

IV.

NOTES FROM THE OLD CHURCHYARDS OF LOGIE, LECROPT, DUNBLANE, AND MOY, WITH A NOTE ON AN IMPRESSION OF HUMAN FEET CUT IN STONE. BY THOMAS WALLACE, F.S.A. Scot.

While spending a few weeks at Bridge of Allan in the spring of 1911, I visited the old churchyards of Logie and Lecropt. I made some drawings of the older stones, and now submit them to the Society, with a few notes on the two places.

Logie is a small parish in Stirlingshire, of about six miles square. The remains of the old church and churchyard are situated at the foot of the Ochils, in a beautiful, sequestered spot just outside Airthrey grounds. Both the ruins of the old church and the churchyard are beautifully kept and carefully attended to.

The church bears the date 1598, and a stone that was at one time in the walls of the old manse, dated 1698, is also inserted in the wall of the ruins. A sundial dated 1684 is also on the walls of the church.

When examining the gravestones, I was struck with the number dated in the seventeenth century, and with the unusual number and variety of symbols cut on the stones, as well as the lettering and figuring.

No. 1 (fig. 1) is a small upright slab dated 1691 on a panel with the initials I H. I R. Underneath this panel are two coulters with three initials, I K. A H. R H. This is a rough unhewn and unshaped stone.

No. 2 is dated 1694, and has had some of the mason's skill bestowed upon the shaping and dressing of it. The centre of the stone has been cut away, leaving a neatly designed border. Underneath the date is a raised panel with the initials I M. M D. and the head of a cross formed by four small squares supported on a slender shaft.

No. 3 (fig. 2) is a recumbent stone bearing the date 1717, the figures of which are different from most of those on the other stones. Under-

neath the date are the initials I B. M C. These letters differ from most of the others. This is followed by the legend "MEMENTO MORI," skull, cross-bones, and sand-glass. Then follow a crown and knife, supported on the right and left by two ornamental scrolls; an



Fig. 1. Headstone in Logie Churchyard.

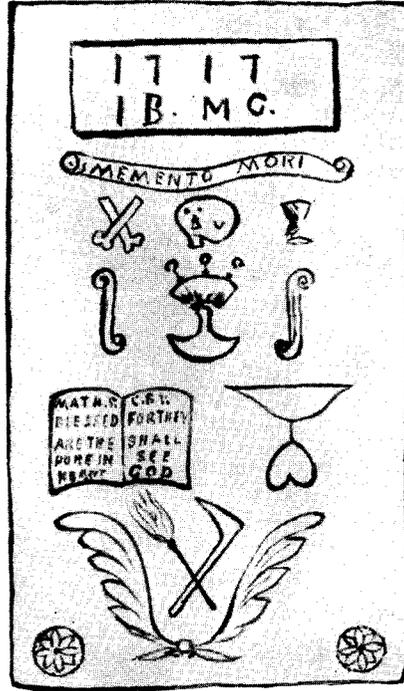


Fig. 2. Recumbent Slab in Logie Churchyard.

open book with a quotation from Scripture, a bow and arrow and a heart. Two wings tied as in a bow enclose a pick or implement of some kind and a broom. Two rosette ornaments at each corner complete the list of the emblems on this stone.

No. 4 is a small dressed, upright stone dated 1751, containing initials I G. I V., with skull, cross-bones, and unstrung bow.

No. 5 (fig. 3) is a panel-stone having the date 1747 above the figure of a cherub at the top. Here also we find the coulter and sock, skull, cross-bones, sand-glass, and bent bow and arrow pointing to the heart.

No. 6 (fig. 4) bears the date 1738, and records not only the burial-place of I T. M E. and M T. M N., but the purchase of the ground in

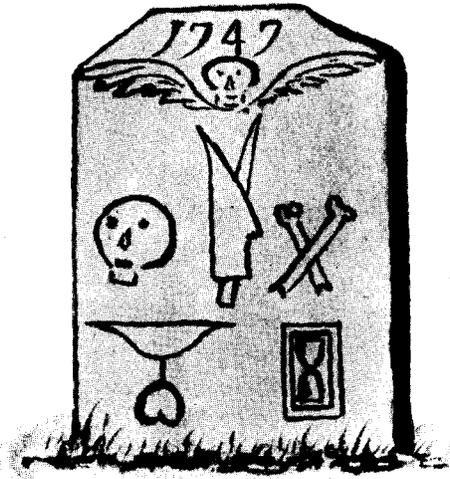


Fig. 3. Headstone in Logie Churchyard.

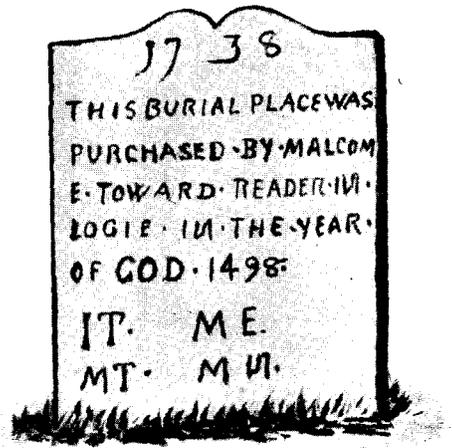


Fig. 4. Headstone in Logie Churchyard.

1498 by Malcolm Toward, Reader in the Church of Logie. There are no symbols, as on most of the others; but from the initials evidently two of the family of Toward are either buried here or were witnesses to the deed of purchase.

Lecropt.—This burial-ground lies within the grounds of Keir, near Bridge of Allan.

The old church is said to date back to 1300. The present church and churchyard are outside the grounds. Notwithstanding the glowing accounts of this old place given in the local guides, it is the

gloomiest and most desolate and neglected place I have ever visited. It is surrounded and overhung by tall, thick-foliaged trees, and overgrown with nettles and weeds.

There is a fine entrance-gate, and as you step inside there are signs that at one time it was better cared for. It would appear that walks in the form of a cross had at one time been laid out and kept.

In the centre of the head of the cross and near the gate is a finely ornamented sundial, and at the end of the arms of the cross to the right and left are two beautiful modern Celtic crosses, erected by the late Sir William Stirling Maxwell of Keir, in memory of his two sisters. At the end of a grass walk leading from the sundial to the other end of the burial-ground stood the old church, but no vestige of it remains.

Although the old church is said to date from 1300, there are few stones dated in the seventeenth century in the churchyard. One is dated 1691, to the memory of Alexander Wryght and Mary Forcus, in figures and letters peculiar to the time. Here I found several stones sculptured on both sides. The east side of an upright stone dated 1735 is highly ornamented, and the west side records the burial-place of a young man aged thirty-four, with the emblem of the coulter below.

Another of this type is dated 1743 and 1796 on one side, with skull, cross-bones, and sand-glass, and on the back the quaint inscription :

Here lies the Corpse of Janet Stevenson
Spouse to John Stevenson
Who died May 12, 1743, aged
38 years, and in this place of
interment belonging to him.
UTENDUM . EST . ÆTATE
CITO . PEDE . LABITUR .

Another with a double record has on the west side the date 1716, with book and sand-glass, and on the east side 1757, with skull and cross-bones.

In Logie churchyard there are few inscriptions in full. The names

are indicated simply by initials. In Lecropt there are more full inscriptions. These remarks refer to the older stones. In Lecropt I saw no emblem of the bow and arrow. It is also worthy of note that in Logie, which, according to present data, is the newer of the two churches, there are more stones with the date 1600 than in Lecropt, which is said to date from 1300.

Dunblane.—A seventeenth-century stone from Dunblane churchyard evidently records three burials: W L. M K. 1659; A H. I L. 1747; I H. I S. 1777, with coultter and sock, which are very common emblems at Dunblane.

Moy.—In the churchyard of Moy, Inverness-shire, is a stone (fig. 5) raised to the memory of Donald Fraser, usually spoken of as "The Captain of the Five."

When on his way to Culloden Moor, "Prince Charlie" spent a night at Moy Hall, where he was received by Mrs Mackintosh of Moy, usually known as "Colonel Anne."

When this news reached Inverness, where the Royal troops were lying, a night-attack on Moy was resolved upon. The news of this night-march reached Moy Hall, when Lady Mackintosh first placed the Prince in safe hiding and then sent for Donald Fraser, the blacksmith, and told him that he must stop Lowden and his troops. The blacksmith, with the aid of other four men, armed with muskets, by a clever stratagem so surprised Lowden that he turned and fled, believing that several Highland clans were surrounding him.

This stone appears to have been appropriated from some building and a place cleared to make room for the inscription, and then placed over Donald Fraser's grave.

This stone has been replaced by a fine new stone of granite.

Impression of Human Feet cut in Stone.—Some time last year Mr MacLennan, of Achnacloich, near Amulree, Perthshire, sent me a photograph of the impression of two feet, in shoes (fig. 6), which he found two years ago in an old dyke adjacent to his farm. The stone

measures 1 foot 10 inches long by 1 foot 5 inches wide, and 3 inches in thickness. The impressions have been on a rude panel, part of which is broken off.

Similar impressions of the human foot, sometimes bare and some-



Fig. 5. Headstone in Moy Churchyard.

times, as in this case, in shoes are not uncommon. They are sometimes in pairs and sometimes single. From vol. xiii. of the Society's *Transactions*, in a paper by Capt. F. W. L. Thomas, R.N., it will be seen that such impressions occurring on rocks and stones are fairly common in Scotland and Ireland. They are also found in Brittany, in Norway

and Sweden. Impressions of the human foot are mixed up with the folk-lore of Central Africa and Ceylon. I have known of one at Dornic, Kintail, for some time, without giving any thought to it. A native of Glenlyon tells me that there is one there. In Scotland and in Ireland it was customary for the new chief to plant his foot in impressions such as these, indicating that he was prepared to walk in the footsteps of his predecessor and to rule with justice and equity.



Fig. 6. Impressions of Feet in Shoes at Achnacloich.

The impression on the slab found at Achnacloich may have some connection with this old custom.

Additional Note on Logie, fig. 4.—Since writing these notes, I have seen the Rev. Malcolm Tower Sorlie, parish minister of Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire, who is a descendant of Malcolm Toward. Mr Sorlie says that the original name was “De Tour,” which has been corrupted into “Tower,” which forms part of his name. His father had possession of the ground in Logie till lately, when he handed it over to his brother.