

RENFREW and BUTE POLICE

1949 – 1954 — Chief Constable John Robertson

1954 – 1967 — Chief Constable Robert S. Allan

1967 – 1975 — Chief Constable David Williamson

1975 — Regionalisation of Police Forces took place and Renfrew and Bute Police became part of Strathclyde Police.

APPENDIX "C"

List of Police Exhibits Relative to Rothesay Burgh Police and Bute County Police Passed to Buteshire Natural History Society in 1985.

- (1) Police Baton of ROTHESAY BURGH POLICE.
Rothesay Burgh Police was formed in 1846 during the reign of Queen Victoria 1837 – 1901. This Baton is dated as having been brought into use during the reign of Queen Victoria's successor, King Edward VII 1901 – 1910.
- (2) Police Training Manual of John Mackay, Chief Constable of Bute County Police 1858 — 1898.
- (3) Police Training Manual for Scottish Police Forces compiled by a committee of the Scottish Chief Constables' Association.

A. Hunter

On the 17th of June, 1768, James Robertson sailed from Brodick, and five and a half hours later landed at Kilchattan Bay. He was a gardener turned field botanist, and a distinguished one, although now almost forgotten. The purpose of his visit to Bute was to list the plants on the island for John Hope, Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, and in eighteen days he listed 445 species "numerous considering the short time he was there" said Professor Hope, in a letter to the 3rd Earl of Bute, himself a botanist of note.

Dr. J. H. Dickson, of the Department of Botany in the University of Glasgow, deals with part of this list in his article in these transactions.

After his various journeys through Scotland, he made the first recorded ascents of many of the mountains, Robertson botanised in St. Helena, Cape Province, India and China. He was a keen observer of more than flowers and plants, for he included with his list of plants for John Hope his "Remarks on the island of Bute," which are now at Mount Stuart. Here they are reproduced in facsimile.

*Remarks made by James Robertson on the
Island of Bute 1768.*

17th June 1768. - At Brodwick in Arran, I took Boat for the Island of Bute, and in five hours & a half was landed in Hilcatling Bay. -

The Island of Bute is reckoned Twelve miles in length from South to North, from Two to Four in Breadth from East to West, in some places, the inlets of the Sea have reduced it to about One mile in Breadth. -

This Island is not mountainous, there are still some heath moors, in a state of Nature, but for the greatest part, is arable ground, which they are improving by inclosing with Hedges, Ditch or walls. - By Summer following, and by sowing Rye Grass, Clover seeds &c. -

The Soil in general inclines to Clay, in some places, it is sharp and gravelish. -

Near the South End of the Island, there is plenty of Limestone. - All to the North of Rothway, the rocks are of the Nature of Slate, and some of them a very good blue Slate, not much inferior to that of Esdale. - Between Rothway and Hilcatling, the rocks are a free red Stone, thick set with Pebbles, and to the South of that, the Rock is whin or Limestone. -

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They sow Oats, Barley, and some Pease, a good deal of Flax, and some Hemp; and Plant large Quantities of Potatoes in Beds, but in my humble Opinion, they have not fallen into the best way of cultivating them. -

(For Manure, they use lime, Sea Shells, Sea weeds, and a marble formed of Sea Corallines. -

I was informed that they are prohibited from burning Sea weeds. -

In this Island there are about Five thousand Souls. - The men and women are of an ordinary size, generally of a Brown complexion, are very healthy, and some live to a great age. - The common people feed meanly, yet use much more grain, than in Arran, and whether from a virtuous inclination or from some other circumstances, I cannot say, but it is very evident they are more industrious in their several callings, than the Inhabitants of Arran, they are civil to strangers. - Most of them can speak Irish, but at the same time all understand English. -

Diseases. - They have generally the Small Pox, once in the twenty years, but there are many old People in the Island, who never had them. - Twenty years ago the Scurvy was very frequent, but now it is seldom to be met with. - Children are subject to Worms and fevers, and the common people to the

Scurvy.

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Scurvy, and itch. - Children likewise dye of what in Arran is called the Eight days Sickness, or Hoodfall, as it is called here. - It commonly seizes them before the Eight day, and is immediate death, their Jaws fall so, that the point of a Knife, cannot be introduced betwixt the Gums. - And this disease is imputed to the unskilfulness of the Midwives X. In Spring, Coughs and Sore throats are frequent. -

The principal produce of the Island, is Grain, so that the Number of Cows and Sheep, are not very considerable. - There is a great Number of Boats, which in Spring are employed in the Cod Fishing, In Autumn in the Herring. -

At Mountstewart, there is an elegant house, belonging to the Earl of Bute, the principal proprietor of the Island, surrounded with large Plantations of Trees, both indigenous and exotick (of which I have subjoined a List) laid out prettily in Pleasant walks, and agreeable views; And there are large Nurseries of Young Trees. -

At Ascoli there are some Plantations and at Kames? X there is an old square Tower surrounded with old and very fine Timber trees, Ash, Elm, &c. And in several parts of the Island there are Natural Woods. -

Rothsay

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Rothsay is an Ancient Burgh, there is a Key, and pretty good small harbour, and within these three years, a Customhouse has been established. - Irish Ships from the West Indies generally come here, to receive a packet for Ireland, As by this, there is a saving. - From this, and other circumstances, Rothsay is in a growing State, many People resorting to it, and Building genteel houses. - It is however very much to be regretted, that they are Building without a plan, and without any attention to the regularity or Beauty of the Streets. -

Here there are to be seen the remains of an old Castle, surrounded with a sally, over which, there was a Draw Bridge to the East. -

At the South End of the Island, are the remains of an old Chapel or Druid Temple, it is remarkable that the men and women, were Buried in different places, the former in a spot of ground raised by Art, the latter in a lower piece of ground near the other. -

In several places, there are Graves of men of an extraordinary Stature; especially at Lubas & Cherry Lamonde; And in the South End of the Island, there are Caves, particularly one at Brough-hag, which can contain Forty men. At

5 At Dunagule, there is a subterraneous passage, the extent of which no body knows.

(Firing) - In the South End of the Island, the Inhabitants are much at a loss, for fuel, as they have neither Peat, nor any sort of Furze, but at the North End, they have both plenty of Peat and heath. - There have been lately several Trials for Coals, which have not proved successful. -

At Rosck, a thin seam of Coal, was discovered, it lay oblique, and in several places, was cut by perpendicular dykes, of whin Stone, and was not prosecuted.

Inchmarnock

Is a very Beautiful little Island belonging to the Earl of Bute, it may be about a mile in length, and half a mile in Breadth, The greatest part of it is arable Ground, the Soil inclines to Clay. On the West side of the Island, there is great plenty of Shell marle, which they dig up & lay on their Land. -

X The Disease James Robertson here describes, I take to be the Locked Jaw, and not generally to arise from the unskillfulness of the Midwives, but from an unlucky Custom they have, of carrying new born Infants in all seasons of the Year, out to Church to be baptized - I remember very well the late Dr. Simpson of St. Andrews informed me, that this disease, was very frequent when he first settled at St. Andrews, and after considering every Circumstance, he imputed it to the above cause, and was lucky enough, after some years, to bring the people into his opinion, - and after that, new born Children were seldom brought in severe weather to Church to be Baptized, the disease seldom occurred. - As this is a Circumstance of real importance, I have wrote to Mr. Blair, your Lordship's Factor, for further information, and thereafter shall lay my opinion before the Commissioners of Annexed Estates J. R.

X Here the Manuscript was not legible