

I.

ARDLUI MEGALITHS AND THEIR ASSOCIATIONS; CROSSES AT LUIB
AND ALLOWAY AND A SHORT CIST AT EDNAM, ROXBURGH-
SHIRE. BY A. D. LACAILLE, F.S.A.Scot.

ARDLUI MONUMENTS.

Loch Lomondside has not figured in any outstanding event in Scottish history, yet from time immemorial it must have occupied a place of considerable importance, for with Glen Falloch, its approach from the north, it formed a natural communication with the south and south-west from the great east-and-west route of Glen Lochy, Strath Fillan, Glen Dochart and the Tay Valley.¹

¹ The Glen Falloch and Loch Lomond way was no doubt used by some ecclesiastics going to and from Iona; only one famous name, however, is clearly indicated—that of the biographer of Columba. In “Eas Eodhnáin” and “Croit Eodhnáin” in upper Glen Falloch, Adannan is commemorated in a stream and a croft. Rowardennan, at the base of Ben Lomond on the east side of the loch, was possibly connected with the venerable abbot. (*Vide* W. J. Watson, *The History of the Celtic Place-names of Scotland*, p. 270.)

In the past, tracks existed along Loch Lomond and these were the predecessors of the modern highway which takes the most even course

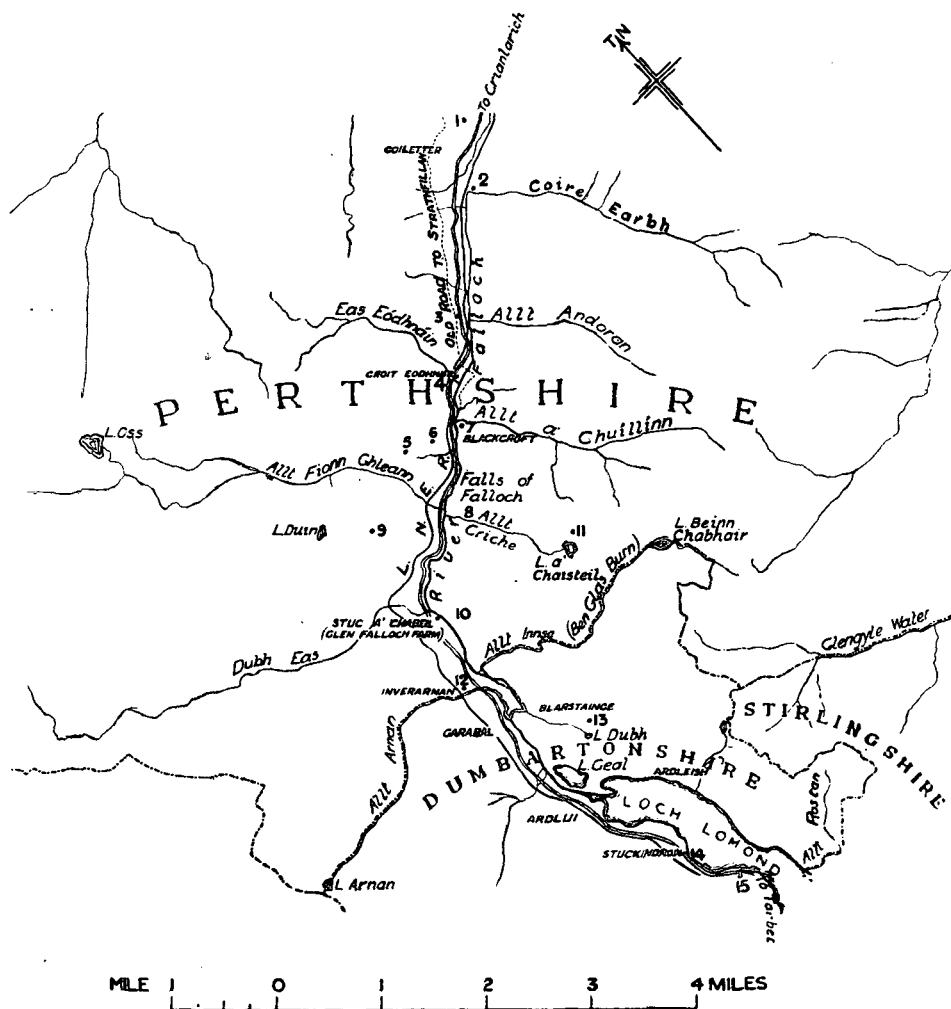


Fig. 1. Map of Ardlui District showing Archaeological Sites.

1. Chaisteil Grigoir; 2. Site of Coire Earbh Steading; 3. Chaisteil Rab; 4. Adamnan's Croft;
5. Clach nam Breatann; 6. Mounds of Stones; 7. Site of Clach nam Breatann Clachan;
8. Boundary Burn; 9. The Dun; 10. Cairn, Remains of Chapel and Cemetery; 11. Ben a' Chaisteil;
12. Stone Circle, Sculptured Rock, Stone Axe found; 13. Boulder; 14. Long Cairn;
15. Pulpit Rock.

on the west side close to the water's edge. As in former times, the road passes through the few places where cultivation is possible, and, consequently, where there are settlements (fig. 1). Changing conditions

necessitated alteration in the route taken by the roads, but the old lines have been followed closely and generally there has been little deviation. In addition to a land-route along the western shore here was available the means of water transport giving small craft a passage to the Clyde by way of the River Leven, the large effluent of the loch.

With the exception of the lower reaches and in some river valleys, the Loch Lomond basin could not have supported a large population. North of Inverbeg (or more correctly, Lower Inveruglas), on the west side, and Rowardennan at the foot of Ben Lomond on the east, steep and rocky hillsides exist. Only in a few places on the east and chiefly at the head of the loch, is there any stretch of land that might have afforded scope for farming and of which advantage is taken to this day, but principally for the grazing of cattle and sheep. There are more cultivated areas on the west side between Inverbeg and Tarbet as the hills are not so precipitous. To the south of Inverbeg the slopes gradually become less accentuated, and finally disappearing, merge into the plains in the lower Fruin valley, the flats of Kilmaronock parish, lower Strath Endrick on the opposite shore and the Vale of Leven. Fields, both pasture and under cultivation, are found at Tarbet on the isthmus between the fresh-water loch and the sea-arm, Loch Long at Arrochar. Three miles north of Tarbet at Upper Inveruglas, and for nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Ardlui, also for about 2 miles of lower Glen Falloch near the embouchure of the river, is there pasture and arable land, although in the last-mentioned part only in a narrow alluvial strip on either side of the stream.

Glen Falloch and the upper reaches of Loch Lomond are in a region formerly politically interesting. Here was debatable land, the northern part of Strathclyde, wedged between Dalriada to the west and Pictland to the east. Even to this day the county boundaries are peculiar; their arrangement is evidence of a long succession of territorial disputes and settlements by charters since the union of the ancient kingdoms.

Dumbartonshire extends for more than two miles north of the head of the loch, and on the west of the Falloch it is separated from Perthshire by the Allt Arnan which flows in an easterly direction until crossed by the road at Inverarnan, thence running south for the last half-mile of its course and continuing to form the boundary until it joins the Falloch at Garabal Farm. The boundary between the two counties northwards is then the main river which, save for a peculiar irregularity in a field to the south-east of Inverarnan, divides them as far as a point nearly opposite the Benglas Burn. This, excepting a few yards near its confluence with the Falloch, is the march with

Killin (Perthshire) and Arrochar (Dumbartonshire) on either side, to the north and south respectively. Dumbartonshire extends on the east of Loch Lomond for two miles south of Ardlui as far as the Allt Rostan separating it from Stirlingshire. Argyll marches with Dumbartonshire on the heights of the south-western extremity of the Grampians approximately two miles west of Glen Falloch. Near the mountain tarn, Lochan Arnan, Perthshire joins these two counties; thence northwards Argyll and Perth meet along Druim Albain, the ancient Dalriadic boundary.

Survival of Regard for Megaliths.—Where there is an absence of distinct natural features by which parish or county boundaries may be clearly defined, recourse is made to artificial landmarks to indicate the marches. Isolated boulders or heaps of stones are placed at intervals, and an imaginary line running through these is taken as the limits. Particularly does this apply to sparsely populated districts and mountainous regions. In localities where agricultural operations are carried on, boundaries may take the form of field confines such as walls and ditches or hedges planted in the past to separate one area from another. It will sometimes be found, when an actual examination is made of the limits of territory, that a few naturally placed stones are utilised to serve as boundaries, and it is not unusual to observe that on some of these are prehistoric sculpturings.¹

Stones still bearing upon their surfaces more or less distinct traces of archaic markings are usually of such size or shape as to arrest attention. Their striking appearance would make them easily recognised landmarks which, through custom, ultimately came to be accepted as of limitarian value. Megaliths are found incorporated into march-walls, and while some of these structures are, no doubt, comparatively modern, many go back to the mediæval and have undergone repair at different times. Other boundaries, acknowledged formerly, have become obsolete.² Near abandoned clachans and shielings old limits of territorial and other divisions may be found in ruined dykes in whose lines one seldom fails to detect the presence of huge stones. Frequently in the neighbourhood of the numerous deserted habitations of the Highland glens are enormous boulders, and, although most are of no moment, a few, as landmarks, certainly did fill an important part in the past.

Respect for megaliths was not solely restricted to those serving the

¹ The late Dr D. Christison mentions two Peeblesshire instances of cup-marked boulders built into walls, one near Manor Kirk and the other near Castle Hill. (*Proceedings*, vol. xxiii. pp. 140-2.)

² Examples are to be found in the defining marches of the detached portions of counties incorporated into the large shires in 1891.

purpose of denoting boundaries. Innumerable instances, not only in these islands but also abroad, can be cited where a natural landmark of this kind and still more so one which, from the most remote antiquity had attracted man, fulfilled the duty of marking meeting-places for the holding of open-air courts, elections, religious observances and other popular trysts. As a practice, assemblies near natural megaliths have not altogether ceased. Still more deeply ingrained in peoples who have preserved primitive customs is the habit of attending meetings at standing-stones set up by human handiwork. In this connection it is almost unnecessary to refer to Brittany with its pilgrimages to undressed boulders, menhirs, stone-circles, alignments and tumuli. Wales furnishes some examples of a similar nature.

The usefulness of the huge isolated stone and the veneration in which it was held did not escape the attention of the founders of the early Church in Scotland and elsewhere. The crosses which indicated ecclesiastical boundaries, in addition to bringing before the people Christian teachings, were, doubtless, the successors of the simple or plainly marked megalith.

Despite the general discontinuance of the regard in which large stones were held, tradition lingers round them and nearly all bear names suggestive of some creation of mythology, be it deity, demi-god, fabular hero, man, woman (usually aged) or legendary animal. The naming of peculiarly shaped megaliths or rocks did not cease with these freaks of natural causes, but often the stones hewn by the artifice of prehistoric man received appellations now in many cases garbled beyond recognition. Designations sometimes referred to the practical importance of the landmark's value in denoting territorial limit.

In Glen Falloch I have had the opportunity of studying examples which come under the categories of the march-stone and the trysting-place for religious meetings. In the first series is one which bears a name suggesting that it was a recognised boundary not merely of parishes or larger local land-divisions, but of kingdoms. This claim is substantiated by the distinctive appellation "*Clach nam Breatann*," by which the boulder is known.

Clach nam Breatann and the Chaisteils.—On account of its whilom importance, *Clach nam Breatann* (the stone of the Britons) in Glen Falloch, is probably the most interesting of all Scottish boulder-landmarks. Situated about 700 feet above sea-level on the western slope of the glen, about three-quarters of a mile north by west of the upper Falls of Falloch, it commands an extensive view on all sides but particularly of lower Glen Falloch to the south and the Fionn Ghleann to the west. From the West Highland Railway a glimpse may be

obtained of the huge rock apparently perched on the crest of a hill. It can also be seen from many points on the roadway which runs parallel to and below the railway.

Clach nam Breatann (fig. 2), however, is not the solitary boulder resting on a hillcrest it seems when viewed from the distance: it is a group of piled schistose megaliths. Upon approaching the assemblage one is struck by the impressive appearance it presents with its base, a conical knoll, 180 feet in circumference and about 12 feet high, situated in an arena-like depression in the grassy plateau. Such a landmark



Fig. 2. Clach nam Breatann from the south.

could not have been ignored in the past and than this, no more distinct natural feature could have been chosen to indicate a march.

The capstone surmounting the whole is inclined upwards, and, from the appearance of the breaks, the stones upon which it lies were part of it formerly, and that there was originally one boulder only is probable. The peak is no less than 15 feet 6 inches above the base of the supporting boulders; so that, including the knoll of large grass-covered stones, the full height of this great landmark is nearly 30 feet. In length the uppermost stone measures 14 feet 5 inches. It varies in width from 10 to 14 feet. Averaging 4 feet in thickness, its girth is over 50 feet. The longer axis is orientated 21° south of geographical east.

The name, "Clach nam Breatann," goes far back into the past and relates to ancient boundaries and specifically to the northernmost

limit of the kingdom of Strathclyde. Here also was the western frontier of Pictland. Not only so, but the confines of Dalriada, corresponding very nearly to what is now Argyll (whose present march runs a little to the west of and parallel to Glen Falloch), probably joined with those of Pictland and Strathclyde at the boulder. Frontiers would vary on account of the constant wars waged among the peoples of the three realms, yet the geographical position of Glen Falloch, in the immediate vicinity of Druim Albain, inevitably made it a marchland. Maps indicating the limits of the ancient kingdoms cannot be strictly accurate because of the fluctuations, but cartographers agree in showing that the divisions met about here.¹

Few works refer to this boulder but lately Professor W. J. Watson's *Celtic Place-names* has brought it to notice.² Dr W. F. Skene states that a battle was fought in A.D. 717 between the Dalriads and the Britons near a stone called "Minvircc" by Tighernach; this the author of *Celtic Scotland* supposes to be Clach nam Breatann.³ Pinkerton, in *An Inquiry into the History of Scotland preceding the Reign of Mulcolm III*, vol. i., part ii., p. 77, refers to a battle "at the stone called Mimro." Professor Watson, admitting the possibility of the stone having served as a boundary, suggests that the name "Minvircc" or "Minuire" may agree with the Welsh "maen"—"a stone," and "iwrh"—"a roe-buck."⁴ The second part of the name may be compared with the corrupted designation in the R.M.S. "Currierk" for the now vanished holding, farther up Glen Falloch, which stood at the foot of Coire Earbh, "the rocky hollow of the roe-buck."⁵

On the 6-inch to the Mile Ordnance Survey Map (Perthshire, Sheet XC.) the boulder figures as "Clach na Briton." It is described in the *North British Railway Company's Guide of 1895*, p. 128, as "the curious boulder near the Falloch . . . 'Clach-na-Breton' or 'Mortar Stone,' the former name said to be derived from a clachan that at one time stood near it, and the latter from its peculiar form."

That Clach nam Breatann was regarded as an important and well-

¹ A parallel may be drawn with "The Auld Wife's Lift" on Craigmaddie Muir near Glasgow. At, or near, that natural trilith three parishes meet.

² *Cit. supra*, p. 15.

³ *Celtic Scotland*, vol. i. p. 273.

⁴ *History of the Celtic Place-names of Scotland*, p. 387.

⁵ In connection with this place-name I have exchanged notes with Professor Watson. He tells me that in view of the pronunciation of "Coire Earbh" which I succeeded in obtaining from three Gaelic speakers in Glen Falloch, I may justifiably make the attractive comparison between this name and Tighernach's "Minvircc." The place appears as "Corryard," 1598 (twice); "Corrierb vel Currierk," 1602; "Toryark," 1642, 1649; all R.M.S.; "Toryark," 1640, and "Torzach," 1670, in Retours—truly extraordinary instances of the corruption of a place-name denoting one site. Only one designation, that of R.M.S. 1602, is perfectly clear by giving the alternative rendering.

known landmark down to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is positively established, for in easily identifiable, but somewhat corrupted forms, the name appears frequently in the R.M.S. Apart from the association with the boulder itself, the name is lost in that now borne by the ruined *steading* of Black Croft and many remains of houses near it beside the River Falloch and about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of the megalith. Black Croft and remains of buildings on the east side of the river are no other than the "Clachinbretane" or "Clachinbrentane" of the charters.

Between Clach nam Breatann and the road (about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the east of the boulder) are sixteen heaps of fairly large stones. One of these heaps seems to present features indicating that it is a burial cairn now measuring 20 feet 5 inches by 16 feet 3 inches and 2 feet in height. The others have the appearance of having been pillaged of a considerable part of their stones to build a dyke passing in the immediate vicinity. The possibility of these being accumulated land-gathered stones has to be considered, as a short distance away are the stone foundations of two small rectangular houses with the corners rounded on the outside.

Considering that the district was in territory so frequently disputed, three other sites in upper Glen Falloch must be mentioned. Pinkerton, while not a wholly reliable authority, yet says that eastern Dalriada possessed a chain of forts. Although there are no really fortified places in the glen, certain names show that at least three eminences were probably regarded in the past as having definite strategic value. Two of these are "Chaisteils." One is a rocky height $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile north-east of Clach nam Breatann and opposite the Allt Andoran, a left bank tributary of the Falloch. It is situated between the present highway and the old road to Strathfillan.¹ Designated on the large-scale map as Chaisteil Rab, it does not seem to possess any remains of built defences; but commanding a wide view, it was no doubt a look-out. Two miles to the north-east and a short distance from Coiletter Farm; the other, Chaisteil Grigoir, is a more imposing height and from its summit a more extensive territory can be observed. Like the neighbouring chaisteil, there are no signs that artificial improvements were ever made here to defences already provided by nature.² One

¹ The old road, possessed of some fine bridges but many severe gradients, can be traced mostly to the west of the modern one from north of Luss. Throughout it is comparatively wide and well engineered. From the west side of the railway at Croit Eodháin it is practically intact as far as Strathfillan where it joins the present highway, a mile west of Crianlarich.

² The Andoran rises in An Chaisteil (2958 feet), a peak north-west of Ardlui. A quarter mile north of the Benglas march there is a Lochan a' Chaisteil near which, I am told, there are ruins. Out of this loch flows the Allt Criche (the March Burn).

mile north of the confluence of the Dubh Eas and the Falloch is a circular hill-top called the Dun, but more usually known as the Round Hill. Three sides are precipitous and the summit is over 1300 feet above sea-level. On the west the slopes are not steep, but, to a host occupying it, the height would be a wellnigh impregnable position as well as an admirable observation-post. Not only does it command a view of Glen Falloch, upper and lower, but none could use the track-way by Ghleann nan Caorunn to or from Dalmally without attracting the attention of watchers on the Round Hill. So far as I know, the hill does not show any signs of added fortification. Thus Glen Falloch did not lack defences, and those it did possess had the merit that they required little or no aid from man to make them serve as guardians of the marchland in which they were situated. Possibly never more than temporary muniments, these in a different locality and under other conditions would have been worthy of long occupation and constructions of some kind would certainly have been built upon them.

The Pulpit Rock.—One mile and a half south of Ardlui, about 75 yards west of the road and below the railway, is the enormous detached rock known as the Pulpit Rock and in Gaelic, Clach nan Tairbh (the Rock of the Bulls). It is 45 feet high and approximately 300 feet in girth at the base. It slopes to ground level on the north only but rises perpendicularly on all other sides.

The Pulpit Rock derives its English designation from a large niche 4 feet deep, 7 feet 6 inches high and 6 feet wide, hewn out of the east face, about a hundred years ago, to provide a shelter for a clergyman from Arrochar who, in accordance with custom, visited the place and officiated here four times a year¹ (fig. 3). *The New Statistical Account* dealing with Arrochar parish does not mention the rock, nor is it referred to in *The Old Statistical Account*. Arrochar parish was created in 1658 from the disjoined northern half of Luss parish;² but the Pulpit Rock continued to fulfil its rôle long after the time of this parochial re-arrangement, although that purpose, one might imagine, should have come to an end with the belated building of Arrochar Parish Church in 1733.

The Rev. H. S. Winchester, B.D., minister of Arrochar, informs me that the practice of holding divine service in the open air was long in vogue, and that it was not until well into the latter half of the nineteenth century that it ceased. Quite a number of residents of the parish remember the attendances, the most important being at the Communion Service held in June. So popular was this that on such occasions

¹ Maclean, *Dumbarton, Vale of Leven, and Loch Lomond*, p. 219.

² *Caledonia* (New Edition), vol. vi. p. 908.

a brisk trade was carried on in food and liquor at the back of the boulder!

To reply to speculative inquiry as to why a more convenient spot, such as a house, should not have been the place for meetings of a religious character after the fall of the ancient church, consideration must be given to some traditional significance borne by the huge boulder to the minds of the inhabitants of the locality—a significance, moreover, which had its origin in remote antiquity.

The origin of the meetings at the place cannot possibly be a post-

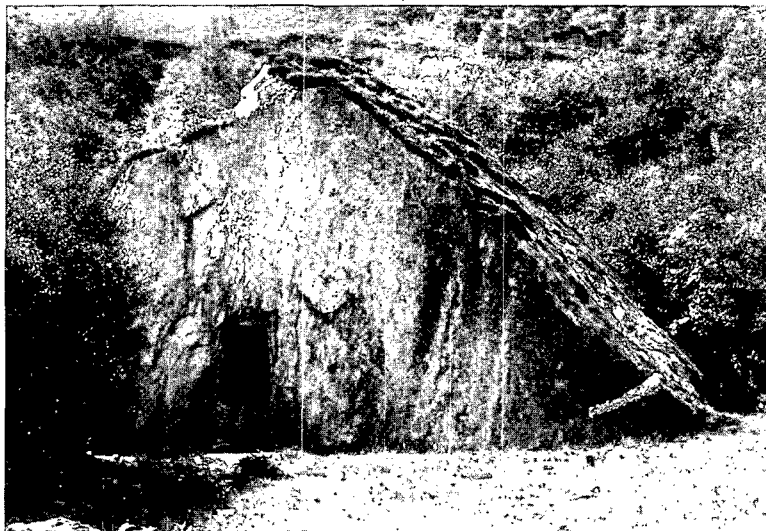


Fig. 3. The Pulpit Rock near Ardlui.

Reformation one, but an extremely ancient and firmly established usage. Further, it was apparently intended never to allow the custom to die out, and to ensure this end the preacher's shelter was devised. No doubt the interesting institution was bound to disappear through time but it did so gradually, the recent building of a convenient place of worship at Ardlui having now severed this link with the past.

Reference is made later in these notes to an ecclesiastical site near Ardlui, but so far removed from others that consideration of its isolation supports the opinion that conventicles at the great boulder were indeed of ancient standing.¹

The strong flavour of mythology in the Gaelic name, "Clach nan Tairbh," for the Pulpit Rock, is accounted for in the tradition of the

¹ *Ut infra*, pp. 343-4.

Red Bull of England and the Black Bull of Scotland meeting in mortal combat on Ben Vorlich. So terrific was the contest that the rock on which they fought became detached by reason of the shocks it was subjected to by the onslaughts of the infuriated animals, and finally it slipped down the slope of the mountain to rest permanently in its present situation. Victory, we learn, was with the northern bull which, with its crooked horn, dispatched its rival.¹ The story ends with the statement that Clach nan Tairbh "is the largest boulder in the three realms"—an indication that the legend associated with the place may go back to the time when this country was still divided up into the three kingdoms of Strathclyde, Dalriada, and Pictland.²

There appears little in the tale itself, but when it is considered that the bull figures in the mythology of so many countries, and so frequently is he met with in the onomatology of Scotland, it seems that the tradition provides interesting parallels and it should not be omitted from a notice of the district.

There can be no reason for supposing that such a practice as that of holding meetings of a religious character at a place indicated by so prominent a natural feature, and one, moreover, which had attached to it the pagan legends of the past, should have had its origin in days when such observances were looked upon with disfavour by the reformed ecclesiastical system. Clearly, strong regard in some form for Clach nan Tairbh survived until almost the dawn of the twentieth century, for, combined with its practical use was the disguised continuance of old and long-established custom even in what may be regarded as the most prosaic of post-Reformation times.

Again in the name "Ardlui," the anglicised form of "ard laoigh," the "rock" or "height of the calf," reference is made to a bovine. Near the mouth of the Falloch, on its west bank and close to Ardlui Hotel, is a small plantation of conifers. In the centre of this wood is a large outcrop of schist which gives its name to the place. The association of the words "tarbh" and "laogh" no doubt bears on old-time traditions of the locality which have disappeared save in the little-known myth of the bulls, and such legends, disguised in the recondite place-names, have lingered on.

At the back of the boulder, 5 feet from the ground and above a tiny stream flowing from the west thence along the south base of the rock, are weathered traces of two shallow artificially cut parallel

¹ Campbell, *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*, vol. iii. pp. 131-2.

² Until the fusion of the ancient kingdoms the rock was in Strathclyde. To the north and north-west were Dalriada and Pictland; in the north and north-eastern parts of what was the latter are many instances of the carvings of bulls.

grooves about 12 inches long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and 3 inches apart. These are set at an angle of about 45 degrees from the vertical. At this point a small chip of whitish flint was picked up. The fragment, over its greatest measurements, is $\cdot 65$ inch by $\cdot 5$ inch, and is nearly one-tenth of an inch in thickness. It bears traces of secondary working and is probably a piece broken off an implement. Found elsewhere this flint might not be worthy of comment, but its being obtained where there is no native material of the kind and coming from a district where, so far as can be ascertained, the discoveries of flint or other stone implements have been rare, necessitate placing this specimen on record.¹

Long Cairn at Stuckindroin.—Occupying an old site midway between Ardlui and the Pulpit Rock is the farm Stuckindroin. From the remains and traces of buildings in the immediate neighbourhood it can be seen that here arose quite a considerable settlement, but it is hard to say how far back the different ruins date. Grants of land, however, show that Stuckindroin was held by the Macfarlanes in the thirteenth century. None of the vestiges of structures formerly dwellings or farm buildings are of archæological interest; but the field opposite the farm, between the road and the loch, contains an important antiquity.

What seems to be a group of four irregularly circular burial-cairns, arranged in an approximate line running 69° east of north, appears, on careful examination of the ground, to be remains of a long cairn.² The gradual demolition of the structure must cover centuries, and the nature of the destruction varied. Between each tumulus are irregular spaces, showing that, as material was required, the most vulnerable parts were

¹ So far as I know, the only other flints showing signs of working found on Loch Lomondside are those I mention below.

(a) Two small scrapers found at "Fingal's Tomb," Glen Luss (1927).

(b) Barbed and stemmed arrow-head found on the island Inchmurrin and now in the National Museum.

(c) Two worked chips found at Claddochside, Kilmaronock, are now in the Glasgow Art Galleries.

(d) It was reported to me in the summer of 1927 that a stone implement had been found on the island Inchgalbraith. I asked my friend Mr Henry Lamond, F.S.A.Scot., Luss, if he could obtain any information about the discovery. Mr Lamond writes:—"An angler picked up an axe-head on Inchgalbraith, where I had long surmised the ruined castle had originally been built on the site of a prehistoric lake-dwelling. The angler invited a stone-mason to tell him what kind of stone the axe-head was made of. With a blow of his heavy hammer the man shivered it in pieces and remarked, 'It's flint.'"

I hope later to give a complete detailed notice of the implements found on Loch Lomondside.

² It seems to be more than coincidence that in the vicinity of Clach nan Tairbh there should exist prehistoric remains. Taurian place-names are frequently associated with such antiquities. To cite a case in point where this feature is marked, I would refer to a large wood called Coille nan Tairbh on the Poltalloch estate at Ballymeanoch near Kilmartin. Within a radius of a few hundred yards are standing-stones all bearing carvings, and a rock-outcrop with markings at Baluachraig. There are also burial-cairns, one demolished except for the circle of large stones forming its outer margin and another opened by the late Canon Greenwell in 1864. (*Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. vi, part i, pp. 348-9.)

attacked. Stones were used for dykes and, doubtless, many went to the construction of the now ruined steading buildings near the bounding wall to the south; these, again, were probably utilised in the present farmhouse, barns and sheds.

Nearest the loch is the well-preserved easternmost mound, about 5 feet high and 41 feet in diameter at its base, and 184 feet distant from the wall separating the road from the field. At uneven intervals are the three other cairns; the one next the first mentioned is in good condition and nearly as high. Its immediate neighbour is dilapidated but not to so great an extent as that close to the wall. In fact, this part of the structure is practically razed to the level of the surrounding ground—a state due, not only to the wholesale removal of the stones, but to the action of water dripping from the overhanging trees in rainy weather and also to the tread of cattle sheltering under the foliage.

In the plantation to the west of the road (a little over 20 feet in width between its confining walls) the outline of the cairn can be traced for 40 feet. Recent verge-cutting of the turf near the base of the wall on the west side reveals the presence of some of the rubble-stones of the prehistoric structure through which the highway was cut. When the actual carriage-way was widened by a few feet some years ago many stones were removed when the labourers were engaged on the work at this point.

The dimensions available indicate that this cairn was at least 244 feet in length, but it is likely that when complete, it would be longer, say 250 feet. At the east end, as has been noticed, it is 41 feet across, and, judging from its intact appearance, the burial is probably unchanged from what it measured originally here. So demolished are the other parts that all one can say, with any degree of certainty, is that there was a gradual narrowing towards the western end where it is now reduced to an indeterminate outline about 20 feet in width.

Dilapidated though it be, this structure is of importance so far as the district is concerned, because it provides evidence that in Neolithic times man had availed himself of one of the few localities on north-west Loch Lomondside which, even now, can be regarded as capable of supporting a community.

In the summer of 1925 a holiday camper ventured to dig into the easternmost mound whose artificial nature he recognised. Fortunately the work of the enthusiast was stopped in time, but not before I was able to examine the stonework exposed by his labour.

Many large water-rolled stones of different sizes were used by the builders of the cairn, the sepulture being built regularly layer by layer, with the heaviest stones at the bottom. The trench, which had not quite reached the original subsoil, measured 4 feet by 3 feet and 6 feet deep, was

filled in after examination, and all the stones were replaced as nearly as possible in their original positions.

Boulder in March-dyke at Blarstainge.—The high ground on the east side of lower Glen Falloch, north of Ardlui, is a wild and deserted region. Geologically the hillsides are full of interest, and in few places is there to be seen so vast a number of immense boulders, ice-carried or broken away from the rocky faces of the steep hills.

A little-used pathway leads from Ardleish near the head of Loch Lomond, to Benglas Farm nearly half a mile north-east of Inverarnan. About half-way, 312 feet above sea-level and a little to the north of the tiny Lochan Dubh which, with its outlet, forms a depression between the Falloch valley and the western slopes of Cruach, is a huge, gnarled boulder of schist. It is 16 feet high, 11 feet wide and 11 feet thick at the base. By its conspicuous size and position near a small stream this large rock forms a prominent landmark. As such it must have been recognised long ago when the glen was more populous, for it dictated the position and alignment of a march-dyke extending on either side of the monolith to east and west. The wall terminates near a stream a short distance to the east of the stone. The march is an old one indicating the division between the lands of Ardleish and Benglas.

Little more than a quarter of a mile to the north is the ruined shieling of Blarstainge, at one time the home of a fair-sized community as the numerous small ruined houses testify. As "Blaystaing" it figures on the map issued with *The New Statistical Account of Dumbartonshire*, and in Macfarlane records it is referred to as "Blairstang and Stuckmud."¹

The boulder, if not actually one of a series of boundary landmarks, was indubitably in recognised march-land. Strathclyde was, in this district, but a narrow strip between its neighbours Dalriada and Pictland. The limit between Strathclyde and Pictland, to the south-east of Glen Falloch, corresponded to the present boundary between Stirlingshire and Perthshire formed by the Glengyle Water and Loch Katrine. Beyond the head waters of the Glengyle the division is now sinuous and made still more complicated by the intrusion of Dumbartonshire on the east side of Falloch from Benglas and down Loch Lomondside as far as the Allt Rostan. After centuries these marches are now fixed; but when Scotland was still made up of the three kingdoms, such an important and strategic natural feature as Loch Katrine was an admirable frontier and as a demarcation has withstood many changes. It may therefore be concluded that the Glengyle boundary to the west of Loch Katrine is also ancient, but beyond that river the absence

¹ James Macfarlane, *History of the Clan Macfarlane*, p. 143.

of such clearly defined limits necessitated some other marks which could be easily recognised. As one of these the Blarstainge boulder provided an excellent guide.

Stone-circle and Rock Sculpturings at Inverarnan.—Situated nearly two miles north of Ardlui on the east side of the Dumbarton-Crianlarich

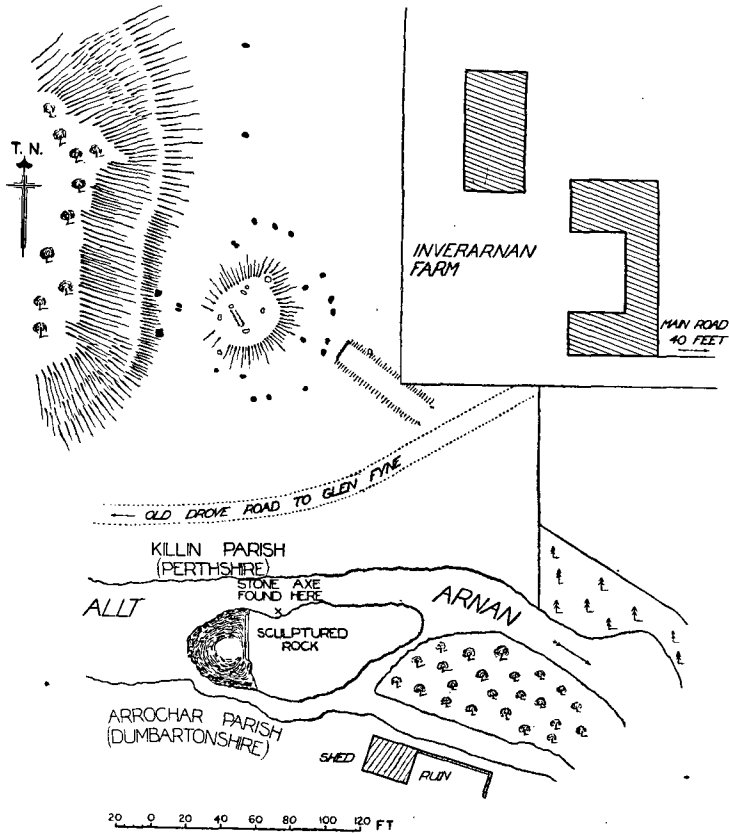


Fig. 4. Plan of Stone-circle and Cup-marked Rock at Inverarnan.

road, immediately after that highway has entered the parish of Killin in Perthshire, is Inverarnan Hotel with the farm of the same name on the opposite side, a few yards to the north.

Behind the farm, that is, to the west of it, and a few yards north of the old Lairig Arnan drove-road, a year or two before the War I noticed a number of stones, and I concluded from their arrangement that here were the remains of a double circle (fig. 4). It was not until 1919, however, that I was again able to pursue my investigations at

this place, and as the region offered me great attractions I spent much time in the district.

Regarded from the view-point of the picturesque, the Inverarnan circle occupies a singularly beautiful situation. Immediately to the north is a large wood of tall larch trees. To the west is a small tree-covered hillock shutting out the rising ground forming the valley-slope of the south-western Grampians. Scarcely more than a quarter of a mile to the east is the precipitous and almost perpendicular western scarp of Benglas, with the falls of that name descending in a few leaps from a great height almost to the level of the River Falloch. Between the circle and the Allt Arnan, to the south, is a narrow strip of pasture, and beyond the stream, on the Dumbartonshire side, is rough undulating moor.

The site is peculiar as the circles are not on regular ground, and at least two erratic boulders to the west appear to have been incorporated into the setting. Except for those in the innermost ring, the stones to the east are on a lower level than the first mentioned as are others to the north and south, but not to so great a degree. The ground, save in the raised centre, has become extremely marshy and even in summer the moisture remains.

The outer circle has been 102 feet in diameter, and the inner 71 feet. Judging from the distance between the stones which appear to be placed at regular intervals, the larger circle probably consisted of thirty-one stones and the smaller of twenty-nine. In the centre of the settings is a grassy platform where there may have been a third ring, but it is now occupied by some boulders three of which apparently served as corner-stones of a building dismantled long ago. The structure, whose longer axis ran north-west and south-east, is now reduced to these stones (which from their size and appearance seem to have been taken from one of the circles), and a slightly raised irregularity extending for a few feet.

Two isolated boulders of similar appearance and size lie almost on the north and south line, 48 and 100 feet north of the outer circle. Their position seems to indicate that they are part of the setting.

The boulders forming the circles are not very large. Those remaining average from 2 to 3 feet in length and the same in height, and, as is usual in such sites, some have, in the course of time, become displaced or have sunk deeply into the wet soil and consequently show little above the ground. Stones have been removed gradually; the boulders left *in situ* were, no doubt, too unwieldy to permit of their being easily removed, and those in the marshy places were doubtless left untouched on account of their situation.

The Inverarnan circles resemble remains of a small setting on the

sloping ground to the south of Loch Ardinning near Strathblane. At Melgum Lodge, Tarland, Aberdeenshire, are vestiges of a stone-circle like the example under review.¹ In their dilapidated condition the Raedykes Circles, near Stonehaven, show analogous features.²

Near the south corner of the fencing separating the pasture from the farm-enclosure are the turf-covered remains of a small inclined banking built of land-gathered stones. This raised work, carried over the soft ground, is 2 feet in height; it now measures about 60 feet in length and averages 10 feet 6 inches in width. Its longitudinal axis runs in a line approximately north-west and south-east. When entire, the structure formed part of a roadway leading up to the building erected in the middle of the circles.

At a distance of 67 yards due south of the circle behind Inverarnan Farm, in the Allt Arnan is a small island, its western end consisting of an outcrop of the native schist 63 feet in girth.³ The crest of the rock is 20 feet above the present bed of the stream which, as far as I have learnt, although subject to sudden and heavy floods, has never been known to cover the island. The top of the eastern portion of the rock is 8 feet 6 inches above grass-level and slants towards its base. On this part, near the main stream, an easel-like surface measuring 7 feet 8 inches by 5 feet 6 inches has been prepared. The irregular surface of the remaining rock-face averages 2 inches above the dressed portion, in the smoothing of which much labour must have been expended. This area, now spongeous and absorbing much moisture through its striæ, has a much weathered appearance. Despite the rain action of centuries a large number of sculpturings can be detected. In common with Scottish prehistoric markings, cup-marks predominate in this assemblage made up of thirty cups, three channels, and one half-moon. The cups, of diameter varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, in spite of their weathered condition on a poor surface, are for the most part nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep as are the other sculpturings.⁴ The drawing reproduced from a rubbing shows the group (fig. 5).

In the summer of 1925 I once more examined the rock with the object of checking my rubbings. The prolonged drought had reduced the volume of water in the Arnan, and the stony bed of the stream at the eastern end of the island, where normally the flow is rapid and

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. lxi. pp. 265-6.

² *Ibid.*, vol. lvii. pp. 23-25.

³ Since these notes were written a cottage has been built between the circle and the burn thus impairing the north and south line.

⁴ Mr A. MacIennan, residing at Furnace Cottage by Ardlui, informs me that his wife, before marriage in the 'eighties, lived at Balloch with an aunt. The older woman, who had been in service at Ardlui between 1840 and 1850, had referred to a circular stone-setting and rock-carvings at Inverarnan.

rather shallow, was dried up for the greater part on both sides. A dark greenish stone was distinguishable among the great variety of water-rolled pebbles exposed. I picked it up to examine it and saw at once that it was an axe in very fair condition.

The implement is polished except near the butt end, and is $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick in the middle. The cross-section

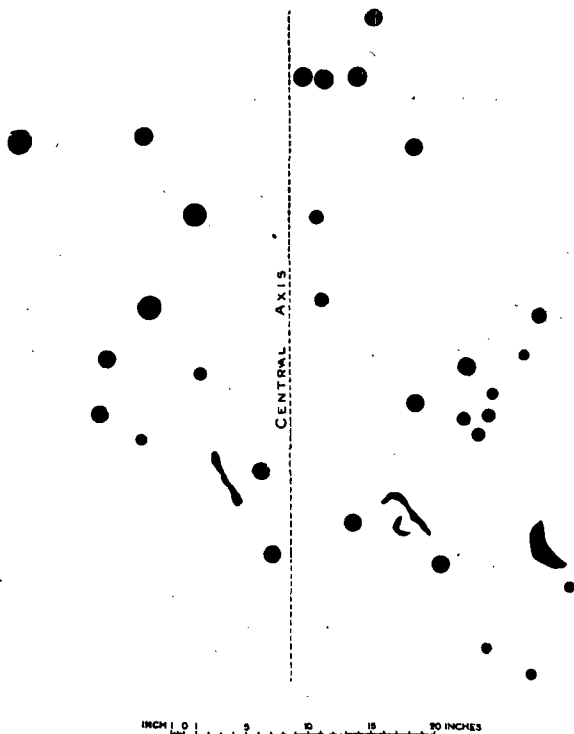


Fig. 5. Cup-markings on Rock at Inverarnan.

is elliptical but oval at the butt. The cutting edge, unfortunately slightly chipped in one or two places, shows more signs of wear at one corner than at the other. The butt has been damaged but not sufficiently to impair the symmetrical appearance of the tool.

Mr Peter M'Nair, F.G.S., Kelvingrove Art Gallery, to whom I showed the axe-head, tells me that it is of native green schist an outcrop of which occurs a little to the north of Ardlui Station.

Comparing this example with others, I find that it closely resembles one found a number of years ago at Livermere, Suffolk.¹

¹ Evans, *Stone Implements of Great Britain* (1872 edition), fig. 59, p. 116.

Only three similar stone implements have previously been found in the Loch Lomond district, or at least, no greater number has been recorded. One of these, an axe-head, found on the shores of the loch at Claddochside, Kilmaronock, is now in the Glasgow Corporation Art Galleries and Museums. Another of the same type, picked up near Arden, was presented to the National Museum in 1899.¹

In 1892 a stone axe (AF 409) from Glen Falloch was purchased for the National collection. Unfortunately, the exact place where it was found is not known.

In mediæval times a number of small houses rose up on either bank of the stream, and until the latter half of the eighteenth century the place figured in documents relating to the Macfarlanes of that ilk who sold their estates in 1784. The name "Inverarnan" figures in many unrecognisable forms in the R.M.S., where reference is made to charters confirming grants of land to the Campbells of Glen Falloch whose property was on the north or Perthshire side of the Allt Arnan. In the late Mr Erskine Beveridge's *The Abers and Invers of Scotland*, p. 38, is a complete list of the appellations collected, and these quoted are: "Inverinarren, Invernymeren, Inverintrane, Inverymerrain, Inverynans (R.M.S. 1598-1649)." The place-name occurs as Invernymeran in *Acts Parl.*, vol. v., Anno 1633, and in Retours 1640 and 1670, as "Invernymoran" and "Invernynnane" respectively. Another designation is "Innerintrane."²

Round Cairn and Chapel-site at Glen Falloch Farm.— On the 6-inch to the Mile Ordnance Survey Map (Perthshire CI., N.E.), the hillside to the north-west of the small tree-covered knoll screening the circle from the main slope of the mountain figures as "Meall-an-t-Sagairt" or "the Priest's Hill." This designation may relate to the stone-circle but bears more probably on the vestiges of a small rectangular building, the longer axis of which is set 33° east of north, presumed to be the remains of a chapel. The ruin is situated about 100 yards east of Glen Falloch Farm, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Inverarnan, close to the confluence of the Dubh Eas and the Falloch.

At this place is the nineteenth-century mausoleum of the Campbells of Glen Falloch. Between this and the ruins of the supposed chapel is a dome-like mound, now 2 feet in height and 20 feet in diameter. This is a burial-cairn, and while in good condition and covered with thick turf it is not as high as when first seen by me a number of years ago. Many stones, which were then grass-covered, have been taken away but the present tenant has left the tumulus undisturbed,

¹ The axe-head found at Inverarnan is now in the National Museum also (AF 684).

² *The Clan Campbell*, vol. ii. p. 103.

and although somewhat reduced, it has retained an appearance of preservation. On probing with a crowbar at a depth of 3 feet from the surface a slab was encountered. This, when struck with the implement, rang hollow, probably indicating the position of the burial chamber. To the west a number of fairly large water-rolled white quartz pebbles are exposed.

Here are also a few inscribed headstones of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Scanty in its remains this site provides, nevertheless, an interesting example of continuous regard for a place.

Named "Stuckchapel" in the charters, it is evidence of the known nature of the spot; Gaelic speakers always call it "Stuc a' Chabeil," the "Rock (or Pinnacle) of the Chapel."

While the remains of the small building near the round cairn cannot be definitely pronounced to be those of an ecclesiastical foundation, deduction shows that there is reason for assuming that they are.

In the absence of any definite evidence of other church sites between St Fillan's Chapel nearly ten miles to the north and Luss nineteen miles south, it is hardly conceivable that so great a distance could have existed between places of worship as the Glen Falloch of the past was comparatively populous. Because of the natural features, beyond a certain point to the south towards Luss, there could have been little or no agriculture, consequently there were no habitations and, therefore, little need for a church. If the Pulpit Rock, previously referred to, were resorted to at fixed intervals in mediæval times, no doubt consciences were satisfied.

The orientation of the building, it is true, is not a sure guide, but chapels vary greatly as regards what has become a much debated question. Indeed, numerous instances might be mentioned where there is much divergence from true cardinal setting. In the same county I have noted the orientation of many ancient chapels and have been struck by the absence of uniformity.

To find evidence of post-Reformation burial at a place like this is to pre-suppose (as may be proved in many parallel cases) the existence of an earlier church with burial-ground attached.

CUP-MARKS AT DUINISH, CRIANLARICH.

On the high ground above a sharp bend in the River Fillan, about a mile north-east of Crianlarich, are the remains of a hamlet figuring as Duinish on an estate map dated 1769 shown me by Mr Gordon Place in whose father's possession was the site until a few years ago.

Here Mr Place pointed out to me a schistose boulder, 50 feet in girth and averaging 5 feet in height, on which are about sixty large and well-preserved cup-marks. Probably the boulder bore a greater number of carvings than evident now as the stone shows signs of having lost much of its original surface. Nearby are several large pieces which have become detached or have been removed. A few yards to the east of the boulder is a remarkable stone I wish to bring before the notice of the Society. Viewed from east to west, the monolith of schist appears as a triangle whose apex has been injured. The longer axis of the stone is orientated 3° east of true north, and at grass-level it measures 4 feet along east and west faces. Taken medially the full height is now 3 feet $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, but this was greater originally as a few inches are broken off at the top. The two faces and the side to the north are fairly smooth and the side has the added feature of tapering evenly upwards from a width of 18 inches at the ground to 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The narrower south side, averaging 10 inches, is not quite regular on account of fissures, but from a distance the unevenness is not apparent.

The west face bears an assemblage of fourteen cup-markings varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter to 2 inches. These sculpturings are all fairly deep and well preserved. On the sloping and tapering north side are four cups each 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, two being placed about midway on the inclined surface and two almost at ground-level. In the illustration based on rubbings, an aspect of the north side is shown as if perpendicular to indicate the relationship between the main group and the markings on the side (fig. 6).

Three-quarters of a mile west of Duinish, near the West Highland Railway, are the ruins of another shieling which appears on the Place estate map of the eighteenth century as Luibmore. Among the many large scattered boulders here is one on which are a few distinct cup-marks but the group is not remarkable.

In concluding this section I wish to record my indebtedness to the many friends who assisted me in making surveys of the sites described. To Mr Callander, Director of the Museum, and Mr Ludovic M'L. Mann I am most grateful for invaluable advice and for going over the difficult terrain with me. I am under a great obligation to

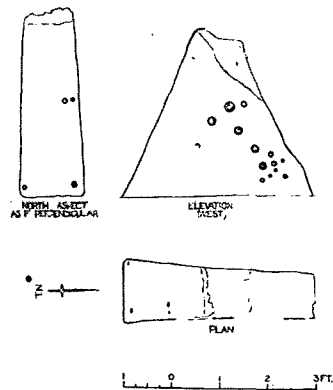


Fig. 6. Cup-marked Stone at Duinish, Crianlarich.

Professor W. J. Watson for his help in respect of the place-names to which special reference has been made.

CROSS-PILLAR AT SUIE, GLEN DOCHART.

On a low knoll in a field to the north of the road and close to the River Dochart at Suie near Luib is the burial-ground of the Macnabs of Inishewan. A few graves of the family are within a rectangular enclosure of dry-stone masonry in which is a mural tablet stating that the structure dates back to 1759. There are some plain slabs without the low roofless building and also clear traces of foundations.

None of the sepulchral stones calls for comment; but close to the south-east corner of the Macnab enclosure is a leaning pillar of schist firmly set in the ground. From grass-level the stone rises 3 feet 8½ inches to its irregular top which still retains a feature common in such monuments, that of one side being higher than the other. Roughly quadrate in section and badly weathered, it varies in thickness and bears no sign of having been dressed. At the base the girth is 2 feet 8 inches.

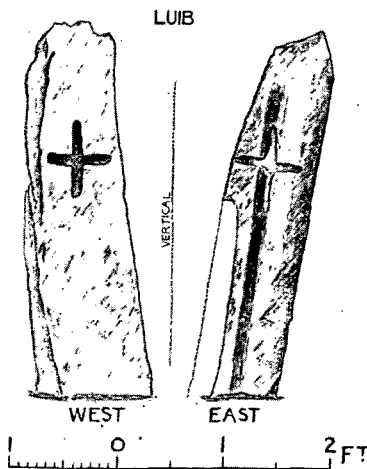


Fig. 7. Cross-pillar at Suie near Luib.

Two faces, approximately east and west, are presented. Each bears an incised cross, rude in form but not totally devoid of symmetry or similarity of position. Measuring 9¼ inches by 6¾ inches, the cross borne on the west face is fairly well preserved, but while now only ⅓ inch in depth it was probably more originally; on the opposite aspect the symbol, although very shallow, is larger, having a shaft 10½ inches long and arms 8 inches across. It is greatly impaired by having the shaft and part of the arms cut in a deep and broad groove which allows rainwater to flow down easily, thus wearing the stone and almost obliterating the carving at its lower end which now appears to merge into the groove.

Both sculpturings are alike in appearance and are cut to the average width of 1 inch.

The illustration is reproduced from rubbings (fig. 7).

Writing in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxiii., footnote, p. 117, the late

Dr Joseph Anderson leads one to believe that the burial-ground at Suie was no more than a place of sepulture of Macnabs. But in view of the place-name "Suie," derived from "Suidhe," "a seat" (and no doubt referring to one of St Fillan's places of contemplation),¹ the existence of an early chapel here is certain. Evidence of this is provided, not only by the vestiges of foundations but also by the cross-pillar of a type which cannot be classed as a memorial of the dead. The monument and its carvings may be placed as cœval with the great patron of the district. The position of the stone, while perhaps not canonical according to the usage of the later church, is nevertheless exactly similar to that of a cross-bearing boulder noted by me some years ago at St Blane's Chapel, Lochearnhead.² Nor is it likely that the stone was moved from its original situation in the eighteenth century, as the builder of the family burial-enclosure undoubtedly chose the spot because of its long recognised sacred character. At the time of the erecting of a building on the chapel-site the Highlander evinced an even stronger regard for such relics than he does now.³

CROSSES AT CAMBUSDOON AND BLAIRSTON, ALLOWAY.

The old Kirk of Alloway was built in 1516, and on the annexation of the parish of Alloway to that of Ayr in 1690 the building became disused and was allowed to fall into ruin.⁴ Close associations with the Ayrshire poet, however, have made both church and churchyard the resort of countless visitors. The neglect and decay to which the kirk seemed destined when it ceased to be used for the purpose for which it was built was arrested little more than a hundred years later, not through any veneration for the sacred character of the site, but through the sentimental regard for Robert Burns which commenced to find expression not long after his death. Consequently, Alloway Kirk, roofless though it stands, is in good condition. No architectural feature of any moment distinguishes it, and the plain rectangular building with its simple belfry is too well known to call for description here. Lately this early sixteenth-century edifice has come under the protection of H.M. Office of Works, so that, independent of private enterprise or goodwill, its preservation is assured in the future.

Innumerable references have been made to the Kirk of Alloway, but none makes mention elucidative as to the antiquity of the site on which it was erected. The presence of a well known as Mungo's,

¹ *Celtic Place-names*, p. 261.

² *Proceedings*, vol. lxi. pp. 134-7.

³ *Vide supra*, pp. 343-4, referring to the Campbell burial-ground in Glen Falloch.

⁴ *Caledonia* (New Edition), vol. vi. p. 503.

about a hundred yards west of the church; nevertheless leads one to infer that the building set up in 1516 was not the first structure of an ecclesiastical nature here.

Mungo's Well is situated within the grounds of Cambusdoon School whose policies to the south-east are contiguous to the old burial-ground surrounding the church ruins. The spring now issues into a concrete basin 1 foot 10 inches deep and 3 feet 1 inch in diameter. Its outflow serves to fill an ornamental basin in a rockery constructed a few yards below to the south-east and close to the northern arch of the bridge carrying the Turnberry Branch of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway over the River Doon.

To test the presumption that until the present time Mungo's Well might have been respected as a wishing-well, it was recently cleared of the dead leaves and débris which filled it and encumbered the effluence. In the rubbish removed were dozens of white quartz pebbles showing that the spring had its votaries who dropped a pebble into its clear depths upon making a wish even after the well was restored and put into orderly condition when the new railway line was constructed some twenty years ago. Whether the practice of visiting Mungo's Well and wishing at its side was made in a serious spirit or only half-heartedly, and perhaps as an amusing way of keeping up an old recognised custom, I do not claim to decide. What particular virtue was ascribed to Mungo's Well at Cambusdoon is not known, but the number of springs reputed to have been blessed by the great missionary of Strathelyde is certainly considerable. The fact that at least six of these are near churches or church-remains indicates that wells were associated with the cultus of Kentigern or Mungo. Probably the most interesting instance of this is the well within the crypt of Glasgow Cathedral, the shrine of the saint being only a few feet away to the north-west.

Alloway kirkyard is full of sepulchral monuments of the conventional types ranging in date from the latter half of the seventeenth century to modern tombstones, but no stone going back to pre-Reformation times remains within the enclosure. It may be said that the collection of gravestones covers the period which has elapsed since Alloway Kirk became disused in 1690. Recently, however, a monument giving definite proof of the ancient associations of Alloway has come to my notice through the chance discovery made by Master James Galloway of Cambusdoon School. This was found in the small coppice within the property of Cambusdoon here separated from the burial-ground by a wall, close to which stood the relic almost covered with decaying arboreous refuse. When the heaped-up dead leaves and sticks had

been cleared away the stone was seen to bear markings of an interesting nature near its head, and after removing the thick growth of moss and lichen on the surface the well-preserved carving of a cross of ancient and uncommon type was fully exposed. An excavation made round the base of the monument to ascertain its exact dimensions revealed that the lower part, firmly fixed in the ground, was fractured and that the upper portion rested upon it.

The fine-grained sandstone slab, pitted and weathered, with a fragment broken off the top right-hand corner, measures 4 feet 1 inch in length and 1 foot 6 inches in width at the head, tapering to 1 foot 1 inch wide at the lower extremity of the small detached piece; the break, running almost straight across the width of the stone, occurs 1 foot 3 inches from the foot. The thickness (5 to 7½ inches) and the irregularity of the back suggest that originally this monument had been a rude-back slab dressed down fairly evenly, at a date possibly not remote, to serve in a building.

The design is formed of arcs struck from eight points on the circumference of a circle of the same radius, circumscribing by its outline, ¼ inch wide and deep, the geometrical rendering of the cross which measures 13½ inches down and across its equal arms. The arcs are arranged so as not to intersect, and the interspaces between the arms are hollowed out to the depth of ¼ inch, corresponding in this respect to the enclosing circle. The hollows and incised circular outline surrounding the cross seem to give this the appearance of being relieved from the remainder of the stone (fig. 8).

A feature to be noted is that, in common with other ancient crosses, there is the usual absence of strict adherence to symmetry in the layout and execution of the carving. This characteristic does not detract from the pleasing appearance of the Alloway example.

The type of cross, either simple or elaborate, is of rare occurrence in Scotland, and where found the site is invariably in what was the scene of the labours of missionaries influenced by the Church of Candida

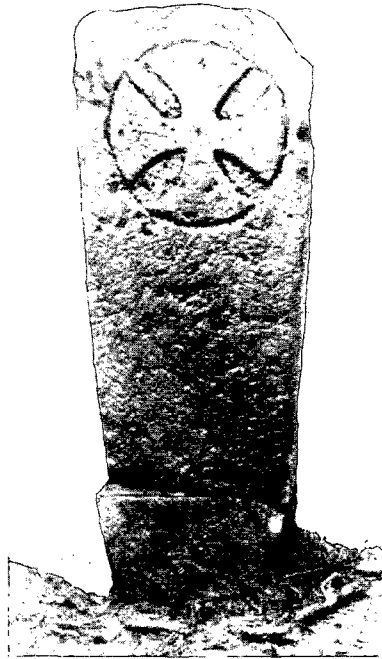


Fig. 8. Cross-slab at Cambusdoon, Alloway.

Casa in Whithorn. The Alloway cross, although a survival of type, is an addition to the limited list of the Strathclyde monuments of its class which includes the earliest sculptured stones of the Christian era in this country.

Of ruder and apparently more primitive sculpture is another cross carved on a large granitic boulder protected by a low surrounding wall of drystone masonry to the south of the lane leading to Blairston Mains, about midway between the high road and the house, and a mile and a quarter south of Alloway.

The recumbent megalith of irregular appearance lies east and west but it may once have been upright. It measures 6 feet 2 inches in length. For a distance of 3 feet 4 inches from the western end it averages 3 feet 5 inches in width and beyond this it narrows down to a rounded end. The surface now presented and bearing the sculpturing is 2 feet from the ground. The sides and the end to the west are rounded. The incised cross is not centrally placed on this stone, and except for the head and arms, it is so shallow and weathered that in places the sculpturing is almost difficult to trace. It now measures 3 feet 2 inches in length from the extremity of the head at the west to the end of the shaft which is still fairly visible, but there are faint vestiges of the hollow for a little way beyond this point. The upper portion consisting of head and arms, whose ends expand towards

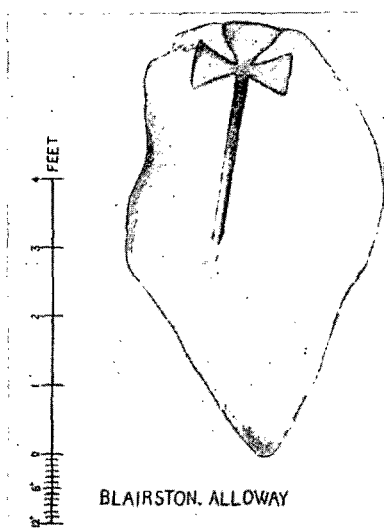


Fig. 9. Incised Cross on Boulder at Blairston, Alloway.

the sides of the stone, is more deeply cut and better preserved than the shaft. At their extremities the head and arms measure $10\frac{1}{2}$ and 8 inches respectively and taper to 2 inches at their intersection where they join the shaft of the same width. The shaft gradually narrows down to $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch finally becoming indefinite. Probably the shaft was of uniform width originally, but this cannot be said with certainty as the whole appearance of the cross is vague and disappointing (fig. 9).

SHORT CIST INHUMATION AT EDNAM, ROXBURGHSHIRE.

On 11th October 1928, Robert Mathewson employed by Mr J. Hamilton, Highridgehall, Ednam, was completing his day's ploughing in the

north-east corner of a field known as the Haugh, when the horses' progress was arrested while taking the gradual rise from the flat near the River Tweed towards the Kelso-Coldstream road. The labourer noticed that, at a depth of about a foot, the ploughshare had fouled and broken off a piece of a very large stone. Finding that the latter remained immovable and that a cavity was revealed by the forcible removal of the fragment, he inserted his hand into the opening, and from the hollow beneath withdrew some bones which he recognised to be those of a human being.

In Mr Hamilton's absence, the discovery was reported to the police at Kelso, and in the presence of Dr S. Davidson of that town the soil was cleared when it was seen that the stone exposed in its entirety was a great slab 4 feet 9 inches in length by 3 feet 1 inch at its widest and 4 inches thick. This, on being lifted aside, revealed a well-made stone-lined grave at the bottom of which lay, on a bed of coarse river sand, pebbles and shingle, a number of decayed bones and two teeth later taken to Kelso Police Station.

I visited the site four days after the find, and am taking this opportunity of giving details of the antiquity accidentally brought to light.

Mr Hamilton was good enough to accompany me to the Haugh, an extensive field bounded on the south by the Tweed and on the north by the highway. A hedge, the eastern limit, extending from the road to the river, separates Roxburghshire (Ednam parish) from the Berwickshire parish of Eccles.

No indications of cairn or barrow structure exist at the site, nor is there anything to lead the inquirer to infer that there was a mound over the grave. There are no field-walls suggesting that in their building stones robbed from a prehistoric monument had been used. The Haugh is profusely covered with small water-rolled stones such as can be picked up from the bed or sides of any river, so that in this regard no material is available to enable one to come to a definite conclusion.

The grave, situated 90 feet above sea-level, is 103 feet from the north-east corner of the field and 55 feet south of the low hedge dividing the Haugh from the road.

It is a typical short cist in the form of a trapezoid, the orientation of whose longer central axis is 13 degrees east of cardinal north. The sides and ends are extremely well constructed of slabs rudely but regularly dressed to the thickness of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The long slabs measure 4 feet by 2 feet and 3 feet 2 inches by 1 foot $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches internally, but as they overlap the ends, 3 inches at least must be added to give an estimation of their full length. The ends, like the sides, are not equal in size; that, at what for convenience may be called the north-east

extremity, being an irregular quadrilateral at the top 1 foot 10 inches in length and 1 foot 4 inches in height. Its opposite is 1 foot 9 inches long and 1 foot 7 inches high. The depth of the actual cist is 2 feet, and none of the stones forming it has been set vertically. At the top the width across is almost uniformly 2 feet 1 inch and at bottom 1 foot 9 inches. A peculiar feature is that the shorter and narrower of the slabs forming the sides was not arranged in such a way that its top, like the upper part of its three neighbours, should form a perfect support for the cover-stone. Care was taken, however, that the lower portion of the four slabs should be placed to form a uniform line at the bottom of the grave. Consequently, to ensure that the lid should rest evenly on the substructure, a number of flat stones was placed along the top of what is (viewed from the south-west) the right-hand slab.

As I did not see the bones *in situ*, I had to elicit what information I could as to their position when found. It seems that what little remained of the cranium lay at the south-east end of the cist. From the dimensions of the cavity it will readily be understood that the body when interred was placed in a crouching position with the knees bent, so far as I could learn, towards the south side of the cist. Apparently no relics were noticed among the bones nor was there met any trace of metal, but upon sifting the gravelly deposit on which reposed the skeletal remains I found a prismatic piece of mottled grey flint 1·8 inch long, ¼ inch wide and ⅞ inch thick. One end and part of the underside bear traces of secondary working. Probably the implement was a knife, but from the worn condition of the worked edges it had seen much service.

The bones could not be taken from the custody of the police for detailed anthropological examination and report, but they consisted of parts of the skull, leg and arm bones and portions of vertebræ of an adult human being, probably male.