



THE AGNEW ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 10 JANUARY 1990



Lady Agnew, Emma, Sir Crispin,
Roseanna, Isabel

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

There was a time when I could not understand why my married friends could never find time to come climb a mountain with me. They always had some fine excuse and the companion of many a weekend in the hills or week in the greater alps, after marriage would slip away from my merry round of high crags, steep rocks and blue ice. With three young, demanding and greatly entertaining daughters, I now understand the problem, as many of you have understood it for years. If the Agnew household is presently incommunicado, it is because all communication is directed inwards to introducing three young 'uns to the world and at the same time trying to keep the legal be-wigged head above the sea of briefs.

Despite our submergence, I am glad to see that the Association with its branches and separate societies in North America and Australia is flourishing and expanding the membership worldwide. It still gives me great pleasure to be able to meet with so many members. It was a particular pleasure to be able to come to San Francisco this September, or should I say fall, and be able to attend the bi-annual meeting of the American Society at the 125th Highland Games organised by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco at Santa Rosa. I was made welcome by all the members and thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Art Agnew, Convenor of the American Society and Evelyn his wife had born the brunt of making that meeting such an outstanding success.

~~It was good to see representation from Australia in the shape of Ray Agnew, Convenor in Australia. His increasing committment to local government makes organising the Agnews, never an easy task, a bit more difficult. I still hear that the Agnews in Sydney turn up to represent the Agnews at Sydney Scottish Week.~~

The Association and its membership is fun and brings us all together in a loose membership with nothing much more in common than a name, but once that link is forged, I am pleased to say that the name is a powerful catalyst in starting the chemistry, which had led to the many friendships which have been born out of the association and which my wife and I value so much.

When the children are older, we all look forward to travelling with them and introducing them to all our friends but this then while keeping a low profile, we wish you all the best for the years to come.

Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw

SIR CRISPIN AGNEW OF LOCHNAW BT

NEWSLETTER

New Volunteer Editor Required.

The newsletter has been edited by Sir Crispin and Lady Agnew of Lochnaw, with help from Swanzie, Lady Agnew of Lochnaw since its inception. Regretfully the Newsletter is one of the casualties of a young family and we are looking for a new editor. Would any volunteers please contact Sir Crispin as soon as possible to discuss taking over, what is not particularly an onerous task if you do not have three demanding children whose sole aim in life is to use the proofs as copy for their next watercolour masterpiece. The costs are paid by the Association, but an ability to type/wordprocess is useful.

Unless a new editor can be found it is regretted that the next Newsletter is unlikely to be published for 10 years.

ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

The Scottish Association now has about 200 members and needs a co-ordinating secretary and membership secretary. If anyone is interested in undertaking this task, which can be very interesting as you correspond with all the membership and are the link with the Scottish Tourist Board and other organisations in Scotland who co-ordinate Clan Societies attending some of their meetings, please contact Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw Bt.

NEXT SCOTTISH GATHERING

The Dumfries and Galloway Tourist Board are considering holding a "Roots Fortnight" in May 1992, with many organised events, displays, seminars etc. It might be a good idea to link the next Scottish Gathering to that week in May 1992. If anyone would like to co-ordinate and organise a gathering in Scotland to coincide with that week, please get in touch with Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw Bt.

THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES

There are now only a limited number of copies left of Major Douglas Agnew's book "The Whites of their Eyes", which is a history of the Agnews of Lochnaw and their branches in a military setting. Price £19 (or near \$ etc equivalent) inclusive of postage, from Sir Crispin of Lochnaw Bt.

BRIG. STAIR STEWART

Brigadier Stair Stewart CBE, bridge designer and inventor died on May 1st aged 86. He was born on April 23rd 1904.

The best known product of the team of designers at the Army's Experimental Bridging Establishment which Brigadier Stair Stewart led was the Bailey Bridge. without it Field Marshall Montgomery would not have won the war. Another design was a so called "scissors assault bridge" which could be carried on a tank chassis, then opened up like scissors so that it spreadeagled the gap to be crossed. Stewart thought up a way of making it function from an idea he had in his bath. The Bailey Bridge, which was sturdy enough for armoured vehicles to use was first drawn up - a brilliant concept - on the back of an envelope by Donald Bailey, a civil servant whose name it commemorated. Stewart being Superintendent of the Experimental Bridging Establishment foresaw the potential of the Bailey Bridge - its potentiality, ease of manufacture and adaptability. With Stewart's backing the Bailey Bridge was developed in five months from inception. It was first used in the Italian campaign, then in north west Europe and then to replace bridges blown up by the retreating Germans, thus maintaining the Allie's momentum.

A Brigadier General's son, Stewart was educated at Winchester and commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1924. Two years later he was selected to join the Experimental Bridging Establishment where he took part in the original interview to recruit Donald Bailey into it. After the war Stewart was Deputy Director of Fortification and Works at the War Office from 1950-53; and Deputy Director of Works in Middle East Land Forces 1953-56 where he successfully developed the use of solar heating for army married quarters. He was at the Ministry of Supply from 1956-59. After retirement he was Director of the British Road Tar Association for 12 years.

Stair Stewart was inventive. He made his own windscreen washers for his cars long before the rest of the world had them; flickering lights for roadworks were his idea; and a lawn edge cutter based on his idea was patented by Stewart and manufactured.

He was appointed OBE in 1949, CBE in 1956 and ADC to the Queen from 1957-59. He was also awarded the American Legion of Merit for passing on expertise in bridge-building.

He was an enthusiastic cricket supporter and tennis player.

His wife predeceased him and he is survived by a daughter, Carolyn.

BIRTH OF AN AGNEW

AGNEW On December 4th 1988 at Cresswell Hospital, Dumfries to Catherine (nee Palmer) and Richard, a son.

WEDDINGS

Mr M Agnew and Mrs R Wylde

The marriage took place in Bournemouth on June 8th 1988 between Mr Martin Agnew, younger son of the late Mr Gerald Agnew of London and Mrs Rosemary Wylde of Amsterdam, Florence and London. A reception will be held later at the Special Forces Club, London

Mrs Rosemary Agnew is the holder of the NETHERLANDS RESISTANCE MEMORIAL CROSS for her services in Holland in the war. It is a rare award only held by twenty British people.

SACRED STONES, WEST WALL, NORTH OF THE MAIN WALK, GREYFRIAR'S CHURCH YARD
JAMES WOLFE MURRAY

West Wall, North of the Main Walk, Greyfriar's Church Yard Sacred to the memory of James Wolfe Murray, Esquire of Cringeltie. For eighteen years, a senator of the College of Justice and of the Jury Court.

He was born in 1759
and died at the age of 77 in 1836

His father

Alexander Murray Esq of Cringeltie served with distinction in America under General Wolfe and having been present at the battle of Quebec gave his son (born at Louisburg the same year) the name of the renowned leader who fell on that occasion.

This tablet is erected by Isabella Strange his widow and twelve surviving children, that in this place of tombs the remains of one whom private worth and public usefulness; a high sense of honour and the most zealous discharge of every duty alike distinguished, may not moulder in an unknown grave.

ALEXANDER MURRAY

Beneath are interred the remains of Mrs Marianne Murray
relict of

Alexander Murray Esq of Cringeltie

The mother venerable and revered of James Wolfe Murray Esq whose dust reposes in the adjoining grave. She was the daughter of Sir James Stewart of Coltness Bart, Solicitor General and M.P. for the county of Edinburgh

by

Anne, daughter of Sir Hugh Dalrymple of North Berwick, Lord President of the Court of Session

and here

Catherine Stewart, her daughter who died unmarried in 1835 aged 79 was interred at her side

ALICIA STEWART

Here also where young and old meet together the ashes rest of
Alicia Stewart

A much beloved daughter, who blooming but to perish died adorned with every grace and virtue - February 19th 1833 at the age of 20 years.

Plucked from its stem, the bud before flower
Had all the blight of winter's chilling hour
Weaned from a life of grief and sorrows nought
When time its vale of tears had scarcely sought
Her fragile form here found that sacred rest

Thanks to Swanzie Agnew for this article.

Notice is hereby given that a High School under the Government Superintendent of Education will be opened on Tuesday March 2nd in premises in Longmarket Street, directly opposite to the residence of D.D. Buchanan Esq.

Headmaster - Mr William Calder, Govt. Teacher,

Classical Master - Rev. M.E. Rowlandson, M.A.

School Fee 10 per annum payable quarterly.

By His Excellency's Command

D Erskine, Colonial Secretary

Colonial Office, Natal

Feb 16 1863

The son of the Hon. David Erskine, St Vincent Witchard Erskine ultimately married Alice, David Dale Buchanan's daughter - so that in this notice the present Erskines have both maternal and paternal Gt-Gt Grandfathers mentioned. David Dale Buchanan was also the founder of the Natal Witness in which that notice appears in the supplement to the Natal Witness, Wednesday 2nd March 1863.

Thanks to Swanzie Agnew for this article.

TRAVELS OF LOIS SCHIEK

First stop San Francisco where I had a wonderful evening with my eldest grandson who has recently started a business of his own in a geophysical area - he is a reluctant bachelor who longs for a wife and family! Art Agnew collected me from my hotel and I spent a wonderful weekend with his family. He and Evelyn are delightful hosts. His daughter, our new editor, was unable to join us but I met with her on my return to California a month later and we became good friends in a short time. Isn't it wonderful to like people you are associated with in a business arrangement.

Next to Honolulu where I met with a member of Harriet Moir and again remarked how compatible we Agnews are. I enjoyed her company so much that I included her in a dinner on my return trip en route home. I also took a side trip to Kauai on that leg of my journey making a visit to Maui on the return to the islands.

On to Christ Church, New Zealand and a visit to an unknown cousin in a charming town of Whakatane before heading to Auckland where I contacted and had lunch with Robert Agnew who was delighted to hear all my experiences in Scotland, Ireland and the U.S. in connection with the Agnews.

The scene shifts to Melbourne and a lovely visit with friends whom I met in London on their honeymoon in 1975. They have two children now and I was immediately adopted as an extra grandmother. They introduced me to a charming widower who showed me a delightful time sightseeing and sampling the meals in most interesting restaurants. I also enjoyed seeing my granddaughter recently married and having moved to Melbourne with her. Onto a visit with the warmest of hospitality to Ray and Claudia Agnew on their station in Australia for raising sheep and the food to feed their flocks. Their home is lovely, they showed me an Australia I had never dreamed of and I met more Agnews in a short time, all related to them, than I could have imagined. I saw and held a baby 'roo, other emus and kangaroos in parks nearby, had delightful meals. (I revelled in the many lamb dishes available). They rescued me from a lost air ticket with their resources and I was able to continue my odyssey.

On to Sydney where I contacted other cousins who had been corresponding, a former neighbour recently retired to Sydney and quite a visit with Del Agnew. She seemed extremely happy to see me and I had an opportunity to lunch at the Commonwealth Club and had tea with her at "Wellings" - she and Dr. Grant joined me for dinner at my hotel also. Mrs Lloyd and Joanna Deck remembered me from my visits to Lochinvar and it was good to see them again. Returning to California, after another few days in Hawaii I again saw my grandson and several dear friends and my husband's brother and his family. The shock a week later when the earthquake hit was the realisation that just a few days prior I had travelled over the Oakland Bay Bridge four times.

BRASS SUNDIAL FROM LOCHNAW CASTLE

Sundial A Adie, Edinburgh c. 1825 (T1981.35)

Circular horizontal pedestal sundial in brass engraved at the North point of the dial "A Adie Edinburgh". Engraved chapter ring iii-xii-viii divided to 1. min. central 8 point compass rose flanked by a 2 part calendar scale with "equation of time" corrections given throughout the year in intervals of 1 min. The gnomon with a measured angle of 55" pierced to give a plain inclined stile with an S-shaped support; attached to the dial plate by 4 screws from beneath. The intersection of the gnomon edges and the plate inscribed on 2 bronze plugs set into the plate. At the South side of the dial is engraved the armoial achievement of Agnew of Lochnaw. Overall diameter 398mm. Gnomon height 217 mm.

Although the gnomon appears to be contemporary, the separation of the principal attachment holes in the plate has had to be reduced to accommodate it and the central locating pin is not present.

The sundial was presumably commissioned from Alexander Aide between 1822 and 1835 by a member of the Agnew family whose seat is Lochnaw Castle near Stranraer, Wigtownshire. The representation of the Agnew achievement is as follows; on an oval shield, set with a cartouche the tinctures rendered with the Petra Sancta system; Argent a chevron between the two cinquefoils in Chief Gules and a saltire in base Azure. The shield surrounded by the motto of the Order of the Baronets of Nova Scotia "FAX MENTIS HONESTAE GLORIA" (Glory is the light of a noble mind) with the oval badge of the Order suspended beneath the shield (Argent a saltire Azure, en surtout, the Royal Arms of Scotland; the shield surmounted by an imperial crown). Above the cartouche a knight's helm with mantling Argent doubled Azure (should be Gules) and for crest an eagle issuant and regardant Proper. The supporters are two heraldic tigers Proper gorged with a caronet and chained on standing on an architectural compartment incorporating a ribbon bearing the motto CONSILIO NON IMPETU (By counsel, not by force).

We are grateful to Charles Burnett, Ross Herald for his advice. It is most likely that the dial was made for Sir Andrew Agnew (1793 - 1849) 7th Bt M.P. for Wigtownshire 1830-1873. Agnew attended classes at Edinburgh University 1810-11 and spent subsequent years in the improvement of the estate and castle. John Hay (1758-1836) landscape gardner of Edinburgh, designed the formal garden in which the sundial was located. (T McCrie Memoirs of Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw Bart (London and Edinburgh 1850) 25; A A Tait, The Landscape Garden in Scotland (Edinburgh 1980) 144.255).



TARTAN

One of the most interesting exhibitions at the Edinburgh Festival of 1989 was the history of tartan as an expression of the Scottish nation.

The earliest example of the beginning of a distinctive weave is a fragment from the Roman period when two contrasting threads give a pattern of squares as checks. Such simplicity is maintained in what is known as the shepherd's tartan, essentially a length of material called a plaid designed to protect the shepherd from the cold and wet, as well as a cover to an ailing lamb when carried under arm.

The two colour check is the foundation of all tartans varied from the 18th Century, with the addition of overchecks, bands and stripes in contrasting colours. Early on the colours came predominately from vegetable dyes bringing green and brown with addition later of primaries - red, blue, yellow with white often in a stripe between colours.

In the days of stark subsistence, isolated from exchange and a money economy the peoples of the remote highlands and islands - indeed on the outer edge of Europe had preforce to spin and weave their own cloth from wool and flax. Their simple looms allowed a narrow woven plaid from 4 to 7 yards long. Without sewing the cloth was pleated and belted at the waist with the excess "end" draped accross the chest and shoulders. When the kilt was developed the plaid became a separate piece. Lack of pockets brought the sporran made as were the simple laced shoes from cattle, sheep and deer. The poorest wore the carefully arranged "blanket" bare legged; but by 1700 the chieftains and their families had the addition of leggins or trews with a close fitting doublet over a linen shift, across which the plaid was laid. These developments are shown in portraits of the time and such garmets that have been preserved. With the introduction of knitting came the woollen stocking in red and white checks, rather than the woven trews as tights as we would call them today.

In 1746 after the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden the Disarming Act outlawed the wearing of Highland dress composed of a "tartan" or even part-coloured cloth. It is thought the word tartan is derived from the French tiretaine, first recorded in the household accounts of King James V, father to Queen Mary of Scots. The account documents in 1538 the purchase of "Heland tertane" for making trews for His Majesty.

Prescribing the wearing of distinctive tartan cloth remained in force until 1782 yet by 1822 we see (under the inspiration of Sir Walter Scott) George IVth on his visit to Scotland clothed in full highland regalia. His visit so dressed to woo the Scots brought tartan into high fashion. Clan chiefs were quick to claim distinct setts and colours of the kilt and feather or plant badges for their bonnets.

By 1870 Queen Victoria placed her seal of royal approval by ordering a complete record in water colours of the Highland clansmen in her service. These splendid portraits are shown by prints now in the present Queen's collection. Ladies at soirees and assemblies appeared in splendid tartan gowns in silk and linens or wore tartan capes. Many were made in North America and are amongst the most attractive exhibits shown.

The exhibition ends with an amusing display of present fashion from the House of Ives St Laurent. Who but St Laurent could devise a tartan doublet above a chiffon mini skirt or tights in tartan peeping from elaborate cloaks and dresses.

Today tartan has been adopted as the national identity of the Scots whether for Highland clans or Lowland families. Amongst the newest of the tartans is that of the Agnews, described as one of the most elegant for ladies wear - but sadly not seen at the exhibition as it might well have been in detailing the continuous history of an individual tartan sett and colour combination.

WHERE TO BUY AGNEW TIES, TARTANS, etc

This is the address of the store in Canada where you can buy Agnew ties, scarfs, tartans, yard goods etc which are cheaper than importing them from Scotland. House of McLaren, Sheena McLaren Dickson, 125-131 Water Street, Vancouver B.C. Canada V6B 1A7. The phone number is 604 681 5442.

Tartan is also available from The Boutique, Lochnaw Castle, Leswalt, by Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Scotland and Kinloch Anderson, 4 Dock Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6EY.

A LITTLE PIECE OF HISTORY

Agnew; Quintin Graham Kinnaird Major was born in London 8 January 1861 son of the late Sir Andrew Agnew, 8 Baronet of Lochnaw and of the Lady Louisa (who died in 1892) daughter of the 1st Earl of Gainsborough. He was appointed to the Royal Ayr and Wigtownshire Militia 1872 and granted a commission in the Royal Scots Fusiliers 28 April 1886 for services in the Indian Frontier and in Upper Burma. He was mentioned in Despatches (London Gazette 22 June 1886 and 2 September 1887) (Medal with clasp); operations on the north west frontier of India; A.D.C. and Persian Interpreter to General Sir George White, Commander-in-Chief in India 1893-95; Tirah Expeditionary Force as Orderly Officer to Sir William Lockhart; capture of Sampagha Pass; A.D.C. to General Sir George White, Commander in Chief 1898-99 (Medal with two clasps). He served in the South African War 1899-1902; operations in Natal; Relief in Ladysmith including action at Colenso; operations of 17 to 24 January 1900; operations of 6 to 7 February 1900; and action at Vall Kranz; operations on Tugela Heights 14 to 27 February 1900 and action at Pieter's Hill; operations in Transvaal, west of Pretoria July to 29 November 1900; including action at Frederickstad 17 to 28 October 1900; operations in Cape Colony, north of Orange River including action at Ruidam; was afterwards on Staff operations in the Transvaal 30 November 1900 to December 1901; operations in Cape Colony December 1901 to 31 May 1902; was mentioned to Despatches (London Gazette 10 September 1901); receiving the Queen's Medal with six clasps and was created a champion of the Distinguished Service Order (London Gazette 26 June 1902); "Quintin Graham Kinnaird Agnew Major, Manchester Regiment. In recognition of services during the operations in South Africa". The Insignis, Warrant and Statutes were sent to the G.O.C. Gibraltar, 3 January 1903 and the Insignia were presented at Gibraltar by Sir G White 8 January 1903. Captain Agnew was promoted to Major 23 October 1901; was Military Secretary to Sir G White, Governor of Gibraltar 1903-1905; was created a C.V.O in 1903 and retired 28 April 1906 when he became a Member of His Majesty's Body Guard (Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms).

He has commanded the 3rd Battn. Royal Scots Fusiliers since 1910. Lieut-Colonel Q.G.K Agnew was on Special Service with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from June 1915 to March 1916 during which time he commanded the 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers; the 1st Inniskilling Fusiliers, the 87th Brigade, the 29th Brigade and was Commandant of Mudros. He married (first) in 1899, Evelyn Mary (who died in 1913) daughter of the late Capt. H.J.A. Alexander and they had three sons. In 1916 he married (secondly) Cicely Anne Churchill, daughter of the late James Inskip of Clifton Park House, Bristol. Lieut-Colonel Agnew is J.P. and D.L. for Wigtownshire.

These articles kindly provided by Andrew Agnew of Machynlleth, Wales.

FROM THE AGNEW ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Our Association was founded in 1984 after Sir Crispin suggested to Lois Schiek that she should develop a similar group to the Agnew Association in Scotland.

Since that conversation our non-profit organisation was started and has grown to a total of 114. Prospects are great for increasing the membership in the not too distant future.

As the new Convenor it is my plan to make as many changes as necessary to improve our group. I especially want to enlist a number of young people in the Association to give it the needed balance between those of us who have been around for a long time. Further youth will perpetuate our group.

The retirement of Pat Alexander as editor of the Agnewsletter because of extensive travelling and writing has resulted in our obtaining an excellent replacement. Carol A Smith of Sacramento, California will be putting out her first issue in the latter part of January. She plans a number of changes especially in the format which will include a column "Letters to the Editor". Plans are for participation by the members through preselection for a story on themselves or about their family. The issues will be forthcoming in January, April, July and October.

No gathering for 1989 has been planned but we are promoting a trip to Scotland headed by Ken and Dortha Agnew of Texas. The trip will be approximately three weeks and will bring the travellers to Edinburgh and a visit with Sir Crispin. Subsequent issues of the Agnewsletter will detail and highlight the tour.

I have agreed to write a column each year for this publication and in return Sir Crispin will "pen" one for our newsletter. In this way we will exchange information which we hope will be beneficial to both organisations.

A W Agnew, Convenor

Agnew Association of America

TRAVELS OF SUE STRUAN-ROBERTSON

My mother and I have just returned from a wonderful month staying with relations in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

In Melbourne we were invited by V. KEIL to travel on the train to Bendigo - the line my great great grandfather John Vans Agnew Bruce built (Cornich & Bruce) in the 1860's. We were met by the Mayor of Bendigo and speeches of welcome by V Keil. Apparently the line is a magnificent piece of engineering - wonderful bridges, viaducts and tunnels. The bridges are as they were built except for some reinforcement due to the weight of the present day engines. It was important because it opened up the country from Melbourne to the gold town of Bendigo and the Mersay River at Euchere. We had to sign some leaflets - the Building of the Line - which they were launching. After a tour of a gold mine and a city tour on a talking tram we were taken to the station to see a T.V. interview I was asked to give and then dinner on the train and back to Melbourne.

We also visited Werbea Park which now belongs to the nation. Ethel Chirnside was John Van Agnew Bruce's grand daughter and my grandfather's cousin. She was a great beauty of the day and hostess. The Chirnsides were "squatters" from Berwickshire and made an enormous fortune. They introduced the Kox Stag and quail. Apart from that they did little for the country but were very colourful people. The present generation - Andrew Chirnside - escorted us round and we liked him enormously - a larger than life character.

The rest of the stay was super and we were sad to leave the wonderful bright sunshine and colourful birds and flowers.

A LETTER FROM INDIA IN MAY 1947 - from FULGUE AGNEW

I left Bombay by the frontier mail on Tuesday evening (May 5th). This was my initiation with the ritual of Indian travel. I had stacks of kit and feared I should have to pay heavily for excess baggage. I had arranged with Thomas Cook to pick up my baggage and to see me off at the station, as is the custom of the country. Thomas Cook smiled at my naivety and said everything would go in the compartment. Since then I have seen that the compartments take portmanteaux, trunks, cases, hampers, cooking stoves and utensils, prams, carts, dogs

The gauge is broad, the carriages wide and there are no corridors to rob space. If a traveller wishes to go to the dining car he goes at one stop and returns at another. Every compartment whether for two, three or more has attached a private lavatory, wash basin and shower bath. Archaic but they work and always supply water. I was put into a coupe which is a little larger than an English first class carriage and supposed to accommodate two. My companion did not turn up so I have the coupe to myself all the way. As soon as I was settled in the Inspector appeared to know whether I would like a servant for the journey. He pointed out that adjoining such first class carriages is a coach for servants. A servant would make my bed, look after my clothes and make my carriage clean, fetch and carry any meals. I declined.

Then came the dining car attendant to know whether I desired to come to the car for meals or to have the meals brought to my compartment. I preferred to go to the car. By the time I had finished dinner it was dark and I turned in. I was woken with morning tea at Magdar. After tea I had a shower and dressed. Then began the procession.

First a sweeper who swept, dusted, took 2 annas and passed on his way. Then came the barber who, frustrated in his desire to give me a shave, offered a haircut and trim. The next individual failing to make himself understood raised the lid of his box and I read "chiroprapist" followed by a proclamation of his claims. Finally a "wallah" who offered to cut my nails either during the halt or the next stretching of the journey.

The day's journey began through Savannah which gave way to scrub, then to semi desert. We were beginning to enter cultivated land as it grew dark. A burning hot northerly wind blew through the carriage all day. I sat in my pyjamas which grew dingier brown as the day grew older and I refreshed myself with a shower before each meal. I was fascinated to concentrate on the subtle hues which juxtapose over arid country. And I was thrilled with the wild life. Several times I jumped up naturally and spontaneously crying to you "Ai-yi" Look quick! The first time when I saw a troop of monkeys which bounded alongside the track and leapt among the branches of a stunted tree. Again when I saw herds of buck and once more at a lone wolf which stood gazing at the passing train. And after when I saw exciting birds, egrets, peacocks, parakeets and lovely light and dark blue jays. I am sure you will enjoy the Indian birds. Most of them are big or biggish and generally bright coloured.

At Dehli I was met by a representative from Maiden's Hotel who handled my luggage procured me with a taxi and I saw that I was not too outrageously robbed. Maiden's Hotel was the acme of luxury and went one further by offering me a private servant (bearer). The page recognising me as a new arrival craved "baksheesh". This was quite out of order. Nevertheless I gave them 4 annas and thought it was worthwhile when he kissed the ground between my feet. Maiden's Hotel was in Old Dehli. Next morning I took the bus to New Dehli which is five miles away and had two pairs of khaki and drill trousers made and finished before lunch. I lunched in a little Indian Restaurant where I was the only European guest. I enjoyed a delicious curry and rice followed by an ice cream and cold coffee. I drove back to the Hotel, repacked, bathed again and had tea on the lawn. This was great fun - squirrels and bulbuls squabbled for crumbs. A few kites lined one side of the roof where they must have overlooked a court yard and been waiting for the days rubbish to be thrown out.

The train from Dehra-Dun left Dehli at about 6.30 pm. This time I was in a compartment for four, which was as big as a bedroom in a suburban house. It contained two settees which are used as lower berths and two armchairs for use of those who are to occupy the upper berths. I had one lower berth and an Indian the other. The Indian asked me to watch his things whilst he visited some friends. An unpleasant type of Englishman with his wife, child aged about 10, two dogs and a van load of kit appeared as other occupants. Unwilling to travel with a "native" he had another compartment found for himself, wife, child and dogs. So the Indian and I were alone together. It was very nice. We both excused ourselves for undressing which I did forthwith. He delayed until the first stop when a servant came to disrobe him. At the next stop another of his servants arrived, proceeded to set up a kind of brass dumb-waiter and to cook his usual. My dinner was brought into the compartment just about the time his was ready. By comparison mine was most uninteresting, a fact my companion remarked upon and insisted upon sharing his which was delicious. I was woken with the early morning tea and had breakfast at Dehra-Dun about an hour later somewhere around half past eight. I noticed the countryside was wooded and green. A bus left Dehra-Dun at about 10.30. For the first few miles the road climbed steadily to a height of about 2,000 feet at the base of the range and then zig-zagged up the steep side of the field to Mussoorie which is about 6,000 feet. The road ends at Mussoorie and beyond no motors or vehicles are allowed.

You step out of the bus into chaos. Hemmed among scurrying, screaming, clutching coolies you stand and a miracle passes. Every now and again a score of hands clutch, a dozen voices call and there, at your feet, is another of your belongings. After a while you find yourself in a group apart. A rickshaw on your one side, all of your kit before you being apportioned among coolies who rope and sling their shares (often as much or more than their own weight) over their backs. I continued to call "Buonavista" until all the coolies could repeat and then set out ahead in a rickshaw.

The way to Landour begins as a strong trail along the side of the hill where it leaves the edge and it is not too steep. It is usually flanked by bazaars which recur where ever settlements have grown. The way straightens and steepens until it finally ceased to be wide enough for a rickshaw. Narrow winding paths lead to other settlements scattered around Mussoorie. Coolies urge one to continue in a chair carried on their shoulders. I took a guide instead and followed along steep, stony, narrow paths to Landour and onto Buonavista, which was my "pension".

Mussoorie lies at about 6,000 feet and Landour just over 7,000 feet. Soon after leaving Mussoorie one approaches the limit of deciduous trees and the beginning of conifers. Although at Landour oaks, rhododendron, trees at about 40 and 50 feet high, and a few of the variety of horse chestnut are present.

Buonavista is one of the last and highest situated houses in Landour. It must stand on the summit of the loftiest ridge of the outlying Himalayan foothills. To all quarters it overlooks valleys. To the south the plain in which lies Dehra-Dun. To the north a valley separating a higher range beyond which, when it is clear, lines of snowclad peaks of 20,000 feet and more are to be seen. My pension Buonavista is kept by a very nice woman, Mrs Harrington, who caters entirely and only for students of the language school. It is exceedingly cheap compared to other places. I am being

charged 100 rupees inclusive of everything except laundry. It is simple but most comfortable, very clean and filled with excellent servants. My room is a lean-to on the south side of the house. Long, narrow with the whole of the south side the windows and glass doors. A curtain divides the room from my "offices"... Most of my fellow guests are missionaries of an uninteresting kind. Two Swedes are exceptions. One has lived for the 30 years in the United Provinces and made many expeditions into the Himalayas. The other was a medical missionary in Turkestan until the Bolsheviks turned him out a year or two ago. But my fellow guests all are students in one or other of the language schools and swot in the school or in their rooms from rising to retiring so no occasion arises for us to bore each other.

I begin at the Urdu School tomorrow and believe the course is pretty strenuous. Classes from 9 to 1 with short breaks. Individual work with "Munshis" (Indian tutors) from lunch to tea and considerable work in one's own time is expected. But the school is excellent and I firmly believe a thorough grounding in Urdu will be of great value and advantage. I have already met a number of kindred spirits - some missionaries others non-missionaries, who have joined the course - who are interested in natural history, walking and making excursions and expeditions. Expeditions are very easy from here. Trails lead in all directions. Ponies to ride and camels to carry kit can be had for a handclap and cheap. Rest houses extend throughout the Himalayas. A favourite expedition is to Gangotri (source of the Ganges) which takes about eight days there and back and skirts a group of peaks of 20-24,000 feet high.

This will not be for me the year of any note. I did not come here to indulge in tramping. Moreover it is too late in the season. In June the rains begin. After the rains the weather is too cold and snow extends too far down.

After the terrific heat of Bombay and during the railway journey I was quite surprised at the difference at Landour. On the evening after my arrival I was glad to sit in front of a blazing fire. Altogether the weather is quite a problem. I keep three outfits of clothes ready for quick changes. When the sun shines I am too hot in sandals, cotton trousers and the flimsiest bush-shirt. As soon as the sky is overcast I shiver and rush to change into a flannel suit. If rain or hail follows I put on heavy tweeds and a sweater. This morning the sun shone, during the afternoon it hailed and in the evening the sky became clear and the distant snowclad peaks showed up shimmering pink. Such changes of weather put me into a different suit of clothes.

There are so many millions of things I want to tell you about but can never finish in time. Once again I will stop in the middle and write reams more next time

RESEARCHES OF JACQUELINE HAUGSENG

Anyone who reads this article and has his or her roots in Northern Ireland will appreciate the difficulties and frustrations there are in trying to trace back but a few generations. Although the official sources are extremely co-operative it still does not help that so many old records have either been destroyed, lost or were just not kept. Sometimes, however, this can lead one to try something else and one of the more fun ways of searching for your roots is to combine the search with a holiday and so I decided to spend some time in Normandy.

A visit to Agneaux Castle at St. Lo was a must - just in case my ancestors once came from there! The castle is, after all, a quiet hotel probably ideal for a relaxing weekend in the country and considering how badly St. Lo was bombed in 1944, it is a wonder it survived. Unfortunately it is not easy to get reliable information - charming though the castle may be.

Genealogical research has often unearthed more information as the result of a "hunch". My hunch in Normandy was to go to Falais, the birthplace of William the Conqueror. His castle there still being lovingly restored after allied bombing, is well worth a visit, family links or not. It was here I discovered that the ancestral home of John de Courcy who invaded Ulster in 1177 was only twenty miles or so outside Falais. The small hamlet of Courcy holds the remains of the de Courcy family castle and is still in use although not by the present de Courcys who apparently live in Paris. The thousand year old church holds a number of interesting facts about the de Courcys and outside are many of the family graves. Their Coat of Arms is displayed on the roof. According to the church sexton, an amateur historian with an impressive knowledge of the de Courcy family and their departure to Ireland, the catalyst for this venture was the Court of the Duke of Normandy.

One of the theories concerning the origins of the Agnews in Ulster, is that a member of the Agnew family accompanied John de Courcy on his foray to Ireland. I decided that it may be worthwhile doing some research on the companions who accompanied him to Ireland.

The official British Government documents concerning Ireland from ca. 1110-1600 were edited and collated during the latter part of the last century by a civil servant called H S Sweetman. The whole lot was subsequently published as a number of impressive volumes entitled, "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland". The volume covering the period 1171-1251 contains a number of references to the activities of John de Courcy and some of the other knights who accompanied him to Ireland. In fact, John de Courcy was at one stage, granted all the land of Ulster until he stepped out of line and King John took the land away from him on 2nd May 1205 and gave it to Hugh de Lacy.

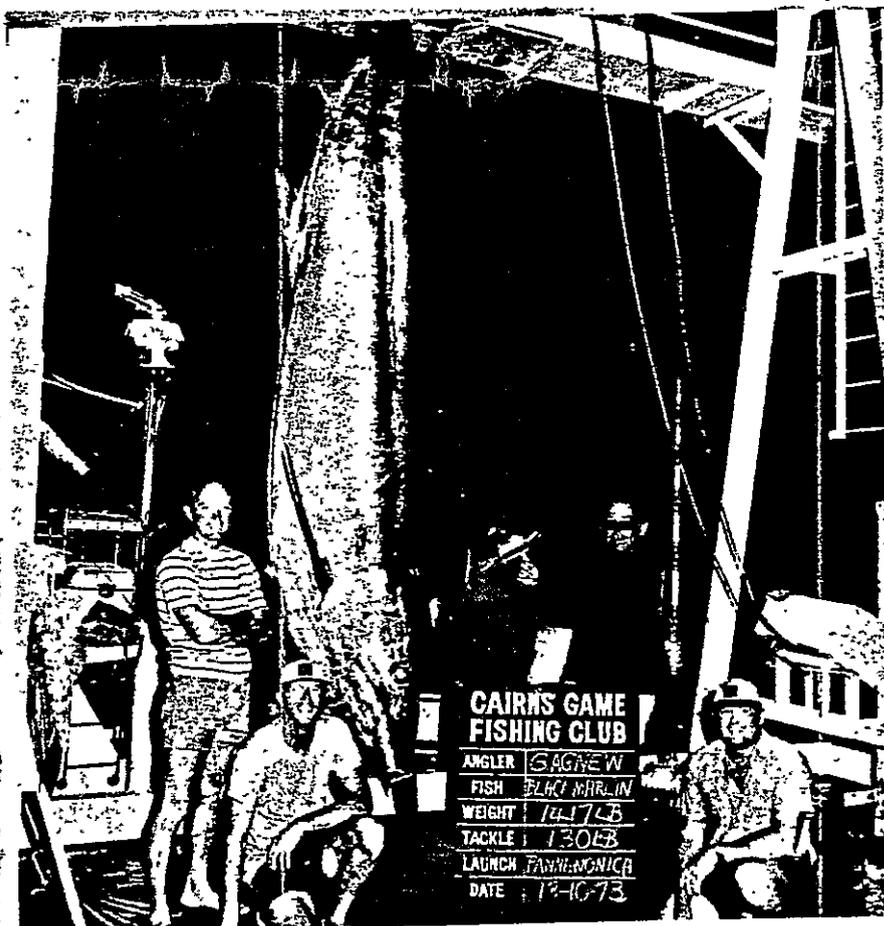
Unfortunately this period of Irish history does not seem to have been influenced by the Agnews. The official sources do not have any references to them at all. This is particularly significant as the Agnew Castle at Kilwaughter outside Larne in Northern Ireland allegedly dates back to around the year 1200.

I then approached the present John de Courcy head of the English line and who has himself read widely about the de Courcy family. He states that there appears to have been 22 knights and some 300 men at arms who accompanied de Courcy to Ireland, but although reference is made to the names of some of his companions, the name of Agnew is not amongst them and he has in fact found no reference to the name Agnew at all!

This disappointing news can mean many things and at this point it may be prudent to ask ourselves if an Agnew ever did accompany John de Courcy to Ireland? Have we been on the wrong track altogether and for so long? This brings us to more recent research by Professor Brian O'Cuiv from the School of Celtic Studies in Dublin and whose article on the origins of the Agnew family name based on linguistics was mentioned in newsletter No. 6 in January 1985. He believes that it is unlikely that the French name Agneaux would have become anglicised to Agnew, that it is much more likely to have its origins in the Celtic Irish name of O'Gnimh. Although at the end of his long article he states that he had reached no conclusions, we must be prepared to relinquish perhaps, a romantic idea of belonging to a Norman family and before that to the descendants of a Danish Viking couple and instead it may be that we need to transfer our resources and thinking to a Celtic Ireland for our origins - and according to Professor O'Cuiv perhaps to another set of Danish Vikings.

J Haugseng

January 1990



Sir Garrick Agnew records Australia's first 1,400 lb-plus black marlin in October 1973. Agnew caught the 1,417 lb marlin aboard "Pannawonica" with Captain David Rosenbrock and mate Charlie Hayden.

The Agnew Association

Accounts for the Year ended 20th June, 1989, the Association's Eleventh Year

Capital Account

Capital account at 21st June, 1988 3035.10

Add

Subscriptions (U.K. and Overseas) 146.42
3181.52

Current Account

Opening balance at 21st June, 1988 584.19

Add

Interest 351.45
Sales of 'Whites of Their Eyes' 184.95
536.40

Less

Taxation 100.17
100.17

1030.42

Bank Account

The current balance at 20th June, 1989 is 4211.94

Certified correct

Edwin Agnew Hon. Treasurer 21st June, 1989