

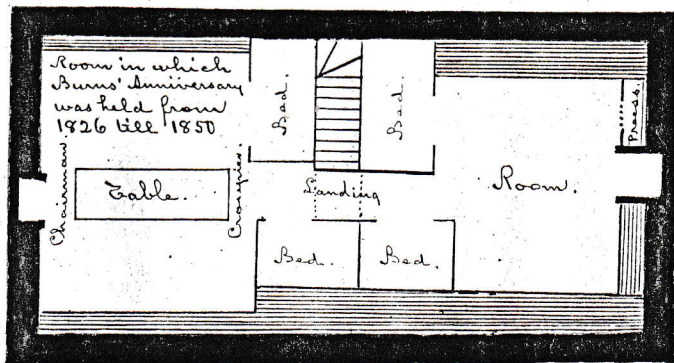
"MONTGOMERIE'S INN".

BUILT CIRCA MDCCLXXVII.

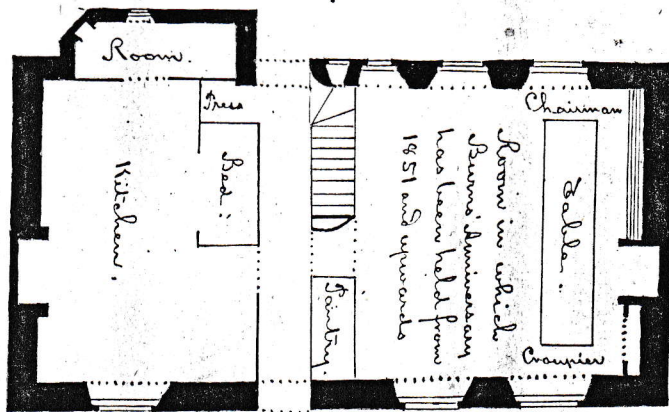
*"It's just the ket-wi' strae, an' but laigh o' the ceiling,  
That we scarce can stan' up straight within,  
But there's aye something guid baith for eating and drinking  
To be had in Montgomerie's Inn."*

MDCCLX.



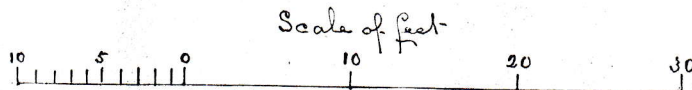


"Montgomery's Inn". - Plan of Garret floor. -



"Montgomery's Inn". - Plan of Ground floor. -

MDCCLX.





Likeness of Jean Niel Montgomerie, Hostess  
of "Montgomerie's Inn", now deceased, and was interred  
in Dalry Churchyard, on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, MDCCLXIII. --\*



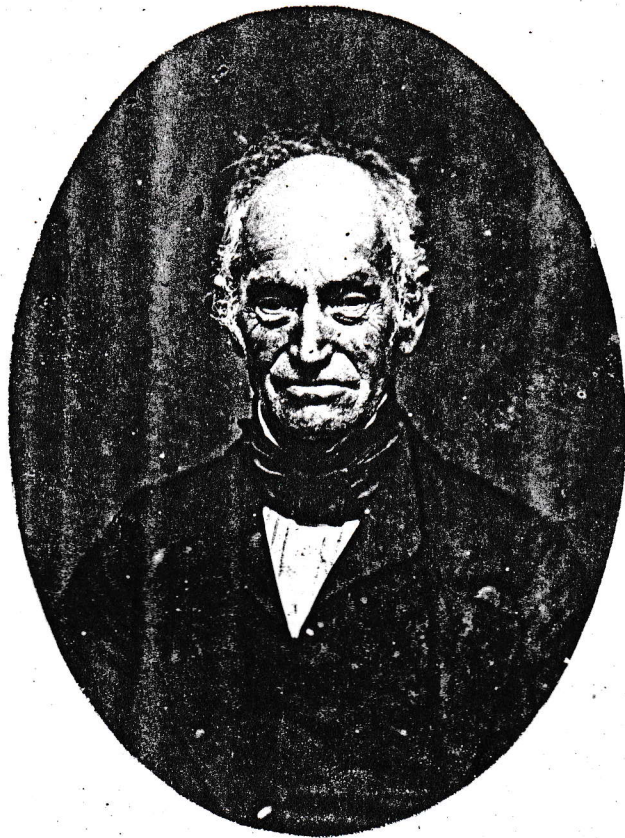
There are wives that can't be seen, an' can't be heard,  
 But their's a few that can mix up a happy drae nicely,  
 As the wife o' Montgomerie's Inn.

\* She was the wife of John Montgomerie, of whom see page VI. -

In a poem by Andrew Aitken, she is called "The Wife o' Dalry"

"Her house is but wee, but it's neat, and weel-plenished,  
 Wi' a' thing to please bait, the mind an' the eye;  
 An' the rich, an' the poor, an' the young, an' the aged,  
 Are aye kindly used by the wife o' Dalry."





Hugh Morris,  
First President of  
Babry Burns' Club.

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" His life is gentle ; and the elements  
So mix'd in him , that Nature may stand up,  
And say to all the world , ' This is a man ! ' "

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RECORDS

of

DALRY BURNS' CLUB

"Soul of the poet! wheresoe'er,  
Reclaimed from earth, thy genius plume  
Her wings of immortality,  
Suspend thy harp in happier sphere,  
And with thine influence illumine  
The gladness of our jubilee."

In the year MDCCCXXVI a few kindred spirits instituted the Dalry Burns' Club. In an amusing collection of manuscripts of the late Andrew Crawford of Courthill, Dalry, we find that he discharged the duties of Croupier at the first Anniversary meeting held at Dalry in honour of the "High Chief of Scottish Song", and in proposing a toast to all the admirers of Burns, he said:—"This is the first time that our village attempted to celebrate the birth-day of our Ayrshire Bard, Robert Burns, and certainly it reflects little honour on our village, famed for song, that the neighbouring shires have been celebrating his worth for more than twenty years, and before this night is mute, but better late than never."

The following facetious lines in verse, embody the regulations of the Club:-

Dalry, Eighteen Hundred and twenty six,  
Assembled a few friends of Burns,  
To make regulations and yearly fix,  
What's to be done when his birthday returns.  
This year in Montgom'rie's it first shall take place,  
Where drink of the best shall be got,  
With a Haggis and Bannocks the table to grace,  
And a slice from the hip of a stot.

Political questions all banished shall be;

The Song it shall circle in turns;

Each shall have a glass of the Barley-bree,

To drink to the memory of Burns.

No insulting language our lips shall defile,

A neighbour's good humour to Cross;

So that every face may be gay with a smile,

While round go the song and the toast.-

The members of the Club have continued to hold Burns' Anniversary in "Montgomerie's Inn", Courthill, from the year MDCCCXXVI till MDCCCLX, which is sufficient reason to believe that though

"It's just theeket we strae, an' but laigh o' the ceiling,

That we scarce can stan' up straight within,

But there's aye something guid baith for eating an' drinking

To be had in Montgomerie's Inn."



Members present in MDCCCXXVI

1 Hugh Morris, President, born in Kirk close, Dalry, January 1786 - alive in 1860.- He is a portioner, and prosecutes the calling of the loom. He is extensively read, and few are better acquainted with the writings of the poets than he....He is extremely sensitiv and refined, and what with agreeable manners and an inexhaustible fund of anecdote, his company is courted and caressed. He was acquainted with Robert Tannahill, the sweet lyrical poet of Paisley, and had the pleasure of being frequently in his company along with R.A.Smith, the musical composer. He has seen John Home, the author of Douglas, and had the honour of shaking hands with Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. He has always taken a lively interest in all questions effecting the welfare, literature, art and musical science of his native town.

11 Andrew Crawford, Croupier, born in Courthill, Dalry, Circa 1776. He was a Wright or Turner. He had an excellent library; delighted in literary and antiquarian pursuits, and had "a fouth o' auld nick-nackets". He corresponded with Dr. Andrew Crawford of Johnshill, Lochwinnoch, a distinguished scholar and antiquary, as well as a poet, who wrote the following verses, entitled

A Gliffayout the Muills

My youdith was a winsum dreim,

And lang I've liv'd to mourn it sae,

My morning low't wi' sonce's gleim;

My gloming keps the thud of wae.

The sinnie knowes that ance war deir,

I taigle on,- ay fain to vew;

The spunk of lyfe that bleiz't sae cleir,

Is wisent to ane aizle now.

X William Hamilton, a native of Dalry, a Tinsmith and a very skilful tradesman.

XI John Hamilton, a native of Dalry. He was at one time a Weaver; but subsequently a Teacher at Kilwinning. He went ultimately to America and died there.

XII James McNair, a native of elderslie, the birth place of Sir William Wallace, the Scottish patriot. He came to Dalry, and was many years a Weaver. He is at present, 1860, a vintner. He is cheerful and intelligent, a loving husband, a tender father and a generous friend.

XIII John Montgomerie, a native of Dalry, born about 1790. He was a weaver; but latterly a Vintner, and Inspector of the poor until his death, which occurred in 1855. He was an enthusiastic admirer of the writings of Robert Burns, and a social and agreeable companion. Burns' Anniversary meetings have always been held in his house. Andrew Aitken of Overton, parish of Beith, says in his poem "recited before the Burns' club on the 26th. January, 1842", which will be given in full in due course -

"Time soon slips awa', for its saxteen lang towinonds  
Since our social Burns' Club did begin;  
And we've annually met on this night most auspicious,  
In Johnny Montgomerie's Inn."

XIV Thomas Smith, a native of Irvine.

XV John Kerr, a native of Rothesay. He was some years a weaver in Dalry, but for many years in the latter part of his life a Vintner. He was "a fine fat fodge wight, o' stature short", lively and intelligent, and sang a good comic and sentimental song. He was latterly secretary of the Dalry Burns' Club. He died in 1860; and it may be recorded of him that "his memory will be revered while the social affections are esteemed."

XVI James Steel, Son of Mr. Steel at one time the Parochial Schoolmaster of Dalry. He is at present, 1860, Clerk at Hurlet Colliery.

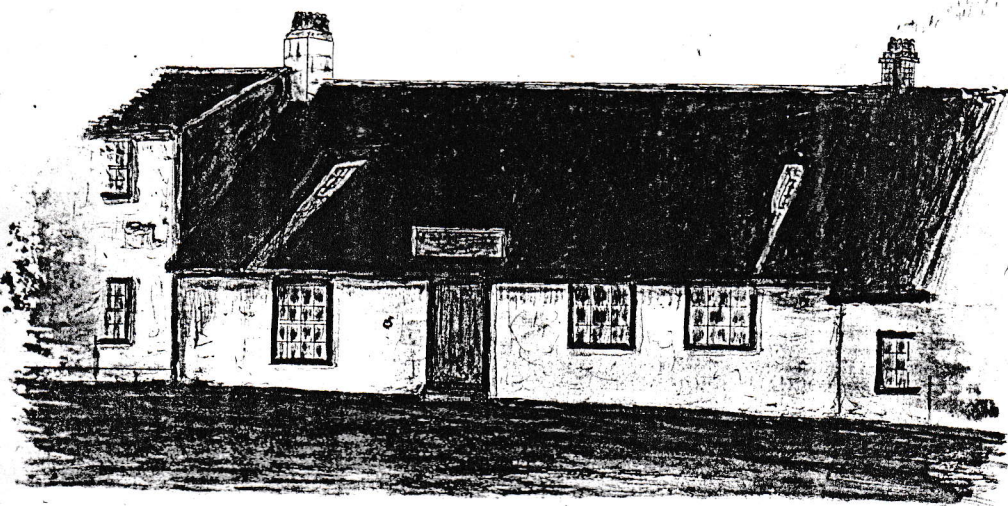


XVII Malcolm McDougal, Shoemaker, a native of Johnstone, intelligent, a good singer, and very agreeable and lively at the meetings of the Club.

XVIII John McMillan, a native of Stirlingshire, belonged to about Bannockburn. He came to Dalry, and was a wool spinner to Mr. Biggart. He died of Cholera.

XIX John Barbour, a native of Dalry, fond of all things that belonged to antiquity. He had a good library, a great reader, most tenacious memory. He was extremely eccentric, and careless of dress.

XX Hugh Kerr, a native of Dalry, a weaver, and for many years a manufacturer of Shawls in Glasgow, and is pretty clever.



"MONTGOMERIE'S INN".

BUILT CIRCA MDCCLXXVII.

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"It's just theeket wi' stae, an' but laigh o' the ceiling,  
That we scarce can stan' up straight within,  
But there's aye something quid baith for eating and drinking  
To be had in Montgomerie's Inn."

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MDCCLX.