

People of Logie

Hillside / East / Rose Cottage ~ Blairview / West Cottage

The first written evidence in the history of **Hillside Cottage** - at that time two separate cottages - is a document prepared by **John Macgruther** as Attorney and Substitute disposing the ownership of one of the cottages to **Robert Bennet Junior** for the sum of Sixteen pounds and Five shillings Sterling, plus a feu duty of Four shillings Sterling. The document records the contract as having effect on the eighteenth day of November Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Four.

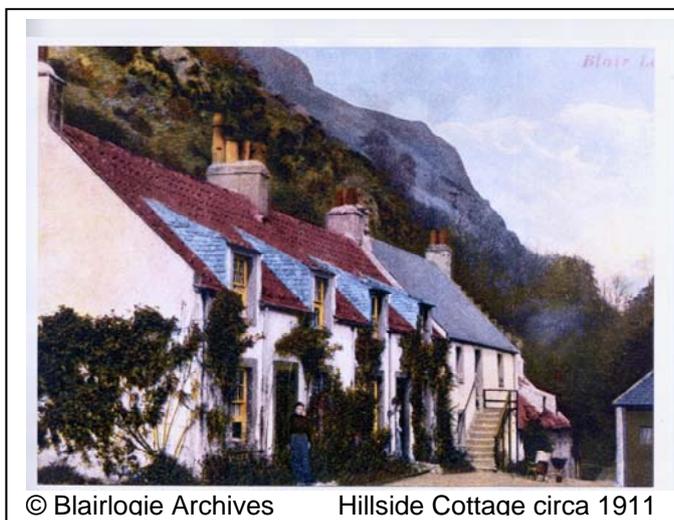
The seller was **John Marcellus Park**, and he, with his brother **Marcellus Marcellus Park**, are stated to be resident in **Bergen, New Jersey, North America**. Two cottages are in fact being sold, and are identified as having belonged at one time to **Mrs. Catherine Bryce or Bird**, who lived in **Blairlogie** in the County of Perth, and was the grandmother of the two Park boys. In locating the boundaries of the cottage and garden ground, the disposing document identifies the other cottage as having been bought by **Andrew Rob** and that it lay to the East of the cottage being bought by **Robert Bennet Junior**. It also states that there was a right of way to the pieces of garden grounds of both cottages at the western end of the **Bennet** cottage. The garden ground of the cottage being sold to **Robert Bennet Junior**, measured from the back of the Brewhouse at the North gable and running towards **Andrew Rob's** property, stretched for thirty feet and one inch. From the South gable, running in the same direction, a distance of twenty eight feet and six inches. The two cottages, of which that being sold to **Robert Bennet Junior** formed the western half, were bounded to the West by the burn of Blair. On the South, they were bounded by the common street of Blair. On the East they were bounded by the house of **John Telford Senior** and the garden of **Mrs. Elizabeth Spittal or Dundas**, and to the North they were partly bounded by the garden of **Mrs Elizabeth Spittal or Dundas of Blair Castle**

Both cottages appear in the 1841 Census Records with their owners and occupants. The **West Cottage**, also later known as **Blairview**, was occupied by **Robert Bennet** (42) described as a farmer, and with his two daughters **Helen** (4), **Isabella** (3) and his son **Robert** (1). His wife **Margaret** does not appear in the 1841 Census, and presumably was absent at the Census visit. The neighbours, in the cottage next door, **Andrew** and his younger sister **Mary Robb**, are also recorded in this 1841 Census. Whether this cottage was the eastern part of what is now **Hillside** or the adjoining **Crowsteps** is not certain, but, on balance, it was probably **Crowsteps**,

By the time of the 1851 Census Records, **Mary Robb**, now 50, is still recorded in this **Cottage**, but now solely with her niece **Jean Robb**, a 7 year old scholar. However, **Robert Bennet** (52) and now described as a "retired farmer" is listed in this Census with his expanded family, consisting of his wife **Margaret Bennet** (28) and their children **Helen** (14), **Isabella** (13), **Robert** (11), **James** (9) and **Adam** (2). The **Bennet Family** are still recorded as occupants of the **West Cottage** in the 1861 Census Records, but **Robert Bennet** now 61 is now described as a "landed proprietor" and his family is listed as **Margaret Bennet**, his wife (38), **Isabella** (23), **Adam** (12), **Margaret Bennet** (7) and a scholar and **John Bennet** (6 months). They had also increased their household with the addition of **Janet Paterson**, their 15 year old domestic servant. However, the **Robbs** are no longer listed, and the reason for this omission is not clear.

From the time of this purchase by **Robert Bennet Junior** in 1834, the western cottage remained in the ownership of the family or Trustees of the **Bennet** estate until it was sold to **Mrs Ellen MacFarlane or Wardrope**, the wife of **George Anderson Wardrope**, in 1921

The **Bennet** estate incorporated property owned by the original **Robert Bennet** and later added to throughout **Blairlogie** and the surrounding countryside by later **Bennets**, such as his son **Robert Bennet Junior** and granddaughter **Isabella Bennet**, who eventually lived at the long-standing **Bennet** home at **Keilarsbrae House, Alloa**. **Robert Bennet Junior** bought **Croft House** in 1867. Although, apparently moving into **Croft House** for a short period after its purchase in 1867 – the **Bennet Family** is listed there in the 1871 Census Records – the Trustees of their properties in



Blairlogie operated as absentee landlords on behalf of the **Bennet Family**, and the full details of the tenants in both the **West** and **East Cottages** during this period are difficult to establish. However, the 1881 Census Records reveal **Robert Stevenson**, a retired gentleman of 79 years, as the tenant of **West Cottage**, living there with his wife **Mary** and their unmarried daughter **Agnes** (28).

Neither the 1891 or 1901 Census Records give clear information about the occupants of the two “Hillside” cottages, although **Agnes Allan Stevenson** (now 38) is shown to reside, on her own, in an unnamed “detached” cottage close to **Croft House**, however, the 1911 Census Records establish that the tenant in the **West Cottage** at that date was **Thomas Edgar**, a married “estate gardener” of 43 years, with his wife **Agnes Edgar** (44) and their daughter **Isabella Edgar** (10).

Mrs. Ellen MacFarlane or Wardrope became the owner of the western cottage by disposition of the dwelling and garden ground by the Trustees of the late **Robert Bennet** with consent in favour of **Mrs. Ellen MacFarlane or Wardrope** of **Blairlogie** (with the added consent of **George Anderson Wardrope**) and this disposition is dated 30th July, 3rd August 1920 and 28th March 1921. It is interesting to note that **Ellen Wardrope** is elsewhere recorded as having lived in **Croft House** in the position of Housekeeper for some of the time at least of **Croft House’s** ownership by **Arthur Percy Waller** in the 1920’s, and there is evidence that **Mrs. Ellen Wardrope** had been a tenant of **Isabella Bennet** at **Hillside** for some years prior to purchase of the house.

Ellen and George Wardrope also acquired ownership of the eastern cottage at some point around this time, and **Alexander Hood** became their tenant in this cottage until 1926. Ownership of the eastern cottage prior to the time that the **Wardropes** purchased it is yet to be established.

The history of the western and eastern cottages is still far from complete during the period of the 1920's and early 1930's that followed, and the ownership and occupancy of the various cottages is mixed with the history of the adjoining **Crowsteps**.

Crowsteps, divided into two upper and bottom dwellings, is most likely to have been the home of the **Robb** and **Paterson** families until it was sold to **Isabella** and **Ella Stevenson** in 1921/1922. The history of the **Robb Family** has been researched by **Steven Robb**, now living in Edinburgh. He reports that, on **Andrew Robb's** death around 1848, the property passed to **John Robb** (1785 – 1863) who lived in **Menstrie**. The house was occupied by **Mary Robb** living there with her niece **Jean Robb**, and **John Robb** owned the house from 1848 until his death in 1863. It then passed to his widow **Catherine Robb** nee **Heggie**, who died in 1866. The property then passed to their eldest son **John Robb** (1819 – 1895), a mill foreman and manager at **Keillersbrae Mill**. From 1857 until her death in 1891, the property was tenanted by **Miss Mary Houston**, variously described as a Lodging House Keeper and, just before her death at the age of 84, as a Person of Private Means. As is recorded in the history of **Croft House**, **John Robb** came back to live in **Blairlogie** for the final few years of his life. The house ownership then passed on to his widow **Margaret Robb** nee **Mitchell**, and there is a record of **Nellie Paterson**, who grew up in the upper flat of her grandmother **Margaret** at **Crowsteps**, in the 1890's, being awarded a prize of a bible in 1898 by the Minister **Robert Anderson** for obtaining full marks in her Sabbath School Examination. On **Margaret's** death in 1908, the house passed to her son-in-law, farmer **William Paterson**, who had married **Jane Thompson Robb**, and then ownership passed again to **Margaret's** grandson **John Robb Paterson** (1886 – 1953).

It was **John Robb Paterson** who sold **Crowsteps** to the **Stevenson Sisters**. It had been let to **Alexander Hood**, described variously as a Traveller and a Photographer, during the later years of **John Anderson's** ownership.

The **Stevenson Sisters** lived in **Crowsteps** themselves until 1927, when it appears that they purchased the eastern cottage from the **Wardropes** as an additional piece of property, and **Isabella Stevenson** moved in to become the occupier. However, the ownership passed to her sister **Ella Stevenson** on 14th July 1930, and this may have been due to the death of **Isabella**. There is some evidence that the eastern cottage was briefly renamed **Rose Cottage**, during this time.

As part of a statement of ownership by **Ella Stevenson**, dated 15th January 1932, the description and ownership of the adjoining eastern cottage now comes into the picture. The title to this property was recorded in the Division of the General Register of Sasines applicable to the County of Stirling on 28th November 1927 as vested in **Miss Isabella Stevenson** of **3, Annandale Street, Edinburgh**. Ownership passed to her sister **Ella** on 14th July 1930, and was further recorded on 15th January 1932. The description of the dwelling, as a match against the adjoining western cottage, was as follows:

“That dwelling house and piece of garden ground which is marked off by march stones from the property sometime sold to **Robert Bennet Junior**, and afterwards belonging to **Mrs. Ellen MacFarlane or Wardrope**, and which piece of garden ground measures on the North thirty nine feet six inches, and on the South thirty six feet four inches, with a right of entry to the said garden by the West end of the property sometime belonging to the said **Robert Bennet Junior** as aforesaid with the roof fall at the back of the said house and the pertinents and which subjects form the East half of these two dwelling houses and garden with the pertinents now bounded on the West by the burn of Blair, the house sometime belonging to **John Telford Senior** and the garden sometime belonging to **Mrs. Elizabeth**

Spittal or Dundas of Blair on the East, by part of the property sometime belonging to the said **Mrs. Elizabeth Spittal or Dundas** on the North, and by the common street of Blair on the South”

Miss Ella Stevenson disposed the East cottage and the ground and subjects described above, at Whitsunday (22nd April) 1937 to her nephew **James Norman Ferguson**, a wheelwright, of **27, Clouston Street, North Kelvinside, Glasgow**, and, at the same time, she also gifted to him a piece of land at **Blairlogie**, some sixty eight square yards and six square feet, acquired by **Miss Ella Stevenson** and her sister **Miss Isabella Stevenson**, jointly, on 19th May 1924 from **Miss Mary Houston**, who resided at **Post Office Buildings, Blairlogie**. It is later established that this piece of land is that which is owned by, and now forms the garden at the rear of, the **Blairlogie Reading and Recreation Room**.

The eastern cottage at **Hillside**, sometime **Rose Cottage?**, was split into two upper and bottom flats, as was the adjoining **Crowsteps**, and **James Norman Ferguson** was effectively an absentee landlord during the thirty years of his ownership. Facts about the tenants during these years are scarce, but it is known that, in 1934, the top flat at the eastern cottage – now known as **Hillside Cottage** – was occupied by **Mr. and Mrs. Hunter**, and the bottom flat by **Mrs. Donaldson** and her daughter **Ena**. The top flat at **Crowsteps** was occupied by **Kate** and **Jimmy Houston** and a **Mr. Hood** (Alexander?) lived in the bottom flat with his daughter **May** and his son **Billy**.

Meanwhile, at the western cottage, which, at that time, became known as **Blairview, Helen or Ellen Wardrope** and her husband **George Anderson Wardrope** continued as the owner/occupants. During the time that they also owned the eastern cottage up to 1927, they rented the property to **Alexander Hood**, and, later, to **Alexander Wardrope**, who described himself as a mechanic.

On 20th February 1930, **Mrs. Ellen MacFarlane or Wardrope**, sometime residing at **Croft House, Blairlogie**, and now residing at **Marchfield, Blairlogie**, with her husband **George Anderson Wardrope**, disposed the property (all still described as in the original **Robert Bennet** titles) to **William Taylor Christie** of **146, Nelson Street, Tradeston, Glasgow**, for the sum of £170. Her solicitors were **A. and J. Jardine** of **Stirling**.

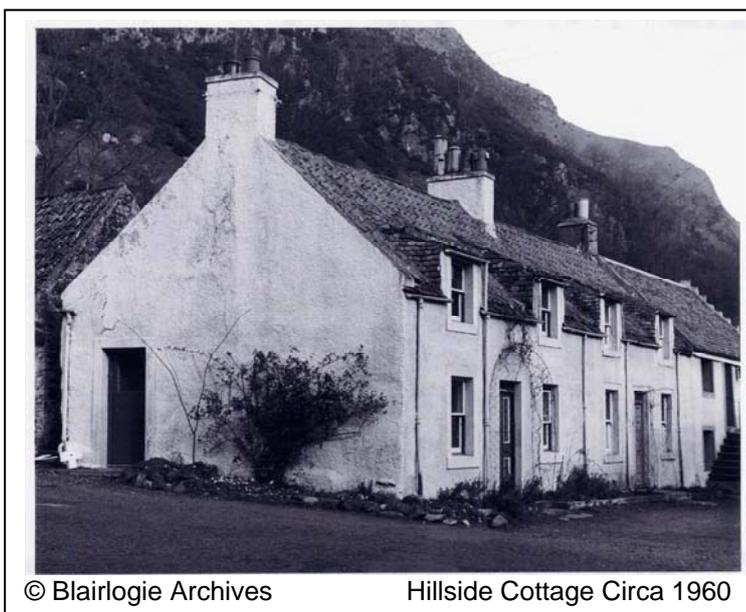
In the latter days of ownership of **Blairview**, as the western cottage was then known, in 1929/1930. the Valuation Rolls of Stirling record that **Helen and George Wardrope** now occupied **Marchfield**, and they listed it as a house, shop and garage. **Blairview** was let to **John Donaldson**, a contractor. The location of **Marchfield** is still being sought, but it is known that **Easter Cottage**, previously known as **Dumyat Cottage**, was once operated as a shop, and that garage/outbuildings once stood on the area now occupied by the car park to **Underhill**.

Ian John Kay, who lived at **Hillside** as a child between 1941 and 1950 when he was between 3 and 12 years old, reports that his father **Richard Kay** was a master baker and his mother was **Maggie Greta Kay**. He had two sisters who lived there with him – **Elizabeth** and **Eleanor** – the latter having been adopted by the family. The people who lived next door in **Blairview** during this period were **Mr. and Mrs. McGregor**, and both **Hillside** and **Blairview** were single houses comprising both floors, unlike other periods when they were sub-divided into upper and lower houses.

At the death of **William Taylor Christie** in 1943, and by the provisions of his will dated 5th March 1937, ownership of the **West Cottage** now passed to **Mrs. Louisa Hitchcock Christie** - his daughter - on 25th February 1943, who then owned and lived there until 1974.

On the 27th November 1966, **James Norman Ferguson**, (owner since 1937) and still recorded as being a wheelwright, and still living at **27, Clouston Street, North Kelvinside, Glasgow**, disposed the property - now known as **Hillside, Blairlogie** - to **James Arthur Learmonth** of the **Caravan Site, Blairlogie**, for the sum of £500. The property is still all as fully described in the documents prepared for the **Stevenson** sisters, including the additional piece of land acquired from **Mary Houston** of the Post Office, but it is interesting to note that **James Norman Ferguson** may never have resided in the cottage.

In 1974, **Mrs. Louisa Hitchcock Christie or McGregor**, formerly of **Blairview, Blairlogie** and now of **17, Abercrombie Place, Menstrie**, sold the property "formerly known as Hillside and now as Blairview" to the **National Trust for Scotland** with entry granted at 30th September 1974. The price paid was £2750



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Hillside Cottage Circa 1960

In 1975, **James Arthur Learmonth** disposed the property called **Hillside** to the **National Trust for Scotland** for the sum of £2750, with entry granted at 11th November 1975. With this sale, the two cottages, by now called **Hillside** and **Blairview** respectively, came back together again under a single ownership - having been split in 1834 by the **Park** brothers with their separate sales.

This disposition also registers that a piece of garden ground, originally part of the property, was disposed by **James Arthur Learmonth** to the

Trustees of the **Blairlogie Reading and Recreation Room** on 20th November 1969. This piece of land, forming part of the original property, was therefore not included in the sale to the **National Trust for Scotland**.

In 1976, The **National Trust for Scotland** disposed the two cottages, **Hillside** and **Blairview**, together, to **Leslie James Arthur**, Civil Engineer of **40, Cranworth Street, Glasgow** for the sum of £6000, with entry granted on 20th September 1976. The sale contained in it conditions, restrictions, provisions, limitations, obligations and others specified in the Conservation Agreement entered into by **Leslie James Arthur** with the **National Trust for Scotland**

[Presumably the National Trust purchased the two cottages to preserve them as having historical interest, but was then able to find a suitable purchaser on whom they felt confident that they could pass on the responsibility for maintenance at no cost to themselves by way of the Conservation Agreement]

During 1977, **Leslie James Arthur** proceeded to transform the two cottages into one dwelling, and, in the course of doing this, established that the then existing waste water drainage system would be inadequate. He therefore entered into an Agreement on 6th May 1977, with **Nancy Margaret Bampton** of **Croft House**, to run a new sewerage pipe across the Square (by courtesy of the agreement of the Stirling District Council !), along the West lane, and down onto the land of **Croft House**, where new primary and secondary settling septic tanks were to be constructed.



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Hillside Cottage circa 1977

In 1983, **Leslie James Arthur**, now living at **Powburn, Powis Loan, Logie**, disposed of the property (formerly **Hillside** and **Blairview**) but now collectively called **Hillside**, to **Philippa France Gold** of **112, Thirlestane Road, Edinburgh**, for the sum of £43,500. Entry was granted at 17th March 1983. The sale carried with it the limitations, etc. for preservation imposed by the **National Trust for Scotland**, but also the rights of servitude granted by **Nancy Margaret Bampton** for waste water disposal.

Philippa (Pippa) Gold sold the property in March 2004 to **Mrs. Patricia Hunter**, who undertook some renovations and modernisation work before placing **Hillside** back on the market. In July 2005 it was purchased by **Mr. and Mrs Craig Bryce** and **Mrs. Una Bryce** and they are the current owners and occupiers of **Hillside**.



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Hillside Cottage March 2006