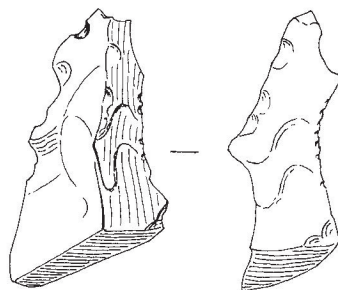
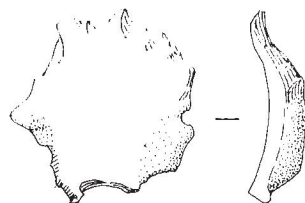


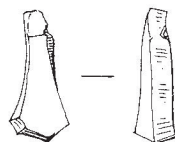
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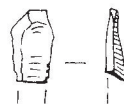
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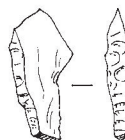
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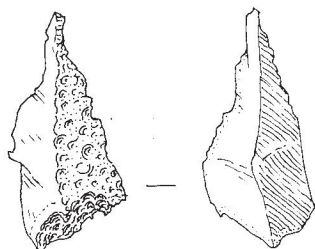
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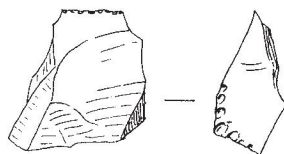
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B 67

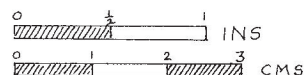


B 75



B 83

AGATES 1:1



SOME RESEARCHES SELECTED FROM THE PERIOD 1557-1731 INTO EARLY SCHOOLING IN BUTE

K. Clegg, J. Sandeman.

Inspired by Mr A. M. Orr's book on 'Schools of Bute' and intrigued by the stories our grandparents told of barefooted children walking long distances to school, we decided to find out more about the early days of schooling in Bute. Surely few children can have crossed to school by rowing boat as did the children from Inchmarnock.

Early records of education on Bute are scarce and fragmentary. Local records were removed by Cromwell's men. 1. "On the 16th December 1660, 85 hogshead of papers and original records were lost on board ship."

There had been an act of Parliament in 1494 which stated that "Barons and freeholders of substance were to send their eldest sons to school at aught or nyne yeirs of age." 2. This may have been the first act in Europe to set up any form of compulsory education.

In 1560 John Knox and fellow informers produced the First Book of Discipline. The section on education outlined plans for elementary schools in every Parish, and Grammar Schools in towns of any repute. 2.

Nevertheless the first definite evidence we have found of schools in Bute is of a Grammar School in Rothesay between 1557-1634, 3. and a thatched school in Castle Street in 1680 4.

This latter school was badly built and frequent references were made to the disastrous state of the roof. Consequently classes were held for many years in the Bishop's Palace prior to the making of a proper road up to Castle Street. William McCartney, schoolmaster pled constantly "to make the schoolhouse convenient and decent, as well as warmer, than it was with an earthen floor" but the town Council only agreed to plaster the roof. 5.

For many years after William McCartney's death the authorities had difficulty in appointing a suitable teacher and they eventually decided to build a new school. The old school was "selt for £67." 6.

The records are confusing because of the frequency of the name Stuart or Stewart. The schoolmasters, scholmasters, schollmasters or schuilmaisters of those names included Robert, James, Dugald and Patrick or Patrik. The latter seems to have given intermittent service and may have been that Rev. Patrik Stuart who was "deposed by the Presbytery on May 25, 1657 for swearing at his mother-in-law" 6.

In the country areas in the late 1600's there were itinerant teachers for whom rooms were made available in certain farms. The fees paid

to the scholemaister were on a sliding scale according to the amount of land farmed by each family. 7.

Even in the 1600's the curriculum was varied. It included "writing, reading, vulgar language and Latin grammar. 7. In Kerrycroy the wife of the schoolmaster was employed "to instruct in needlework." It is interesting to note that agriculture and navigation were among the subjects taught.

Much emphasis was placed on Religious Instruction. The Kirk Session held powerful sway over the people's activities. Wrongdoers incurred fines, a proportion of which fell to the Session Clerk. This could make him very unpopular and vulnerable to the merest breath of scandal. One victim of such misreport in 1706 was John Dallas. He was reported to have been involved with a local lady, this was denied by all parties involved. 8.

Salaries were a constant source of dispute. In 1649 the Scottish Parliament passed an Act providing that each parochial teacher would have a "reasonable salary." Not less than 100 merks (£5-16s-1½d) and not more than 200 merks. The Town Council Records for 1655 tell us that Mr McGilchrist's remuneration of £40 Scots (£3-6s-8d) was payable half yearly with fees of ten shillings for each town child and twelve shillings for each landward child. Unfortunately the Town Council did not always keep its promises. In 1731 the schoolmaster, Robert Wallace, had a particularly difficult time. The records show that of £640 due to him over 16 years of office, only £367-9s-5d had been paid. The council agreed to pay the rest by instalments. 8.

The authors would like to thank the District Archivist Murdo Macdonald, M.A. and Jullian Hill, M.A., B.A., for their help and encouragement.

Information was obtained from the Town Council Records, Parish and Parochial Board records now in Lochgilphead and Glasgow University Library, and from the Museum Library.

1. Blane's "History of Bute."
2. "A Compendium of Scottish Culture," by David Daiches.
3. I. S. Munro, "The Island of Bute."
4. Grants, "History of Bute."
5. J. F. Reid, "History of the County of Bute."
6. Town Council Records.
7. Kingarth Parish Records.
8. Town Council Records.

BUTESHIRE'S NAVAL AND MILITARY CONTRIBUTION IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

by Commander Ian Hamilton, R.N. (Rtd.)

An examination of the records shows that the County of Bute made a surprisingly large contribution to the Armed Services of the United Kingdom during the Napoleonic Wars. In addition to those who served on Regular engagements in the Royal Navy and the Army, and those press-ganged from amongst the seafaring inhabitants, the County provided Quota-Men for the Royal Navy, the Argyll & Buteshire Militia, the Buteshire Battalion of Volunteer Infantry (including an Artillery section), the Bute Volunteer Cavalry and the Buteshire Regiment of Local Militia. There is mention, too, that "Two special collections (in the Parish Church) for parishioners, while Prisoners of War in France, realized £115" – a very considerable sum in those days.

The Royal Navy

The Napoleonic Wars saw a vast increase in the size of the Royal Navy. From a total of 20,000 in 1793, it rose steadily, with a sharp break in 1802 – 1803, to a total of 145,000 Seamen and Marines in 1812. With an entry of Volunteers of only 25%, reliance had to be placed on obtaining "conscripts." This, primarily, took the form of seafaring men taken by the Press Gangs, but there were limits to what the Press Gangs could do. Beyond a certain point, the burden on the Merchant Navy would be too great, thus damaging the prosperity of the nation, and losing essential imports. So were enacted the Quota Acts of 1795.

While the impressments went on, the Magistrates of the Counties, Cities and Towns of the Realm were required to produce for service an allotted number of men. Michael Lewis in his "A Social History of the Navy" quotes, "Yorkshire 1,081; Rutland, 23; London, 5,704 and Radnor, 26." Rothesay was particularly hard hit. Blain quotes the figure of 168, but the town could only produce, as Blain writes, "94 men who were accepted in full." It, of course, gave the Magistrates the opportunity to dispose of all the undesirable characters in their area. Moreover, these Quota-Men were permitted to find substitutes.

With regard to officers, Marshall's "Royal Naval Biography" indicates that, whereas, in proportion to population, there were as many Scottish Officers as English Officers in the Royal Navy, in the years 1793 – 1815, none are recorded as being from Buteshire.