

PARISH OF CARRIDEN
Presbytery of Linlithgow, synod of Lothian & Tweedale.
Rev David Fleming, minister,

1. Topography and Natural History.

Name. - The modern name of the parish is *Carriden*. In Gildas' "De excidio Britanniae," A.D. 560, it is written *Kair Eden*. Foredun, the Scottish historian, who lived about the year 1308, called the village that was in existence in his days *Karedin*; and in Richard of Cirencester's History of Roman Britain, written about 1338, the orthography is *Caeridden*. The word is understood to be of Celtic or ancient British derivation, and to denote the relative position of the then existing village as a military station, or the specific character of its locality. Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, represents it as being the same with *Caer Adin* or *Edin*, which, in the British language of Roman time, signifies *fort on the wing*, or *projection like a wing*.

Extent, &c. - According to Forrest's survey of the county, furnished in 1817, the length of the parish from east to west is 3 statute miles, and nearly 2 furlongs; and the breadth from north to south wants half a furlong of 2 miles; the number of square miles which it contains being 424. It is bounded on the east, by the parish of Abercorn; on the west, by the parish of Borrowstounness; on the north, by the Forth; and on the south, by the parish of Linlithgow; presenting the appearance of an irregular four-sided figure, the longest side stretching along the shores of the Forth.

Topographical Appearances. - The surface is very unequal, rising from the shore by a quick ascent, with a varied undulating form for about a mile, and then in general declining to the south. The most elevated ground lies towards the south-western part of the parish, near its junction with Linlithgow and Bo'ness, forming part of the Irongath [otherwise called Airncoth]. Sibbald says there is a tradition, that a battle was fought there between the Romans and the natives under Argadus, and thence the hill took the name of Argad] hills, or what is vulgarly names *Glowr-owre-em*, and subsiding in an eastern direction by a gradual declivity. The highest point is 519 feet above the level of the sea, or high water of spring tides. There are no natural cavities; but the ground has been excavated to a considerable extent in the north-west of the parish for coals and ironstone, in consequence of which, by the settling of the superincumbent strata in the old wastes, the surface was at one place broken into a number of small concave cisterns, which in the course of agricultural improvement have been filled up and levelled; and within the last twenty or thirty years, several instances have occurred in different places of the ground suddenly giving way and leaving large holes in the open field. The coast along the Forth, including its windings, extends to about three miles and a half, having, through a considerable portion of the line, at high water mark, a margin of sand and calcareous mixture several feet broad, thence stretching out to low water-mark, for several hundred yards, in a sleechy flat, composed of alluvial soil, with more or less of sand, and showing here and there a small bank formed of drifted oyster shells. Of late, owing to the encroachments of the sea, the sandy margin has been undergoing a change, and becoming more of a rough stony description. Occasionally there is an appearance of rock. At two places the land points into the Forth, - the one, called Bridgeness, near the western extremity, - the other forming the eastern extremity of the parish, named Blackness, a rather remarkable rocky promontory on which Blackness Castle is situated. Within a few yards of the shore the ground rises into a steep bank, ranging from the junction with Bo'ness parish, till it falls into a gentle acclivity near the church, to the east of which it again becomes more abrupt, and so continues along the whole coast eastward, till it loses itself in the point of Blackness.

There is no good bathing-ground along the coast except at Blackness, though not a few families from different quarters inland annually resort to the shore of the Forth, for the benefit of bathing, and of the sea air. It is difficult, except at high tides, to reach a sufficient depth of water without wading to a considerable distance, and the footing in the soft yielding sleech is by no means agreeable; besides, the water is not a little muddy, especially when it is in any degree agitated; and, sometimes,

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considerable quantities of peat moss in large coherent masses or in a pulpy state are deposited on the shore, which has been floated down the river in the process of clearing the extensive moss fields at Blair-Drummond and other places in its vicinity.

Meteorology. – The prevailing winds are from the south-west and west. Next to these in frequency is the east wind. The severest storms of snow are commonly from the east and north-east. The following table gives the number of days in each month during which the wind blew from any particular point of the compass in 1834:

	N	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
January	0	1	4	0	1	15	10	0
February	0	0	0	0	2	23	3	0
March	2	0	1	0	0	16	11	1
April	2	4	7	4	0	3	9	1
May	1	1	8	1	4	9	7	0
June	0	0	1	1	3	12	11	2
July	1	3	13	1	1	7	5	0
August	0	1	8	1	3	9	9	0
September	0	4	8	0	1	9	8	0
October	0	1	0	0	1	17	6	6
November	0	0	5	0	0	14	8	3
December	0	0	2	0	1	17	11	0
Total	6	15	57	8	17	151	98	13

Easterly, 80. Westerly, 262.

The average height of the thermometer and barometer for each month in the same year stands as under:

	Therm.	Barom.			Therm.	Barom.
January	40.06	29.1		July	61.16	29.6
February	39.32	29.4		August	59.58	29.45
March	41.12	29.5		September	54.43	29.35
April	44.43	29.45		October	47.96	28.85
May	57.90	29.7		November	42.43	29.5
June	57.90	29.15		December	40.29	29.8

Average for the year, thermometer, 48.50; barometer, 29.35. The hottest days were, July 4th and 7th, when the thermometer stood at 66 degrees. On August 17th, the notation was 65 degrees, and on July 2d, 3d, 22d, August 2d, 14th, 15th, 16th, September 19th, and 20th, it was 64 degrees. The greatest degree of cold was in December 19th, when the mercury indicated 29 degrees; the next coldest days were December 18th and 20th, the degree being 30, and next to these were January 29th, November 23d, December 23d and 27th, the mercury standing at 32 degrees. The lowest range of the barometer was on December 1st, when it showed 28.08, the wind being south-west, and the thermometer 44 degrees; the highest range was on December 23d, being 31.01, when the wind blew from the west, and the thermometer stood at 32 degrees. The observations to which the forgoing tables and statements refer, it may be proper to add, were taken about a mile from the coast, at a slight elevation above the sea.

The climate is in general dry, pleasant, and healthful, though variable.

Hydrology. – The Firth of Forth bounds the parish on the north, to the extent of about three miles in a straight line, the breadth at high water averaging about four miles, with an average depth of 9½ fathoms in the channel. The water is never very transparent, and when in a state of commotion, it is turbid and muddy, of a lightish brown tinge, from the quantity of alluvial matter which it holds in

solution. Its saltiness is considerably diluted by the fresh current descending from above, but is nevertheless of quality sufficient to furnish a productive material for the manufacture of excellent salt.

There are two small streams that traverse the parish, both of very insignificant dimensions, viz. Blackness burn, which rises in the Irongath hills, and after running eastward, joins the Forth on the east side of the castle of Blackness, where it separates the parish from Abercorn; and Carriden burn, which passes into the Firth on the west side of Carriden House, to the situation of which it adds considerable attractions by the natural beauty of its banks, having formerly served as an outlet to a small loch on the estate of grange, that has been drained and is now under cultivation.

Geology and Mineralogy. – The general characteristic of the mineral structure is of the coal formation. Passing along the coast from the westward, we fall in with trap or hard whinstone at Cowdenhill, Bridgeness, and Cuffabouts. A little farther to the east, between the old manse and Burnfoot, there is a bed of light grey sandstone, which dips to the south-west with a declination of 11 degrees. About a quarter of a mile onward, shale and indurated clay, with some bands of calcareous sandstone, appear at the surface within the sea mark, the dip continuing to the south-west. A dislocation in the strata appears to have taken place about a mile further eastward, the rock consisting of clay sandstone in thin layers, and lying in an opposite direction to the north-east. About 400 yards west of the village of Blackness, a bed of calcareous ironstone crops out on the beach, dipping into the sea in the same direction, which, when carefully prepared, forms a hydraulic cement of a very superior quality; for which purpose it was wrought. This stratum is covered with a strong shale, otherwise called *blea*, varying in thickness from 1 to 20 feet, interspersed with balls of clay ironstone, the under layer being of the kind called alum shale, and separated from the upper by a thin band of ironstone. The alum shale was formerly employed in the manufacture of soda, but the work has lately been discontinued and dismantled. About twenty yards farther into the sea, a freestone rock of a rough granular texture rises to the surface, and runs in the same direction as the cement stone, forming the covering towards the castle hill, which consists entirely of trap rock, declining by 12½ degrees, also to the north-east. In the interior, to the south-west of the parish, trap is chiefly to be met with.

There are many seams of coal in the parish, some of which have been wrought at their crops or outbursts, centuries ago. The coal-field that is in the western division of the parish is supposed to extend across the Frith, and to be connected with the coal formation in the opposite district in the county of Fife. The strata are known to the depth of 135 fathoms, having been passed by the miners in sinking pits and other operations in the coal mines. The deepest seam that is known is the *carsy* coal, rising to the north-east along the sea shore. This seam and the smithy seam come out to the surface a short distance to the east of Burnfoot. The foul coal and red coal take on to the west of the road leading to Linlithgow; the western main coal is only in the south-west of the parish, as there is not sufficient cover for this seam to the east and north. This coal field passes through the south-west boundary of the parish into the parishes of Borrowstounness and Linlithgow. In the southern division of it, the strata dip north, with a declination of one foot in three. In approaching the north, the dip gradually comes round more to the west; in the middle of the field, the dip is north-west, with a declination of 1 in 6 to 1 in 10.

The following is a journal of the strata passed through in sinking the engine or mingle, and the burn pits, which are the same in both, with a slight variation in proportions:

	4fath	5ft	0ins
Diluvial soil, yellow clay with sand			
Sandstone	0	2	0
Splinty coal	0	2	3
Sandstone	3	0	6
Blea with ironstone bands and balls	3	4	2
Sandstone	7	2	4
Blea	1	1	10
Western main coal, having two bands of stone through it	3	0	0
Hard whinstone	2	4	3
Blea	5	0	6
Hard whinstone	8	4	5

Soft whinstone	1	3	0
Hard whinstone	0	3	0
Sandstone	3	0	6
Red coal	0	2	11
Sandstone	2	0	11
Blea with sandstone bands	8	3	9
Sandstone	1	5	10
Blea	2	2	0
Parrot coal, bad quality	0	1	6
Blea	0	3	0
Foul coal	1	0	9
Blea with sandstone bands	2	2	9
Hard sandstone	4	1	10
Rough sandstone	4	4	9
Blea	0	1	1
Eastern main coal	0	4	2
Sandstone	1	0	0
Blea	1	4	9
Sandstone	0	2	7
Blea	0	3	0
Coal	0	0	7
Sandstone	0	3	10
Blea	1	2	5
Sandstone	2	4	7
Blea	3	3	6
Smithy coal	0	2	11
Sandstone	0	4	0
Blea	1	1	7
Calcareous ironstone	0	1	11
Carsy coal	0	1	4

There are several dikes that throw the strata up, partly to the south, but generally to the north. These dikes vary from one to twenty fathoms, running chiefly from south-east to north-west, and may be termed slips rather than dikes, as they seldom occasion any rise, and merely disjoin the metals without producing much alteration in their relative position. To the east of Burnfoot, after passing the crop of the Carsy coal, it is thought that no coal is to be found. No attempt by boring has been made to ascertain what minerals exist beneath the surface; but it is supposed that the strata lie beneath the coal measures. It is a curious fact, that in a district where so many seams of coal occur, whinstone should be found so abundant. The Irongath hills consist of hard whinstone, resting on the coal strata; nor does it present itself only in crops on the tops of eminences, but is found in regular seams between, and sometimes even in actual contact with the coal. In these hills, there is a bed of coal, varying from one to eight or ten feet in thickness, which has whinstone both for its roof and pavement; and between the western main coal and the red coal, the seam of whinstone is about 70 feet thick. The fossil remains that have been found in the coal formation consist of reeds of different kinds. Shells and impressions of leaves are also of more or less frequent occurrences; and a few years ago, the workmen fell in with a beautiful specimen of that curious extinct genus of fossil plants, the lepidodendron, but, unfortunately, only a small fragment of the interesting relic was recovered. Ironstone appears to have been wrought in former times to some extent to the west of the church.

The alluvial deposits in the west part of the parish, near the shore, consist of sea sand and shells resting on blue clay and mud, the clay resting on the coal formation; and in the south-west, there is found yellow brick clay, and yellow clay with sand and gravel. The soil is of all varieties, from that of a light sandy texture to the richest loam and heavy clay. The subsoil is also very various, in some places being free and open, in others of a rocky description, and in others tilly and retentive. The boulders that have been met with, are trap, but different from that of the neighbourhood, and must have come from a distance, their weight varying from three or four cwt. to four or five tons.

Botany. - There is but a small portion of the parish covered with wood, and that chiefly ornamental, planted for the most part on declivities and other parts of the surface, inapplicable to the usual purposes of husbandry. The prevalent sorts of trees are the plane, the ash, the elm, the beech, the larch, the oak, and the lime, which are all promiscuously intermixed, and seem all equally adapted to the soil. The full-grown trees, which are but few in number, are chiefly in the neighbourhood of the old mansion-houses; and as a proof of the geniality of the climate and vigour of the soil, it may be stated, that, within a few feet apart from high water mark, immediately below Carriden House, several trees of respectable size and appearance stand strong and healthy in growth, stretching their branches and foliage over the flood at full tide.

II. Civil History.

Accounts of the Parish. - Several incidental notices of it are to be met with in the works of antiquarian writers, from its being the eastern termination of the Antonine wall, and the site of other ancient Roman works; but the only detailed accounts, besides the former Statistical Account, with which the writer is acquainted, are to be found in Sir Robert Sibbald's History of Linlithgowshire, Chalmer's Caledonia, and Penney's Topographical and Historical Account of Linlithgowshire.

Historical Events. - The only events of any note on record have a reference to the history of Blackness Castle, an ancient royal fortress, which never appears to have been considered of much importance as a military station, though, by the Act of Union, it is one of the few ancient fortified places in Scotland that are stipulated to be preserved in a state of repair. In 1548, under the regency of the Earl of Arran, the castle was garrisoned by the French, whom Henry II sent over under the command of Monsieur D'Esse, to support the pretensions which he derived from the matrimonial alliance that was contemplated between the Princess Mary and his eldest son the Dauphin. When Mary of Guise was promoted to be Regent, the castle again came into the possession of the French; but on the 14th April 1560, it was taken from them by the Sheriff of Linlithgow. In February 1571, it was manned with a garrison by Lord Claud Hamilton, a zealous partisan of the Queen; and it appears to have been held in her interest till February 1573, when it was delivered up to the Regent, the Earl of Morton, along with 50,000 double ducats, being the Queen's dowry, which had been brought from France by James Kirkaldy the preceding month, and with the written documents relative thereto. During the occupancy of the castle by the Queen's troops in April 1572, an inroad was made by them upon the opposite coast, when they "spoilzeit" the towns, and returned to Blackness with considerable booty. On two occasions during the same period, an attempt was made upon the castle by the opposite party. In the same month and year as last mentioned, a ship of war, well furnished with artillery, was sent from Leith to "asseige" the castle, but was driven from the station where she had cast anchor, with great danger, by the violence of the weather; and in the year following, an attack was made to carry the place by surprise, which failed of success by "the garrison being on the alert." [Diurnal of Occurrences].

During the troublous times of the struggle between Presbytery and Episcopacy, the castle appears to have been employed chiefly for the purposes of a state prison, and was the place of confinement where many, who were obnoxious to Government for their known adherence to the principles of religion and civil liberty, were immured. By a decree of the secret council of James VI in February 1584, the celebrated Andrew Melville was adjudged to be committed to ward in the Castle of Blackness for declining their authority to decide upon the doctrine taught in a public discourse which he had delivered at St Andrews. After the warrant of committal had been served upon him, however, he made his escape to Berwick. During the same year, the clergy in and near Edinburgh, having been apprised that measures prejudicial to "the Kirk and its discipline" were to be resolved on at a meeting of Parliament appointed to be held in May, prevailed upon David Lindsay, minister of Leith, who was most acceptable to the court, to intercede with the king for the interposition of his authority till the Assembly should be heard in the matter; but, when he was entering the gate of the palace to discharge of his commission, he was apprehended and carried to Blackness. There, also, the ministers of Edinburgh were condemned to a temporary confinement in 1587, for refusing to pray for the Queen's deliverance; their refusal being "not simply to pray for her, but for the preservation of her life, as if

she had been innocent of the crimes laid to her charge.” In 1594, the Earl of Angus, one of the excommunicated Lords, was required to deliver himself up to custody in Blackness, till he should undergo a trial, but refusing, was subsequently with the others found guilty of high treason. From August 1605 till towards the close of the following year, John Welsh, minister of Ayr, who had married John Knox’s daughter Elizabeth, along with five other clergymen, were confined in the castle for refusing to condemn the Assembly that had met a short time before at Aberdeen, when they were “banished the king’s dominions upon the pain of death.” About the same time, a state prisoner of a different description, Gilbert Brown, Abbot of New Abbey, a “trafficking and seducing Papist,” who had been apprehended by Lord Cranstoun, was lodged for a few days within its walls, till he was transported to the Castle of Edinburgh. In 1624, William Rigg, one of the bailies of Edinburgh, was deprived of his office of magistrate, condemned to be imprisoned in Blackness Castle, and fined £50,000 Scots for challenging the doctrine taught by the Episcopal clergy. He was charged as being “the chief ringleader of the non-conformitants in Edinburgh, and that he contributed liberally to the printing of books which crossed the course of conformitie.” The second Lord Bargeny, (John Hamilton), who was served heir to his father, the first lord, on the 17th October 1662, as the retour in Thomson’s Abridgement bears. “in terries dominicalibus de Carriden, Law, et Dyland, cum manerial loco de Carriden, infra baroniam de Carriden,” was a prisoner in the castle in November 1679. In his indictment before the Court of Justiciary, dated 24th February 1680, he is *inter alia* charged with “corresponding with John Welsh,” grandson of the former worthy of the name, “a factious trumpet of sedition and treason, entertaining notour rebels in his house, publicly maintaining the principles of Naphtali, Jus Populi, Lex Rex, and declaring Scotland would never be well till it wanted Episcopacy, and the present government of the Church was destroyed, as unfit for the nation;” but the trial was never brought on from want of evidence. This nobleman entered heartily into the Revolution, raised a regiment of 600 infantry for the public service in 1689, and died on the 25th May 1693. From an act of the Scots parliament, we learn, that another sufferer in those times of religious persecution was John Hay of Lochloy, who was in 1683 committed prisoner for the space of thirteen months, “pairtly in the tolbuith of Edinburgh, and pairtly in the castle of Blackness.” His offence was his hearing the nonconforming ministers.

There are still attached to the castle a governor and lieutenant-governor, but both non-resident. When the former Statistical Account was written, the garrison consisted of 2 gunners, 1 serjeant, 2 corporals, and 12 or 15 privates. Latterly, the barrack furniture has been removed, and now the only inmates are an inferior officer, and his wife and daughter.

Eminent Characters. — Colonel James Gardiner, who fell in the battle of Prestonpans in 1745, and whose life, as recorded by Doddridge, affords so impressive and affecting an example of the power of divine grace and the influence of Christian example, was born in this parish at Burnfoot, where are yet pointed out the window of the apartment in which it is alleged that he first drew the breath of life, and two trees, an apple and a pear, said to have been planted by his hands, but which are now in a state of great decay.

In the new churchyard lie interred the remains of Dr John Roebuck, a native of Sheffield in England, and projector of the extensive iron-works at Carron. Besides originating other important establishments connected with the arts in different parts of the island, this ingenious and enterprising individual was united in partnership with the celebrated James Watt in perfecting his improvements upon the steam-engine; and the story is told, that the first time the great engineer succeeded in setting his working model agoing was in Dr Roebuck’s dining-room, who was then resident in Kinneil House, as lessee of the Duke of Hamilton’s coal and salt-works near Borrowstounness.

The late Sir John Lees, Private Secretary to the Marquis of Townshend when Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and who afterwards filled the office of secretary to the post-office in Dublin, was in his youth brought up in this parish. He was eminently successful in life, and affords a memorable example of the distinguished place in society to which the careful cultivation and judicious application of superior talents may raise their possessor. He was created a baronet on the 21st June 1804.

As proprietor of the estate of Carriden, the late Rear-Admiral Sir George J. Hope, K.C.B., became connected with the parish about twenty years ago. He was a very distinguished officer, and highly appreciated in the service of his exemplary discipline, his decision, promptitude, and bravery, and his veneration for religion. He entered the navy at the age of fifteen, in the year 1782, and after passing through the usual gradations, attained the rank of captain in 1793, and that of rear-admiral in the year 1811. During the above period, he commanded the Romulus, Alemene, and Leda frigates, the Majestic, Theseus, and Defence seventy-fours, being present at the battle of Trafalgar in the ship last named, and served as captain of the Baltic fleet during 1808 and the three subsequent years. In the year 1812, he went to the Admiralty, which he quitted temporarily in the following autumn to bring over the Russian fleet to England during the French invasion of that country. In 1813, he held the chief command in the Baltic, and at its termination returned to the Admiralty, where he remained as confidential adviser to the First Lord till his death on the 2d May 1818; thus closing a life spent in unremitting active service in the discharge of the duties of the highest posts of our naval administration.

Land-owners. – The Duke of Hamilton; the Earl of Hopetoun; Sir James Dalyell, Bart. of Binns; James Hope, Esq of Carriden, Post-Captain in the Royal Navy; James S. Cadell, Esq of Grange; and James Johnstone, Esq of Straiton, are the principal proprietors of land. Captain Hope holds the place of first heritor; but the greatest amount of superiority and the patronage of the church belong to the Duke of Hamilton.

Parochial Registers. – These are very voluminous, and in a state of excellent preservation. They have, upon the whole, been kept with great regularity. Seven volumes contain the collections and disbursements for the poor, from 1688 down to the present time, without any interruption but between 1708 and 1714. The session minutes occupy six volumes, commencing with the sederant dated 27th January 1691, and have been regularly recorded, with only two exceptions, the one amounting to about two months, the other to five years. The registers of baptisms and marriages include four volumes, the first entry of baptism being dates 1687, that of marriage, 1688; and both records coming down to the present day, with only one interval in the former of about seven years, and one of about one year in the latter. The first volume of the session-minutes, among some other items besides the sessional transactions, contains “a just double of the mortification given by the Lairds of Grang, of a house or houses in Muirhouse, for a schoole to the parish of Caridden, 1636,” the family name at that time being Hamilton; also, “mortification be Sir William Dick of Braid to Mr Andrew Keir and his successors, ministers of Caridden, of two roodes of land, 1642.” Besides these, there are several odd volumes, and a register of deaths and burials; but since 1806, it is very partial and defective.

Antiquities. – The ancient Roman wall, built between the Forth and the Clyde in the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius by his Legate Lollius Urbicus, A.D. 140, is by the almost universal consent of antiquarians, understood to have had its eastern termination in this parish. Three different places have been assigned as the terminating point, Carriden, Walton, and Blackness. In the summary of the ninth chapter of Gildas, “De excidio Britanniæ, A.D. 560,” it is expressly asserted that the wall commenced at “Kair Eden;” * and this opinion is adopted by Fordun, Richard of Cirencester, Gordon in his “Itinerarium Septentrionale,” published in 1726, and by Roy in his “Military Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain,” published in 1793. Bede, in his “Eccles. Hist. Gentis Anglorum,” written in 737, affirms that the wall began about two miles west of Abercurnig **, i.e. Abercorn, at a place called, in the Pictish language, “Peanuahel,” and in the English, “Penueltum.” If the distance be correct, the “Peanuahel” of the Picts, and “Penueltum” of the English, must correspond with Blackness, which is exactly two miles from Abercorn. In accordance with this opinion, Sir Robert Sibbald, in his “Hist. Inq.” printed in 1707, says, “the wall runs from Carriden towards the Castle of Blackness, where it once ended, just as it did upon the Clyde at Dunglass.” The “Peanvahel” or “Penvetum” of Bede, however, he thinks corresponds with the present Walton, which, he says, “derived its name from the wall, as it stood upon its track.” In the former Statistical Account of the parish, the wall is said to have terminated at “Waltown;” and Camden, in his “Britannia,” Vol. iii, p.318, states, that “Antoninus Pius’s wall may be traced to Carriden, and probably ended at Waltoun, the Penvahl of Bede.” The locality of Walton, however, affords a sufficient ground of conviction

that, though evidently the site of a Roman fort or station, it neither formed the termination of the wall nor stood upon its track; as, instead of being situated close upon the shore of the Frith in the line of direction obviously taken by the wall from Kinneil to Grange, and thereby completing the line of defence, it diverges towards the south at a considerable angle to the distance of about a mile, over irregular ground, and affords no advantage that could recommend it as the last station of so elaborate a work. Besides, Walton, instead of being two miles, as it ought to be according to Bede's account, is about four miles from Abercorn; and, instead of being derived from the "Penueltum" of Bede, or from any relation it had to the wall, the name seems to trace its origin to a noted well or fountain of water that was constructed there to supply the military posted at the station, and which, in the memory of the present tenant of the farm, went by the name of the Roman well, pronounced *Scotice wall*, having been filled up above fifty years ago; and where still, at a little distance from the former reservoir, an unfailing supply of excellent water at all seasons is delivered from a square stone-built conduit, large enough to receive the body of a man. I am satisfied, in short, that the wall terminated either at Carriden or Blackness, and, with highest probability, at the former, its remains, till very lately, being pretty clearly traceable to a small tumulus to the south-east of Grange House, called in modern phrase, the "Deacon's Stone," and a farm-steading, little more than a gun-shot to the west of the tumulus, called "Graham's Dyke," affording unquestionable evidence that this was the identical line of its direction, and either of them forming a most desirable position for completing the line of defence, besides corresponding most nearly with the geographical description of the more ancient writers upon the subject. ***

The wall was cespititious, composed of earth or of the materials promiscuously taken from the ditch. "Non tam lapidibus," says Gildas, "quam cespibus." There were nineteen forts erected upon it at certain intervals, the mean distance from station to station being 3554½ yards, or something more than two English miles, so that an alarm could easily be communicated from one to another on the approach of danger. Roy makes the total length of the wall from Old Kilpatrick church to Carriden to have been 63,980 yards, or 36 miles and 620 yards English, being nearly 39¾ Roman miles; a measurement which corresponds very much with that of Gordon. From Dunglass to Blackness, the distance is about 40 English miles.

The origin of the appellation "Graham's" or "Grime's Dyke," which is sometimes given to the wall, seems not to have been exactly determined by antiquaries. According to Horsley, "Graham" in the Gaelic language signifies *black*, and, from its application to a large ditch and rampart that traverses a great part of Northumberland, which is so designated from its dark and sombre appearance in passing through the moors, this wall, he conjectures, may have taken its name from the same circumstance. The prevailing use of the appellation in the possessive case, however, would seem to restrict it to the name of a person; and the common legend is, that "Grime," nephew to Eugenius, King of the Scots, with his troops broke through the wall a few miles westward of Falkirk, between Camelon and Castlecary, and had the achievement immortalized by having his name given to the wall as its vernacular designation.

On the south side of the wall, and running in a great measure parallel with it, a military way was constructed for the more convenient and expeditious communication between the different stations. Roads of a similar description seem to have traversed the country in various directions; and, from south to north, it would appear that, by means of this kind, a line of connection was maintained through the whole extent of the Roman territories in Britain. Richard of Cirencester makes mention of a Roman way, that proceeded from the wall in Northumberland, by which I apprehend he means the wall built by the Emperor Adrian, by the Eildon hills, Borthwick Castle, Muttonhole, Cramond, Queensferry, and Abercorn, to Carriden, at or near the eastern termination of Antoninus' wall; and, several years ago, some remains of a causeway were dug up on the ridge that runs from Blackness to the road that leads from Carriden to Walton, to all appearances a branch from or an integral part of the above-mentioned way.

At Carriden various Roman relics have been found at different times, such as a Vespasian of gold; a stone, described by Gordon as having an eagle with expanded wings, holding a *corona triumphalis* in

her bill, and standing in the middle of two Roman *vexilla* or standards, on one side, and on the other the letters COH. IULIA, and others so obliterated as to be illegible, which was built in a wall added to the house by Alexander Miln, Esq. the then proprietor; Roman pottery; an old Roman altar, having no inscription, placed at the time in the garden; and a brass *gladius* or sword, which is now in the Advocates' Library. "About fifty years before," the former Statistical Account of the parish was written, the author says, that "in digging up stones to build a park dike, axes posts, and several vases, evidently Roman, were found, and sent to the Advocate's Library." In levelling the tumulus above Grange House, already referred to, in spring 1833. Several rude coffins with bones in them were found, but from the appearance of the bones, there was reason to believe that they had been deposited there at a much later date than the time of the Romans.

At the eastern extremity of the parish, on a promontory jutting into the Firth, stands the Castle of Blackness, one of the four national fortresses of ancient time, whose preservation is guaranteed by the Act of Union. The period of its erection is unknown, and its history has been very imperfectly recorded. It is a structure more characteristic of the warfare of a ruder age than adapted to the modern improvements in the military art.

Mansion-Houses. - The mansion-houses of Carriden, Bonhard, and Grange, are fabrics of some antiquity; the first of them, with some modern additions, being still occupied as the residence of the proprietor; the second attached to a farm; and the third, after being lately put under some repairs, occupied by a tenant.

III – Population

Population according to census

1811	1358
1821	1429
1831	1261
1841	1197

The births in 1700 were 25 males, 19 females – deaths. 4 males, 9 females.

1710	36	49	11	8
1720	36	36	27	26
1730	32	25	23	19
1740	8	12	23	18
1750	19	18	13	6
1760	12	22	19	28
1770	18	17	10	13
1780	26	22	10	8
1790	30	14	10	19
1800	22	21	12	14

The greatest number of marriages from 1754 to 1800 inclusive, was in 1763 and 1765, amounting to 19 in each year; the smallest in 1757, amounting to 3.

The yearly average of births for 7 years before 1835, about 31.

The yearly average of marriages for 7 years before 1835, about 8.

Two of the proprietors are resident. The number of those whose property amounts to the yearly value of L.50 and upwards is six.

The people are in general industrious, but among some classes there is to be found room for improvement in point of cleanliness, and domestic comfort and accommodation. When dressed according to their taste, and especially as they are to be seen at church, their appearance is most respectable.

IV – Industry

Agriculture. –

The number of Scots acres in the parish is	2157
in cultivation	2023
incapable of do	16
under wood	90
roads, &c.	28

Rent of Land. – The rent of the best land is from L.4 to L.5, that of the worst is about L.1. The average grazing of a milk cow is L.3. 10s; of others L.2. 10s; and of a sheep 10s per year.

Kinds of Stock. – The sheep fancied for fattening are the black-faced; the breed of cattle is chiefly the short-horned; but various sorts from the north are also in much request by the farmer. The horses are for the most part the Clydesdale.

Husbandry. – The style of husbandry in practice is the most approved of the present day. The farmers are most intelligent, enterprising, and active; and the state of cultivation in which the farms are upheld is of the highest order. Much has been done of late to improve and ameliorate the soil by draining, manuring, and regulating the fences. Tile-draining has been introduced with great advantage. Sown grass is often grazed instead of being cut, as being more conducive to keep the land in heart. Growing of turnips has been adopted to a considerable extent, with the most decided benefits to the cultivator. The duration of leases is generally for nineteen years. The usual rotation pursued is that of six years. Some of the farm-buildings are of a superior class. In two instances, the thrashing mills are driven by steam-engines, and the fields, with few exceptions, are well inclosed.

Quarries and Mines. – There are several quarries of free and whinstone in the parish, but they are only wrought occasionally for domestic use. The substrata abound in coal, and coal has been wrought in the parish from time immemorial. In former times the supply was furnished from the estates of Carriden, Bonhard, and Grange. Within the present century, no less than ten different pits have been at work, though at different times, and all of them within little more than a mile distant from each other. At present there are only two in operation, belonging to the Duke of Hamilton.

The seam of coal wrought in the mingle or engine-pit, which was the only one at work in 1832, for which year the following account is given, is called the Eastern Main coal, and is in general about 4 feet thick. There are now (1843) four in operation. The workings are situated on the western boundary of the parish, close to that of Borrowstounness, the coal going under the name of the Bridgeness coal in the town to which it is taken, from the name of the pier where it is shipped. The pit is 77½ fathoms deep, and the coals are drawn from the dip by an engine to the pit bottom, whence another engine raises them to the surface, the water being pumped up by a third engine of greater power, erected at the mouth of the pit to within 21 fathoms of the surface, where it escapes by a day-level to the Forth. The quantity of coals produced in 1832 was 9780 tons great coal, 18,062 tons chows, and 4363 tons small coal. There are about ninety-five men, many of them residing in the parish of Borrowstounness, employed in hewing the coal, which is brought from the workings in *coves* or baskets set upon hurleys, which run upon a plate railway, driven by their children or putters to the place, from which the engine below takes it to the pit bottom. The colliers are paid 2s 10d per ton for working the great coal, 1s 10d per ton for chows, and 8d per ton for small coal. A collier with his putter may put out 1½ ton great coal, and 2 tons chows in a day. The small coal is quite unsaleable; the greater part of it is, of course, left in the waste, and, were it not for the use of the salt-pans, none of it would be brought up at all. The pit is about a mile from the shore, the coals being conveyed to the place of shipping by a railway. The coal dips generally to the west at the rate of 1 in 7 or 8 feet. Before the present dip workings commenced, which was in 1830, the workings were above the level of the pit-bottom, reaching to the south of the pit about 900 yards, where the coal gets below the Irongath hills, in a direction nearly straight south, dipping to the north in some places at the rate of 1 in 3. But it became so mixed with stone and troubled with dikes, which were generally up to the south, that the working of it was discontinued. The quality of this seam of coal is highly esteemed.

In 1833, the Burn pit was sunk from the main to the smithy coal, a seam lying 12 fathoms deeper, and about 2 feet 7 inches thick.

Fishery. - A stake-net for taking salmon was erected several years ago in the Frith, on the property of Captain Hope of Carriden, having three pockets or chambers; and the fishing has occasionally been pretty successful.

Produce. - The following is given as an approximation to the gross amount of produce:

Produce of grain of all kinds	L.7553
potatoes, turnips, &c.	1200
hay and pasture	2376
gardens	250
coal mines	7000
salt-pans	1000
	L.19,379

Manufactories. - There were six salt-pans working in the village of Grange-pans in 1834, which made about 23,000 bushels of salt annually; now there are only four at work. In the same village in 1832 and 1833, and the two following years respectively, $713\frac{5}{8}$, 312, and 552 quarters of barley were malted. At Brickfield, near Blackness, a valuable field of clay, averaging 12 feet deep, has been wrought for some years past, which in 1834, gave employment to twelve men, and then yielded at an average yearly 150,000 bricks, 200,000 roofing tiles, and 200,000 draining tiles. Since then, the demand for the latter has been greatly on the increase. Some years ago, there was at Blackness a chemical work in operation, for the manufacture of soda, barilla ash, and Roman cement; a similar establishment at Bridgeness for the manufacture of vitriol or sulphuric acid; and another in Grangepans for the manufacture of sal-ammoniac; but all three are now extinct.

Navigation. - There are no vessels belonging to the parish; but about 300 coasters, from 20 to 300 tons, from different ports in Scotland, and ten foreign vessels, from 50 to 100 tons, ship coals yearly at Bridgeness. In 1834, about 400 tons of Leith manure were imported at Blackness by two neighbouring farmers at 5s per ton, employing eight vessels at 50 tons each; and twelve vessels from 20 to 60 tons were employed by the proprietor of the brick-work in exporting the produce of his manufacture. There are also occasionally other importations of lime and manure for agricultural purposes.

V – Parochial Economy

Market-Town, &c. - The nearest market-town is Borrowstounness, which is about one mile and a half distant from the church; it is also the post-town. Linlithgow lies about three miles distant to the south-west. There are five villages in the parish – Grange-pans, Bridgeness, Cuffabouts, (supposed to be a corruption of Causewayfoot, the original name,) Muirhouses, and Blackness, - the four last being of very little extent.

Roads. - The turnpike-road from Linlithgow to South Queensferry passes through the south-eastern section of the parish for nearly a mile and a-half, but no public vehicle travels upon it. Another line of public road is at present in the act of formation from Grangemouth by Borrowstounness, diverging from the coast at the church of Carriden, and designed to meet the road above-mentioned at Champany. A railway, about a mile in length, having an inclined plane on which empty wagons are drawn up by the descent of those that are loaded, was constructed some years ago for the purpose of conveying the coals from the pits to the pier of Bridgeness. The other roads in the parish are sufficiently convenient for the purpose of communication, and, for the most part, kept in a good state of repair.

Harbours. – The pier of Bridgeness was some years ago extended by the proprietor about fifty yards further into the sea, to secure a greater depth of water for the vessels that repair to it, and affords excellent accommodation for the purposes for which it was erected, the trade to which it is serviceable being the exportation of coals and salt, and the occasional importation of manure and limestone. In former times Blackness was a harbour of considerable importance, being the sea-port of Linlithgow, the county town. Sir Robert Sibbald, in his “History of Stirlingshire” in 1707, describes it as “a harbour for all sorts of ships, where they have a large custom-house, and warehouses with other accommodations for merchants.” “In the range along Bo’ness and the South Ferry they had,” as he knew in his time, “some 36 ships belonging to them, though in all that tract south of the Firth there is no part for ships to lie at but Blackness. They traded with Holland, Bremon, Hamburg, Queensburgh, and Dantzic. Many rich merchants lived there, and the cities of Glasgow, Stirling, and Linlithgow had great trade thence.” Now the harbour is in ruins, the custom-house converted into lodgings appropriated chiefly for the use of sea-bathers in summer, and the only merchandize known to the place is the shipment of a few tons of bricks and tiles, and the importation of a few tons of lime and manure.

Ecclesiastical State. – The church stands upon the coast, distant about two miles from the eastern and southern, and one mile from the western extremity of the parish; and only one or two families can be said to be at a distance of more than two miles from it. It was built in 1766, the old church having stood about half a mile distant, in close proximity to the mansion-house of Carriden, where the old church-yard still remains. The church was never properly seated by the heritors, but left to be occupied very much at the pleasure of the parishioners, so that, though fully seated, the workmanship is but indifferent; and the sittings were possessed in a great measure promiscuously, as they had been erected or purchased by the parties till 1826, when a formal division of it was made by the sheriff among the heritors, according to their respective valuations. The pulpit, which was transferred from the old church to the new, and is formed of oak, is said to have been brought from Holland, having inscribed upon it the date 1655. One of the communion cups is dated 1640, the shape being the antique form of an inverted candlestick; the other was procured during the present incumbency. The church, according to its present arrangement, will accommodate 458, but might be seated for 500. There are 28 free sittings allotted to the poor. The manse was built in 1818, and, though of rather small dimensions, is commodious, well-finished, and in good repair. The old manse, now in ruins, is situated a few hundred yards to the east of the present. The glebe is 14.556 imperial acres, having been received in excambion for the old glebe in 1817. The stipend, inclusive of communion elements, is 128 bolls meal, and as many of barley.

In 1834, there were 259 families, amounting to 1104 individuals who might be reckoned as attached to the Established Church, 22 families containing 96 individuals belonging to the United Associate Synod; one family and part of another who were Reformed Presbyterians, and there were 5 Episcopalians. The average number of communicants is nearly 200.

Religious Society. – A Parochial Bible Association was instituted in 1826, in connection with the West Lothian Bible Society, with a special provision, that the wants of the parish should, in the first instance, be supplied. The rate of contribution was a penny a-week, and in this way, from 1826 to 1833 inclusive, L.51, 17s. 11d were collected for the purpose of promoting the distribution of the Scriptures. This society has now merged in a general association lately established in support of the schemes of the General Assembly, and for circulating Bibles through the parish.

Church collections. – The amount of church collections for religious and charitable purposes for the seven years ending in 1834, averaged L.38. 4s 11d.

Education. - Besides the parochial school, there are three other schools in the parish, two of them under the patronage and superintendence of the Carriden family, one an infant school, the other for the education of female children, the third dependent upon the personal efforts and success of the teacher.

The parochial teacher's salary is the maximum. He possesses the legal accommodations as to school and dwelling-house, and in lieu of a garden, two bolls of oatmeal are allowed him.

Library. – In 1821, a library was instituted in the parish, to consist of books of a religious and instructive character, and to remain in perpetuity for the use of the inhabitants. A number of donations set it at once on a respectable footing, and the accession of subscribers was at first promising, but latterly they have not been so numerous.

Friendly Societies and Savings' Banks. – Some years ago, a Savings' Bank was established, in the hope that it would speedily and largely improve the character and domestic comfort of the labouring classes; but the experiment did not succeed. Few embraced the opportunity of entering deposits, and those few not altogether the class of persons for whose benefit it was designed.

Friendly Societies. - There were two Friendly Societies in existence in 1834, and had been for some years before – one for the support of its members when disabled by sickness or infirmity, the other for defraying the funeral expenses incurred at the death of a member, or of a member's wife or child. At present the latter only is in existence.

Poor and Parochial Funds. – The average number of paupers upon the roll for the seven years ending in 1834, was 31, to each of whom the average sum allotted yearly was L.2. 2s 6½ d. Besides those upon the roll, there are others who are allowed occasional relief. The funds for this expenditure proceed partly from the church collections, and the proclamation and mortcloth dues, and partly from an assessment laid on the landlord and tenant, and which, for the seven years above specified, averaged L.36. 6s 3d per annum. It is much to be regretted, that the disposition, once so honourable a trait in the Scottish character, to live independently of parochial aid, is greatly on the decline.

Ale-houses. – Of these there are too many amongst us for the moral well-being of the people. There are six houses in all where spirituous liquors are sold.

Miscellaneous Observations

In more remote times, the aspect of the parish must have been considerably different from what it is at present. The surface was formerly much more thickly studded with human habitations and scenes of human industry, grouped together in little patches, than it is now; many of which have disappeared altogether, while of some a few faint vestiges still remain. At one time a considerable establishment of salt-works, now wholly obliterated, existed near where the present church is situated, and was named in the former Statistical Account, "Bonhard-pans," nearly a mile distant from the church to the east, another series of erections of the same kind was stationed, called Carris-pans, of which the only relic to be seen is the stakes that mark out the boundary of the "bucket pat," that is, the reservoir that held the sea water that was to be subjected to the process of evaporation. Bonhard appears to have been once the seat of a village inhabited by the labourers that were employed at the coal-works formerly in operation there. Little Carriden, situated a short distance eastward from the Muirhouses, but now extinct, was within these twenty years in existence. From time to time, the smaller farm steadings have been gradually disappearing. And the villages that continue to exist discover symptoms of decay rather than of increase and improvement. Blackness, especially, seems to have shrunk greatly from its former importance, as, besides being a respectable sea-port and mart of trade, it was once the centre of a considerable population, having in its neighbourhood mills, fisheries, coal-works, and salt-pans.****

Revised April 1843.

* The words in Gildas are, “Videlicet, ut inter duo maria murum per millia passuum plurima trans inaniam instruerent a mari Scotiae usque ad mare Hiberniae (i.e. a Kair Eden) civitate antiquissims, duorum ferme millium spaio a Monasterio Abercurnig (quod nunc vocatur Abercorn) as occidentem, tendens contra occidentam. Juxta urbem Alcuth.”

** The language of Bede bears a striking resemblance to that of Gildas, except in the proper names:- “Cujus operis hodie certissima vestigis cemare licet. Incipit autem duorum ferme milium spatio a Monasterio Abercurnig, as occidentem, in loop qui sermon Pictorum Peauahel, lingna Anglorum, Penueltum appeliatur, et tendens contra occidentem terminator juxta urbem Alcuit.” – Lib, I Cap. XII.

*** It ought not, perhaps, to be omitted, that another opinion is held upon the subject. Nenius, who wrote A.D. 620, says, that the wall commenced at a place called in the British tongue, “Pengual, which town, in Scottish is called Cenail, but in English (i.e. Saxon) Penueltum.” “Cenail” is understood to be the same as Kinneil; and its signification in Gaelic, denoting the “head” or “end,” is supposed to give farther indication that the wall terminated there. It is impossible to identify the “Cenail” or “Peneltnm” of Nenius, if corresponding with the modern Kinneil, with the “Penueltum” of Bede, as the latter was only two, and the former is seven miles from Abercorn; but it is by no means impossible that, in the course of its construction, the wall concluded, in the first instance, at Kinneil, and was, at a subsequent period, continued onwards to Carriden. Horsley at first coincides with Nenius in the opinion, that Kinneil was the proper termination of the wall, but afterwards seems to agree with Gordon that it ended at Carriden.

**** Besides what was formerly stated in the text, the importance of Blackness may be inferred from the following words found in a charter granted in 1642, to Thomas Dalzell de Binnes, - “Duobus marinis molendinis granariis lie sea-cornmylnis cum multuris amnium terrarium de Blacknes et Bonytoun, infra dominium de Linlithgow, cum viridario – piscationibus et piscariis lie cruves de Blacknes infra mare, cum carbonibus, et salinae patellis, de dominio et balliatu praedicto.” In another charter to George Earlo of Linlithgow in 1690, the tenor is – “officio constabulariae et custodiae castri de Blacknes-terriss, et carbonibus et carbonariis dictarum terrarium de Blacknes tam infra quam extra fluxum marisl piscibus, piscariis et lie cruives de Blacknes infra mae, &c.”