



CAIRT

Issue 41
July 2022

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

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Scottish Maps Forum

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

- 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 and 17th century Scots for map.

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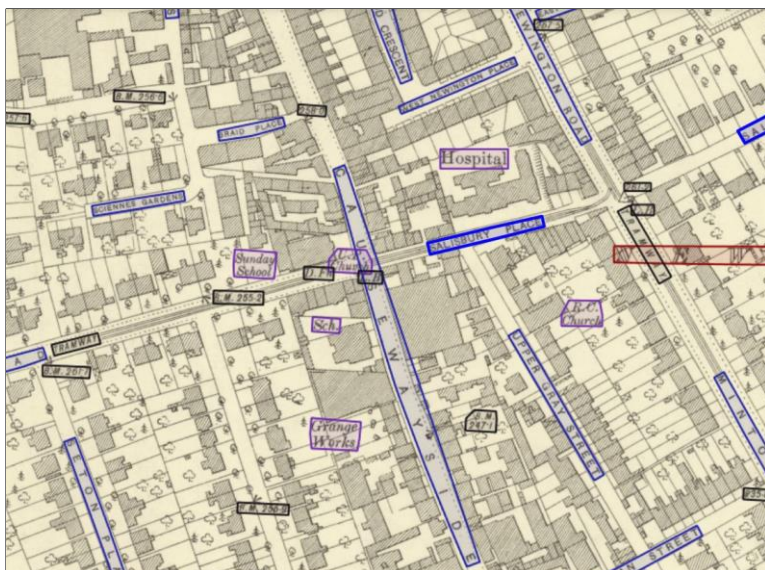
Technical Editor: J. Parkerson

Map Transcription projects

As announced in the last issue of *Cairt*, over the last few months the National Library of Scotland has run a set of new collaborative projects to transcribe features and text from maps. The Library is extremely grateful to several hundred volunteers who registered an interest and helped. Thanks to their ongoing work, over the last four months, more than 60,000 names and 50,000 footpaths have been successfully recorded from our maps. Whilst all names are now recorded, editing work is still ongoing on all these projects, with completion expected within the next 2-3 months.

Our first project focused on creating a gazetteer of all 33,517 placenames on the Roy Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747-55). For the first time, it is now possible to search all the names on this uniquely important 18th century map covering all of mainland Scotland. Our second project, launched in April, has traced all the footpaths from the Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile 2nd edition maps of Scotland (1888-1913). By the end June 2022, over 56,000 footpaths, spanning over 22,000 miles had been created. In May we launched our third project to gather all of the text from Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile 2nd edition maps of Edinburgh (1892-94). All 30,043 transcriptions were recorded in the first two weeks. As well as creating a very detailed gazetteer of Edinburgh from a century ago, the transcriptions will also be useful as a training dataset for machine-learning, hopefully encouraging the more widespread automatic ways of harvesting names from OS 25 inch maps.

View the results, including gazetteers and map viewers at:
<https://maps.nls.uk/transcriptions/results/>



The Scottish Maps Forum: 20 years on

It is now twenty years since the Scottish Maps Forum was established in 2002 by the National Library of Scotland (NLS) Map Library, as a successor to Project Pont, a five-year project led by NLS to encourage research on Timothy Pont's manuscript maps of Scotland (ca. 1583-1614).

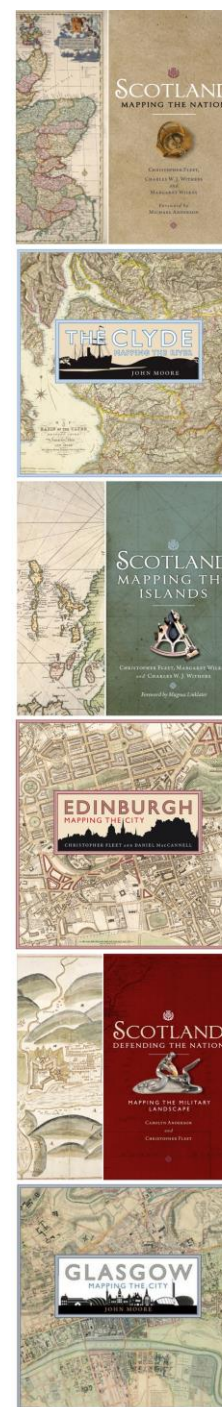
What has the Forum achieved? Since 2002 the Forum has hosted eleven seminars in different locations, and a field excursion. See the list at <https://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/forum/>. The programmes for the seminars are drawn up by an invited committee of representatives from organisations with map interests and individual researchers, and the committee meetings have encouraged cooperation and liaison among these organisations, which is an aim: **'To liaise with other groups and individuals with map related interests'**.

The bi-annual newsletter *Cairt*, which has a circulation of about 520 individuals and 100 institutions contains a variety of short notes and articles, reports of work in progress, and a number of biographies of surveyors and mapmakers, contributing towards the aims **'To record information on maps and mapmaking, particularly in a Scottish context'** and **'To build on, and to continue, the work of Project Pont'**. An index to the first 40 issues of *Cairt* is available at <https://maps.nls.uk/cairt/>. Longer articles on map history are often placed in other journals such as *Scottish Local History*, *History Scotland*, and *Scottish Archives*. *Cairt* also provides news of Scottish map collections thus fulfilling another aim: **'To disseminate information on Scottish maps and map collections'**.

Possibly the most significant consequence of the relationships developed through SMF is the remarkable number of publications on Scottish mapping which have appeared in the last twenty years. The 2004 seminar celebrated the 150th anniversary of Blaeu's volume of maps of Scotland, popularly known as Scotland's first atlas, and extended a plea for someone to publish a facsimile of these maps. The publisher Birlinn stepped forward and, after sales of the Blaeu atlas facsimile were favourable, the Great Atlas of Scotland Project was born, with subsequent facsimile publications for the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries (Roy's Military Survey 1747-55; Thomson's *Atlas of Scotland* 1832; Bartholomew's 1911 *Atlas of Scotland*). The next notable publication was *Scotland: mapping the nation*, which won the Saltire Society Award for best Scottish Research Book of the Year in 2012. Similar titles followed, also published by Birlinn in association with the National Library of Scotland: *Scotland: mapping the islands*, and *Scotland: defending the nation*. A change of direction combined map history and local history: *Edinburgh: mapping the city*, *Glasgow: mapping the city*, and *The Clyde: mapping the river*. Birlinn has gone on to publish similar accounts for Oxford and Newcastle. As well as these Birlinn publications, the 2006 SMF seminar on military mapping stimulated Professor Bruce Lenman to conceive and edit *Military Engineers and the development of the early-modern European state* (Dundee University Press, 2013). At a personal level, my own research on Scottish county maps began after a query in *Cairt* several years ago.

So in the last twenty years the Forum's activities have clearly achieved the aim **'To encourage multi-disciplinary map use, study and research, particularly relating to Scottish maps and mapmakers'**, and we hope to build on this as we go forward.

Diana Webster



Recent publications on Scottish Maps

Phil Dodds, *The Geographies of Enlightenment Edinburgh*. (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2022).

Alastair Mitchell, *The Immeasurable Wilds: travellers to the far north of Scotland, 1600-1900*. (Dunbeath: Whittles Publishing, 2022).

Ro Scott, 'Division of the Commonty of Mulbuie: consequences of the private appropriation of a communal resource'. Unpublished MSc Dissertation. University of Edinburgh, 2022.

John Moore discusses the work of Robert Park

Recent research by Douglas Lockhart on the lives and careers of surveyors working in north-east Scotland has brought attention not only to an under-researched group of practitioners but also highlighted the subsequent work of two men, Alexander Ogg and George Campbell Smith who emigrated to New Zealand and Victoria respectively.¹ This short biography adds Robert Park, regarded as one of the founders of the Wellington colony in New Zealand, to the list of names who were part of the Scottish professional diaspora of the mid-nineteenth century.

Park was born in Glasgow on 7 January 1812, the son of a successful mason who had been admitted a burgess and guild brother in July 1798. The family had long been portioners near Carmunnock and, by this date, were resident in King Street. He attended Glasgow Grammar School until February 1827 when he began a seven-year apprenticeship under William Kyle, who had laid out steadings for Park's father and was the founder of the city's leading surveying business. Kyle had been impressed by the young man, writing that 'he lays down surveys with accuracy and uncommon dispatch, his genius in drawing is very superior'.²

In November 1834, Park announced the setting up of his own business at 7 Park Place, Stockwell Street in the centre of Glasgow, after having recently worked under Robert Thom, of Ascog, one of Scotland's leading mill and hydraulic power engineers.³ A marble bust of Thom which was sculpted by Park's older brother, Patric (1811-1855) and is now in the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, Greenock suggests that there may have been some family connection with the engineer. At that time, Robert appears to have assisted Thom on the Paisley water supply before being employed on surveying the line of the Glasgow-Edinburgh railway.

Despite his credentials and advertisement, which also sought 'a boy who understands mathematics and drawing', Park's name appears only once in the Glasgow directories.⁴

Opportunities for work elsewhere made his career at home all too brief and his sole surviving Scottish work appears to be an 1835 lithographed plan of Carnbooth, near Carmunnock, the property of his deceased father.⁵ Based on his railway experience, openings led to work under William Gravatt on the early stages of the Bristol to Exeter extension of the Great Western Railway. Although authorised by parliamentary Act in May 1836, difficulties in raising sufficient finances for its construction hampered its early progress and Park appears to have found additional employment surveying, at least, four tithe maps in the area around Exeter.⁶ In August 1837, he married Mary Anne Morgan in St Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol and their first child was born at Bampton in Devon in the following June.

Whether or not the difficulties faced by the railway was a spur, Park was attracted to the career opportunities offered by the New Zealand Company, chartered in May 1839 with power to buy, settle and cultivate land there. He was in at the start of the venture, being appointed as an Assistant Surveyor on 8 July 1839 and, less than a month later, joined the original expeditionary survey team which left Gravesend in the *Cuba*. The ship reached Port Nicholson, the Company's principal settlement, five months later. From the outset, the colonists faced severe difficulties, compounded by the earlier-than-expected arrival of the emigrant vessels and the over-optimistic sales promotion of the area. The haste in its original organisation was to highlight the Company's inadequacies as a colonisation agency and many of the original settlers were subsequently to quit the settlement. On arrival, Park was engaged in surveying a blueprint for Wellington but realised quickly that, given the wooded nature of the land to be mapped, the survey staff was insufficient for the purpose and suggested cutting straight plot lines.⁷ In all of this, he was to be influential in the layout of both the town and its neighbouring farmlands. Subsequently, he made a major contribution to the Otago pre-settlement purchase surveys.

¹ Lockhart, Douglas G. 'Alexander Ogg: land surveyor, farmer and gold prospector, part 2: New Zealand' *Scottish Local History*, no.95, 2016, pp.3-14. Lockhart, Douglas G. 'From Banff to Beechworth, Victoria: George Campbell Smith (1804-68), land surveyor' *Scottish Local History*, no.100, 2018, pp.65-75

² Hocken, Thomas M. 'Notes on the life and work of Robert Park: his survey work in Wellington and Otago (1847) *Flotsam and Jetsam series: newsletter of the Friends of the Hocken Collections*, vol.2, no.12

³ *Glasgow Herald*, no.3323, 10 November 1834, p.3, col.2

⁴ *Post-Office Annual Directory for 1836-37*, p.172

⁵ Glasgow City Archives. TD163

⁶ South West Heritage Trust. Diocese of Exeter. Tithe Maps DEX/4/a/TM/Huxham, Poltimore, Trusham and Exeter St Thomas the Apostle, 1839-1841. The surveyor's address on these maps is recorded as 8 George Street, Euston Square, London, the address of his brother Patric as listed in the *Post Office London Street Directory for 1841*, p.93

⁷ Deans, John and Miller, Graham M. *Pioneers on Port Cooper Plains: the Deans family of Riccarton and Homebush*. Christchurch, 1964, p.5



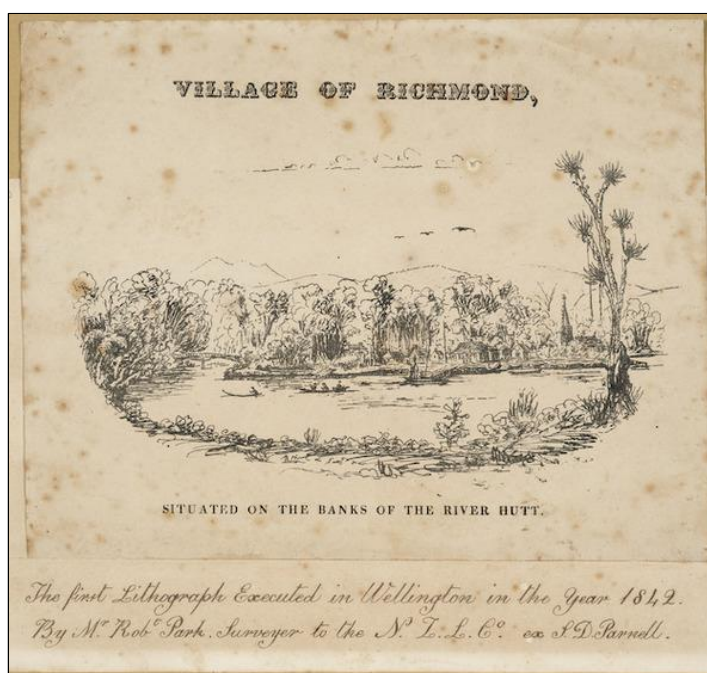
Robert Park Esq, when Surveyor General of the Wellington District, N.Z. (ca. 1855-60)
National Library of New Zealand. Alexander Turnbull Library. E-455-f-050-1

These were heroic, challenging times, with Park taking part in several reconnaissance expeditions, including one mammoth journey northwards along the west coast to Taranaki in August 1840 which resulted in the selection of Wanganui and Moturoa (New Plymouth) as sites for additional settlement. On his return to Wellington, he was blown out to sea and rescued by a passing brig. His pertinacity in overcoming the difficulties he faced was commented on by his colleagues but, in January 1841, after arguments over his salary, he resigned from the Company's service and went into private practice. Reading between the lines, it seems as if there was a personality clash with William Mein Smith, the Company's Surveyor General who described Park as 'loud, boisterous and a great swearer'.⁸ An early proponent of lithography in New Zealand, he prepared a plan of the town of Nelson by this process and advertised it in the first issue of a new pro-settler newspaper.⁹ His abilities were soon recognised by the new settlement in his appointment as Wellington Town Surveyor in October 1842 with a nominal salary of £50 per annum.

Two years later, he was part of a team surveying the Molyneux River, described as 'the cruellest, the ugliest, the largest, and the most treacherous in New Zealand' but returned to Wellington following a disagreement with the principal surveyor.¹⁰

Nonetheless, he moved to Port Chalmers in early 1846 and worked as an assistant to his colleague, Charles Kettle, surveyor of the city of Dunedin.¹¹ His sojourn on the South Island was relatively brief and, by June 1847, he had returned to Wellington where, following his wife's death, he is said to have had a liaison with Terenui, a high born Maori woman. The following year, Wellington suffered the effects of the Marlborough earthquake. Park was appointed to examine the damage which was estimated to be not more than £15,000.¹² An accomplished artist in his own right, he produced sketches of the major structures affected. Possibly as a result of his efforts, he was appointed Principal Surveyor to the Wellington Settlement at a more remunerative annual salary of £400. At that time, William Fox, principal agent for the Company described him as having 'perfect knowledge of the surveys' with 'a reputation which gives good weight to his authority'.¹³

Despite Park's best efforts, this turned out to be a short appointment, largely as a result of the financial problems faced by the Company which wound down operations on the Wanganui and Rangitikei surveys, leaving Park out of a job.



Robert Park, *Village of Richmond* (1842)
Courtesy of the National Library of New Zealand.
Alexander Turnbull Library. A-215-004

⁸ Easdale, Nola *Mungo Park's Trunk: a journey - Scotland to New Zealand*. Christchurch, 2009, pp.35-36

⁹ *New Zealand Colonist and Port Nicholson Advertiser*, no.1, 2 August 1842, p.1, col.2. Nelson Provincial Museum. Bett Collection: Bett 2012.4.759. Plan of the Town of Nelson, 1842

¹⁰ The Molyneux River is now known as the Clutha River/Matapu

¹¹ Three of his Dunedin survey field books for 1846-47 are held at the Archives New Zealand, Dunedin Office, R23192605, R23192606 and R23192625

¹² *New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian*, vol.5, no.350, 9 December 1848, p.3, col.4

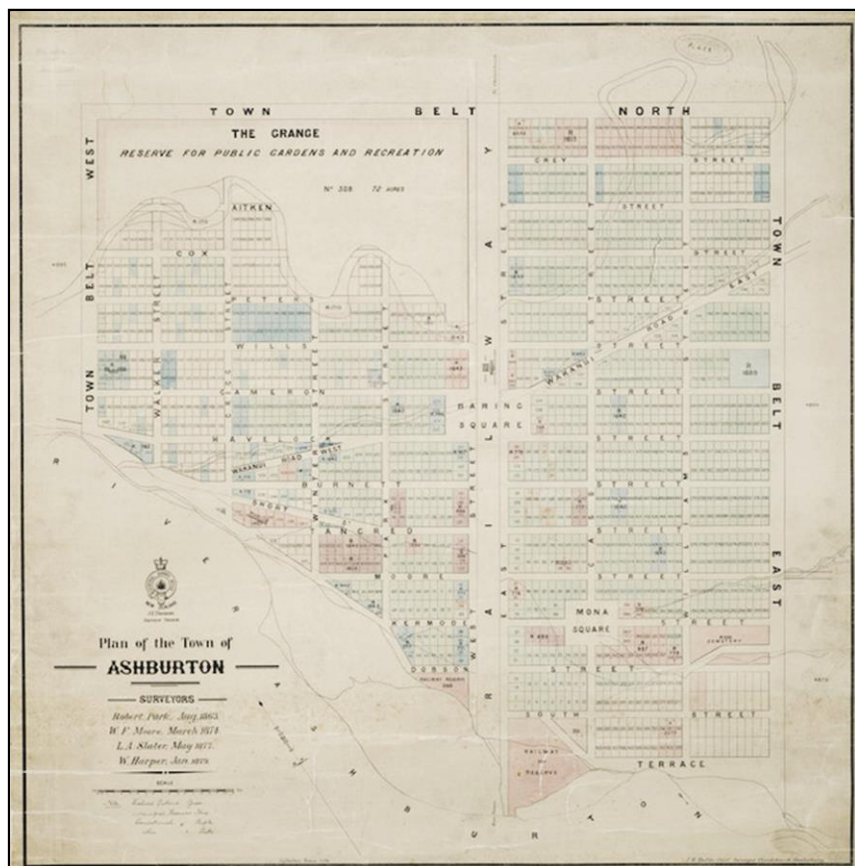
¹³ Hamer, David and Nicholls, Roberta (eds) *The Making of Wellington 1800-1914*. Wellington, 1990, p.83

A fellow Scot, Donald McLean, the Native Land Purchase Commissioner and arguably the most influential figure in mid-nineteenth century New Zealand, had worked closely with Park on the laying out of villages in the Wanganui lands purchase and it was at this point that he sought his assistance on further surveys, in particular the three blocks agreed to be purchased from the residents of Mohaka and Ahuriri, an area nearly 700,000 acres in the Hawke's Bay area.¹⁴ Part of this survey resulted in a map of this district reaching from Mohaka to Porangahau and published in 1851. In a letter to the Colonial Secretary in Wellington, McLean describes Park as 'not only an excellent hand at managing Natives, but he is both practical, correct, and expeditious in carrying out any duty with which he is entrusted'. This appears to have been more than a working relationship. Marion Hart, a friend of McLean's wife, was to marry Park in 1852 and Park started at least two letters to the Commissioner with 'Dear Mac'.¹⁵

However, it was not all plain sailing for Park. The correspondence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands in Wellington indicates that, in early 1853, Thomas Fitzgerald, subsequently Superintendent of Hawke's Bay Province, discovered a serious error in the land measurements at Wanganui, suggesting that 'the measurements are computed and checked in a very careless and negligent manner' which applied 'as well to Mr Park, who prepared the original plan'.¹⁶ That year, he was sent to Wanganui, then a garrison town, from where he sent a string of letters to the Commissioner of Crown Lands seeking assistance relating to errors and complaining of mismanagement of the surveys. Subsequently, he was appointed to the post of Chief Surveyor of Wellington Province in December 1855, a post he held until June 1860 when he was dismissed following a disagreement with Isaac Featherston, the Provincial Superintendent over the incompatibility of his duties as a militia officer with those as a surveyor.

After an unsuccessful attempt to enter Parliament, Park retired to live in Christchurch, although most of

his time was spent at Winchmore, on the Ashburton River, leased from his brother-in-law. Here he turned his attention to sheep farming during the winter months while occasionally occupied on contract surveying for the Provincial Government in the summer. This involved working on previously ill-defined property boundaries but also included an 1864 survey of the site of the future town of Ashburton, as well as the route of the cross-country road from Christchurch to Hokitika over Browning Pass in the winter of 1865. With the discovery of gold in the area only a few years earlier, this survey was described as 'the greatest work of the day, and an undertaking of extreme difficulty'.



Robert Park et al., *Plan of the Town of Ashburton* (1863)
Courtesy of the National Library of New Zealand.
Alexander Turnbull Library. MapColl 834.4491a 1879 3160

In the relatively small society of the earliest settlements, Park was involved in many other activities which are revealed within the pages of the contemporary newspapers. He helped organise dinners celebrating St Andrew's Day, was strongly pro-colonist, was a manager of the Wellington Savings Bank (1849) and a subscriber to a company promoting steam navigation at Wellington (1851).

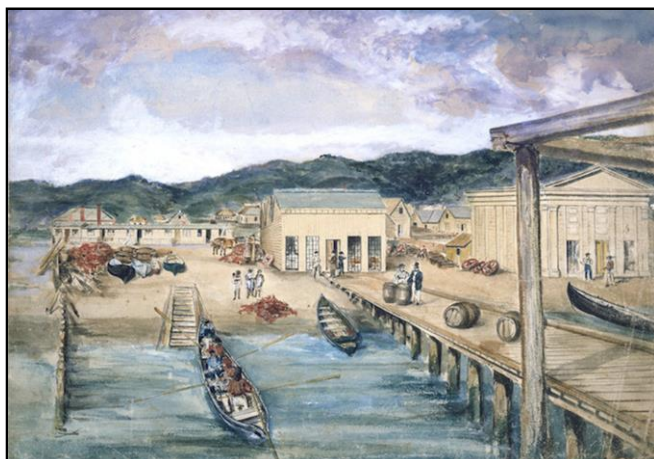
¹⁴ Park's report on the area appear in *Reports of the Land Purchase Department relative to the extinguishment of native title in the Ahuriri District. Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, 1862 Session 1, C-01, pp.313-314

¹⁵ National Library of New Zealand. Papers of Sir Donald McLean. Series 1 Inward letters - surnames

PAL - PAR MS-Papers-0032-0491, 29 September 1850, 20 December 1852

¹⁶ *Correspondence relative to Grant of Land for the Industrial School at Wanganui. Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, 1865 Session 1, D-15, pp.3-4

During the tension resulting from the Wairau Affray in 1843, he helped organise a defence force and, two years later, received a commission as a lieutenant in the local militia. In 1856, he was appointed a J.P. and in the last year of his life, became Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths for Ashburton, as well as subscribing to the fund to build Canterbury Museum. His career has all the elements of endurance and enterprise, combined with traits of personal strengths and animosities characteristic of pioneer communities.



After a comparatively short life of adventure and hardship, Park died on 10 March 1870 at Christchurch and his obituary closed with this statement: 'he was generous and kindhearted in the extreme, and his manly, straightforward conduct won for him the esteem of all who knew him'.¹⁷

Note: Anyone researching the early history of New Zealand benefits from the astounding level of material available online hosted by several national and municipal institutions. I am much indebted to the many librarians and archivists who have provided such a rich resource for researchers and to those cited authors who provided the bulk of the structure of this paper. I also want to recognise the assistance of a former student, Jennifer Watson who now lives in New Zealand.

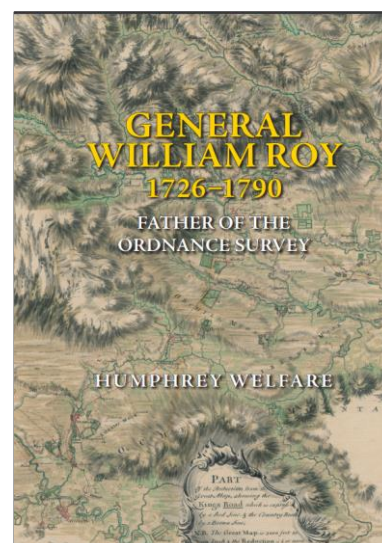
John Moore

Left: Robert Park, Te Aro foreshore, Wellington (ca. 1842-1850)
Courtesy of the National Library of New Zealand.
Alexander Turnbull Library. B-078-016

General William Roy 1726-1790: Father of the Ordnance Survey

On 31 August Edinburgh University Press will publish the first biography of William Roy, the central figure in the Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55). William Roy himself became acutely conscious of both the potential and the shortcomings of the 'Great Map,' particularly the lack of a trigonometrical framework and of an accurate system for determining elevation. These deficiencies spurred him, throughout the rest of his career, to refine the standards that could underpin the national cartography for the whole of Britain that he advocated. He was alive at the right time, able to take full advantage of the rapid improvements in the quality of scientific instruments, to which he himself contributed, and his diligent experiments developed meticulous methodologies that achieved an unprecedented accuracy in geodetic measurement. The son of a factor in Clydesdale, his reputation for reliability and loyalty resulted in him rising to become a favourite of George III, a monarch intensely interested in things topographical.

In addition to his cartographic work, this book outlines the wide diversity of Roy's activities, including his long career as a military engineer in England, Ireland and Germany, and his pioneering work in field archaeology in which he achieved a quality of recording that was not equalled until the 20th century. He was also an active Fellow of the Royal Society, an intellectual community which was the centre of his social world.



There is an introductory discount of 30%. Simply use the code NEW30 at the checkout online.

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-general-william-roy-1726-1790.html>

Humphrey Welfare

Humphrey will be giving a free talk on his new book at 17.00 BST on Thursday 1 September – please register at <https://forms.office.com/r/NPTEtPCkNy>

¹⁷ *Wellington Independent*, vol.24, no.2969, 19 March 1870, p.5, col.1

New Acquisitions of Estate Plans

Recent purchases of plans for the Library's collection showcase a variety of reasons for the creation of localised estate plans. Beyond land management and monitoring crop production, plans were also created for legal boundary disputes, sale of land or division of common.

The latter was the reason for the creation of the oldest of our recently acquired plans. 'Map of Wilton Common' [EMS.s.867], Roxburghshire, was printed in 1764 for inclusion in 'State of the Process of Division of the Commonalty of Wilton, Robert Langlands of that ilk v Henry, Duke of Buccleuch and others, with plan', an online copy of which is available from Borders Heritage Hub <https://www.calmview.eu/HUBCAT/CalmView5test/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=SBA%2f250%2f1&pos=5>

The page-by-page description gives the case for and against the division, with descriptions by users of the common of how they accessed areas both for peat cutting from the mosses and for grazing their cattle. The plan shows land ownership as well as the peat mosses and spreadlands.

It seems probable that a dispute over grazing or hunting rights and access to water lay at the heart of the dispute between neighbouring landowners in the Fannich mountains which led to the creation of the 'Reduced Plan of Ground in Dispute Betwixt Murdo MacKenzie Esqre. of Dundonnell and Sir J.J. MacKenzie of Scatwell Bart. with Circumjacent Lands in Terms of Remit from Lord Wood to Henry J. Wylie. 9th March 1843'. [EMS.s.864]. Printed for the court case, the plan is fascinating in giving two names to features such as streams and carries, one given by the defender, one by the pursuer. It also depicts the boundaries as understood by each landowner, one along the mountain ridge and the other lower down the slope, taking in some small lochans. Sir James John Randall Mackenzie had recently inherited the Suddie estates from his father, along with large debts and at this period he was trying to set all his affairs in order.

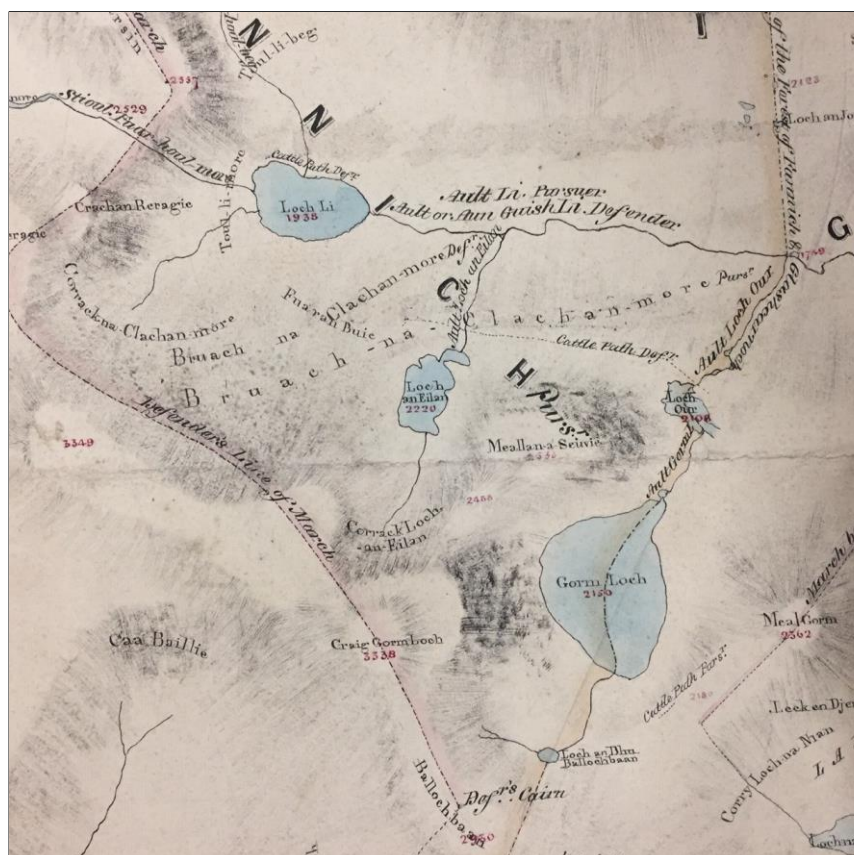
Right: Extract from *Reduced Plan of Ground in Dispute Betwixt Murdo MacKenzie Esqre. of Dundonnell and Sir J.J. MacKenzie of Scatwell*

In the same year the commercial interests of an estate also led to a dispute on the River Ness as shown on 'Plan of the River Ness from Upper End of Holm Pool to the Top of the Islands Opposite Island Bank' [EMS.s.863]. In this case the dispute was about salmon fishing and landing rights. This copy of the map was produced in 1890, by which time the case had made its way to the House of Lords. The duration of the litigation is perhaps an indication of the value of the salmon fishery to the landowner.

Two other estate plans, one of 'Tullos and Middleton', [EMS.s.869] Aberdeenshire, made in 1853, and the other 'Plan of the Estate of Ardmarnoch in Argyllshire: The Lands of Ardmarnoch, Upper & Lower Auchaleek, Barpuntaig, Achrossan & Auchinskier.' [EMS.s.865] 1850, were both created for the sale of the estate, in much the same way as agents particulars today. It is likely the sale of Tullos & Middleton was prompted by the recent arrival of the Aberdeen railway. Ardmarnoch was sold because the owner John McIver inherited from his uncle, but had already settled in New South Wales.

The stories behind the creation of all these plans are intriguing and show some of the reasons to commission land surveyors.

Paula Williams



Recent National Library of Scotland website additions



Maps of Great Britain, 19th-20th centuries

In April we added online over 200 maps of Great Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries. These maps present an excellent overview of England, Scotland and Wales, showing specific subjects such as roads, railways, air travel, population, power generation, rainfall and housing, as well as things like changing administrative divisions. Some of these expand our coverage of the Ordnance Survey's Ten-mile to the Inch (1:625,000) Planning maps series, initiated in the 1940s, and intended to form a survey of national life and resources. Others include military maps showing barracks and military districts, as well as maps to illustrate specific historical time periods, such as Ancient Britain, Britain in the Dark Ages, Roman Britain, and Monastic Britain.

View online at: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions/#128>



OS Scottish One-Inch 'Hills' editions and additional states (1840s-1900s)

In May we added 348 new Ordnance Survey One-Inch to the mile (1:63,360) engraved maps online. This includes two new 'hills' editions at one-inch to the mile scale, with relief shown by hachures (horizontal lines following the direction of the slope). We have also added a number of variant states of these OS one-inch maps, including those with railway additions, minor corrections, different printings, and different colour. We now have a comprehensive set of all our OS one-inch to the mile single-sheet maps of Scotland online.

View online at: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions/#130>



OS 1:1,056 Town Plans of England and Wales (1850s-1890s)

1,266 sheets, covering over 80 towns with more than 4,000 people - the most detailed surveys of these towns ever undertaken by Ordnance Survey.

View online at: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/townplans-england/>

Explore all our other online updates on our 'Recent Additions' page: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html>

Maps Reading Room – Visualiser

The Library has recently installed a ceiling-mounted Visualiser in the Maps Reading Room. This is a video camera, which can share live footage of collection items in real time, allowing us to share our collections with remote readers.

If you would be interested in viewing items in the map collection but are unable to visit our Reading Room at Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, we can now offer virtual visits. Email maps@nls.uk if you would like to view items via a Zoom or Teams call, and the maps team will be happy to help.

