

Place Names of Kinghorn

Written by Tom Fisher ex The Ship

This document was hand written by Tom Fisher (wonder if anyone knows who he was), I would guess that he wrote this in the forties judging by some of the names he uses to describe places at the time he was writing this.

I (Billy Ward) will attempt to decipher and rewrite this so that we can all enjoy and understand what Tom took all the time and effort to do many years ago.

This is how he wrote it:

Place names can sometimes give a clue to the character and history of the subject, or the area they represent. They often provide links over many centuries with their originators and although some of them have passed through innumerable variations of spelling, patient research has made it possible to arrive at their original form. In Britain generally the language of the Celts, Angle Saxon and Scandinavians have helped to establish place names associated with these people. Scotland has place names that can be traced to the invaders of the Welsh – Celts infiltration, and to the Scots and Picts, and the invaders from Norway. In Fife which was part of Southern Pictland, it is natural that place names of Pictish origin are predominant.

The names that have come to us in Kinghorn and the surroundings, are worthy of consideration. After studying a book on the Gaelic names of Scottish towns I found by breaking down some of the Gaelic words I found that they had a close resemblance of most of the names of the parish of Kinghorn.

Abbreviations:

G. = Gaelic. O.N. = Old Norse. W. = Welsh.

M.E. = Medieval English. (10th century) Sc. = Scotland.

L. = Latin.

Abden: *This is the G. abaid “Land of the Abbey” this was the seat of the Abthane, or overthane an ancient office in the days of the “Culdees” or Columban religious order.*

Green Brae: *This takes its name from the hill over-looking the Abden Cottage and Orchard.*

Birrels Wynd: *This may have derived its name from the material made in the mill at the bottom of the Wynd, the name of the material was called “Burel”, a rough texture cloth. In Angus there is a town called Birrels Town that received its name from the same material.*

Ladyburn Place: *This roadway leading down to the Abden received its name from the burn that had its beginning in the North Myre, and also from the little spring that had the peculiar name of “Nell’s Hole”.*

Parsons Croft: *This may have been the part of ground at the top of Ladyburn Place, on this piece of ground stood a very old sand stone building that was a common building material during the 15th and 16th centuries.*

Trowes: *This is the G. “troise”, meaning “across the middle of the land” this may be the real meaning of this pathway as it crossed the Mill Lands.*

The Crafts or St Leonards Lane: *Crafts is the old Sc. Word for “the field next to”, this may be the case as it was next to the mill lands.*

The Brig or St Leonards Place: *The Brig was a suitable name for this part of the town. Under the “Turnpike Act” of 1750 this part of the town was raised to the level of the High Street and the old draw well was covered up and a low wall was built that made a convenient seat for the old men of the town. Now these old houses have been demolished and a modern block of houses have taken their place, but this block of houses won’t have the charm or character of the old.*

Cunzie Neuk: According to most of the Historians of the Burgh they do not mention anything about a mint or the minting of coins. But according to enquiries being made by the daughter of Provost Smith, found that there is a record kept by the Guild of Goldsmith of Edinburgh that in a corner of "Cunzie Neuk" there was a mint for the minting of coins.

Trongate: This was a gate leading to the Tron, or the weighting machine. The "Auld Hoose" postal address was 16 The Tron at one time.

The Tron: The place of the weighting machine and where goods were bought and sold. The "Auld Hoose" postal address was 16 The Tron at one time.

Nethergate: This was the last road leading to the shore and ferry at one time.

St James Place: This was the part of ground situated at the corner of Nethergate and the "Gang". It takes its name from the Chapel and Hospital founded by Robert Pearson, one time a burgess of the town, who granted a piece of land for the support of a Chapel and Hospital, also for a chaplain for the Chapel of St James. It is quite possible that the old manse at the corner of the Harbour Road and Nethergate was a part of the same Chapel and Hospital granted by the said Donor.

The Gang: This was the road facing the shore, the name Gang is the Sc. Word for go or taken from the G. for the "toothless entrance".

Quarrel Brae: This part of the braes is supposed to get its name from a battle fought here between the Danes and the Scots, but it may be derived from Sc. Quarry. At one time there may have been a quarry at the bottom of the brae. For according to the G. for gang means the toothless entrance, this may have been the entrance to the quarry.

The Muckle Hole: This was a large hollow at the west end of the Braes that had been worn away by the water from the Leeches Loch now "the cemetery" many centuries ago. At one time the town used this for the dumping of the town's refuse, later they built a small esplanade to stop the sea from washing away the soil.

The Cave: This was a natural cavern in the side of the hill, but man had improved the entrance by hammer and chisel and by rounding the front of the cave.

The Harbour: Dates from early medieval times. For many years this was the main ferry between the South and the North, owing to the starting point of the old medieval track that joined up with one coming from Dunfermline to Falkland, also one going to St Andrews. This ferry was used by Archbishop Beaton and Sharp.

During the French invasion of Fife, the French marched to Achterttool and burnt the home of Kirkcaldy of Grange, named The Halyards Palace, then they marched to the Grange where they blew up the mansion house with gunpowder. Revenge came to Kirkcaldy when he made his descent upon the harbour of Kinghorn where he captured three French Supply ships, he put the crews to the sword and set fire to the French ship. (C. 1560)

The Boat Neuk: This was the corner of the harbour situated at the Kirk Craigs where the fishermen laid their boats up during the winter months or for the repairing of their boats.

Barton Buildings: At one time this was the Old Harbour Mill that was converted in to dwelling houses about the end of the 19th century. It received its name in honour of one of Scotland's great Admirals Sir Andrew Barton who is said was born in Kinghorn, but the Bartons were a Leith family who may have had a house in the town.

Salmon Cottage: These two cottages enclosed by a high wall, at one time were used as a fish curing yard, and at one time would supply Edinburgh with fresh salmons. These were the days when the Forth abounded in porpoise and whales, and seals and salmon. Nowadays with the Forth being polluted from the refuse from the Cities and towns, fish are getting scarcer every day.

Carlin Head: *M.E. and Old Norse. Kerling, old woman, fem, of karl "churl", in Sc. Carl; so the name means the "old woman's" with head added would then mean "the old woman's head"*

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Parton Rocks: *G. parton "a little harbour", with rocks added would then mean "the harbour rocks".*

Pettycur: *C. 1150 Petioker, 1277 – 1610 – ocher, though 1268, Petecor (P.car, cuir, "at the bend"), as the O' persists, probably O.G. pettecour, "croft of extortion". i.e. high rented.*

Old Inn and Hotel, Pettycur: *At the beginning of the 19th century the old inn couldn't cope with the great influx of travellers between Leith and Pettycur. At that time the stage-coach and ferry was made to run to a time-table. A new hotel was built further up the road from the harbour to cope with further influxes of travellers.*

The Salt Pans: *The old salt pans were situated where the glass work now stands, at the turn of the century the salt pans were demolished to make room for the glass making industry.*

Wellhouse Spa: *The Wellhouse Spa during the 17th century was a popular place for the gentry taking the water from this famous spa. Dr. Anderson the King's Physician wrote a treatise on this water. (He was the inventor of the once famous pills known by his name). We learn that it was impregnated with crystal gypsum, and nitre and that it was diuretic powerful enough to give "vigour and strength to deliberated debilitated constitutions". "Further it relieved such as are troubled with the difficulty of breathing, and allayeth all inflammations internal and external. Lastly that it might be taken in the morning after fasting, and at the rock from which issue from the appropriate remark could be more, regarding this catalogue of virtues that appears in the most charming hand- book " The Fringes of Fife".*

From the ferry to the Spa was the right of way, now it only goes as far as the Lochties Bridge, from the west side of the bridge this is all private ground belonging to the land company of Edinburgh, who for many years supplied the sand for the building of the Naval Base at Rosyth, and also for private and local builders. This company stopped taking the sand from the foreshore after the second world war. Now the ground is used for a holiday camp. No longer does it go under the name of the Wellhouse Spa, now its postal address is the Sandhills.

King's Mid End: *In a little field near the monument, two stone cist's or coffins were found, they belonged to the Beaker period, they now lie in the Museum of Edinburgh. During the 19th century a retired tea planter bought a piece of ground from Bruce of Grangehill for the building of a mansion house, before he did so the small waterfall had to be piped and ran underground before the house could be constructed. He planted the surrounding ground with trees and bushes. Now the mansion has been converted in to a hotel.*

The King's Craig: *This was the cliff that the King was supposed to have fallen over when making his way to Kinghorn Tower, situated above the Harbour at Pettycur. There is no mention of the King falling over the cliff by Brice, the Abbot of Inchcolm in his history of Scotland.*

Grangehill: *This is the Latin name for "church farm on the hill".*

Slack Myre: This is the piece of ground that the farm buildings are built on. The name is derived from the Sc. Word slack "loose" myre "marshes ground".

West Burn: This small stream divides the Rosslands from the Castleriggs, this stream made its way down by the old Tannery or the old Golf Club manufacturing business run by a Mr William Gibson at the beginning of the 20th century, from there down to the shore at the rock known as the Salmon rock.

Castleriggs: This piece of land was given to one by the name of Murdoch Shank, an outlaw, who found the Kings body. He later received a free pardon and given the land known as Castleriggs that stretches from the Loch to the West Burn and bounds in the East by the Kilcruik Lands down to the South at the Tannery. The part at the side of the loch was bought by the Burntisland Oil Co. for the constructing of the old Pug Railway.

Kilcruik Lands: This land consisted of the field from the Candleworks to Barclay Road and Kilcruik Road to the old Tannery or Bailiol Road.

Kirk Steads: This was the land stretching from the Templers Walk to the Cross Road, and from the Loch Road to Kilcruik Road or Townhead.

Gallow Plantian: This piece of ground was bought by the Burntisland Oil Company, also the loch. Their railway ran around the face of the hill and under the road to the Low Binn where the oil shale coal was put into retorts to extract the oil from the coal.

Candle Works: These works for at least ten years were kept busy making candles and other articles from the paraffin wax. Many of the painters during the winter time when work was hard to get found jobs waiting for them in the works. Unfortunately the Burntisland Oil Co. after ten years closed down the works at the Low Binn, owing to one of the mines being flooded. During the First World War they were turned into barracks until the war finished. Next Cameron of Silver Mill in Edinburgh opened up the works for preparing the hides for the motor car industry, this continued till the beginning of the 2nd World War. Now it is the Loch side Tannery works.

The Loch: *This stretch of water was a source of energy for the many mills operating in the parish before the advent of steam. One of the oldest mills in Kinghorn was the one that had gone under the name of Pease Mill on the lower side of the Trowes. There is a charter that Edward the first of England had control of this mill and the surrounding land, presumably the "Mill Lands". The loch is fed by many springs most of them situated at the west end of the loch, known as the Saught, or Willow trees. At one time this loch had a depth of 30 feet, but this is gradually being reduced by material from the springs.*

Red Braes: *This is the roadway leading to Kilrie, one road leads to Craigencalt and the other climbs the hill, the name Red Braes may have received its name from the colour of the earth.*

Cant's Hill: *This is the hillside stretching from the North Road to the Ghostan, it's other name was Tammy Lowrie hill, he was a local man who spent most of his spare time there.*

Banchory: *This is the G. name for a "Sharp pointed hill"*

Pitteadie: *G. name for this Tower and farm is eadann-ain "a bit of land on the slope of the hill" or hill face.*

Ketry: *C1198, Kallori, G. eille Mhoire, the virgin Mary's Church.*

Chapel Flat: *This was a small field on the way to Auchtertool, this may refer to the Chapel of Kilrie.*

Glassmount: *This is the G. for glas monach or "Grey Hill" or "mount", on one of the fields there stands two crude stones, they may be a monument to some warriors of the past, or they may represent some druidical temple that was replaced by the Christian faith, who took over the Culdee churches, this may be the case for not far from here was the chapel of the Virgin "Mary's".*

Tyrie and Legmallee: *The only remains of this mansion is the Garden walls, with graceful corner strengths and well built, and finely portioned gateways, the present mansion house stands on the site of the old. In older days Tyrie could boast of a church that went under the name of "Ecclesia Sanctas Maria", now no longer to be seen. To this chapel from the Isle of May came St. Fillan to spend the rest of his days at the chapel of "Ecclesia Sanctas Maria". It is known that he died and was buried somewhere in the Chapel grounds. The older people of the surrounding district found that the high sounding name difficult to pronounce, so they dubbed it Eggs Maline.*

Seafield Tower: *The present Tower was built on the site of a much older one, for according to an old charter of 1309, King Robert 1 granted to William Kinghorn the lands of Seafield.*

The Moultray of Seafield came from Markinch in 1513, when John Moultray of Markinch and Kinghorn was killed at the battle of Flodden. We find traces of this contentious race in various pleas and complaints and cautions. There were many traces of interchanging between the Moultrays and their neighbours. The family connection with Seafield ceased in 1626 when Robert Moultray sold the estate to Archbishop Law of Glasgow, and became the proprier of the lands of Rescobie.

Vicar's grange and Old Vicar's grange: *On the road leading to Seafield, Old Vicar's grange was on the right hand side of the road, and Vicar's grange was on the left. This estate belonged to the reader of the Kirk of Kinghorn.*

The Myres, North Mid and Myres Park: *These three fields were owned by the town and were let out to the highest bidders for grazing or for bleaching of material made in the mill of the burgh.*

Bleaching Hill: *This hill was a popular place for the bleaching of cloth by the people of the town, or by the mills for the bleaching of flax or linen.*

Kilcruik Road: *This is the name for a "cell or chapel in the woods". Robert Sibbald in his history of Fife gave Kinghorn the name of Kilgorn meaning "the church on the green headland".*

David Brown of Fordell, Finmount and Vicars grange: His mother was Elisabeth Coutts of the Grange, daughter of Allen Coutts of the Grange. Vicars grange was purchased from Sir George Erskine of Invertiel, the Charter dating from 1630. David Brown died in 1643 and was succeeded by his sons David and John, and eventually by his daughter Christian. She married John Bruce of Wester Abden, a cadet of the Earlshall family, and with this union was chose the surname of Brown with Vicars grange. In 1638 David Brown added the lands of Wester Grass to his estate, these being described in the deeds of Sasine as lying in the parish of Kinghorn, between the Vicars grange and the sea on the South side of the stream running eastwards from the courtgate to the sea.

Grange: The name of this estate is taken from the Latin for "The Church Farm". This estate had many owners including the Sandilands and Coutts, but Kirkcaldy of Grange and the Hallyairds at Auchtertool were the most famous of all the owners. During the invasion of Fife by the French who arrived at the Hallyairds and finding no one there set the place on fire and destroyed all the wall covering and all the contents of the mansion, from there they travelled down to the Grange where they blew up the house with gunpowder. But Kirkcaldy got revenge when he was informed that three French Supply ships were in the harbour at Kinghorn, he descended on the harbour and put the crews of the ships to the sword and then set fire to the ships. The present building baronial in style, shows a circular tower with the date of 1687, with the monogram carved on the kitchen door. There is an entrance from the kitchen, opening into a vault and underground passage leading to, as some say, to Seafield Cave.

Bow Butts: This 16th century mansion stands on the site of an earlier building, across the road from it was the Bow Butt farm and orchard and their other field was situated at the Cross Roads, a small field on the right hand side of the road leading to Craigencalt. Inside the grounds of Bow Butts at the corner of Eastgate and the Kirkcaldy Road stood a small pond fed from the water of the Lady burn, but this was filled in by the owner at the beginning of the century, now the gardeners house and garage has taken its place.

The Butts: Built on to the end of the orchard wall was another wall about ten to twelve feet high, this enclosure of ground was used for the practice of Archery. On the side of the Loch Road was a depression where there was a spring of fresh water, this spring would be a welcome to the archers for the quenching of their thirst. This well had the peculiar name of "Nells Hole".

Templers Walk: This pathway dates back to Medieval times and it may go back to the days when this was the starting point between the South and North. This track ran along the side of the Orchard across the Loch Road and through a field belonging to Craigencalt, across a stile at Cants Hill, or to give its other name, Tammy Lowries hill, from there to Banchory, then to Abbotshall and Chapel, Clunie, Dogton, then joining up with a track from Dunfermline at Kinglassie, from there to Walkerton where it joined up with a track from West Wemyss, then made its way to Falkland and St Andrews.

Barclay Road: This roadway was constructed at the beginning of the 19th Century, this road was named after the cottage at the top of the Gallowgate. One of the Barclays was the town clerk for over 20 years. This roadway cut through a part of the Glamis Castle Gardens that was on the opposite side of the Loch Burn.

The Cut or Castle Wynd: The opening through the hillside was made either in the latter half of the 18th century or the earlier part of the 19th century. This enabled the stage coach an easier route to join up with the North Road. It seems that the old road had gone by the High Street, Eastgate, Glamis Lane, up the side of Splash Mill (Hays Joiners Shop) to connect with the old Mid Road to Burntisland. The other road had gone by Eastgate, Gallowgate, joining up with the North Road.

Baliol Road or Tannerie Toll House and Cottage: The old Toll House stood up the top of the Castle Wynd and Baliol Road. Under the Tampots Act of 1750, where road improvements were carried out, and roads in certain parts of the town were in place for the payment of tolls. The Toll House and cottage were demolished about 1930 to make way for a modern housing scheme.

Tannery: *This work was situated where the Gibson Golf Club makers works stands today. A reference to the ship Cursour, with a cargo of hides appeared in a caution of 1599. There a cargo of hides "now in a boat belonging to the Weemysous" shall be transferred from the St. Peter to the Cursour, but the cause of the transference does not transpire. The water for the tanning came from the North Burn.*

Leeches Loch and Witches Hill: *During the building of the railway a large part of the rocks were cut away. Leeches Loch was a dismal stretch of water drain. Later the town sold it to the Parish Council for a new cemetery. At the top of the cemetery at the part that the railway blasted away, was the part where the witch was burned, her name was "Katherine Wallenge", in the year 1667.*

Pettycur: *C1150. Petiocker, Old G. "pette cuir" "a bit of land at the turn or bend", but where the O is persistent it may mean the "croft of extortion" The Harbour was, of old, a landing place for Royalty, as the Royal Castle or Tower was built on the top of the hill overlooking the Harbour. Many parts of this headland has been claimed for the siting of this Tower, but the most feasible one is the one mentioned above, with the sea and the hillside to the south and the Leeches Loch to the west, and the lands known as the Jousting Lands to the north. This made a fine defensive place for his Castle and Tower.*

Old Inn: *The old Inn and stables were converted into houses after the ferry was transferred to Burntisland. At the height of the ferry this old Inn would house many a landed gentleman, also Royalty, before the hotel further up the road was built. At the end of the Inn stood a lean-to sort of house, this was a kiln for the smoking of fish or herring. Now their old house has been swept away and a refreshment has taken their place.*

The basin across the road from the old inn and the old harbour masters house, or superintendent's house was demolished and the material dumped into the basin. Now this is used as a car park.

Brick House: *This house was built on a spur of rock at the ness. It was a handy landmark for the fishermen, if you could see the Brick House and the Seafield Tower in your sight you sail clear of any rocks.*

The Hotel: This hotel was built to accommodate the many travellers using the ferry. When the stage coach was made to run to a time table in conjunction with the ferry this brought a greater influx of travellers to the ferry. During stormy weather most of the houses of the town were overflowing with travellers waiting to cross to Leith.

The Battery: This Battery was constructed during the latter half of the 19th century, then, at the beginning of the 20th century the Government bought some acres of ground at the top of the Crying Hill where they constructed a few gun emplacements. After the 2nd World War the High and Low Batteries were demolished and modern houses built on the ground that once, in conjunction with Inchkeith, held the key to the defence of the Forth.

Anne.S. Swann's House: This large free-stone built house, built to a plan of the Authoress, Anne S. Swan for a holiday home for her husband and family. It was a nice retreat from the grime and dust and busy life of London and to get the invigorating air of this seaside resort.

Annie. S. Swan was one of the most prolific writers of her day. "The peoples Friend" to which she contributed was to be found in nearly every home. Her first home in Kinghorn was "Carlowrie", and then "Aldersyd", and from there to the Anchorage. After the tragic death of her son she sold the Anchorage to the local ship builder, John Fletcher for the sum of £700, who later sold it to Gregor McGregor the head of the Fife Education Authority for the sum of £1700.

This is a little story about John Fletcher getting old Tommy Lawrence to paint the woodwork in some of the rooms of the house. After a few days Fletcher paid old Tommy a visit. Looking into one of the rooms he gave out a roar, "Hi Lawrence were the watery waves coming into the bay", old Tommy asked "why Mr Fletcher?", Fletchers reply was "You have more waves on this woodwork than there is entering the bay".

The Port: This name means gateway. That would be before the Burntisland Road was made and the only road to the ferry was by Pettycur Road.

Glue Works: *These works were situated where the Rosslands tea gardens now stand. They belonged to the Kinghorn family of Darneys. These works later closed down and were transferred to Edinburgh. Henry Darney gifted some fine oil paintings to the town that can be seen in the town hall today.*

The School: *This school has seen many additions added to its original octagonal dome that crowned the entrance hall and the museum and the quaintly spired clock tower that remains singularly attractive. With the coming of the railway, the Burgh bowling green and part of the school ground and buildings (1846) and at one time "Rose Cottage" with an entrance through a large Pend was used as an infant's class room, this was in the year 1872, also there was a small school held in the old mill at the harbour near Barton Buildings, these places were used until the infants class rooms were built beside the Burntisland Road.*

Rossland Place: *This part of the town contained many stables and a hotel. Bobby McNorgan had his stable facing the railway, the hotel was next to the Church, other stables were situated where the West End Café is now. These were the days when one could hire a horse and a man for 2d a mile, I suppose the charge for the man was for him to bring back the horse.*

High Street: *Before the Turnpike Act of 1750, the High Street was lower on the seaward side, but with the Act of 1750 the High Street was raised to its present level. If you study some of the old houses on the seaward side of the street you will see that they had to build a retaining wall in front of some of the houses. Now these old houses are gradually disappearing and the High Street is losing its homeliness that the modern bricks of houses will never acquire, nor mellow with age.*

Gallowgate, Eastgate, North Overgate and South Overgate:

The word gate should be spelled "gaet", this is the old Sc. Word for road, and had nothing to do with gates. The old Sc. Word for gates was Ports.

Pease Mill: *Was situated on the lower side of the Trowes with the typical circular shape of the kiln rising above its desolate buildings. The entrance to this old mill was by an opening half way down South Overgate. Over the old mill was the date 1751, this was an indication of rebuilding only as the mill was one of Kinghorn's earliest and most reliable asset of the burgh. A writ of 1614 show that Patrick Kirkcaldie of Grange and Western Abden held the Jousting Lands " along with Mclindins de Kinghorn", and some other properties.*

Edward the 2nd of England held the mill of Kinghorn for a while.

Bruce Street: *This street received its name from Robert Bruce who had married a granddaughter of Kirkcaldy of Grange, and as a marriage dowry, he received land known as western Abden. His house stood at the top of South Overgate where the present Ship Tavern now stands.*

Robert's brother, John Bruce was eminent as a scholar, and became Professor of Logic at Edinburgh University. Eventually he held several important government appointments and did splendid services as an author and in arranging the chaos of the state papers offices. Along with Sir John B. Blair he shared the reversion of the patent of Kings Printer for Scotland and this earned him the nickname of Bible Bruce. Thus when T.Fisher built the Ship Tavern on the site of Bruce's house the saying became "from spiritual to spirits".

South Overgate: *During the demolishing of the houses at South Overgate and Tron they came across some under- ground caverns. These would have been reservoirs for the mills, for starting up in the morning.*

The Shipyard: *This shipyard was started by a Kirkcaldy man who had a small shipyard at the bottom of Heggies Wynd at the Links. He later moved to Kinghorn. The next owner was the Scotts of Greenock who faded in 1909. The yard was started up again by John Hatcher but did not last very long and no longer were ships built there.*

Bellypuff: *This may be the G.for baile, poor man's house, or it may be belly for the farm near the village with puff added. Bellypuff.*

Apple and Pear: ` *These two holes in the rocks may have been made by erratic seas, otherwise large pond stone that through the ages had been made by the action of the sea and gradually made these round holes in the rock.*

Courting Rock: *This was a favourite place for courting couples in days gone by, also for the young women before the first world war, who with their knitting or crocheting passed away the time during the summer months.*

Hoch ma Toch and Burgh Boundary: *This is the Gaelic for the Lime Stone Bay. At one time this had a large quantity of marine lime stone. In the shale a little to the west of the little spring of water that runs down the rock, it was possible at one time to find the bone and teeth of Carnivorous fishes of that period. The little stream that makes it way down from the railway to the little bay is the burgh boundary.*

Lime Kiln, Beach and Rock and old Kiln: *This part of the beach supplied, at one time, all of the lime required for building purposes. To this day you can follow the road from the beach to as far as the Apple and the Pear, from there it follows where the railway had built the retaining wall that was washed away during a storm, the road then crossed over the tip of the Belpuff, that before shipyard, made up the ground from the material taken from the shipyard, was extended when it came around the back of the Kirk.*

A bit of Burntisland history: *In 1654, a horse race was ran annually on St. Peters day, from the East Port to Pettycur, instituted and continued until 1812.*

George Sanders. The miniaturist painter: *George Sanders was born in Kinghorn in the year 1774. After an apprenticeship to a coach painter, he later was occupied principally in painting miniatures and teaching drawing. In 1807 he went to London and almost at once became the popular miniaturist of the day. Members of the Royal Household were amongst his sitters. From 1812 he turned his attentions almost entirely to painting life size portraits in oil. In this branch of art his work was also in great demand. He died in London in the year 1846.*

Kinghorn: In 1849 there were nine public houses and an inn at Pettycur. It seems the most popular of the public houses was the "Lion", the "The Three Crowns" and the "New Inn" at Pettycur. The town as a whole was turned into a place of entertainment as the passengers stayed by tide and storm. The town could also supply the travellers with saddled horses, as many as 60 were kept in the town. Now the ferry has disappeared and Pettycur has fallen into decay and the public houses have been reduced to three and two hotels.

The Curse of Kinghorn: This curse was laid on the town by an old woman who usually sat on a low wall above the steps leading down to Cunzie Neuk. It happened when the mill girls were making their way to the wishing well in the Doric Glen. One of the girls said to the old woman "come Maggie and wish you were young again", she replied "wish well for yourself for the day will come when the work in the mill will prosper for a while and then fade".

Town Hall: This building was created in the Tudor style, and was at one time was the most important building in the Burgh. It was designed by Hamilton of Edinburgh and erected at a cost of £2500.00 this including the jail and the Janitors house, nowadays this money would not buy a small bungalow. The Town Hall was built on the site of the old Tolbooth or St. Leanords Tower which was struck by lightning at the beginning of the 19th century. The present building was built in the year 1828.

Proverb of Kinghorn

Dysart for coal and saut

Pathhead for meat and maut

Kirkcaldy for lassies braw

Kinghorn for breaking the law

Kinghorn for reasons which are not clear, was one of the poorest of the Royal Burghs of the East Coast and seemed to have a bad name in days of old.

Kinghorn for cursing and swearing

Burntisland for curing herring

As Burntisland no longer cures, it may be helped that Kinghorn no longer curses. How was this place better thought of than by the people. The fishes despised it long for it's poverty in fish, and said of it.

"Kinghorn bliss" (an enclosed bay): a muckle dish and little in it.

Or as another person put it. "It's like Kinghorn, nae muckle worth.

It's better neighbours declared it's sin in these lines.

"Here stands a kirk without a steeple.

A drunken priest and graveless people.

The passengers seemed to have fought shy of its ferry, for it was said.

"Their many speir the road for Kinghorn sat kin it all the way to Pettycur"

Note a few genealogies and internments at Kinghorn (Translated from Latin)

John Scodro, his son died at Kinghorn, and was buried there. John had three sons, namely Adam, John and Bert, Adam truly remaining at Kinghorn, and after the coming of Baliol into Scotland, was slain in the Kirkyaird and was buried there.

Genealogy of John son of Adam. "Adam, son of John Scordo elder, died at Kinghorn, and was buried there. John, his son, lives and remains there.

Genealogy of Brendin Paddyng. "Seathune, son of Edward died at Pelkyochryir, and was buried at Kinghorn. John, the brewer, his son died in Petycuir, and is buried at Kinghorn, Malethy, his son died at Kaskybarren, and is buried at Kinghorn.

Genealogy of the son of John Malethy. Malethy son of Gilgrewed, the fore said, died at Gathmilk and is buried at Kinghorn.

Ecclesiastical Notices. *There seems little information of the two churches of Easter and Wester Kinghorn. Prior to the reformation (1502), a document at Dunfermline stated that this would be known as Wester Kinghorn to distinguish it from the one in Kinghorn, called at that time Kinghorn Easter. The former (Kinghorn) was the name of the Parish but the ancient name of the town was Barterland or Burtiland, in the printed “Requintrum de Dunfermline” there are three deeds by the Bishop of St. Andrews, two in the 12th century and one in the 13th century, confirming the grants of the church of Kinghorn Wester to the Abbey of Dunfermline.*

In a taxation of the 13th century there are the following entries: The Kirk of Kinghorn paroa (small) to be valued at e.s. (100 shillings, that of Kinghorn magne (great) is valued at £X.merks (£45-6-8 Scot.). Those values would accrue to the Abbey of Dunfermline to which these churches belong to, by gifts of the Bishops.

Local Medieval Tracks. *The Broad ferry, as the ferry between Leith and Kinghorn was named, was the most popular of all the ferries of the Forth between the South and the North for it was the starting point for an old medieval track that joined up with a track coming from Dunfermline to Falkland, also one going to St. Andrews, often used by Archbishop Beaton and Sharp.*

These old tracks were used long before the Romans came to Britain. It seems probable that some of the tracks formed by the prehistoric people of Fife, these were also used by our Pictish ancestors. A tribe of the latter the Horesttic occupied this part of Scotland when the Romans were here and no doubt such tracks aided the latter to penetrate well into Fife and also to the shores of the Tay.

St. Fillan: From the Island of May, so far as the history is traceable, came the priory of Pet-Wymess, "The settlement in the caves" it is associated in its earliest day with St. Priscan and here lived St. Fillan, of Fife, who has been almost inextricably confused with two other Saints of the same name. St. Fillan called the "Leper" through the misreading, and St. Fillan of Galloway and Strathclyde. St Fillan, rose to be Abbot of Pittenweem. It is at least known with certainty where he died, for it is recorded that in his old age he retired to "Disent" of Tyrus where he passed away. "Tyrus" is Tyrie, situated in the valley behind Kinghorn. It may be that his dust lies in the obliterated church yard at Legmaline on the land of Tyrie. This place was named in 1169 as Ecclessmalee or the church of St. Maline, the same name which appears in the name of the famous Belgium City.

Johnny Stocks, the dwarf who followed Patie Birnie.

***O' Johnny Stocks, what comes of thee ?
I'm sure that it breaks thy heart and dee
Thy Birnie's gone, there'll never be
her blithe, nor able
To spook they short laughs merrily
Upon the table***

The fiddler followed the Kinghorn Regiment to the battle of Bothwell Bridge.

***At Bothwell Brig. He gaed to fight
But being wise as he was wight
The thought it showed a soul but slight
Darthie is starid
And let the gun powder wrang his site
Or fiddlers hand
Right pawkely he left the plain
Nor ower his shoulder looked again
But couried ower moss and muir amain
And to Auld Reekie straight
And told how many who were slain
Before they fought***

The effegie of Pattie Birnie, famous fiddler of Kinghorn.

*Wha gants the leiges gaff and girn
Aft till the cock from lain the morn
The path his wads and mirth were pernie
He roo'd these things were langest worn
The large ale barrel way his kirn ay'
And faithfully he temed his horn.*

I believe I got most of it as it was written, maybe a few words towards the end are not quite correct, but they can be changed if necessary.

I found this very interesting indeed and I certainly learned a lot about the "Place names of Kinghorn". One in particular was Birrels Wynd where I grew up and lived for 21 years, I now know where the name came from and why Birrels only has one L. My teachers always accused me of spelling it incorrectly.

So thanks to Tom Fisher for hand writing this, no easy task in his day.

Who was Tom Fisher? We know after reading this that T. Fisher built the Ship Tavern, probably early 20th century. Mrs Tulloch I knew was born in the ship in the year 1912, so after speaking to Charlie I found out that Mrs Tulloch's Mother was a Fisher, so we thought that T Fisher would have been her Grandfather or Uncle. No doubt more information will unfold on this one.

When did he write this? He does mention a couple of things that relate to the time he wrote this, namely: West End Café was operating then, the he mentioned the Rosslands Tea Gardens, then there was W. Gibson Golf Club Makers (The Cleek Works). Gibsons closed in 1955 so that is the latest date that it could have been, the other two went on a bit longer than that. He also mention the Second World War so that would make it, my opinion, between 1945 and 1955, and if it was, then somebody must remember him.

