

## VISUAL TOUR OF BLYTHWOOD ESTATE AND ASSOCIATED PLACES OF INTEREST TO DOUGLAS DESCENDANTS

Compiled and photographed by Bonnie J. Everhart

- No. 1: A modern day (1989) view of the Blythwood Manor House which underwent extensive renovation in 1935. The book by David Semple (pages not numbered) includes a view from a similar vantage point which permits a comparison to its appearance approximately 100 years earlier. The building was erected in 1821 by Major Archibald Campbell. In his book, Semple goes on to say the former residence of the proprietors "was a much smaller house, situated some distance from the site of the present edifice... No view of the original structure has been preserved..." J. A. Dunn in his "History of Renfrew", says the original house was south of the newer building and closer to the river. In 1989, the building was being used as a home for old-age pensioners and the town of Renfrew was responsible for maintaining the house and gardens.
- No. 2 A view across the Cart River from directly behind the Manor House, in 1989. New information suggests this view might well encompass the estate lands of "Old Mains" which, according to maps recently discovered, was the property on the opposite bank of the river. This was a very peaceful, undeveloped area, probably little changed from a much earlier time.
- No. 3 The old Cart lighthouse. A history of the community indicates that at an early day, a ferry ran from the dock by the Light connecting Renfrew to Glasgow town. The Black Cart and White Cart were mercantile waterways into the city until such time as the Clyde River was dredged to provide a deep water harbor for the Town of Glasgow. Irvine was the ocean-going port prior to that. The history also says there were herring processing and curing houses on the Blythwood estate. One of the Douglas depositions indicates Isobel told her children that "her father and brothers made their living by the sea".
- No.4 View from the bridge over the White Cart River looking downstream.
- No. 5 Just beyond the bridge over the White Cart there is a road off to the left before you reach the bridge over the Black Cart. This dirt road ends abruptly at a chain link fence approx. 8 foot high, the gate being padlocked. An employee from the Renfrew Parks Dept., whose office was on the town side of Blythwood Manor, Accompanied me to the spot and unlocked the gate. The man standing on the flat area in the photo is approx. where the doorway of the sanctuary of the Old Inchinnan Church was said to be located. The altar would have been toward The left end of the photo. Notice the tombstones laid flat on the embankment. We were told these might belong to members of the Douglas family. Lettering was visible on the stones but it was not legible even to distinguish a name....If one wanted to infer that they represent Archibald and his three sons there is NO PROOF that they do or do not!!! [You recall Attorney Ricketts reported back to the family that he had found the graves of Archibald and his sons.....]. As best I was able to

determine, no one at an earlier time copied the wording on the stones for posterity.

- No. 6 Another view of the tombstones set into the embankment. This was not their original location in the churchyard. They would have originally been standing upright But were put here around the remanents of the foundation of the church after the fire and move to the new location. This was my understanding from conversation with the minister of the church at the new location in 1989. The inscriptions on the stones are no longer legible.
- No. 7 A plane is seen coming in for a landing over the Old Inchinnan cemetery to land at the new Glasgow Airport whose runway comes almost to the fence of the cemetery property.
- No. 8 I believe this is the tomb of Major Archibald Douglas Campbell, the second born Son of James Douglas the 2nd of of Mains. He died at the Manor in 1868. It was unknown whether there were additional burials within this crypt. Possibly it is the tomb alluded to by Prof. Bruce Black as being "built over" and later uncovered. A new house of worship was erected in 1904 after a fire severely devastated the Building. At that time a fellowship hall was added which covered some of the old Tombstones, according to the minister. These were uncovered when the site was Abandon and a new church erected several miles distant in 1968.
- No. 9 The New Inchinnan Church is located on the left side of the main road to Inchinnan just east of the town proper. Behind the new structure, in a small courtyard, a number of ancient tombstones from the old location have been given a new home. See Andrew Tannahill's "Historical Notes on the Church and Parish of Inchinnan".
- No. 10 Among the old stones, some possibly dating from the 16th century, or even earlier, is this one which ontains no writing but is inscribed with a cross and elephants which I was told are thought to represent the ELPHINSTON family.
- No. 11 Side view of the ELPHINSTON tombstone.
- No. 12 The sanctuary of the New Inchinnan Parish Church looking at the Rose Window over the entry doors at the back of the sanctuary. A lovely example of modern Church architecture incorporating the old stained glass. It stands in stark contrast to the old churches, such as the one in city center of Renfrew.
- No. 13 A view of the sanctuary of New Inchinnan Parish Church looking toward the front of the church.
- No. 14 The beautiful stained glass window brought from the old church.I understood it dates from 1828 when Major Archibald Campbell financed the building of that

Church. The Campbell and Carrington and Douglas Coats of Arms are depicted.

- No. 15 A gold-leaf covered standard brought from the Old parish church to the new.
- No. 16 The exquisitely beautiful, ornate communion table at the front of the sanctuary.  
The mosaic tile work was done by Italian craftsman in 1904 at the old location..
- No. 17 The pulpit of Italian black marble and mother of pearl and lapis inlaid tile was also brought from the Old parish church at the airport location.
- No. 18 One of several stained glass windows on the west wall of the sanctuary; this Particular one was placed in memory of Archibald (Douglas) Campbell, First Baron Blythswood, by his brother Sholto Douglas , 2nd Baron Blythswood.
- No. 19 The Memorial Monument erected in the hallway outside the sanctuary in the New Inchinnan Parish church. This too came from the airport location. It Shows the coats of arms of the several different members of the Blythswood Family, all of whom descend in part at least from "James of Mains" Douglas.
- No. 20 One corner of the ruins of Bothwell Castle once a large and prestigious castle Home of the Black Douglas clan; it is renowned for its beautiful red stone quarried nearby. The original part of the castle was built around 1280, seiged in 1337; the surviving walls seen in this photo date from about 1400 AD. The Black Douglas's were a later offshoot of the Red Douglas Clan and they made their headquarters in the south and west of Scotland led by Archibald "Bell the Cat" Douglas.
- No. 21 View toward the North Sea from the upper level of the ruins of Tantallon Castle Home of Sir James "The Good" Douglas and 12th century stronghold of the Red Douglas Clan.

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