for the Commission on Highland Roads and Bridges. Charles McKean looks at the impact of roads - particularly turnpike roads and bridges - upon towns and country estates - and how they both sometimes underwent a fundamental shift toward this new transport link.

The cost is £15 (£20 with lunch) and booking forms and further information are available from the Maps Reading Room (contact details in panel on front page) and NLS website <http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/forum/>

SCOTTISH MAP NEWS

The NLS Maps Reading Room has moved

We are pleased to announce that a new NLS Maps Reading Room opened in September 2010. We remain in the same Causewayside building, but the new reading room is at street level, and designed to be fully accessible for visitors. The public entrance has moved round to the corner to 159 Causewayside - you can spot us by the maps in our windows.

In the entrance foyer is a coffee machine, tables and comfortable seating, providing space for a visitors to take a relaxing break during their research. The new reading room feels spacious and light. There is dedicated desk space for readers consulting smaller maps and volumes, while we have retained the big map tables for consulting larger items. We can offer four computers for consulting the catalogue, digitised maps and other online resources, and there are plug sockets for laptops on the desks. There is no WiFi at present, however.



We are selling a small selection of NLS cards and stationery in the maps reading room, as well as a selection of DVDs produced by the Scottish Screen Archive.

Laragh Quinney

National Archives of Scotland - restricted access to plans

Access to several thousand topographical, architectural and engineering plans at the NAS is currently restricted due to a change in storage arrangements. You are strongly advised to check on the availability of plans with search room staff before planning to visit the NAS. Full details of shelfmarks affected can be found at: <http://www.nas.gov.uk/about/101116.asp>

***Mapa Scotland* campaign launched to restore General Maczek's map**

We reported in *Cairt* 13 (July 2008) about the campaign to save the "Great Polish Map of Scotland". This large concrete map was created by General Maczek and his Polish soldiers to commemorate their time taking part in the wartime defence of Scotland. The campaign has recently been advanced with the inauguration of the *Mapa Scotland* project which aims to raise funds and support for the restoration of this remarkable map. For more information about the project, or to find out how to subscribe to the newsletter or send funds, please see: <http://www.makers.org.uk/place/Maczek/>

BARTHOLOMEW ARCHIVE PROJECT UPDATE

The Bartholomew Archive Project, now entering its fourth year, is making continued progress on the cataloguing and preservation of the Printing Record. By the end of 2010, 102 volumes had been preserved up to October 1946 and 46 volumes had been catalogued up to April 1910. This work was augmented by a number of attempts to raise the profile of the Archive, highlights of which included:

- Inclusion of Bartholomew material in NLS' major exhibition, *A Swing Through Time*
- Use of archive material in educational workshops at NLS' road shows to Inverness and Dunfermline
- Use of Printing Record maps in *The Times Atlas of Britain*, launched in September 2010
- Collaboration with the University of Edinburgh's Centre for the Study of the Two World Wars regarding their Edinburgh's War website, launched in October 2010

In August and September, a series of interviews with around 20 former Bartholomew employees were completed. The interviews were conducted by Professor Sian Reynolds of the Scottish Working People's History Trust. As a result we now have an incredibly rich oral record that adds depth and meaning to the written archive. Between them, the interviewees spanned over 60 years of Bartholomew history from diverse backgrounds which included the drawing and colourist offices, lithographic work, the printing floor and the library. This not only constitutes an exciting new resource for researchers but there

are hopes of using the interviews as the basis for a future publication.

An unexpected and welcome outcome of the oral history project was the donation of a set of lithographic tools to NLS by former employee, Alex Coventry. Alex Coventry began his career with Bartholomew in 1957 and his tools, many hand-made, complement the earlier donations of engraving and drawing tools made by William Hall and the family of John R Hutchison. The donation consists of around 20 items, which include two boxes of Songster Gramophone needles used as points in scribing tools, magnifying glasses and mounts, used to hold the lithographic film in place. A box to house this material was custom made by the Bartholomew Archive Project's preservation technician, Robert Harold, ensuring the long term future of this donation.



Above: Bartholomew staff patching plates with lithographic film



Above: Alex Coventry's donated set of lithographic tools inside the specially made box to store them

Finally, in February 2011, the digitisation of the earliest part of the Printing Record (1877-1899) is due to begin, which will involve scanning approximately 8000 individual items. Once completed, this will constitute a major new resource for Bartholomew researchers and enthusiasts alike.

Karla Baker

Further information:

Further details of the Oral History interviews can be found at

<http://www.swpht.org.uk>

The Edinburgh's War website is at

<http://www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk>

The Bartholomew Archive website is at:

<http://digital.nls.uk/bartholomew>

WEBSITE NEWS... 1. NLS MAP GEOREFERENCE APPLICATION

This new application, launched in November, allows anyone to georeference various historical maps of Scotland on the web, including county maps, town plans, coastal charts and estate maps. The maps can then be viewed as an overlay in Google Earth or using the Google Earth browser plugin.

The georeferencing is quick and fun, and you can also:

- compare our historic maps directly with present day satellite images
- share, use and georeference the maps in more detail
- view the maps alongside other georeferenced historical maps of the same area
- help improve search methods to find them in future



This is a collaborative application with Klokan Technologies GmbH, who are also working with other libraries in Europe to share the Georeferencer software. The Georeferencer is a pilot project, and there are plans to enhance the software during 2011.

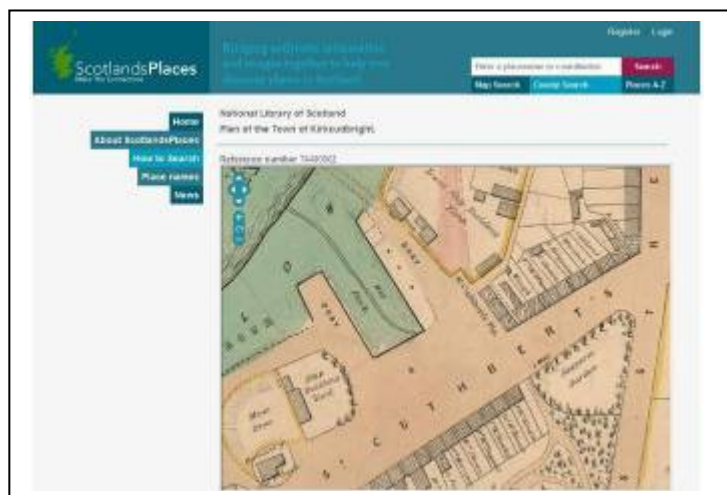
The Georeferencer application is at: <http://geo.nls.uk/maps/georeferencer>

2. NLS MAPS ADDED TO SCOTLANDSPACES

Visitors to the *ScotlandsPlaces* website can now access 18,000 maps from the NLS's collections. *ScotlandsPlaces*, hosted by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), was launched in October 2009, and allows access through good spatial search methods to records and images of material held by the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) and RCAHMS. In December 2010, the following main categories of NLS maps were also included:

- Bathymetrical Survey of the Fresh-Water Lochs of Scotland, 1897-1909
- Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6-inch mapping, 1843-1882
- Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25-inch mapping, 1855-1882
- Historical county maps of Scotland, 1580-1928
- Historical town plans of Scotland, 1580-1919.

For the first time, this allows large-scale maps held by NAS and NLS to be searched simultaneously. There are



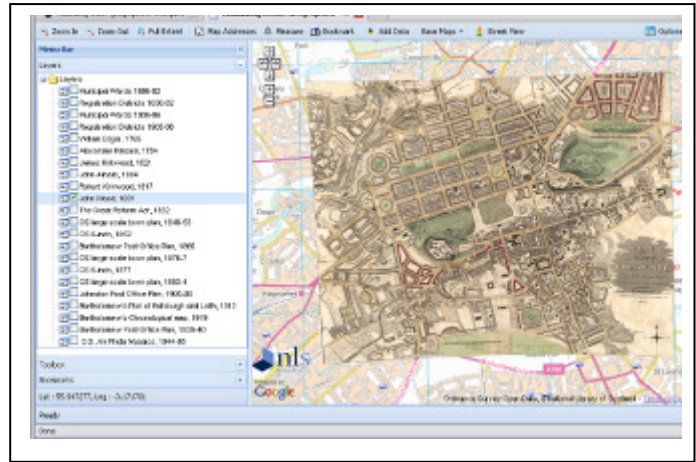
over 1,800 zoomable images of NAS Register House Plans, and 100 new RHP images are added every month. You can also access National Monument Records, Historical Tax Rolls from the 1790s, Land Ownership records from the 1870s, Medical Officer of Health Reports from the 1890s, and local government boundary changes in the 1890s. An E-commerce facility and mobile application are planned for this year.

The *ScotlandsPlaces* website is at:
<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>

3. VISUALISING URBAN GEOGRAPHIES

This project, reported on in the previous issue of *Cairt*, will formerly end in February 2011. Its essential aims have been to bring together sets of historical maps, census and address-based information to develop easy tools and guides for exploring aspects of urban historical geography, using Edinburgh as a case study. Some of the main achievements of the project have been:

- 17 georeferenced maps of Edinburgh from 1765 to 1944 have been made freely available for onward use and georeferencing as downloadable JPEG images and Web Map Services
- We have drafted simple guides for how to georeference maps, how to capture boundaries and point features, and how to present the results and georeferenced maps online.
- The changing registration districts, wards and municipal boundaries for Edinburgh from 1865 to 1911 have been captured and made available as shapefiles and KML files.
- Guides have been prepared for automatic georeferencing of address data using Google Spreadsheets, how to set up ExtMap to build a map website application, and how to use the Thematic Mapping Engine to create choropleth maps of thematic information from census data.



Above: The ExtMap Viewer showing a georeferenced John Wood plan of 1831 overlaid on OS Opendata

We are holding a launch event on 24 February 2011 in George IV Bridge – please register if you wish to attend. Further details of the event, and the above resources are on the project website at: <http://geo.nls.uk/urbhist/>

4. ADDRESSINGHISTORY WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The *AddressingHistory* project, reported on in the last issue of *Cairt*, formally ended with a website launch on 17 November 2010. The three Post Office directories in the pilot project provide information about Edinburgh in a period from Scottish Enlightenment to the running of Edinburgh's first electric trams:

- 1784-1785
- 1865
- 1905-1906

The tool combines the georeferenced listings from the directories overlaid on maps from the same years. Site users can search by places, people and professions, and the results are returned on a map and as a listing that links to the relevant directory page. The website is a pilot application, which we hope will grow as more directories and maps are included, and the content is improved by crowdsourcing methods. Future funding has been secured to extend the application in 2011.

The *AddressingHistory* website is at: <http://addressinghistory.edina.ac.uk>

5. SCOTTISH POST OFFICE DIRECTORIES ONLINE

AddressingHistory takes advantage of the ongoing broader project to digitise all the Post Office directories covering Scottish towns and counties from 1774 to 1911. Over 280 Scottish Post Office directories are now available online for family and town history research.

The directories include an alphabetical listing of the inhabitants of a town or county. Most of them also list people by street and by trade. Some directories record other information, such as banks, churches, insurance companies, teachers, and medical and law practitioners.

When completed by the summer of 2011, the project will allow access to over 600 Post Office directories covering most of Scotland. In a separate project, we also hope to digitise the maps that often accompanied the later directories during this year.

The Scottish Post Office directories website is at: <http://www.nls.uk/family-history/directories/post-office>

COL SIR JOHN FARQUHARSON AND THE ORDNANCE SURVEY NAME BOOKS FOR STRATHDON

It is useful to know that authority for the name of every feature on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey six inch maps was recorded in parish name books. For Scotland, these name books are held in original form and on microfilm in the National Archives of Scotland (at West Register House)¹ and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. For the Kingdom of Fife these have been digitised and indexed at the Fife Council Archives Centre. For Banffshire, at least, they are in the catalogue of the Aberdeen University Library.

Against the name of every feature, man-made or natural, the name book shows its situation; alternative modes of spelling; authorities for those modes of spelling; and descriptive remarks and general observations. As the county valuation rolls had been published a few years earlier, these usually were the source of property names, and additional advice from local sages and self-styled scholars is often recorded.

Firbriggs Hill --- 182
(Same remark below)
Poolculie Bridge 64
(Same remark as below)
Belnabodach --- 47
Altered by order of the
D.G. 12.8.95. To be used
for purposes only, further
investigation to be made
during the revision of the
larger scales.
Colquhouny --- 72
(Altered by order of the D.G. 12.8.95)

Memo. for revision of the 6. inch & 2500 ft. Maps.
The pencil notes in this book are by Mr. James
McDonald "J MacD". He is the best authority on the
names of Aberdeenshire, & his remarks, especially as they
is made should be generally followed, as originally collected
tend usually towards restoring the names as originally
This District is not now Gaelic speaking.
Other un-initialled names for the Ordnance Survey.
Carpenter formerly Gaelic names for the D. Survey. They
the leaves are by Mr. A. Macdonald, orthography of the
who is the present correct Gaelic orthography of the
generally fine but I do not think it desirable in the
names; should be made in this district.
J Farquharson
25/9/95

The name books for Strathdon, originally prepared in 1867, are enlivened by the intervention in 1895 of the newly-promoted Director General, Colonel John Farquharson. Assisted by his grandfather's share of the substantial fortune left in 1823 by John Forbes of Bombay, he had earned 'the silver pen' at Marischal College Aberdeen, obtained a commission in the Royal Engineers, and changed his name from McPherson to Farquharson when he succeeded to his uncle's estate of Corrachree. Appointed to the Ordnance Survey in 1872, his main recorded achievement as Executive Officer was to resist the cost of a re-survey in 1889, and his tenure as Director-General from 1894 until 1899 is regarded in W.A. Seymour's *History of the Ordnance Survey* (Folkestone: Dawson, 1980) as 'undistinguished'.

However, as Sir John (as he became in 1899) chose to assert his authority in the Strathdon name books, there is an annotation that the name Belnabodoch (his mother's birthplace) must be amended to Belnabodach 'by order of the DG 12/8/95.' Just to make sure, he added a note in his own hand 'This name is always spelt Belnabodach in local usage. Probably Belnabodoch is a clerical error by the field officer. J Farquharson Col 25/9/95'.

Above: Farquharson's note in the OS Name Book for Strathdon (1895). RH4/23



OS 6 inch Aberdeenshire Sheet LX, surveyed 1867, published 1869 (left) and the 1900 revision, published 1903 (right)

Farquharson and the OS Name Books (cont.)

Anyone who has indulged in or has suffered such petty authority will suspect that Farquharson's underlings would have been unimpressed. Against the DG's list of amendments, one of them added another note '*To be used for 1" purposes only - further investigation to be made during the revision of the larger scales.*' Regrettably, there is no evidence that this insubordination resulted in different spellings for the same placename on maps of different scales. The name was changed to Belnabodach at all scales from the 1890s onwards, although there is evidence that customary usage supported Farquharson's spelling.

Feeling that '*this District is not now Gaelic speaking*', the DG engaged an additional expert on place names and attempted to arbitrate between his annotations and those by the Ordnance Survey's Gaelic examiners. These experts supplemented the diligent work of the original field officers in Strathdon, who in 1867 had attempted to explain place names and their pronunciation, and had included accounts of local legends as well as historical buildings.

If other microfilms in the National Archives of Scotland are as rich in detail as these, perhaps local archives or societies beyond the Kingdom of Fife may seek to purchase copies and to encourage voluntary research ?

David Walker

1. Indexed on the NAS website under RH4/23 and parish name but viewable only on site.

NEW SUTHERLAND ESTATES RESEARCH PROJECT

A new project is beginning in January 2011 to investigate an as yet unexplored archive – the Sutherland estate maps, over the period 1750 to c.1920. This will consider the evolving role of land surveying and estate mapping in a period of turbulent social and economic change in the Scottish Highlands. At a time when the Highland landscape was changing from fragmented subsistence farmlands, moorlands and bogs to commercial sheep farms, enclosed lands, and planned settlements connected by new roads and railways, surveyors were employed by landed estates to map these changes. This project aims to determine the nature, range and purpose of their maps as instruments of Highland estate and landscape reorganisation in the modern era, and uses the particular example of the Sutherland estate, in conjunction with the estate papers, to do so.

The importance of this project lies in its focus on an unexplored archive (in part deposited in the National Library of Scotland and the National Archives of Scotland, with further holdings in the Sutherland Estates office in Golspie), its innovative use of maps as primary sources, and its linkage of source types to address the understanding of rural and social change in the Highlands of Scotland. Work will begin in January with an overview of the estate's holdings at Golspie: a scoping exercise funded by a Carnegie Research Grant, to be undertaken by Dr Annie Tindley, a lecturer in history at Glasgow Caledonian University with research interests in the historical records of landed estates, and Dr Carolyn Anderson, a recent graduate of the University of Edinburgh following the



Above: 'Kintradwell', from *Book of Plans of the Parish of Loth, The Property of the Countess of Sutherland...* by John Kirk (1772)
Dep.313/3583

successful completion of a collaborative project with the National Library of Scotland to examine the military mapping of eighteenth-century Scotland. The project will be a new collaborative venture with the National Library of Scotland, Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Edinburgh and the Sutherland Estates.

Annie Tindley

NEW ACQUISITION - SCOTLAND BEWITCHED!

A recent auction sale made it possible for NLS to purchase a very rare caricature map of Scotland. *Geography bewitched! or, a droll caricature map of Scotland* by Robert Dighton shows the country as, frankly, a rather ugly character dressed in a flounced suit and tall hat, carrying a pack on their back.

Robert Dighton is a fascinating character. Famous for his satirical portraits of prominent figures of the day, he was also a popular actor at Sadlers Wells theatre. In his set *Geography bewitched!* he produced unflattering portraits of England and Wales, and Ireland as well as Scotland. The cartoons were published by Bowles & Carver, who, like many publishers at the time, were based in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and issued many of Dighton's cartoons.

The set was issued in 1794, the same year as Dighton began stealing prints from the British Museum. He accomplished this by striking up a friendship with the under-warden Mr. Belloe and his daughter. Dighton made portraits of them, but then used his portfolio to smuggle prints out of the Museum. He then passed them off as his own copies of the well-known pictures. He was only found out twelve years later when a “copy” of Rembrandt’s engraving “The Coach Landscape” was bought by Samuel Woodburn.



One of his friends was surprised and declared it a forgery as the only known copy was held by the British Museum. They visited the Museum. The print was missing. Dighton was discovered. He admitted several other thefts and helped trace the prints. He fled London amidst public outcry and went to live in Oxford for a number of years. Poor Mr Belloe lost his job...

The caricature of Scotland is far from flattering, but then, few of Dighton's drawings were! No prominent figure of the time escaped his barbed wit and his drawings are now highly collectable. It would take rather more than a twitch of the nose to make this one attractive, but it is still a welcome addition to the Collection.

Paula Williams

RECENT PUBLICATIONS	
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