

# People in Logie Guschetneuk ~ Auchtubh ~ Invermore



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Guschetneuk

**Guschetneuk** stands on land that, in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, was part of a larger property known as **The Orchard**. For the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, **The Orchard** was owned firstly by **John McLeish**, and then disposed by him in 1845 to **James Ferguson** and his new bride **Ann Meek Davison**, in a wedding contract settlement.

**The Orchard** had been split into two sections by the new turnpike road (now the A91) built around 1806; and when **The Fergusons** sold this estate to **James Kippen** a cattle dealer in 1858, it still consisted of lands on both the North and South of the new road. Shortly after his purchase of the estate, **James Kippen** built the house/houses to be called **Blairlogie Park** on the land to the North of the turnpike road, but the lands of **Blairlogie Park** continued to

include the section that was to become the home of **Guschetneuk**, through a number of owners until the end of the 1939/45 war.

At that time, **Blairlogie Park** was owned by two ladies called **Mrs. Jennie Finlayson Miller** or **Mitchell** and **Mrs. Margaret Ann Bayne Easson**, who let the front section of the house to **Henry Kirk Maltby** – initially recorded as a NAAFI Clerk, but later (obviously after promotion) to NAAFI Manager.

However, in 1946, the two ladies sold **Blairlogie Park** with all of its grounds to **John Roberts Alec McDonald**, recorded as both a poultry farmer and a music teacher, and **Henry Kirk Maltby** took this opportunity to negotiate the purchase of a section of the **Blairlogie Park** land across the A91 that was to become the home of **Guschetneuk**. The contract document that records this sale dated November 1946 contains a number of fascinating conditions; the key ones being as follows:

- a) **Harry Maltby** was to pay an annual feu duty to **John McRoberts** as his feu superior, of £7.10.0.
- b) He was to erect one bungalow dwelling house costing not less than £1200 before 12<sup>th</sup> December 1946.
- c) The Feuer (**Harry Maltby**) would also have the right to build and maintain a stable and coach house or garage and greenhouses – but all of these, including the bungalow itself, would need the prior approval of building plans and be insured and maintained to the entire satisfaction of Feu Superior **John McDonald**.
- d) No business was to be carried out at the premises, nor should there be any activity undertaken that was obnoxious or injurious.
- e) The bungalow should be for occupation by one family only.
- f) The entire site was to be enclosed by a five strand wire and stob fence.

How many of these covenants were passed on and observed by subsequent owners and occupiers can only be speculated upon.

However, **Harry Maltby** called his house **Auchtubh**, and he lived there until 1955, when he sold it to **Peter** and **Helen Gray**, who, in their turn, lived there until 1965. **Peter Gray** is described in the Stirling Council Valuation Roll as a Commercial Traveller. **The Grays** renamed the house **Invermore**.

In 1965, **The Grays** sold **Invermore** to **Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Stewart**, who lived there until 1970, when ownership passed to **Frank Dix Matthews** and his wife **Kate**. They kept the name **Invermore**, and their daughter **Phillipa** was born while they lived there.

In 1973, **Frank** and **Kate Matthews** sold **Invermore** to **Captain Stuart Davidson** and his wife **Anne**, and moved on to the courtyard buildings at **Powis House**, where their son **Ben** was born during their first year. **Kate Matthews** is still living there now, although, sadly, her husband **Frank** died in 1985. **Captain Davidson**, as with most owners of the house, renamed it on moving in. He called it **Guschetneuk**. He is believed to be a nephew of **Majel Davidson** – one of the **Powis House Ladies** – and they jointly had ties in the Aberdeen area, from where the name **Guschetneuk** originates. It is rumoured that **Captain Davidson** moved frequently to various parts of Scotland, and always renamed his houses as **Guschetneuk** on his arrival. During his time in Blairlogie, he was director of the Tartan Museum in Comrie.

In 1976, he moved on, and he sold the house to **Alan** and **Catherine Stewart**, who are still in residence today. They had three children when they moved in to **Guschetneuk – Neil**, who was 9; **Malcolm**, who was 7; and **Morven**, who was 6. The children grew up in Blairlogie before “fleeing the nest”. **Alan** and **Catherine** have so far resisted the urge to once again rename the house, but they have, in 2008, built a garden room extension that also now acts as the front entrance to the house.