



# THE AGNEW ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 3 - DEC 1981

This is our third newsletter and marks a stage when the Association is beginning to mature. We have held a most successful Gathering in Scotland and we now have the prospects of Gatherings in Australia and the U.S.A. Vi Coulthard, our Committee Member in Australia is investigating the practicalities of starting an autonomous Australian branch and we hope this will come to fruition. To me one of the greatest pleasures of the Gathering in May was to find how strong the common bond of name was in a world where, otherwise, our interests are so diverse. I hope we will have the opportunity of extending the membership of the Association in the next few years, so that more of our name can join in with the Association Activities. With the projected publication of Douglas Agnew's book next year we enter the field of Publishing and I hope many of you will support this venture, which if a success will, I hope be the first of many.

In the meantime my wife and I send you all our best wishes for the new year and we hope to have the opportunity of meeting many more members in the years to come.

## FIRST AGNEW GATHERING A SUCCESS

As many of you already know, the Agnew family held its first international gathering in May 1981 in Scotland. By the response of the participants, the enthusiasm and the level of constant conversation, it must have been a success!

It began on the Thursday evening with a drink party held in the Malcolm Innes' gallery, George Street, Edinburgh by courtesy of Lady Agnew of Lochnaw's brother-in-law. The party started at 6.30pm although guests started to arrive earlier. There was an abundance of drink and food which was passed round by the younger members of the Association who had come with their parents from all over the world. Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw formally welcomed us on behalf of himself and his wife, and the party was away! Put 50 people in a room together with nothing in common but the name Agnew and it makes a very good party. In fact by 9.30pm the organizers had to start sweeping up the mess to encourage the remainder to leave as insurance time was running out on the Gallery!

We all gathered again on Saturday morning when Sir Crispin and Lady Agnew of Lochnaw accompanied us in a bus to Lochnaw Castle. There we received a very warm and hospitable welcome from Miss Del Agnew and her fellow trustees of Lochnaw Castle who care so lovingly for the castle. After tea Mr. Douglas Agnew who now lives nearby and has known Lochnaw all his life, gave us a guided tour of the exterior and interior of the castle with all its history. A delicious dinner was followed by a traditional "ceilidh" of Scottish dancing and singing with contributions from all over the world. For instance, we had a Maori song, a Welsh song, several Gaelic songs, American, Canadian, Australian and so on. The festivities continued far into the night and were certainly enjoyed by all.

The next day, Sunday, we were shown the family vaults in the cemetery of Leswalt where the majority of the heads of the Agnew family and their wives and children have been buried over the last 3 centuries. We then went to a morning service in Leswalt Parish Church, where the minister arranged the service specially for the presence of the Agnew Association talking about the fellowship of internationalism in his sermon. After yet another delicious spread at Lochnaw Castle, we had a tour of the district and of the places of relevance to the Agnew family.

It was the end of a marvellous weekend, memorable because it was the first international Agnew gathering and also because of the reception we received at Lochnaw, the roots of the Agnews.

### LOCHNAW CASTLE

An address given by Douglas Agnew at the Agnew Gathering 1981.

The Agnews first came to Lochnaw about 1350 in the reign of David II. They then lived in the old Kings castle on the island in the loch, and if you take a boat you will still see some of the walls standing.

About 1400 the Agnews were ousted by the Douglasses, a powerful family and rulers of Galloway, and were believed to have taken house elsewhere round Lochryan, for by 1426 Andrew Agnes was reinstated Constable of Lochnaw Castle and the family must have been established in the district, for Sir Nigel and Sir GILBERT Agnew are recorded as members of Glenluce Abbey in 1430.

In 1451 Andrew Agnew was created Hereditary Sheriff of Wigtownshire, an honour held to this day by his descendant, Sir Crispin Agnew who is 18th Hereditary Sheriff.

When he was reinstated at Lochnaw in 1426 Andrew Agnew built himself a new castle on rising ground at the south west end of the loch and this castle has been in use for over five hundred years. We must imagine that these were outbuildings and storerooms, probably on the line of the present castle

extensions with a well round the whole to contain the castle at night and probably a dry moat outside the wall, for the whole place would have to be highly defenseable.

The last record we have of new building beyond the 1426 castle was in 1663 when Sir Andrew Agnew 2nd Baronet and 9th Sheriff extended a new two storey wing southwards as far as the crow steps on the roof and including the round tower doorway and staircase. On the roof windows he put his initials SAG for Sheriff Agnew of Galloway for the Agnews were often Sheriffs of all Galloway as well as Wigtownshire, and D.A.S. for Dame Agnew Stewart, his wife daughter of Alexander 1st Earl of Galloway.

Sir Andrew was a famous man in the Covenanting wars of the 1640's. He had signed the National Covenant of 1639 in the first line after the great nobles of Scotland, and served on the Committees of war appointed by the Estates and was also their representative in Ireland. Two of his brothers served in the Scottish Army, one James commanded Kirkcudbrights Dragoons at the great battle of Philiphaugh that routed Montrose and he received the thanks of the Estates of Parliament for his services. I have called my house in Kirkcudbright Philiphaugh House to commemorate the occasion. The other brother, Alexander, commanded the Earl of Galloway's Regiment, and from him is descended the present incumbent of Lochnaw Miss Del Agnew.

Some years later Sir Andrew Agnew the 3rd Baronet extended his father's buildings by a couple of rooms and in 1704 his son, Sir James, built on a new wing at right angles to the old building, embracing the present drawing room and dining room, the Eagle bedroom and again at right angles a round tower, and a chapel now demolished. Sir James put his initials and date SAG 1704 on the courtyard wall and also those of his wife DMM for Lady Mary Montgomerie daughter of the 8th Earl of Eglinton. They needed this new building for they had twenty one children, a family record; of course it killed the poor girl; she died at 89.

The next building at Lochnaw was by Sir Andrew Agnew 7th Baronet, always known in the family as "The Good" from his endeavours in Parliament to promote the observance of the Sabbath Day. Sir Andrew had a romantic beginning. His father Andrew, son of Sir Stair Agnew, met the Hon. Martha de Courcy, daughter of the 26th Lord Kingsale, when he was serving in the Army in Ireland. They fell in love, got engaged to be married, but came up against parental opposition from Sir Stair, who felt his estate was too encumbered to support a young couple, and no doubt influenced by the fact that Martha had no money. He counselled delay, but Andrew and Martha eloped, and threw themselves on his father's mercy. They went to live at Lochnaw but after a few months Andrew came home from hunting with a temperature, caught a fever and within twenty four hours was dead. His disconsolate widow retired first to her sister-in-law at Rhysgill, and then to her father at Kingsale,

where she was delivered of a posthumous son, Andrew. He was brought up by his mother's family, went to Braesnose College, Oxford and while visiting in Cheltenham met Madeline, youngest daughter of Sir David Carnegie of Southesk and Agnes Elliot his wife.

They were married in 1816 and spent their honeymoon in Paris, then in the occupation of the British Army after the fall of Napoleon. They came back to Lochnaw to find the estate very neglected and encumbered for Sir Stair had recently died leaving many problems. Everything was an uphill struggle, and at one time things were so bad that the young pair decided they must go and live cheaply on the Continent. They got into their carriage, but had only gone a few miles when they turned and looked at each other. Both suddenly said "Let's go back" and the horses were turned round. They got down to the running of the estate and in a few years it was in good condition, so much so that they decided to build a new wing on the south side, with the intention, terrible as it may seem to the present generations' love of the old and antique, of eventually pulling down the old castle. Fortunately they had a large family, needed the accommodation and the old castle was saved.

The new wing was built on the south side in a new architectural style of towers and turrets, and pictures of it can be seen in the present castle. It had a fine entrance on the east side, a new dining room, drawing room and library, with 10 bedrooms. The entrance hall was high and airy and contained all the coats of arms of the noble families we had married in to. The drawing room was furnished with beautiful French furniture imported from Paris; and the food for the dining room came by passage under the whole of the castle from the kitchen which was in the old chapel in the north west corner, eventually to be hauled up in a lift into the dining room, which was in the south-east corner. At one end of the drawing room was a minstrel's gallery which housed the personal banner showing the family arms that Sir Andrew Agnew the 5th Baronet had carried at the battle of Dettingen in 1743 when he commanded the Royal Scots Fusiliers. Alas, when the castle was requisitioned by the R.A.F. in 1939, the banner vanished, a great loss to the family and the nation.

Sir Andrew the 7th Baronet enjoyed his new castle and when his son Andrew married Lady Louisa Noel, daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough in 1846 he made over to the young pair part of the old castle. At this time the glass doors in to the old dining room, now the shop, were put in engraved with the arms of Agnew and Noel.

In 1880 the Agnew of Kilwaughter then in Ulster died out in the direct line, and the last owner left a fine stone eagle back to Lochnaw, and this is now over the Eagle room on the west end of the old wing of 1704. In 1882 the 8th Baronet raised the roofs on the south side of the old castle, the initials SAA & LLM for Andrew and Louise Noel being raised on the courtyard side.

In 1947 Lochnaw was sold to the Cairngorm Investment Co., who wanted the two and a half million trees that the 8th Baronet had planted on his estate.

In 1952 Sir Olaf Hambro, who had a hobby of restoring old houses, bought the castle, pulled down the wing of 1820 built by my great grandfather, and also the chapel or kitchen. Lochnaw was bought in 1958 by Miss Del Agnew from Australia, a descendant of the 1st Baronet and she is still in residence.

The castle is now registered as a building of historical and architectural interest.

#### TIME-SHARING OPPORTUNITIES AT LOCHNAW

Now, for the first time, has the Lochnaw Castle and Estate Trust come up with a unique formula by which any can become personally involved in the Estate. During the Gathering in May, several Trustees were approached and asked what actual help could be given in the programme of repair and restoration of the Castle, especially 'the Keep'.

A host of interesting things are happening; sub-contractors' quotations, one for the extensive repair and replacement of the woodwork of solid seasoned oak beams and wideplanked flooring and the other for extensive exterior and interior stonework pointing repair using a special well-proved formula of waterproof pointing material to ensure weather-proofing of the Castle for years to come. These particular contractors are the very best in their field, being available only because of the recession, giving a moderately priced estimate which we have reason to expect will be acceptable to the Historic Buildings Council (Scotland) who have already promised in principle a proportional grant.

While the Lochnaw Castle and Estate Trust (a non-beneficiary body) is always grateful for gifts and bequests, large or small, yet it now has the added incentive of actual involvement. A simplified form of time-sharing lease of either The Gardens House and/or North Lodge is being offered first and foremost to Agnews prior to opening the opportunities to friends and admirers of Lochnaw and to the public.

We believe there is no Time-Sharing Opportunity being offered in Britain which gives so much and yet is so moderately priced. Most of you know of the amenities for sport, recreation, and of course the historic association and interest at Lochnaw, but there are a number of unique features planned specifically for the convenience of the families from overseas. The leases are for 30 or for 45 years, but throughout the year, in every consecutive four weeks, two weeks are available for lease purchase, and the other two weeks are reserved for holiday let rental. You will see that any who have a lease may, on giving adequate notice, book in addition the letting time - this, you may realise, is a unique feature.

We have compiled a preliminary brochure of details, so giving the Agnew Family first look at the Time-Sharing Opportunities. All of you, we expect, will have a ready interest in this development.

Please write for a copy of:-

"Time-Sharing Opportunities at Lochnaw",  
The Secretary Lochnaw Castle and Estate Trust,  
Lochnaw Castle, Leswalt by Stranraer,  
South-West Scotland.

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

by Trevor Agnew. Review by Swanzie, Lady Agnew of Lochnaw.

Trevor Agnew teaching history at Invercargill, New Zealand, is the Great Grandson of Thomas Agnew who settled at Otago to the South of Dunedin in 1862. His book My Brother's Keeper was published in the New History Series for N.Z. schools and colleges in 1975. The book is revolutionary in its teaching methods: not only in its presentation (packed as it is with visual material, ideas and concepts) but also by making the mature adolescent consider the social, political and economic factors that affect the fabrics of society. More than this, it provides a comparison between New Zealand, a small welfare state, wholly dependent on primary products, and the giant industrial United States, thus broadening the horizons of the emerging school leaver. The book in its structure is designed to make the student articulate by debate; to think constructively by assessing facts and to measure by the outcome of legislation affecting the lives of the common people. As a work book on modern history it could hardly be more opposite for the present day for it covers the effects of the Great Depression; massive unemployment prior to the second world war of full employment (sic) and its aftermath.

Section one on New Zealand has the heading To Start You Thinking - followed by the emotive words: Poverty, Affluence, Unions, Sweating, Laissez-faire, Individualism, Budget, Retrenchment, Legislation, Bills, Acts, Royal Commission. The Section ends with the sub-heading Talking Point: Can you define the 'Values' of our society? Will others accept your definition.

If My Brothers' Keeper is representative of teaching practice in New Zealand's senior schools then Trevor Agnew has made a signal contribution to history as it should be taught, not as a dead duck but as living tissue. History 'now' as an outcome of history 'past'.

OUR FARM!

by son of Ray Agnew, South Australia.

My Great-grandfather, David Alexander Agnew, and my Great-grandmother Emily Jane Agnew (nee Short) came to live at Stansbury, soon after they were married towards the end of the 1900.

Great-grandfather's mother and father had emigrated to South Australia from Northern Ireland in 1876. They travelled from Plymouth, England to Port Adelaide on the barque Bencleuch arriving in October 1876. My Great-grandfather was there and his brother William eighteen months old at this time.

Great-great-grandfather William James Agnew took up land at Curramulka in 1878. My Great-grandfather lived at Curramulka until a year before his marriage.

Great-grandfather began farming at Stansbury in 1899. The original farm comprised sections 24, 38, 40, 41 and 42 in the hundred of Ramsay. My Dad still farms this land but over the years other sections have been added.

When Great-grandfather and his new wife came to this farm there was already a four roomed weather board cottage on the farm. This building probably dates from the 1870s when the land first became available for selection.

As to the original owners of the land the Lands Department sent me copies of the land grants and titles involved with the exception of the original land grant for section 41. They show the land had many owners before my Great-grandfather bought it - most of the owners were not intending farmers but speculators who bought the land only to sell it again at a profit.

Great-grandfather farmed at Beechwood until 1941 when he retired to Stansbury. My Grandfather then lived in the homestead. My Dad was born after Grandpa came to live on the original property. In 1965 my Grandpa built a new house at Stansbury and my Dad and Mum moved into the homestead. Timothy and I are the fourth generation of Agnews to live at Beechwood.

#### NEWS FLASHES

Vi Coulthard (nee Agnew) of New South Wales, Australia, has been elected on to the committees of both the Scottish Clans Council of Australia and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council.

Lois Schieck (Agnew descent) is keen to organize an Agnew gathering in Florida in May 1982. In addition to the gathering she will organize many side trips including a golf competition, Disney World, the Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, and the attractions of the West Coast of Florida. Anyone interested please contact Mrs. D.C. Schieck as soon as possible. Address 9072 Thunderbird Drive,  
Coral Springs,  
Florida 33065,  
U.S.A.

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council have just completed their first Australian Clan Gathering at which the Agnews led a march through Sydney. The next one is planned for November 1983.

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Regrettably there is a certain Mr. Agnew, a member of the IRA who is in the H-block of the Maze prison in Northern Ireland. However this seems to run in the family judging by a report in the Londonderry Journal dated 26th July 1836.

"The Agnews. A reprieve for those unfortunate men was received by the Mail yesterday. When Mr. Kitchen, the Governor of the gaol, whose considerate treatment of them since their conviction calls for the highest praise, entered the cell to make the announcement to them, their countenances from being pallid became exceedingly flushed, owing to their perturbation of feeling. Their joy, as may well be supposed, was very great on being told that their lives were to be spared. The conduct of the Agnews in prison, has been throughout most becoming. Last week, a second Memorial on their behalf, signed by the Lord Bishop and a number of respectable inhabitants, was forwarded to the Castle".

Extract from Irish Convicts Indents... "Henry Agnew and brother James tried at Londonderry, 2nd July 1836 and found guilty of accessory to murder, both sentenced to life imprisonment and transported on "St. Vincent" from Cork 13th September 1836, arrived Port Jackson 5th January 1837.

James Agnew assigned to James Ryrie of Bungonia  
Henry Agnew assigned to John Bray of Boulburn.

They were followed to Australia by their families and were granted a conditional pardon on 20th February 1849 by the Governor.

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Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw has been appointed Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms in the Court of the Lord Lyon. This means that he is a member of the Royal Household and will be on duty at state ceremonial occasions as well as being in Practice as a Herald advising people on how to obtain a Grant of Arms.

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Help is always needed, and welcomed, at Lochnaw Castle, Stranraer in South-West Scotland. So anybody, particularly young men, travelling in Britain might like to give temporary assistance at the Castle.

It would be a good idea to start an exchange system of young people between families in different countries for holidays. Anyone interested please write to ...

Dr. Andrew Agnew,  
5 Clarach Road,  
Borth,  
North Wales.

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The Homelands of the Scots by Roderick Martine. Published Spier Book 1981 is a guide to areas of interest relating to each Scottish Family. It includes a chapter on The Agnews and may be of interest to members visiting Scotland.

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The Whites of the Eyes by Major Douglas Agnew at present with the printers and to be published in 1982. This study by Douglas Agnew (who is the expert on family history, as those of you who heard his talk at the Gathering will realise) is "An account of the military and naval adventures of the Agnews of Lochnaw from the formation of the First Scottish Regiment in 1639" and runs to 180 pages of foolscap type, with pedigrees, maps and illustrations.

At \$19 (including postage and packing) we have to sell 100 to break even, so please support this venture and order your copy now. It is hoped that each member will order at least one copy to help us recoup the initial outlay. - If you wish to pay by Personal \$ cheque add \$4 to the \$ equivalent of \$19 to cover the bank charges which are very high otherwise send a £ sterling money order for £19.

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For this newsletter to continue to be of interest it is imperative that more contributions are received from members of the Association. They might include newspaper cuttings, articles written by yourself, or pieces of information about your family. Again it is vital to receive more participation.

Please send your contributions to -

Lady Agnew of Lochnaw,  
6 Falmerston Road,  
Edinburgh EH9.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE NL No. 2

Mrs J Walklake, 29 Kennerley St, Curtin ACT, Australia  
 Mrs Jann Neilson, 4. Blairgowrie Ave, PO Box 613, Cooma, Australia  
 Sir Peter Agnew Bt; 2. Smith Sq, London  
 William J Agnew, 112-1655 Martin Drive; South Surrey, BC, Canada  
 Mrs Janet Agnew, 69 Dovecote Ave, Cortorphine, Dunedin, NZ  
 Miss Ann Agnew, 1117 1 St SE, Washington DC 20003, USA  
 Mrs Alice Eggers, 300 Tomahawk Road, Ocean Grove, Dunedin, NZ  
 Kevin Agnew, 18 Scarborough St, Red Hill, ACT 2603, Australia  
 Sir Geoffrey Agnew, Thos Agnew & Sons Ltd, 43 Old Bond St, London  
 Patrick Sclater, Old Farm House, Frith, Stalbridge, Dorset  
 Andrew Agnew Sclater, Walnut Tree Cottage, Great Eversden, Cambs  
 Dr Colvin Agnew, Doctors Building, Rm 102-1231 North 29th St  
 Billings, Montana USA  
 James D Agnew, Bonjedward, Jedburgh, Co Roxburgh  
 James C Agnew; 541 Randolph Ave, Milton, Mss 02186, USA  
 Kathleen Agnew Hodges, 472 Yale Road, Menlo Park, Ca 94025, USA  
 David Agnew, North Lodge, Tak ma Doon Road, Kilsyth, Stirlingshire  
 Ms Ann Cochrane, 7807 Via Foggia, Cabrimi Villas, Burbank, Ca, USA  
 Dr Elizabeth Ritchley, Box 36, Washago, Ontario, Canada  
 John R Agnew, 12 Mitchell Street, Sunnybank, Brisbane, Australia  
 Mrs B J Cooper, 5. The Glebe, Felbridge, East Grinstead, Sussex  
 Philip Garrick Agnew, Po Box 490, Warwick, Qld 4370, Australia  
 George Agnew, 1 Glenside Street, Wavell Heights, Q 4012, Australia  
 Robert Cooper, 58 Treesmill Drive, Maidenhead, Berkshire.  
 Miss Dorothy Agnew, 2916 Rankin Road, Mpls, Minn

AFT. RNOTE

Members frequently ask if copies of the family history,

The Hereditary Sheriffs of Galloway

by Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw 8th Bt (1st Ed 1864  
2nd Ed 1892)

is obtainable. Both editions are rare and seldom come onto the 2nd hand market. Recent prices have been 1st Ed - £65 2nd Ed - £80. The convenor is trying to buy copies for himself, so if you are wanting a copy, you will have to instruct your own searches, with Antiquarian Bookshops in Scotland.

Christmas Cards

The Convenor and his wife would like to thank all who sent them Christmas Cards. Unfortunately they never got round to sending out many this year, but maybe next!



# LOCHNAW CASTLE



Printed  
in  
Scotland

Braemar Films Limited, Duns TD11 3HS  
Berwickshire, Scotland. ☎ 036-12-3213

Lochnaw Castle — Taken in the Spring of 1980.  
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