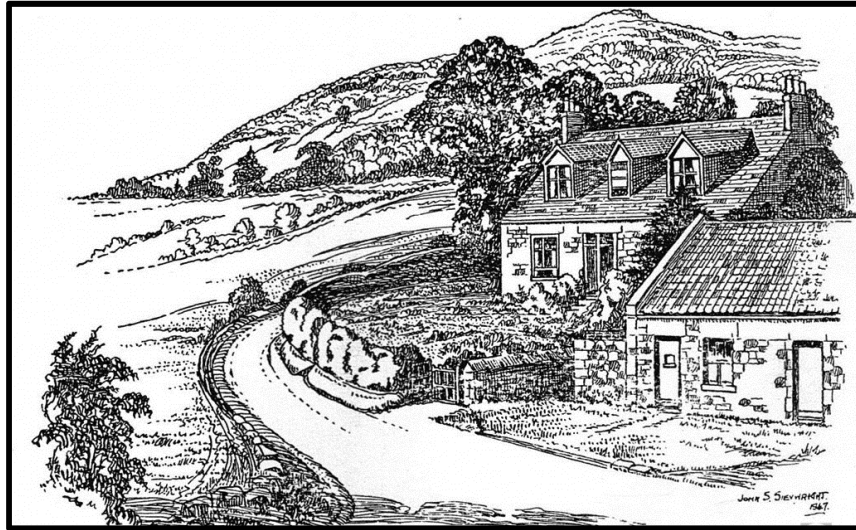


THE VILLAGES OF BALLINGRY



A sketch by the Rev. John Sieveright minister of Ballingry Church 1928/19

Ballingry (Bingry) has been in existence for many centuries as was confirmed on the alterations to Ballingry Church in the later part of the last century when a stone was uncovered that indicated that the church had been established in the eleventh century if not earlier. Although the parish of Ballingry covered the area of Glenraig, Crosshill and Lochore, and were bordered by Auchterderran to the east Lunphinnans to the south and Benarty to the north. Bingry was only a very small place having about twenty houses the Church, Graveyard and three farms (Kirklands, Ballingry and Navity). Being overlooked by Benarty Hill gave a beauty to the landscape viewed from the three villages (Glenraig, Crosshill and Lochore) that helped to take away the harshness of the damage by industrial waste caused by the coal mining. Prior to the sinking of Glenraig in 1890s and the Mary a few years later, creating a great increase of population in the villages by the need to have a work force.

BENARTY HILL

Benarty over many years has been admired and many words have been written about our hill, I hope readers will perhaps forgive me if I give some time to the hill as a boy in the local Scout Troop we had the freedom of the grounds of Lochore House by the then Manager of the Mary Colliery Mr. George Hutchison (Wee Geordie) and spent many happy times at campfires in the grounds and also on the North side we had the privilege to have a weekend campsite overlooking Loch Leven by the farmer of the Vane Farm now the Bird Sanctuary. In the post 1945 era Colonel Constable of Benarty allowed the scouts to camp on the lower part of Benarty on the Hill Road. From the peak of Benarty to the north the view cannot be bettered over looking Loch Leven and the surrounding hills.

LOCHORE HOUSE



Originally called Inchgall House but changed to Lochore House during the period of Sir Walter Scott's son's tenure.

LOCHGELLY'S PETER LESLIE

Probably the most noted to write about Benarty

**I've mused upon Benarty' Hill
When nature's sweets were singing
And toddled off by Inchga' Mill
Where bonny flowers were springing
An' I hae roved thru Colin's crags
Her glens and lovely rills
An' mony a pleasant day I've spent
Upon the Torry hills.**

BONNIE BENARTY

By
Janet Shand

There's a far away hill in the kingdom o' Fife.
And in fancy I see it ilk day o' my life,
And at night, in my dreams, aft I wander fu'fain
'mong its bracken and broom and red heather again.
There are hills in the land mair majestic and hie,
Though nane but itsel' I've a hankerin' to see,
Far, far wad I gang, and ne'er weary atwell,
The green sunny slopes o' Benarty to speil,
And what gars me lang frae my heart to be there,
It's no but there's scenes that I ken o' as fair.

Though whiles frae its tap, looking down on Loch Leven,
I hae thocht it nae less than a glimpse into Edin,
But ayont, and ower a', tis a dream o' lang syne,
That hallows the spot wi' a charm maist divine,
A fond recollection o' blythe days of yore,
When I wooed 'mong its woodland the maid o' Lochore

Oh can I forget in the gloamin' sae still
Hoo I sped ower the fields to the farm on the hill,
And lingered impatient aside the auld birk,
Till she stole to my side like the dawn through the mirk?
O' what wi' the bliss o' young love can compare! Afore or mair
In my journey through life I've ha'en joy less or mair,
But neither afore nor sin syne hae I kent
Sic rapturous 'oors as the gather we spent.

Though nigh threty milestones I've past on life's road
Sin'last there we pairtet, ilk pathway we trod
And ilk nook whaur we sat in my memory are green
As gin we had only traversed them yestreen;
And a licht that is shed not by the sun nor by moon
Illumines the landscape and haloes it roon',
And it never shall fade while I treasure each thought,
And cherish the memories that cling round the spot.

Janet Shand's works has been lost in the passage of time, she lived in Spail Inn (a steading opposite Bankson Cottage Lochcraig near the Masonic Hall) in the late 1800s but penned many worthy verses.

BALLINGRY

(PRE 1948)

The Ballingry I knew as a boy has greatly changed from a few houses and a pleasant walk commonly known as the strip, starting at Flockhouse Hall and at Ballingry Road Lochore. The history of the Ballingry Church goes back to the eleventh century but during recent alterations I believe a stone was revealed that suggested it may have existed prior to that, however if any reader is interested in the church history I would suggest The Reverent Jamie's book or Edward Henderson's Lochoreside.

On leaving Ballingry School northward on the left are Viewfield Cottages and on the right a road that led to the Flockhouse Rows, two miners rows, continuing on the main road there were two cottages one of which the present Police Station now stands and below the other still standing, then the Flockhouse Hall which was the first school in the area now the site of Bonars Garage continuing on the Kirklands Farm is on the right before to the fork in the road the Shank of Navitie where Peter Lister lived and ran his fresh fish cart to the surrounding area, and in the entrance to the cottage a small shop on the opposite side was the homes of the Page family one of the brothers starting the present hostelry another live in a house (now demolished) with the stream running past his door, turning towards the cemetery two cottages stood before reaching the cemetery and as you continued towards the church a double story building beside the church and the manse, on the opposite side of the road stood the Priory a two story building before reaching the farm buildings, continuing to the then start of the Hill Road a cottage and a short distance a wooden construction known as the bungalow. Turning towards Lochore a short distance from the church the drive to Lochore House (originally known as Inchgall House) once the home of Sir Walter Scott's son whom Sir Walter was a regular visitor.

FLOCKHOUSE SCHOOL



The Area's first school

KIRKLANDS FARM



On the left a few house the Shank of Navity with Navity Farm in the background. On the right in the foreground Kirkland Farmand behind the Bishop Hill

SHANK OF NAVATIE



On the right Peter Lister operated a fish cart to the local villages and at the doorway into his house sold sweets and lemonade mainly to the local walkers on their way to Loch Leven. On the opposite sidethe Page family homes where one of them established a Public House which is still in existence.In the background Navity Farm.

NAVITY HOUSE



Front View



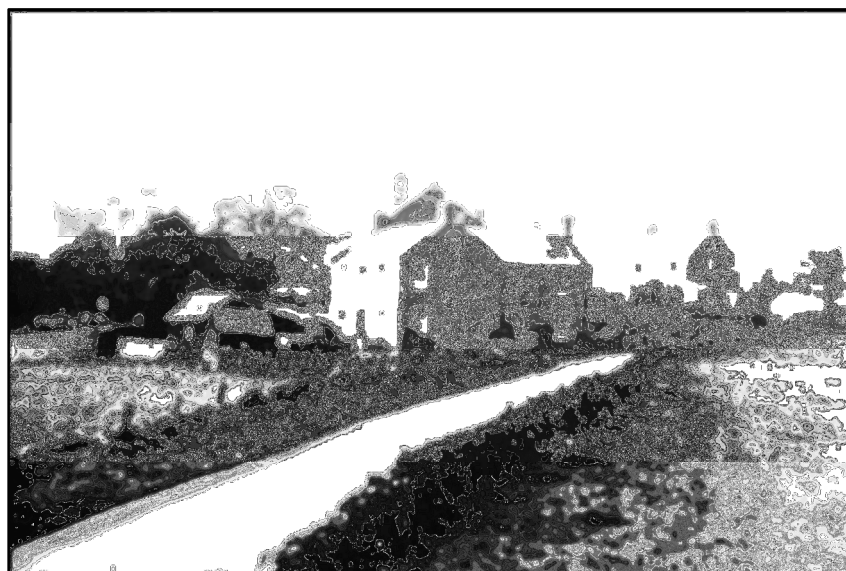
Rear View

SHANK OF NAVITE



The Shank of Navity from the road towards the cemetery.

**TOWARDS THE CHURCH FROM THE CEMETARY
THE PRIORY IS TO THE RIGHT OF THE PICTURE**



BALLINGRY CHURCH & MANSE



**ON THE EXTREME RIGHT BEHIND THE MANSE JUST VISABLE THE FARM BUILDINGS AND
BETWEEN THE TREES AND THE CHURCH THE PRIORY**

BALLINGRY CHURCH



Auld Bingry Kirk

**There's a little Kirk in Bingry at the foot of Dunmore hill,
With the graveyard lying round it so peaceful and so still
It's walls are weather beaten its stones are old and grey,
Yet its memories throng round it of many a bye gone day.**

**From yonder quaint old belfry the chimes ring loud and clear,
Calling all Christian people, to whom gods house is dear,
O listen ye toiling people come wither while you may,
Come to the holy sanctuary and hear what god might say.**

**There's a minister at Bingry an honest man and true,
Who labours for his people and the works that he can do.
There's Mr.Park our session clerk no better could we need,
There's Henderson, Donaldson, Drysdale and there's Speed**

**There's workers in the Sunday School and in the Band of Hope,
To one and all our thanks we give for the tasks with which they
cope,
Then last not least our Beadles come and with them both our
Guilds,
Tis for the sake of the junior one that tonight our hall is filled.**

**In the midst of all our nonsense our merriment and fun.
We don't forget our masters words and let Gods Will be done,
And so we pray our father to guide our Guild a right,
May no unhallowed thought or word be found in us tonight.**

**We thank you for your presence your help and all the rest,
And at this time of Christmas we wish you all the best,
God bless the Kirk at Bingry, at the foot of Dunmore,
O guide and keep its people in thy care for ever more.**

Jenny Muir (nee Stark) 1926

**The Minister at the time of Jenny writing this tribute was the Reverent George Scanlan
who in 1927 transferred to Strathmiglo.**

20TH. FIFE SCOUT GROUP 1930s



COLOUR PARTY AT BALLINGRY CHURCH

HOME GUARD 1939/45



ON CHURCH PARADE AT BALLINGRY CHURCH 1939/45.

LOCHORE HOUSE



The Lochore House, originally called Inchgall House was built in the late 1560s was at one time home of Sir Walter Scott's son and his father was a constant visitor