



Broughton Tolbooth 1582–1829

BROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Most of this edition's content is very local – but with a welcome article from Jim Walker of Queensferry History Group too.

Amongst the local articles is one about Patrick Neill, who established an amazing garden between Rodney Street and Scotland Street Yard in the nineteenth century. Alan McIntosh introduced Newsletter readers to him ten years ago: now he writes again, drawing on further research he has carried out since.

We are grateful to staff in the library at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for finding additional information and illustrations, and making copies for us – including the drawing of Neill's garden used with the article. In particular, Graham Hardy (Serials Librarian) and Leonie Paterson (Archives Librarian) – thanks for your enthusiasm!

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Ideas or contributions for our next edition?
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Cullen & Co., Fruiterer and Confectioner

In summer 2008 a snippet of family history appeared on the EdinPhoto website – it led to a fascinating example of collective, online detective work

John Smith, Paisley, 31st July 2008:

My great grandfather and his daughter (my grandmother) owned a shop at 37 Arthur Street and lived above the shop until 1926.



My Grandmother was born in New York in 1890. She moved back to Edinburgh with my Great Grandfather in 1893. I assume that is when they bought the shop. In this picture are my Grandmother, Lily Cullen (standing on the left); and my

Great Grandfather (standing on the right, beside Thomas Cullen).

My Gran married in 1916 and had three children: Tommy, Winnie and Elizabeth (Betty, my own Mother). They all lived in the flat above the shop until 1926 when they bought a small house in West Catherine Place.

It wasn't until seven months later that the story took off – with an 'update' from Peter Stubbs, who runs the website, followed by a new contribution from John Smith.

Peter Stubbs: 16th March, 2009:

The listings in the Edinburgh & Leith Post Office Directories suggest that your great grandfather may have bought the shop a little later than 1893.

The directories for 1905 to 1926 all give his address as 37 Arthur Street. I've not checked the directories for 1901 to 1904, but the directory for 1900 gives his address as 48 Findhorn Place.

John Smith, 16th March:

My Great Grandfather had a half-share in another shop with Messrs Lumsden. It was in

Victoria Street. I believe that Cullen & Lumsden shops went on well into the 1960s.

The two ladies in this photo are the same two as are in the Arthur Street photo – my Grandmother and my Great Grandmother. The photo would have been taken pre-1926. From 1926 onwards, my Grandmother would have been at home looking after my Mum who was born that year.

Peter Stubbs:

Where is the shop in this photo? It is certainly No.20, but I've not yet found any Cullen shops at No.20 listed in the Edinburgh & Leith trade directories.

John Smith, 31st March:

I have been in touch with Mum regarding the shop at No.20. She is positive it is Victoria Street. She says that they lived across the street from the shop.

The owner of the shop was my great grandfather's brother who married into the Lumsden family – hence the Cullen & Lumsden connection above.

Peter Stubbs:

I must check to see if the numbering of the shops in Victoria Street changed at some time in the early 1900s. Currently, No.20 Victoria Street is on the north side of the street. Looking at the frontage, the street slopes up from left to right, and No.18 is on the right hand side of No.20.

If the shop in the photo above is in Victoria Street, it appears to be somewhere on the south side of the street.



Peter Stubbs, 21st April:

Well done Sarah! I think there's no doubt that's the same shop. I photographed the shop the same day as I got Sarah's message. See the comparison below.

I was not able to take the photo from exactly the same position as the 1920s photo because somebody has put up a bus shelter in the way, but a comparison can still be made. The windows have changed but other features can be matched on both photos including:

- the tall 4-panelled door near the centre of each photo
- the advert (lower-right) in the old photo, and the space where it fitted
- the holes at the bottom of the two pillars just above the pavement – look at the shapes of the holes!
 - the ventilation grill beneath the window
 - the moulding in the upper-right corner of the photo.

In both photos, the shop is No.20 and the entrance beside it is No.18.

John Smith, 22nd April:

Well done to Sarah! That's definitely the shop – it hasn't changed much. I don't know where Mum got Victoria Street from but I'll inform her and see if that now rings any bells.

Bob Henderson, Burdiehouse, 22nd April:

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

Peter Stubbs, 3rd May:

I've checked old editions of the Edinburgh and Leith Post Office Directory to try to discover when this photo might have been taken. For years 1908 up to 1921, there were no addresses listed in Broughton Street between Nos.16B and 24. I assume that it would have been during this period that the Cullen & Co. shop would have been at No.20. For the years from 1922 until 1928 No.20 appeared in the directories under the name of Porrelli.

Source: Peter Stubbs's excellent website – so much still to explore! (www.edinphoto.org.uk).



Sarah Gordon, 18th April:

I've just had a look at the photo of the chocolate shop called Cullen & Co. which was thought to be in Victoria Street.

I'm pretty sure it is actually in Broughton Street, and is now trading as Eastern Union (No.20 Broughton Street). There is a tenement stairway next door to it (which would be No.18 in the old photo). It's on the corner of Broughton Street and York Lane.

Beaverbank family tragedy

Danny Callaghan found back numbers of our newsletter on the new website set up by Broughton's local community paper, the *Spartle*



I saw in Issue 22, Winter 2007/2008, a picture of the back of Beaverbank Place. I too have always wondered about the brick to the rear, and with some quite fancy window arching.

A large contingent of the Callaghan family lived in Beaverbank Place. My Dad's sister Annie Elms (née Callaghan) and family stayed at No.6 Beaverbank Place, which is in the centre of the picture on the second floor. My dad's brother Mike Callaghan and family stayed in the stair opposite, No.34, before he moved to No.50 Broughton Road in the late '60s. Another of my Dad's sisters, Teresa Woods (née Callaghan), lived at 35 Beaverbank Place, which was a main door at the top right – just down from Terry the corner

shop. This was quite a large house, and she used to have lodgers. Before my Mum and Dad, Lily and Danny Callaghan, got their flat in No.50 Broughton Road about 1946 they stayed at 35 Beaverbank Place: and that is the address on my birth certificate. Beaverbank Place was unusual in the numbering as it was not odds and evens: numbers started top right and went down to the bottom of the street and back up the other side.

There used to be a wall at the back of the back greens. Where the car park for Vogue has been recently was waste ground. The site of annual bonfires. At the 1948 Victoria Day bonfire night, my cousin Kathleen Elms aged 12 was on or about the wall when it collapsed. She subsequently died from her injuries on 2nd June 1948. Kathleen had wanted to take me to the bonfire, but my mother said I was too young at 3 years old. Maybe had she taken me she would still be here with us.

This was a double family tragedy, as my aunt was pregnant at the time and running to the accident went into labour and miscarried her baby.

If anyone has any further information about the accident, my cousin and I would be interested to hear.

And we are still anxious for a clue as to why the rear of that tenement is in brick, when round the front in Beaverbank Place it is stonework.

Patrick Neill (1776–1851)

Ten years ago, following research that started in Warriston Cemetery, Alan McIntosh wrote an article about Patrick Neill for this newsletter – since then he's done more research on the same subject, on which this new article is based

PATRICK NEILL, LL.D.
CANONMILLS
DISTINGUISHED FOR LITERATURE, SCIENCE,
PATRIOTISM, BENEVOLENCE AND PIETY.
BORN 25TH OCTOBER 1776,
DIED 5TH SEPTEMBER 1851

Born in Edinburgh, in 1818 Patrick Neill inherited his distant cousin's printing business in Old Fishmarket Close (where he had worked since the turn of the century), as well as estates in Canonmills, Damside and Factors Park. Although he personally supervised the business until in his seventies, his decision to appoint a general manager (William Fraser) freed him to pursue scientific and literary interests, and to exert himself as an energetic citizen.

A man of many interests

In 1806 Neill's *Tour through Orkney and Shetland* had been published, and drew the public's

attention to the dreadful poverty on the islands. In 1808 he had joined the newly founded Wernerian Natural History Society and was its secretary for as long as it continued. In 1809 he had helped to found the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (he remained Secretary for the next 40 years) and planned its 10-acre Experimental Garden in what is now the rockery section of the Royal Botanic Garden. He went on to become an acknowledged expert on ferns and alpine plants.

Neill was a prolific author on horticulture, and wrote an article on gardening in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*



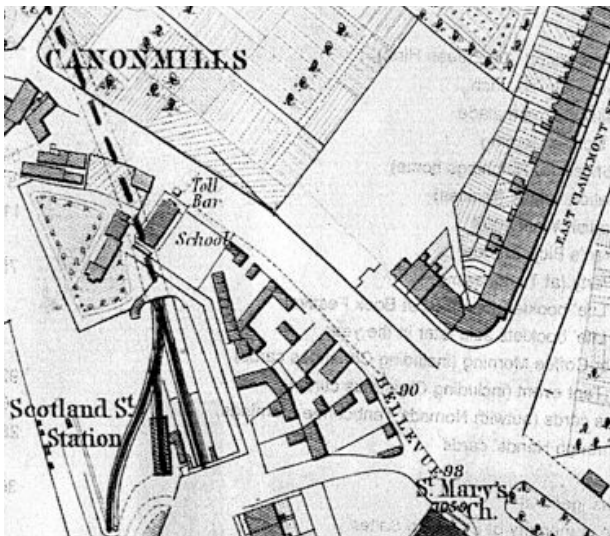
Caricature of Neill, Crombie's Modern Athenians 1847

(7th edn) which was later republished independently several times. In his capacity as a member of the CHS he wrote a *Journal of a Horticultural Tour through Parts of Flanders, Holland, and the North of France* which was published in 1823.

He was a moving force behind the draining of Edinburgh's noisome Nor' Loch (1821), designed West Princes Street Gardens and personally supervised their laying-out in 1830. During the 1840s he unsuccessfully championed the King's Park and Arthur's Seat as suitable sites for modern cemeteries in Edinburgh. A keen antiquarian, he was also a key figure in the preservation of the the old Flodden Tower in the Vennel, for which rare commitment to Edinburgh's conservation he earned the praise of Lord Cockburn (Cockburn, 1874: 319–20). His LL.D. was an honorary doctorate awarded by the University of Glasgow, and he was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

His other publications included: *An Account of the Basalts of Saxony (from the French of Daubisson) (1814)*; a 'List of Fishes in the Firth of Forth'; and numerous articles.

His house and garden



Extract from Johnston's Plan of Edinburgh and Leith, 1851: Neill's house and garden to the left of the school

In the 'Chaldee Manuscript' (an 1817 satire on Edinburgh notables in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*), Neill was described as 'a lean man who hath his dwelling by the great pool to the north of the New City', a reference to his home at Canonmills Cottage on the north-east side of what is now the Scotland Yard Activity Centre (George V Park). Here he had a much admired garden of about three-quarters of an acre, in which were a cool greenhouse containing over 500 pots, a hot house containing over 400 pots, a warm greenhouse containing 320 pots, and various other frames, warm pits, and glazed houses. In April 1836, the number of potted plants was above 2,030, and the number of plants, shrubs and trees in the open ground in excess of 1,000. The garden was a renowned

wonder, but 'situated as it was in a dirty village abounding with piggeries and cow-byres and near the malaria of a stagnant loch, [it] was aptly compared to a 'jewel in a swine's snout'. (Crombie).



After Neill's death, Canonmills Cottage (pictured above) was occupied by descendants of his business successor William Fraser until 1898, when the company built a factory on the site. But it seems from a change in shape and orientation on maps that the original Cottage may have been substantially altered in 1859–60, when it was renamed in the P.O. Directory as Canonmills Lodge.

Struggle against the railway tunnel

In the Spring of 1836, the Edinburgh, Leith and Newhaven Railway Company planned a new line which would pass from the end of Canal Street (the site of the present Waverley Station) through the New Town and exit from beneath Scotland Street before tunneling under part of Neill's land. He feared the effect of such a tunnel on his garden, and the 'illegal' ruination of East Princes Street Gardens by the erection of a station terminus.

Are the inhabitants of Edinburgh asleep? Is their public spirit clean gone? Will they not rouse themselves—call a public meeting—pass resolutions—and vote a Petition to Parliament, in order to preserve to their romantic City its characteristic beauty, this matchless Valley? (Neill, 1836: 28–9)

Neill embarked on a one-man campaign against the railway company's Enabling Bill which was passing through Parliament. He published closely argued pamphlets in London, Edinburgh and Liverpool, disputing the legality of the plans, the solvency of those who backed it, and the projected development costs and likely profits on completion. He insinuated that various councillors were in league with the railway company, and that the firm's major proprietors comprised a Jewish cabal with no concern for the city of Edinburgh. Throughout he was careful to declare his own interest in the matter (the preservation of his garden), and that he was not aiming for profitable compensation. For his pains, he was lambasted by the railway company's supporters as a 'piddling jobber ... driving at objects purely selfish' (Neill, 1839: 25). There followed blast and counter-blast,

but the Bill was passed. Still Neill campaigned against it, especially when the plans were altered to allow the line to be carried on arches past his windows rather than in a tunnel beneath the garden. Eventually the tunnel was bored, and trains began to run between Scotland Street and Trinity in 1842. However, even when it connected to the Canal Street terminus, the line was never a great commercial success. In this, at least, Neill had the last laugh. His grave stands in a peaceful corner of Warriston Cemetery (Compartment M, Lair 93), close by the disused track he fought so hard to prevent.

Neill and the zoo at Bellevue

Neill did not live alone in Canonmills Cottage:

His attention was directed to zoology, and he kept many live animals at his residence. Those who visited him remember with interest the many scenes which took place at his table by the inroads of cats, parrots, cockatoos, and animals of rare stamp, which were allowed full liberty in his establishment. He set agoing a zoological garden in Edinburgh which has now, however, been given up. (Walker in BBI)

This zoological garden which Neill and two or three others set up ran from c.1839 to 1867 in a 4-acre rectangle of land bounded by what now are East Claremont Street, Bellevue Road, Melgund Terrace and West Annandale Street. In its heyday it was a very popular entertainment, but

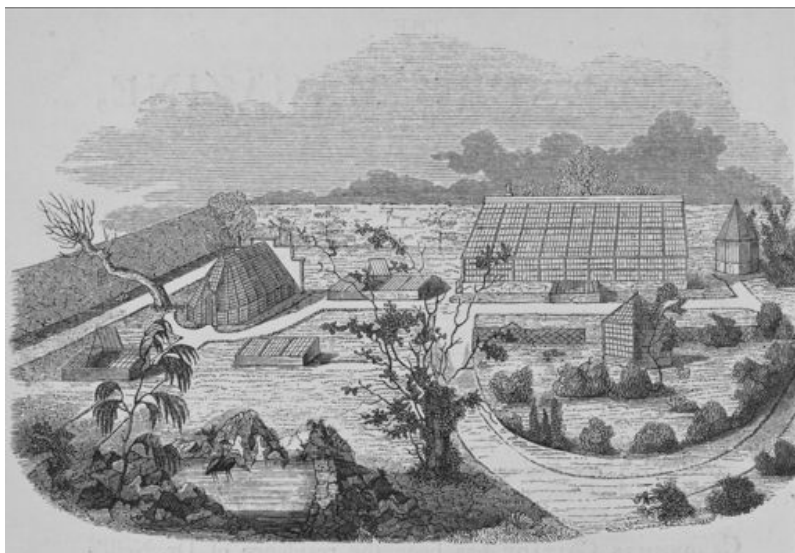
despite assurances to the contrary the animals did not fare well and many appeared consumptive and unhappy.

In his personal life he supported three Neill boys, the sons of his elder brother James, when they were pupils at Edinburgh Academy. Brother James had been given a shot at the printing business by his father many years earlier, but had not proved a success. Later, all three boys and their father died shortly after arrival in Tasmania. In later years Neill was a 'devoted adherent of the Establishment' (Crombie), an elder of St Mary's Church at Bellevue (from the 3rd August 1845 onwards), and was frequently a Member of the General Assembly.

Neill died at home from an attack of paralysis, and left Canonmills Cottage and two nearby

tenements to the sons of William Fraser who, by this time, had become integral to the printing firm. The company removed to the site of the former Cottage in 1898 (where a medallion bust of Neill appeared over the main entrance), but moved again to the Southside after a disastrous fire in 1916. In his will, Neill also bequeathed £500 each to the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Horticultural Society to fund competitions for scientific papers.

His loss will be deeply felt, for he was beloved by all who knew him, and with all his acquirements he exhibited an innate retiring modesty, which was peculiarly pleasing. He loved science for its own sake, and he did all in his power to promote a love for it in others. His collections were open to all, and his house at Canonmills was the resort of every naturalist who visited the Scottish metropolis. Till within a few months of his death, he was able to take an active interest in his favourite pursuits; and even when he felt that his strength was failing, he retained that calm equanimity which ever distinguished him, and he spoke with composure of his departure from the scene of his labours. (*Gardeners' Chronicle*)



This drawing of Neill's garden, published in Gardener's Magazine 1836, is 'a perspective view of the whole, as seen from the door of the dwelling-house, late in the autumn'. In the forefront is the 'rockwork and small pond, with a couple of tame herons', and to the left a 'very large willow, overhanging the garden wall and the loch'.

(Thanks to Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh)

Close examination of Neill's monument in Warriston reveals the illegible trace of an inscription on the lower central stone. I suspect that the monument has been restored at some stage, with the semi-circular urn being a modern replacement. This may have happened at the time of Messrs Neill & Co. Ltd.'s 200th

anniversary in 1949. However, some change may have been made earlier since the present inscription differs from that 'transcribed' in Crombie (1882) but is the same as that in Lee (1893).

Sources:

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Cockburn, H. (1874; 1910) Memorials of his Time 1779–1830 (new edn), pp. 237–8. Edinburgh and London: T.N. Foulis.

Crombie, H.W. (1882) Modern Athenians: a Series of Original Portraits of Memorable Citizens of Edinburgh 1837 to 1847, ed. by W.S. Douglas, p. 116. Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black.

Edinburgh Zoological Garden (c.1842) The Visitors' Companion to the Edinburgh Zoological Gardens, p. 71).

Sources continued at foot of page 8.

Broughton in Literature

A watch was amissing one morning from a house in Picardy Place

In previous editions we've drawn attention to Broughton's presence in James Robertson's novel *Joseph Knight*, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Catriona*, Robert Garioch's poem *Fi'baw in the Street*, Ian Rankin's *Exit Music* and Christopher Brookmyre's *Quite Ugly One Morning*. Now we turn to two volumes of real-life crime published in 1861: *Curiosities of Crime in Edinburgh* and *The Sliding Scale of Life*.

They were written by the famous Victorian detective James McLevy; that is, famous in his own day – and then re-discovered around 30 years ago when a selection of his cases was published by Canongate. More recently Mercat Press made all the cases from the original two books available in two paperbacks; and there's a long-running radio series loosely based on McLevy's writing.

James McLevy was born in County Armagh and came to Scotland when he was seventeen, first to Gatehouse-of-Fleet and then on to Edinburgh. Here he worked in the building trade until 1830, when he got a job with the police as a night-watchman. Three years later he became a detective. Amongst the cases he wrote up and published three decades later are two of local interest.

The Ash-Bracket

Here are some short quotations setting the Broughton scene:

A watch was amissing one morning from a house in Picardy Place, in 1834. The story was mysterious ... a mess, in which no detective 'idea' could be discovered by Genius herself ...

When in the evening I walked down to Picardy Place, I did not take credit to myself, nor do I do so now, for supposing I could, merely by walking the street and looking at the door, clear up the mystery. I went only because the place had for me the usual charm of places where secret things have been done. It was dark, and about nine o'clock. I was passing from York Place to Picardy Place, north side, expecting to see nothing thereabouts but those spectres of cinder-women, who, once in the lava streets, have a liking for charred things ... they expect something to 'turn up' out of what others cast away ... shrivelled toys of man's heartlessness, and all their anger burnt out of them by misery ...

I saw them at their work, shadows of creatures going from bucket to bucket ... But as I was thinking something in this way, I saw a male cinder-wife – excuse the expression; a man went up stealthily to a bucket, and bent down, and then left it again ... I suspected he had seen me, for he stood in the middle of the street for a time till I had passed. My curiosity was excited ... I stood at the corner of Broughton Street, and saw him approach the pavement again. This time he was bolder for his great enterprise, for I saw him lift the bucket and carry it off towards Leith Walk ...

McLevy followed.

The Pleasure Party

In September 1856, I was in Princes Street on a general survey. It was a fine day for the time of the year, and the street was crowded...

Between St David Street and St Andrew Street, my attention was claimed by two ladies and a gentleman, who appeared to me to be English ... It was far more easy for me to mark them than to give you reasons why they had an interest for me. What though I were to say that they appeared a degree too curious about the dresses of the lady-promenaders ... they all three went tripping gaily up St Andrew Street, at the top of the northern division of which they met a very little dapper dandy, not over five feet and an inch or two...

At length he, who, though small, seemed to be leader, pointed north, drawing out the while a watch, and they appeared decided, all setting off along St Andrew Square. I immediately concluded they were for Scotland Street station, for I knew the northern train went about the time, and there is there often a conveniently crowded platform.

My conjecture was right. The party made direct for Scotland Street... they never hesitated or stopped till they got to the top of the stair leading to the station-house. Being so utterly unknown to our English friends, there was no necessity for my usual caution; and accordingly, the moment they disappeared, Riley and I went forward to the parapet overlooking the station and platform, and placing our elbows upon it, put ourselves in the position of lounging onlookers... A crowd of people were there, among whom a number of likely ladies, with pockets far better filled than those of mere promenaders in Princes Street...



The tunnel is on the right. In McLevy's day the platform was where the play equipment is now, and steps down to the station from the street where the grass and trees are

Then came the rumble of the train down the tunnel, at the sound of which the passengers began to move, carrying their luggage to the edge of the platform, and all on the tiptoe of expectation. But now I fairly admit that I never more regretted so much the want of half-a-dozen eyes. The nimble artistes were all at work at the same time – they were, in short, in a hurry of pocket-picking.

Sources: 'The Pleasure Party' is in McLevy the Edinburgh Detective (Mercat Press, Edinburgh, 2001), and 'The Ash-Bracket' in McLevy Returns (Mercat Press, Edinburgh, 2002).

Air Raid on the Forth

Jim Walker of Queensferry History Group watched German bombers attack ships in the Forth

On the 1st of September 1939 Germany invaded Poland, and on the 3rd of September 1939, Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany. Canada joined the Allies one week later.

On the 16th of October the first air raid of World War II on mainland Britain occurred when shipping anchored in the Forth was attacked. There is a common, oft-repeated misconception that the target was the Forth Bridge.

I was six years old at the time and remember watching the German bombers attacking the ships anchored in the Forth and being chased by the Spitfires from the City of Edinburgh Squadron 603 from RAF Turnhouse; many people thought it was a practice. The air raid warden rather spoilt my fun by ordering me home to the family air raid shelter in our back garden. Provost Walker of South Queensferry was reported as saying, 'By gosh, that sounds like bombing'; I suspect his expression may have been a bit more colourful.

In fact the German target was the world's largest warship, HMS *Hood*, the 42,100 ton battle cruiser, the 'Mighty Hood', the pride of the British Navy; but she was not in the Forth. The warship HMS *Repulse* was in Rosyth Dockyard but was not attacked since the Germans wanted to avoid civilian casualties. Hitler still hoped he could make peace with Britain. The three ships involved were the cruisers HMS *Edinburgh*, HMS *Southampton*, and the destroyer HMS *Mohawk*. The *Southampton* received a direct hit and was the first naval surface vessel to be damaged in World War II. Three of its crew were injured, also the Admiral's barge and a small boat were sunk. HMS *Edinburgh* escaped almost undamaged.



HMS *Mohawk* (above) was less fortunate; three officers and thirteen ratings were killed and forty-four others were wounded, including Commander Jolly who was gravely injured in the stomach. Despite his injury he refused to leave the bridge to receive medical attention, saying, 'Leave me, go and look after the others'. He brought his ship back to Rosyth, taking one hour and twenty minutes for the thirty-five mile voyage. He was too weak for his orders to be heard. They were

repeated by his navigating officer who was also wounded. Commander Jolly collapsed after berthing his ship and was taken to Port Edgar Naval Hospital but died five hours later.

For his bravery Commander Jolly received the posthumous award of the George Cross, which ranks next to the Victoria Cross and is awarded 'for acts of the greatest heroism or the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger'.



Bombs were also dropped on both sides of the river, and a landmine exploded in a field leading to Dundas Golf Course, from where local children collected shrapnel. Windows were broken in South Queensferry, Kirkliston, Inverkeithing and Edinburgh. A dog was hit in Inverkeithing and had to be put down. Peter McGowan of Kirkliston received an injury to his back while working in a field at Wheatlands Farm; and a woman standing at Dalmeny Station had her apron set on fire when a piece of red hot shell splinter landed in her apron pocket.

The German leader of the attack was Hermut Pohle, who suffered a fractured skull and an injured mouth. He was treated at Port Edgar Naval Hospital where he was visited by George Pinkerton, the pilot who shot him down. Three of his teeth had been knocked out of alignment and a clamp was fitted round them which was tightened every second day. He didn't think much of the treatment: but forty years later he still had the teeth, perfectly aligned.

Four bombers were brought down, one near Crail and the second in the Forth near Port Seton. Its crew were rescued by the Port Seton fishing boat *Dayspring*. A third bomber was brought down by Royal Artillery gunners stationed above North Queensferry; and a fourth bomber was brought down by Spitfires over the Pentlands. The Spitfires had been delivered only three days before. South Queensferry and Dalmeny Savings Group raised £16,850 to buy a Spitfire; it was shot down near Anzio in Italy sixteen days later.

I started by saying that the first air-raid of World War II occurred in the River Forth. What is not so well known is that the last enemy action of the war also occurred in the Forth. The German submarine *U2336* sank the *Avondale Park* and the *Sneland I* at 11pm on the 7th of May 1945, one hour before Germany surrendered.

Sources: Andrew Jeffrey, *The Present Emergency: Edinburgh, the River Forth and South East Scotland and the Second World War, 1992, Mainstream Publishing, Edinburgh.* William Hendrie, *The Forth at War, 2002, Birlinn Ltd., Edinburgh.*

Feedback

David Mitchell found back numbers of our newsletter on the new website launched by Broughton's community paper *Spurtle* in October; he wrote to us about McDonald Road Church. And our last edition's special feature about place nicknames in Broughton prompted memories from Alex Dow

McDonald Road Church

I enjoyed reading your articles on McDonald Road Church, especially the memories of Diane Chisholm (Summer 2007 edition) whom I can remember as a Brownie! My father William Mitchell was an elder in the church between 1952 and 1971; one of his annual duties was to paint the red and white wooden toadstool used at Brownie meetings. He also appeared as Santa Claus at Sunday School Parties for many years.

The church manse was at No.88 Pilrig Street and I can remember being part of a large party involved in redecorating the house when the Rev. William Bartholomew took over from William Peebles in the 1960s. Subsequent owners of the house may have wondered why my name is painted on the plaster under the wallpaper in the back bedroom.

Place nicknames



The Sandies/Sandy Hills

We printed memories of more than one place in Broughton known as The Sandies (there were many sandpits in our area); but the best-remembered seems to have been on the ridge running towards Broughton Point (where Broughton Road and East Claremont Street meet). In the photo, looking towards the Point from Broughton Road, The Sandies were up through the trees to the left.

Alex Dow writes: 'Although I accept that this is a sand bank, I wonder if "Sandies" relates in any way to my Great-grandfather Alexander L. S. Dow, who occupied the Broughton Point Town Farm?

My father never mentioned the name "Sandies" in a geographic sense; he was 14 in 1914 and lived all of his life in the area. The farm's grazing included the Claremont Bank area to Heriothill: my father told me of helping to drive the cows to and from those grazings.'

The Lockies

This name referred to the area between Annandale Street, Hopetoun Street and Hopetoun Crescent. At one time it was occupied by the Royal Mail; Alastair Donaldson's description in our previous edition mentioned telephone box and telephone pole storage.

Alex adds: 'The telephone poles and boxes were from the late 1930s, in conjunction with the GPO Telephones Department Garage on the east side of the site, bordering onto McDonald Road. I think it had its own private petrol pump. The Edinburgh fleet of GPO Telephone vans with their special two-part "greenhouse" windscreens were based on that building. The special windscreens were so that the crew could inspect the insulators and wires as they drove along the hopefully-much-quieter roads of the period.'

Now our newsletter is much more widely available, online. In October local monthly paper *Spurtle* launched a community website: it has a history page with a brief introduction to Broughton's story and details about our Society. At the foot of the page visitors can click to reach back issues of the *Newsletter* for the past three years. Two visitors to the site have already contacted us and gone on to contribute to this edition. (www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk)

Patrick Neill sources continued from page 5:

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