

Anderston

THEN & NOW



A Concise History of a Glasgow District

By

John N. Cooper

Fully Revised Special Edition

Cover: Anderston Cross c1900

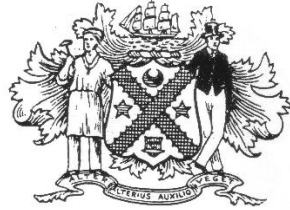
The photograph featured on the cover represents one of the views most commonly associated with 'Old Anderston'. The instantly recognisable property stood on the junction of Argyle/Stobcross Street.

*Note what appears to be a glazed rooftop studio on this fine red-sandstone property
erected by 'The Caledonian Railway Company' during the 1890s*

All the buildings in the photograph were removed during the 1960s as part of the Redevelopment Programme, and to make way for construction work on the Kingston Bridge and the Expressway.

Anderston

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*For my wife Heather,
Thank you for your
support and encouragement.
November 2006.*

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FULLY REVISED SPECIAL EDITION

(May 2007)

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J. N. Cooper

February 2006

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(Courtesy of Glasgow University Special Collections)

The Mansion House of Stobcross

The tranquil scene above is representative of how the locality of Stobcross looked around the 1760s. The pages that follow tell of the development and of the changes that affected the area over the centuries.



The Armadillo and Moat House Hotel (March 2006)

A present day view of the site where the Mansion House of Stobcross once stood

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Foreword

When I first contemplated writing a history of Anderston, during the late-1960s, I was motivated to complete the undertaking when I heard comments such as, "*What is there in Anderston to write about? Not much happened there!*" It was partly in response to such denouncements that I wrote my first historical account of the area, which I entitled '*Simply Anderston*'. As I began gathering and collating material for '*Simply Anderston*' I was conscious that this would be the first complete history of Anderston ever written and this realisation imbued me with a real sense of mission. My original manuscript was heavily edited to make publication costs viable and one of my longstanding ambitions was to improve the original account and complete the job I originally set out to do - hence the present book and the new title - '*Anderston Then & Now*'.

To the casual observer or passer-by, a community is largely about the visual impact of buildings and the general ambience of an area. However, to the resident the community is about the reality and challenges of daily life and of their hopes and dreams. An exile returning to Anderston today would be hard pressed to find many recognisable landmarks. Gone are the familiar tenements and factories that pre-dated the 1960s; in their place stand prestigious hotels, commercial properties and areas of new housing. Yet, amid the generally unimpressive blocks of housing stock erected during the 1960-70s some architecture of 'Old Anderston' still survives including - 'The Saving's Bank' at Shaftsbury Street; 'The Buttery' on Argyle Street; St Patrick's R.C. Church in North Street, and Washington Street School.

It is approaching three hundred years since the village of Anderston was originally proposed and the first cottages were erected, in 1725. By the mid-nineteenth century the village had emerged from a small weaving and farming community into a highly industrialised part of Glasgow. In many respects, Anderston was the cradle of industrial enterprise and innovation during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, as with any area, the real story of Anderston is about its people, both past and present; distinguished celebrities associated with the area down through the years include: James Watt, David and Robert Napier, William Quarrier, Thomas Lipton, Duncan Macrae, Roddy McMillan and Tony Roper, to name but a few.

I have primarily confined the story within the bounds of the area most commonly referred to as Anderston, a district of about one square mile. Forming the western boundary is the SECC, then north to St. Vincent Crescent and Corunna Street, east along Argyle Street and Saint Vincent Street, Bothwell Street then down Pitt Street, along Holm Street to the eastern boundary marked by the Central Station. The River Clyde to the south is the natural barrier enclosing the entire geographical area

I again gratefully acknowledge the assistance and encouragement of the many people who helped with the original publication '*Simply Anderston*' their assistance is still greatly appreciated and it is to them and everyone with an interest in Anderston, and Glasgow, that I dedicate '*Anderston Then & Now*'.

John N. Cooper
Neilston, G78 3JY
Fully Revised Special Edition
May 2007



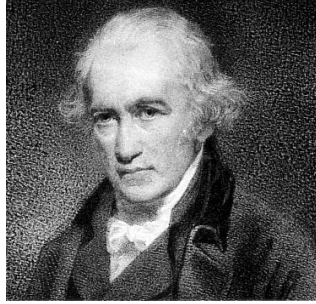
Arms of the
Burgh of Anderston

Anderston

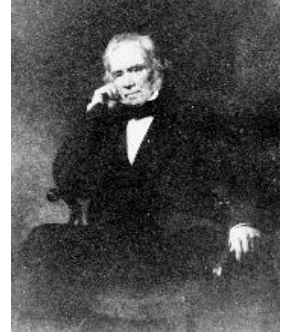
THEN & NOW



James Monteith



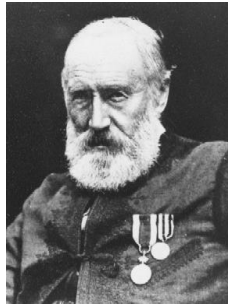
James Watt



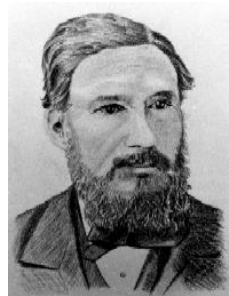
Henry Houldsworth



Robert Napier



Crimea Simpson



William Quarrier



Eliza Jane Aikman



Stobcross House (1870)
(Courtesy of Glasgow University Special Collections)



'The Buttery' 652 Argyle St. (2004)
The oldest surviving property in Anderston today



Argyle Street at Finnieston looking east (c1900)



St. Vincent Street looking east (2004)

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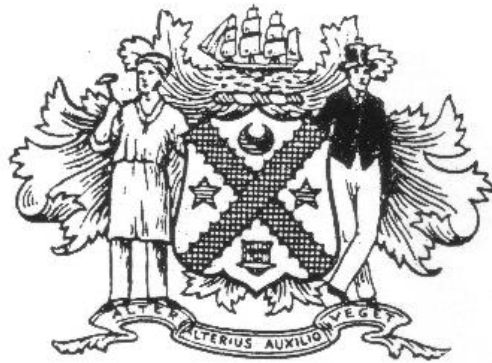
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Arms of the Burgh of Anderston

Anderston

THEN & NOW PART ONE

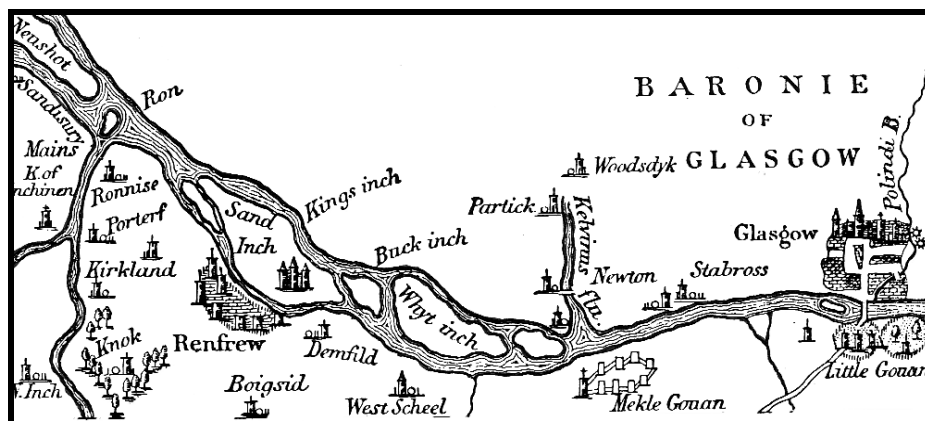
EARLY TIMES

Our journey back through the ages begins in the early 1700s, and if we were to set out from where the present Central Station is now situated, in its place we would find the small village of Grahamston. Continuing our journey westward along Argyle Street or, at that time, the 'Highway to Dumbarton' (later to be named '*Anderston Walk*') on our left would be Smithfield (which lay between Oswald Street and York Street), followed by Brownfield (lying between Brown Street and McAlpine Street). At this time those areas were more or less as their designation implies, simply, large fields. To our right, on the north side of the main highway, stretched the Lands of Blythswood, part of a large private estate.

In ancient times the entire area, now referred to as Anderston, was covered by thick woodland known as the Bishop's Forest. A charter of James II, dated 20th April 1450, records that the Bishop's Forest was granted to '*William Turnbull, Lord of Provan, Bishop of Glasgow and founder of the University there*'. Due to its proximity to the Cathedral the forest became a favourite hunting place of the Bishops of Glasgow, who came to hunt wild boar and deer. In the years after the Reformation much of the forest was cleared and the area became known as the Great Western Common.

STOBCROSS

The earliest known reference to the area is to be found on a document dated 1136 from which we learn that King David I gifted the Lands of Stobcross to the Cathedral of Glasgow. Over the following centuries Stobcross is referred to a number of times in the Diocesan Registers. The Dutch cartographer *Joan Bleau* features Stobcross as a landmark on his '*Map of Clydesdale*' published in 1654. The fact that Stobcross is depicted on the map suggests it must have been a place of relative importance.



A section of Bleau's map of 1654 featuring Stobcross

The Estate of Stobcross was more or less bordered on the north by the main highway to Dumbarton (Argyle Street), whilst the western boundary extended to Pointhouse. The Blythswood Burn, located near McAlpine Street, marked the eastern boundary; the burn still exists, although of course, it is built over.

Present day Anderston owes its name and origin to the one-time owner of the Estate of Stobcross, James Anderson of Dovehill (or Dowhill). The Anderson family appear to have been in possession of at least part of Stobcross as early as the mid-sixteenth century. A document dating from 1547 refers to '*James Anderson as having settled in 'Furty's Ferm on the land of Stob Crose*'. As well as the office of Lord Provost of Glasgow, the Andersons occupied prominent positions in the Guilds of the City for well over seventy years. At some point between the years 1630 and 1703 the Anderson family managed to acquire the entire Estate of Stobcross, comprising sixty-four acres in total. Unfortunately, history provides no particulars of how, or for what price, the Andersons gained possession of such a large portion of the Great Western Common.

A document referring to Stobcross dated, January 1611, records, '*James Anderson of Stobcorse hath there a convenient house, sited upon an eminence above the rivir, with suitable gardens, and avenue to the water*'. The mansion-house of Stobcross survived until 1876 when construction work began on the Queen's Dock. Just over a century later the dock was filled in to make way for the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), opened 1985.

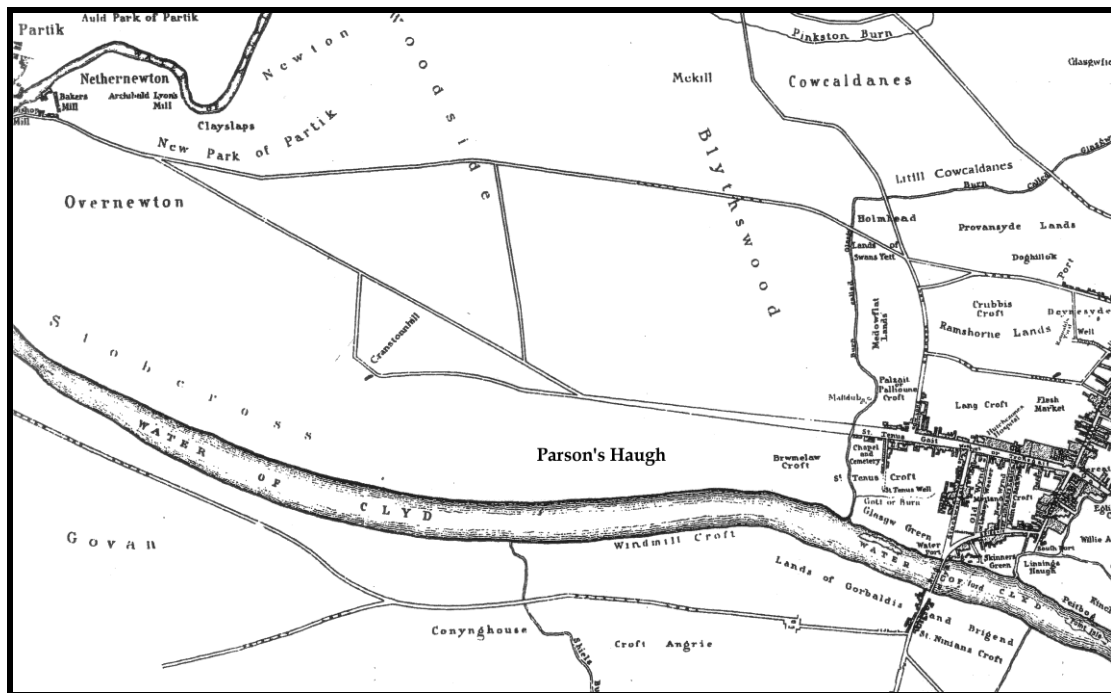
PARSON'S HAUGH

To the east of Stobcross Estate stood a twelve-acre farmland known as Parson's Haugh, sometimes erroneously referred to as '*Parson's Croft*', or '*Rankin's Haugh*'. Being situated in an area that once formed part of the ancient Bishop's Forrest, the designation '*Parson's Haugh*' is perhaps attributable to the property having been part of church lands prior to the Reformation.

A smallholding known as the '*Gushet Farm*' bounded Parson's Haugh in the west; Blythwood Holm (Holm Street) formed the northern extent, whilst the Grahamston Burn, just beyond Wellington Street, marked the eastern border. '*The Haugh*' was bounded on the south by the Clyde.

Parson's Haugh is referred to in an ancient document, dated 15th January 1591, which records, "*King James VI gave to John Andrew, Clerk to the Secret Council and his wyffe, Janet Miller, Parson's Haugh and other lands near Glasgow*". John Andrew's brother, Alexander, inherited Parson's Haugh in 1605 and five years later, he sold the land to Thomas Brown. The Brown family retained one third of the property, selling the remaining eight acres to James Robeson in 1623. Robeson bequeathed his portion of Parson's Haugh to Janet Hoggisyard, his granddaughter, who inherited the property in 1655.

Janet Hoggisyard's inheritance was divided into two segments in 1663, named appropriately, Eastern and Western Parson's Haugh. The western portion was subdivided between Janet Hoggisyard, her husband James Lawson, and Patrick Bell a wealthy Glasgow merchant and a relative of Lawson. Western Parson's Haugh was sold, in 1709, to John Leckie of Mye. The eastern section was sold to John Wilson, a lawyer, who, in 1671, disposed of his portion of Parson's Haugh to George Bogle, a prominent Glasgow merchant. Two years later Bogle donated his portion of '*The Haugh*' to the Incorporation of Tailors on condition that it would be used for charitable purposes.



*A map showing Parson's Haugh and surrounding lands, c1650.
(Parson's Haugh was the area situated between the where the present Central Station and the Kingston Bridge now stand.)*

ANDERSTON VILLAGE

Parson's Haugh stood on the western fringe of the '*Gushet Farm*'. Although of French origin, the word '*Gushet*' in Scots refers to a 'Y' Junction, which accurately described the setting of the farm wedged between the main highway to Dumbarton and the farm-track leading to the mansion-house of Stobcross. The Gushet Farm was situated on land that was marshy and unsuitable for farming, so, James Anderson, owner of Stobcross, decided to cut his losses and develop the unprofitable farmland into a village. He erected a number of cottages along either side of the main highway in 1725 and named the new settlement after himself - Anderson Toun, or Anderstoun. In later years the road on which the cottages were laid-out became known as Main Street, eventually becoming Argyle Street.

Whilst construction of Anderstoun village did not begin until 1725, the first private dwelling to be built in the locality was in fact erected in 1721 by John Stobo, a linen and woollen draper. Stobo's house survived until 1892 when it was demolished to make way for tenement buildings erected on the corner of Argyle Street and North Street.



*Sketch of John Stobo's House (c1870)
The first dwelling built in Anderston, 1721.*

Although James Anderson conceived the original village he appears to have carried out little development work. When the Estate of Stobcross was sold to a wealthy Glasgow merchant, John Orr of Barrowfield, in 1735, the village comprised of a short row of one and two-storey cottages lining either side of the main highway (Argyle Street) close to where 'The Buttery' (652 Argyle St.) now stands.

John Orr erected a number of cottages and later began feuing-off land for industry, which eventually resulted in the growth of the village. Surrounded by cultivated fields and grasslands gently sloping south to the river, the village and its surroundings must have formed a pleasant place of residence. Many of the early inhabitants were weavers who earned a living by carrying-out contract work from their own homes - they quite literally operated a cottage industry. The population of the village, as a rule, were respectable and financially secure; most were persons of religious principle and character.

During the early 1700s Scottish cloth was considered to be of inferior quality; the homespun yarn was coarse and uneven, and this was reflected in the quality and texture of the finished product. In 1738 a number of the village residents formed themselves into an incorporation, which became 'The Anderston Weavers' Society'. As well as introducing quality control measures for local produce the 'Society' devised a welfare support scheme for their members. Being the only organised group within the village, the Weavers' Society adopted a proactive role in promoting the interests of the local community and its environs.

THOROUGHFARES

There were two principal routes into Anderston from the north - 'Woodside Road' sometimes referred to as 'The Lang Road' (North Street) a country track that stretched northwards to Woodside, and a second nearby track that later became Bishop Street. It is thought that Bishop Street was so named because it ran through lands that once belonged to the church, hence also the area which was referred to as Parson's Haugh. Bishop Street was also thought to be part of a route the Bishops of Glasgow followed when journeying from Glasgow Cathedral to their summer retreat at Partick Castle, a fortified house, which stood on the east bank of the River Kelvin, near the Clyde.

The main road running through Anderstoun was the highway connecting Glasgow and Dumbarton a route that ran in an east-west direction. At the Gushet Farm a farm-track branched-off from the main highway and led directly to the mansion-house of Stobcross; in time this junction would form Anderston Cross. The name 'Stobcross' almost certainly derives from a wooden cross (*Stob Cross*), possibly a wayside shrine, erected in pre-Reformation times near the spot where a bye-road to the Clyde (now Finnieston Street) branched-off from the main highway.

At the beginning of the 1700s the branch-road leading to the mansion of Stobcross was very much a country road bounded on either side by hedges and trees, beyond which lay vast acres of fields. A few small farms were dotted at intervals along the road and on reaching the end of a long tree-adorned avenue the lodge gates of the Estate would come into view. A short walk along a path shaded by trees eventually brought the traveller to Stobcross House. In later years this route would be transformed into Stobcross Street, the course of which now forms part of the Clydeside Expressway.

FINNIESTON

John Orr purchased the Estate of Stobcross from James Anderson in 1735 and sixteen-years later (1751), ownership of the Estate passed to John Orr's nephew, Matthew Orr. The new owner set aside twenty acres of land to the west of Anderston on which he established a new village. Orr divided the land into half-acre lots 'for house steads and gardens' and named the new settlement '*Finnie's Toun*' as a tribute to the Reverend John Finnie who was tutor and chaplain to the Orr family.

Plots of land for building in the new village, situated on the west side of what became Finnieston Street, were feued-off on condition "*that no idle or person's of bad fame shall be allowed to possess any of the houses so to be built*". With such rigorous provisions being imposed, Finnie's Toun, or Finnieston, soon became a much sought-after location by the wealthier classes desirous to escape from the pressures of city life where, just a short walk away, they could relax and enjoy a spot of fishing in the crystal clear waters of the Clyde. Among the first properties erected in the new village was Finnieston House, which stood to the southwest of what became Stobcross Street (now the Clydeside Expressway). Set among poplar and beech trees, Finnieston House was described as '*a better class of country dwelling*'. One of the first people to feu land at Finnieston was John Smith who started the first circulating library in the Glasgow area; he was founder of the firm of John Smith & Co., one of the earliest and most reputable commercial booksellers in Scotland, established in 1751.

BROOMIELAW

Late nineteenth century photographs capture the Broomielaw as a busy berth for Clyde Paddle Steamers preparing to make their way '*Doon the Watter*' however, this was not always the case.

Bronze Age axe heads found in York Street during eighteenth century excavation work is evidence of early settlers, or hunters, having been in the area. Often referred to as '*Broomielaw Croft*' the description suggests that the area was an open field or farmland. Numerous references, dating from the sixteenth century, refer to the sale and disposal of parcels of land at Broomielaw, and in 1609 mention is made of the Broomielaw as a pier and port suitable for flat bottom boats. Fifty-three years later, in 1662, the Broomielaw is described as "*a little quay for moir commodious laidening and landing of boats*".

John Goldborne surveyed the Clyde in 1768 and submitted proposals to make the river more navigable for large vessels. The following year James Watt and James Barrie produced an action plan based on Goldborne's suggestions and, in 1770, an Act of Parliament was passed endorsing the plans for enlarging the Broomielaw. The tobacco trade coupled to the growth of later industries led to further efforts to deepen and widen the river and create a proper harbour.

JACOBITES

The Jacobite Rising of 1745 found little support in the staunchly Presbyterian lowlands and this was further demonstrated when Glasgow raised two Battalions of Volunteers in support of the Hanoverian Government. Unfortunately, at the time they were most needed, the Glasgow Volunteers had been despatched to protect Edinburgh. And so, on Christmas Day, 1745, the advance party of the retreating bedraggled Jacobite army entered Glasgow unopposed, to be joined by the main force the following day. The Jacobites remained encamped in the city until 3rd January 1746.

Finding little sympathy or support in Glasgow, resentment began running high among a section of the Jacobites who became intent on burning the city and putting the citizens to the sword. The city and citizens were spared this fate thanks to the intervention of the Chief of Clan Cameron – '*Cameron of Lochiel*'. He threatened to withdraw his men from the Jacobite cause if the city was torched and so, Glasgow was spared. In recognition of Lochiel's intervention and as a token of their gratitude, the City Fathers decreed that the bells of the city should be rung in honour of '*Gentle Lochiel*' and that the same tribute should be paid to his successors; a tradition that is still honoured to this day. However, Glasgow did not escape scot-free, the city council was required to pay a ransom of money to the Jacobites and provide them with food, weapons, clothing and shoes.

There is no conclusive evidence of any Jacobite soldiers having entered Anderston or Stobcross; however, it seems highly unlikely that any settlements in such close proximity to Glasgow would have escaped the interests of scavenging Jacobite soldiers.

According to church records, during the early autumn of 1748, a plague of locusts caused a great deal of anxiety among the villagers of Anderston. It was feared that were the locusts to increase in number, they would devour the crops. Fortunately the locusts died out before they could inflict any serious damage.

Delftfield Pottery

Four Glasgow merchants entered into a business partnership in 1748 and established 'The Delftfield Pottery', a company specialising in the manufacture of fine-glazed earthenware. The partners of the firm were Robert Finlay, Patrick Nesbit, and two brothers, Laurence and Robert Dinwiddie. Laurence, who was Provost of Glasgow, had negotiated terms with the Jacobites when they invaded the city in 1746. His brother, Robert, was governor of Virginia from 1751-1757. The memory of a one-time partner in the firm, James Watt, of 'steam-condenser' fame, is perpetuated in the name of the present street near where the Delftfield Pottery once stood.

The Incorporation of Tailors, who had been gifted the eastern portion of Parson's Haugh by George Bogle in 1673, purchased the western portion of the '*Haugh*' from John Leckie of Mye, in 1728, and thirty years later, in 1758, they began selling-off plots of Western Parson's Haugh (Bishop Street) for building purposes. The first plots of land on what was sometimes referred to as '*Taylor's Land*' (a corruption of Tailor's Land) were purchased by John Logan, a weaver, and by David Marshal, a gardener. The following year Henry Monteith's son, James, purchased a parcel of land in Bishop Street; he set up in business as a weaver and went on to become an extremely influential figure within the community. Among the other early inhabitants who set up home on '*Taylor's Land*' were watchmakers, wrights, a roofer, and an innkeeper. The early dwellings were not all simple cottages; one of the settlers, Thomas Napier, a watchmaker, erected a large mansion-house on the northernmost portion of Bishop Street.

The commercial advantage of locating in Anderston was becoming obvious and, before long, great interest was shown in acquiring property in the area. Parcels of land on the southern edge of Stobcross Street, stretching down towards the Clyde, were divided into long strips and feud-off. George McIlwham, a bleacher, bought one of the plots on which he erected Hydepark Mansion. In due course other sites bearing distinctly 'London' designations began appearing featuring such titles as, Whitehall, Piccadilly and Cheapside. Within a few decades, thanks to its proximity to the Clyde, this particular area became the focus for heavy industry.

The Anderston Club

Established in 1750, 'The Anderston Club' convened in John Sharpe's Hostelry, which stood in Sharpe's Lane. Dr. Robert Simson (1687-1768) Professor of Mathematics at the University and who had family associations with Anderston founded the club. Included in the club's membership were a number of eminent individuals of the era - Dr. Moore, Professor of Greek, Dr. Cullen and Mr. Hamilton of Medical Science, Professor Ross of Roman Literature, Robert and Andrew Foulis the printers and, perhaps the most celebrated of all, Adam Smith, who went on to become a world-renowned economist.

The Anderston Club convened each Saturday afternoon at two o'clock and for each meeting a bowl of '*Glasgow Punch*' was especially prepared - the concoction consisted of citrus fruits mixed with rum. No doubt club meetings included many interesting topics of discussion, however, whatever the subject, or level of debate, Dr. Simson never hesitated in interrupting the meeting and bringing proceedings to a close, thus ensuring that everyone would reach their homes in time for supper and evening worship - a practise common in most homes of that time. It was perhaps also necessary to conclude business early in those days for practical reasons, particularly when street lighting and proper pavements did not exist. The Anderston Club ceased to meet soon after Dr. Simson's demise in 1768.

The Ship Bank

Established as a private firm, in 1751, 'The Ship Bank' was the first commercial bank in Glasgow. The following year, at the age of fourteen, Robert (Robin) Carrick entered the business as a clerk, and by the age of twenty-two he had risen to be cashier. Carrick, in partnership with Brown and McAlpine, decided to enter the private banking business in 1760 as '*Brown, Carrick and Co.*'. Six years later the partners purchased about ten acres of Broomielaw Croft, on the south side of Anderston Walk, and turned their acquisition into cotton-bleaching fields. The area where the bleachfields once stood bear the names of the firm's partners - Brown St., Carrick St. and McAlpine St. In time this property formed part of the hamlet of 'Brownfield'.

Carrick became a full partner in 'The Ship Bank' in 1775 and remained at the helm until his demise in 1821. Described as a '*short, dumpy, joyless bachelor*', Robin Carrick was a well-known figure in the city; he was an astute businessman who successfully steered 'The Ship Bank' through the troubles of 1793 - the year a number of banks failed and were forced to close their doors. John Brown was Lord Provost of Glasgow (1752-54), while McAlpine played an important role in forming a society for the encouragement of trade under the title of 'Chamber of Commerce and Manufacture of the City of Glasgow'. The society became known as the 'Chamber of Commerce' and was granted a Charter of Royal Approval by King George III in 1783.

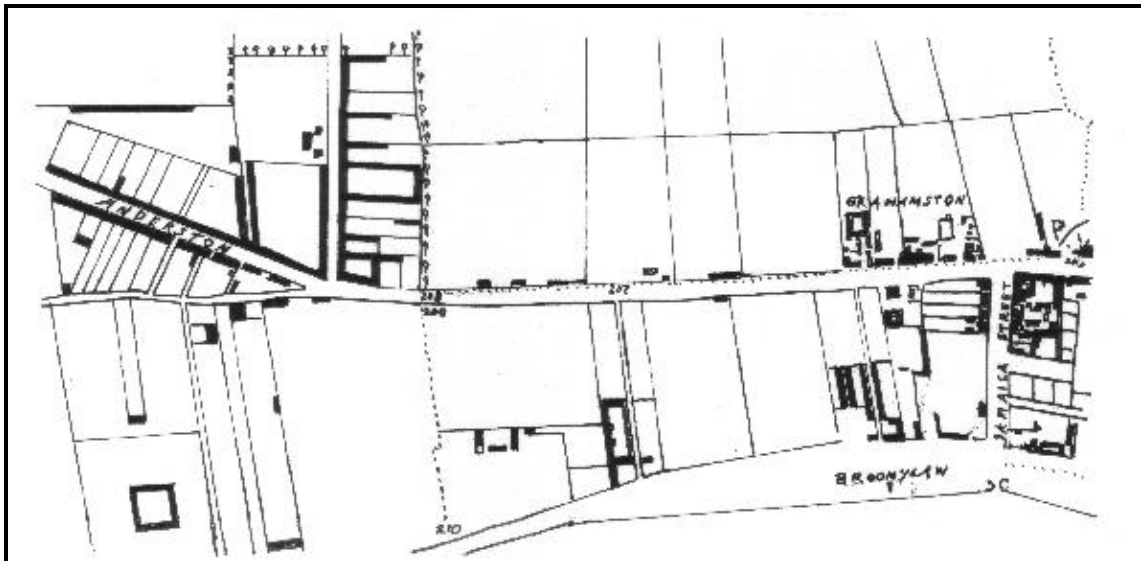
AN ACT DEFINING ANDERSTON

There is evidence to suggest that some of the residents of 'Taylor's Land' (Bishop Street) felt isolated and excluded from the adjacent Anderston community. In an effort to address the concern, at a meeting of the Anderston Weavers' Society, held during May 1760, the boundaries of Anderston were defined and clarified. The following is an extract from the minute of the meeting as it was recorded:

1st August 1760

The oversman Master and other members of the Societe having made an act at their Quarterly meeting in May last anent what is reckoned to be Anderstoun, They, to prevent reflexions, Did refer the same to the General meeting this day to give their voice thereanent, which act being this day read and the question stated Insert or not Insert, it carried unanimously nemine Contradicente Insert, And Accordingly Appointed a clerk to Insert it in this Book (*Minute Book*) as a Standing Act the tenor whereof is as follows. At Anderstoun the second day of May One thousand seven hundred and sixty years, The Oversman Masters and other Members of this Community being met and Considering that there is an act Confining the Box belonging to this Community to the Town of Anderstoun, By which act those who dwell in the houses built upon the Taylors land think themselves in a manner prejudged from being reckoned inhabitants of Anderstoun, therefore, to cut off all dispute for the time to come concerning what is to be reckoned the Town of Anderstoun, They have Enacted and hereby Do Enact, That all built and that shall be built contiguous to said Town, either Eastward or Westward in form of one continued Village shall be reckoned and acknowledged by this Community the Town of Anderstoun; Ay and while it Extend or join to any other Village heretofore built. And that all persons dwelling within the Bound thereof and Entered with this Community shall be Entitled to all Claims and privileges belonging to this Community as dwellers in Anderstoun.

(sigd) Jo. Maltman Clk.



Copy of a section of James Barry's map of Glasgow showing Anderston in 1782

The heavy lines to the top left of the map are indication of buildings on either side of Main Street and Bishop Street.

The hollow square on the bottom left shows the location of the Anderston Brewery, founded in 1762.

The numbers 207, 208, 209 and 210 indicate the positions of the Royalty Stones.

ROYALTY STONES

Prior to the 1960s redevelopment programme two weatherworn boundary markers rested almost opposite each other, one at 492 and the other at 453 Argyle Street. Thought by many to be milestones, the boundary markers, sometimes referred to as 'Royalty Stones', or 'March Stones', were used to mark the city limits. Originally, there were 210 Royalty Stones spread throughout the city, each with a number engraved upon it. The first stone was situated at Glasgow Green and the last, number 210, was placed at the Broomielaw. There were four Royalty Stones placed in the area now defined as Anderston; Stone No. 207 was on Anderston Walk, opposite Delftfield Lane (James Watt Street); Stone number 208 stood at 492 Argyle Street, while stone number 209 was located almost opposite at 453 Argyle Street (between McAlpine and Carrick Street). The stone numbered 210 was situated at the Broomielaw, near the foot of what eventually became McAlpine Street.

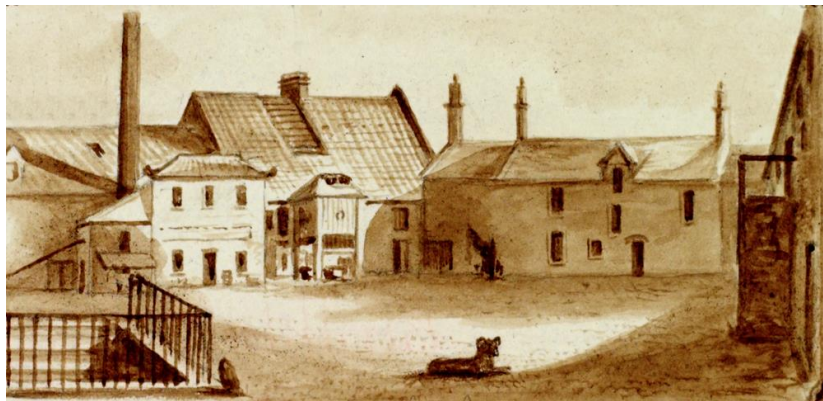
THE ANDERSTON BREWERY

In 1762 the brewing of beer and ale was added to the already well-established and flourishing cotton industry in Anderston. An enterprise operated by the dual partnership of Murdoch and Warroch (or Warwick), known as 'The Anderston Brewery', was established near the Clyde. It was generally agreed that porter brewed in the Glasgow area at this time was of inferior quality. The brew was coarse to taste, containing a strong infusion of brown liquorice, or 'sugarallie', rendering the product saccharine in flavour and muddy in appearance. The consequence being that Glasgow ale and beer, being of first-rate quality, was a much-preferred drink to that of porter.

Keenly aware that a market existed for quality porter the proprietors of the Anderston Brewery engaged a Mr. Chivers of London and brought him to Glasgow to share his knowledge and expertise of brewing porter. A contract was drawn up between the partners and Chivers, legally binding the Londoner not to reveal the secrets of brewing quality porter to any of the Anderston firm's Glasgow rivals. Unfortunately, due to an oversight in the contract, the owners of the Anderston Brewery omitted to bind Chivers from setting up business on his own account. Thus Chivers, considering himself at liberty to produce and market his own porter, entered into partnership with a rival brewery located in Bridgeton. In an effort to halt the Londoner's alleged breach of contract, a lawsuit was raised against Chivers. Although the Anderston Brewer's petition was successful the competitors by this time had acquired both the knowledge and skill to produce fine porter. Despite this setback, the success of the Anderston Brewery was assured. By the early 1790s the Brewery was responsible for nearly 10% of the total excise duty paid in Scotland. Poor harvests in 1799 and 1801 saw a sharp increase in the price of grain; in an effort to preserve grain for food a ban was imposed on its use for brewing purposes. This action had a negative impact on the Anderston Brewery and by 1803 the company had been forced out of business.

Warroch St. perpetuates the name of one of the partners of the Anderston Brewery who is listed in the Glasgow Directory of 1787 as 'James Warwick'.

'The Daily Record' opened a newspaper plant on the site of the Brewery, in 1971, which they occupied until production was moved to Cardonald during the 1990s. A new office and commercial development now occupy the site.



(Courtesy of Glasgow University Special Collections)

The Anderston Brewery

ANDERSTON WALK

During the early eighteenth century Anderston Walk (Argyle Street) was little more than a rough country track lined on either side by trees and hedgerows. Writing in 1769 the Glasgow historian, Andrew Aird, records that "*Anderston Walk was a badly maintained path about five feet wide*". This particular thoroughfare featured in Sir Walter Scott's novel '*Heart of Midlothian*' where he refers to Madge Wildfire, or Feckless Fannie, as having met her death here. The novel reads in part:

"She proceeded to Glasgow, and while passing through that city a crowd of idle boys, attracted by her singular appearance, together with so many sheep obeying her command, began to torment her with pranks, till she became so irritated that she pelted them with bricks and stones, which they returned in such a manner, that she was actually stoned to death between Glasgow and Anderstoun".

The Late 1700s

As the community grew so did the need for spiritual welfare, accordingly, in 1770, the first church in Anderston was established. A number of years later, in 1776, Patrick Colquhoun established a Glass Works at Finnieston, which he called 'The Verreville'. Originally intended for the manufacture of fine-glass products, the company in later years successfully branched-out into the production of high-quality china. The arrival of the glassworks provided a welcome diversification to the weaving, rope-making, pottery and brewing industries that were already established within the locality.

In the years following the establishment of the first church, the city and village began stretching steadily toward each other. The fact that Anderston still managed to maintain a rural ambience is confirmed when, in 1785, a Day of Harvest Thanksgiving was appointed, however the Session of Anderston Relief Church are on record as noting that a great proportion of the congregation could not possibly be expected to observe such a day in the midst of gathering in the harvest. Even as late as 1790, what eventually became Argyle Street, was still a narrow country road lined by trees, hedges, sheep-runs and market gardens.

Beware of the Cow!

The pastoral environment of the area is further confirmed by an item published in The Glasgow Courier of 8th October 1795 which reports, 'A mischievous cow is now pasturing on the banks of the Clyde, nearly opposite the Anderston Brewery. On Sunday evening last, it attacked and nearly gored a lady who was walking along the riverside; and a servant maid, with a child in her arms, has been since also very much hurt'.



Stobcross House immediately prior to its removal in 1876

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

France declared war on Britain in 1793 and so real was the threat and fear of French invasion, that throughout the country regiments of local militia were raised for defence. The men of Anderston rallied to the Colours and in 1803 the 'Anderston Volunteers', under the command of Colonel John Geddes, proprietor of the Verreville Glass Works, were born.

At the dawning of the nineteenth century the majority of Anderston families were still wholly dependent on the fluctuating fortunes of the cotton and textile industry, however, another important diversification from the traditional light industries was introduced in 1818 when John Barclay established a shipyard on the Clyde at Finnieston, close to the site currently occupied by the SECC. Within a few years iron foundries and heavy engineering works were also offering employment opportunities and security away from the unpredictable textile business. The pleasant rural weaving community of the early 1800s was gradually, but surely, being transformed into an industrial town.

During the early part of the nineteenth century the Clyde at Anderston was still easily fordable at low tide. The Broomielaw had the only dock on the river until a quay was built at Anderston, in 1814, followed by quays at Hydepark in 1840, and Lancefield four years later. Quays were also established at Finnieston in 1848 and at Stobcross during the 1860s.

CRANSTONHILL

The Estate of Stobcross included the Lands of Cranstonhill, an area bounded by Main Street, Stobcross Street and Finnieston Street. Toward the latter part of the eighteenth century Cranstonhill was feued to William Baird, who later disposed of the property to Walter Logan and Richard Gillespie. At the beginning of the 1800s most of Cranstonhill was sold to Henry Houldsworth, a prominent merchant, who would one day hold office as Provost of Anderston.

Situated near the highest geographical point in the locality, the small Estate of Cranstonhill comprised of a mansion-house complete with gardens and orchards. The serenity of the location, overlooking the whole of Stobcross, changed in May 1808 with the inauguration of 'The Cranstonhill Waterworks'. Two large reservoirs were constructed on the crest of the hill, above the mansion-house, into which water was pumped directly from the Clyde. The water was then distributed via a network of underground pipes to wells strategically located throughout the community. Despite the intrusion of the waterworks, a small Zoological Garden was established on the estate during the early 1840s.

When Cranstonhill Estate was sold to developers, in 1857, the mansion-house was demolished, the reservoirs were filled-in and work was begun on erecting tenement properties and factories.

According to some historians Cranstonhill was, at one time, called '*Drumover Hill*'. The theory offered is that undesirables who were banished from Glasgow would be escorted from the city by the Town Drummer, beating out the '*Rogue's March*' along the way. Upon reaching Cranstonhill, the officials would see the miscreant safely beyond the city limits. This explanation seems highly improbable. It is more likely that any reprobate would be removed via the Gallowgate; what better impression to leave on an undesirable than a view of the gallows? As Anderston was well beyond the city limits, a more likely explanation of '*Drumover Hill*' might derive from the Gaelic - '*Druim Odhar*' meaning 'grey hill' or 'ridge'.

No mention of Cranstonhill would be complete without reference to '*Peden the Prophet*'. Alexander Peden was a Covenanter, who foretold that Cranstonhill would one day be the centre of Glasgow. It is interesting to consider that at the time Peden lived, the surrounding area was still rural countryside and Anderston did not yet exist. A tenement property was erected in 1856 on the corner of Argyle Street and Elderslie Street bearing the inscription 'PEDEN CROSS'; a bust of Peden, adorning the corner-face of the building, was placed in a pediment above the top-storey window.

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS 1720-1820

At the beginning of the eighteenth century the area around Stobcross comprised mainly of wide-open pleasant countryside. Other than a number of small farms dotted around the locality, the most prominent building was the mansion of Stobcross, dating from the mid-1600s. As more and more land was feued and houses were built, the environment gradually, but inevitably changed. At first weaving was the staple industry, followed by pottery then glass and rope manufacturer. By the latter half of the eighteenth century Anderston had become one of Glasgow's most important suburbs, but the cost of progress exacted a heavy toll on the community. The village of the early 1700s, situated in the open country to the west of Parson's Haugh, had by the turn of the nineteenth century been transformed into an industrial town.

By the end of the eighteenth century the population of Anderston was around 4,000 souls; the inhabitants were predominantly Scots, who spoke broad Scots. The villagers were mainly honest hard-working people who observed and held the Sabbath in reverence. However, change was on the horizon. The minister of the Barony Parish, Rev. John Burns, writing in 1794 records, "*The general character of the people, as yet, is that of sobriety and industry, though, from the great increase of wealth, and the number of public-houses for retailing spirituous liquors, the intemperance, with its long term of evils, is becoming more prevalent than formerly among the labouring people*".

Between the years 1789-1800 a number of crop failures brought famine to the area and local churches responded by providing support to help the poor and needy. The average person worked a seventy-hour week. Wages were low, as was the cost of living. Dwellings had no running water, where toilets did exist families from the surrounding dwellings shared the facility. There were few public amusements, mainly because people had neither the time nor the money to spend. Even though books were expensive and schooling was limited, the average weaver was educated and well informed. A number of schools were established in Anderston during the early 1800s, but the ventures failed due to lack of finance. In the years that followed local churches established schools throughout the district. Prior to the 1840s less than fifty percent of children in the area attended school. Children enrolled at five years of age and continued until the age of ten or eleven; on leaving school, many juveniles went to work in factories, only a few were fortunate enough to secure a trade apprenticeship.

At the beginning of the 1800s an unknown composer penned the ballad '*The Bleacher Lassie o' Kelvinhaugh*'. The 'lassie' featured in this song of unrequited love was employed at the mill of R.S. Cochrane, in Bishop Street. Those with an interest might still be able to find a version of the song as performed by Robin Hall & Jimmy MacGregor on a recording of '*Glasgow Street Songs*'.

THE 1820s and BEYOND

The introduction of steam-power led to huge cotton mills being erected; and to cotton spinning was added that of wool and silk. A highly skilled workforce encouraged engineers to set up engine and boiler manufacturing in Anderston and before long large tracts of land lying between Stobcross Street and the Clyde were given over for the development of heavy engineering. As production and exports increased so too did the population. Gone forever was the pleasant rural village, Anderston was now a thriving industrial town; the town became a Burgh on the 24th June 1824. To provide some relief from the monotony of work an Annual Fair was established, with the main attractions being staged around 'The Cross' (the junction of Stobcross and Argyle Street).

The crops failure of 1825 resulted in a number of cotton-spinners forming 'The Friendly Bread Association', whose purpose was to provide the villagers of Anderston with bread at cost price. The association operated their first bake-house in Bishop Street; business continued for over seventy years, at different premises, until the company was finally assimilated into the once famous 'City Bakeries' chain.

'The Anderston Popular Institute for the Diffusion of Knowledge' was founded on 19th September 1833. Topics of conversation at the meetings included lectures on science, astronomy, history, geography and mechanics. A committee comprising of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and librarian ran the affairs of the Institute. Annual membership entitled affiliates to borrow from the Institutes 2,000 volumes of books. The Institute are recorded as having met in the Burgh Halls in Warroch Street in 1843; where they originally convened is not known.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

The first Zoological Garden in the vicinity of Glasgow was opened on the Estate of Cranstonhill during April 1840. The Zoological Gardens occupied the land lying between Main Street (Argyle St.) and Finnieston St. down to the line of what became Cranston Street - an area that occupied about one fifth of the entire Estate. The grounds were laid out with paths and decorated with lanterns suspended from trees. The Gardens were open to the public each evening at 7pm, at an entry cost of one shilling each. Throughout the summer and autumn of 1840 a 'Grand Exhibition' was staged which featured a large scale-model of the City and Bay of Naples with Vesuvius in full eruption. At the end of each evening the entire exhibition was topped-off with a 'Grand Fireworks Display' to the musical accompaniment of a Military Band. The Glasgow Herald of 27th July 1840 reports that on exhibition nights the grounds were visited by up to 4,000 people, while outside, the crowd of onlookers was reported to be in excess of 40,000. A variety of attractions, including that of a hot-air balloon, were added to maintain interest in the exhibition. Toward the end of September the Gardens were open between noon and 3pm.

Apart from a number of Alpacas sheep (close relatives of South American llamas), a golden eagle, a pig-tailed ape and an Indian goat, there is very little information on the number, or species, of other animals on exhibition. It is possible the animals may have been part of a private menagerie owned by the Houldsworth family. How long the exhibition continued and what became of the animals is unclear but, as an attraction, the Zoological Garden and Exhibition of the 1840s, although smaller in scale, appears to have enjoyed a level of success comparable to that of the 'Glasgow Garden Festival' held one hundred and forty-eight years later.

John Houldsworth, who had been the last Provost of Anderston, sold Cranstonhill Estate to property developers in 1857. The reservoirs were filled-in and, before long, tenements and factories were occupying the site.

IMMIGRATION and HOUSING PROBLEMS

As late as the 1840s the textile industry was still the largest single employer in Anderston, this was also the period when huge numbers of Irish and Highland immigrants began flooding into Glasgow. By the mid-1840s thousands of Irish settlers were converging annually on Glasgow, creating the city's first immigration problem.

The Irish were forced to leave their native land due to a combination of famine and politics. Few of the migrants brought more than the clothes they stood in. There was a great deal of hostility toward the settlers mainly caused by their fellow countrymen who brought with them their bigotry of the '*Orange and Green*'. Immigrants from Ulster were likely to share Presbyterian views and were accordingly more welcome than their counterparts from Southern Ireland, who were viewed with suspicion. By the mid-1840s the population of Anderston had increased to twelve thousand, a quarter of whom, were of Irish descent. At the time of writing, the opinions and resentment expressed by some people today towards moderate asylum seekers and immigrants, will perhaps give an idea of the misgivings and suspicion with which our ancestors viewed the Irish in-comers. It seems nothing changes!

In an effort to house the burgeoning population, the former mansions of Stobcross, Hydepark and Wellfield were converted and pressed into service to help alleviate the critical housing shortage. Before long, the once fine mansion-houses had deteriorated into such a state of disrepair they eventually fell victim to the demolition squads. The effects of living in confined space and in unsanitary conditions helped propagate the Typhus and Cholera epidemics that raged between the years 1851-53. Poverty and poor housing conditions were also breeding grounds for illness and crime. The Housing Standards Bill of 1866 forced local authorities to address the atrocious housing conditions. The net result of this Bill was that virtually all the houses of the old village were cleared and work began on erecting many of the tenements that were familiar to those of us who witnessed the demolition programme of the 1960-1980s.

THE CHANGING FACE of INDUSTRY

By the mid-1800s it was still possible to earn a modest living from handloom weaving, but in the mechanised weaving-mills foreign imports and fierce competition led to a downturn in business, resulting in falling wages and a reduction in the workforce. In an effort to reduce costs the introduction of cheap Irish labour fanned the flames of unrest among the mill-workers, leading to strikes, riots and even murder.

Whilst the traditional textile industry was languishing other manufacturing was faring better. Nearly every type of commodity required was being manufactured in Anderston; it was possible to purchase everything from a sewing machine (Kimball & Morton, Bishop Street) to a ship's propeller (Lancefield Forge). Other businesses included rope-works, locomotive manufacture, marine-engine and boiler works, clothing manufacture and flour mills. There were a number of iron-works, including 'The Vulcan Foundry' and 'MacFarlane's Saracen Foundry' in Washington Street (1862). The latter company moved to the Possil area of Glasgow in 1872 taking the name 'The Saracen Foundry' with them. However, the promise of secure employment, for many, was short-lived - jobs were lost when successful local businesses, unable to expand, were forced to leave the area in search of larger premises.

STREETS & FIRMS

A brief glimpse at some of the local businesses will help give some idea of the types of industry operating in Anderston during the mid-1800s.

Stobcross St.: The Rope Works of Robert & James Jarvie were located between Washington Street and Clyde Street (Clydeferry Street). Ropes were spun in a long lane that ran from Stobcross Street down towards the Clyde. In time the lane became known as Rope Walk. James Jarvie was Provost of Anderston between 1839 and 1841.

Washington St.: Journeying down toward the Clyde, on the east side of the street, stood the Meal Mill of Harvie & McGavin, founded in 1816 (a property that survived until the 1980s). Next to the Meal Mill stood the Machine Works and the Vulcan Foundry of James & William Napier. On the opposite side of the thoroughfare stood a large Cotton Mill, two Foundries and a Sugarhouse, and at the foot of the street stood the Crown Flour Mills, opened in 1862. John Ure, owner of the Flour Mill, became Councillor for Anderston in 1865 and was elected Lord Provost of Glasgow in 1880.

Clyde St.: A river ferry was located at the foot of the street. On the left was a wood-yard next to which, stood a large brewery. Situated on the opposite side of the street was a Chapel of Ease - the forerunner of Anderston & St. Peter's Church, and further up the street was 'The Black Bull Tavern'. In later years the name Clyde Street was changed to Clydeferry Street.

Piccadilly St.: Two-storey dwellings lined both sides of this thoroughfare; midway down the street the burial-ground of St. Mark's Church stretched between Piccadilly Street through into Cheapside Street.

Warroch St.: The huge boiler and engineering works of Todd & McGregor occupied most of this street.

Bishop St.: Monteith's cotton mill occupied a great deal of this thoroughfare. Halfway up the street stood a row of houses known as '*Beggars Row*' reputed to have been the place the poor assembled in olden times in order to beg alms from the bishops as they made their way from the Cathedral of Glasgow to their summer retreat at Partick Castle.

CHARACTERS 1840s

Beggars and street entertainers appear to have been a constant feature throughout history. During the 1840s Anderston had its fair share of such people. '*Old Malabar*' was a juggler who roamed the streets offering entertainment for a coin. His repertoire of tricks included throwing a ball high into the air and then catching it in a cup balanced on his forehead. Another trick was to pull yards of coloured ribbon, enough to fill a top hat, from his mouth. Donald Moore, a former soldier in one of the Highland regiments was a well-known worthy. He had lost one of his legs in battle and would proudly show a bullet wound in the other. Donald was always good for a rousing tale of his military adventures. Sandy McKay was another former soldier who would beg money on the strength of the story that he was the youngest corporal to have fought at the Battle of Waterloo.

Around 1840, there was a small tavern on Main Street called '*The Five Alls*'. On the exterior of the building hung a sign on which were painted five figures. At the top of the sign was the figure of a king and the words, '*I Rule All*'. Depicted below the king were three more figures, a soldier '*I Fight for All*', a lawyer, '*I Plead for All*' and a minister '*I Pray for All*'. Beneath this was the fifth figure, that of a poor man, with the inscription, '*I Pay for All*'.

In 1848 the stables of 'The Menzies Omnibus Company' occupied property on the corner of Argyle Street and North Street. Andrew Menzies was the proprietor of Glasgow's first successful public transport system. His horse-drawn coaches became a familiar feature as they set-off from their terminus at Anderston Cross. As well as providing a mode of transport, the coaches finished in brilliant Menzies tartan, added much-needed colour to the drab streets of Glasgow.

HEAVY ENGINEERING

'The Neilson Locomotive Works' commenced operation in Hydepark Street during the 1850s; the company also operated a foundry in Finnieston. The firm eventually became the major part of the once world-famous 'North British Loco Works' of Springburn.

The firm of 'James Aitken & Co.', situated on Cranstonhill, were specialists in the manufacture of marine boilers. Great excitement was generated whenever an enormous boiler required to be transported down to the Clyde. The load was placed on low bogies to which long ropes were secured before it was eased slowly downhill by hundreds of workers until it reached the river safely. A historian of the time recalls that the steam-whistles of 'Aitken's' and nearby 'Chaplain's Engineering Works', coupled to the bells of Saint Mark's U.F. Church ensured that all the clocks in the surrounding area were kept at the correct time.

Electric lighting was first introduced during the 1870s and around this same period Thomas Lipton set out in business, opening the first of his many shops, at 101 Stobcross Street. Numerous amusing stories are told of Lipton's advertising promotions; older residents were able to recall 'Lipton's Orphans' and the men with sandwich boards displaying a thin pig on one side of the board, with the catchphrase "*I'm going to Lipton's*" the other side of the board depicted a fat pig with the statement, "*I've been to Lipton's, the best butcher in town!*"

STOBCROSS DEVELOPMENT

David Watson, a merchant banker, purchased the Estate of Stobcross from Mathew Orr in 1776. Watson suffered severe financial hardship as a consequence of the American Wars of Independence. Watson died in 1783 and lies buried in the Ramshorn Kirk Yard (Ingram Street). The estate then passed to John Phillips, another Glasgow merchant who, like his predecessor, also suffered severe financial loss due to the effects of conflict, this time it was the Napoleonic Wars. Phillips, who died in 1829, also lies buried in the Ramshorn Kirk. The northern portion of Stobcross was eventually sold for the development of middle-class residential property; the Glasgow Herald of 2nd June 1851, reports:

"The Stobcross lands have now been laid out with streets, terraces and crescents, underlaid with common sewers, which have no connection with any other property, at an expense to the proprietors of £7,000. Since the operation of forming the lands was begun, a considerable portion of the ground was feued by a company, and shaped into a beautiful crescent. Last year, buildings to the value of more than £30,000 were erected thereon, and it is expected that an addition to nearly the same amount will be made this year. In the front of the crescent two acres, enclosed with a highly ornamental railing, have been laid out as pleasure grounds for the tenants. The architectural style of the crescent is Italian; the heights of the houses are three storeys, and they are let in flats, varying each from ten rooms and kitchen to five rooms and kitchen, with, of course, all the modern improvements".

Fronting the development, designed by Alexander Kirkland, were gardens, a bowling green and the 'Saint Vincent Loch', which offered opportunities for boating in the summer and ice-skating during the winter months. The rents of the new dwellings were quoted as ranging from £40-£70 per annum. The development was called Stobcross Crescent but, for some unaccountable reason, the designation was changed to Saint Vincent Crescent. Fortunately most of this highly desirable development, which includes property in Minerva Street, still exists intact.

QUEEN'S DOCK

A syndicate purchased the remainder of Stobcross Estate, in 1864, for the then princely sum of £58,246. Almost immediately one third of the land was sold to the Clyde Trust for a figure slightly less than what the syndicate had paid for the entire estate. Not bad business!

The Mansion House of Stobcross c1870
(Courtesy of Glasgow University Special Collections)



Work began converting the green-field site of Stobcross into a new dock, or more correctly, a tidal basin. During construction work in 1876, the old mansion-house of Stobcross was demolished. Within two years, the new dock, complete with rail-link was ready and, in September 1877, Queen's Dock was officially opened.

One of the present day landmarks defining Stobcross is the now iconic Finnieston Crane, erected in 1931. The crane, known locally as '*Big Bertha*', was used to lift local produce, such as locomotives, onto ships for export. Following the steady decline of shipping on the Clyde during the 1950-60s, Queen's Dock was considered to be no longer of value. The entire dock was filled-in during the 1970s, undoing the efforts of the workers of one hundred years earlier. The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, built to supersede the Kelvin Hall, now occupies most of the site. The granite tablet commemorating the opening of Queen's Dock in 1877 has been preserved and is currently mounted as a feature outside the main entrance to the SECC.

SANDYFORD PLACE MURDER

On Friday 4th July 1862, twenty-eight year old Jessie McLachlan decided to spend part of the evening socialising and drinking in the company of her close friend Jess McPherson, a servant, who resided at 17 Sandyford Place, Sauchiehall Street. What started out as a quiet social evening turned into a nightmare that would haunt McLachlan for the rest of her life.

Most of the Fleming family, owners of the property at 17 Sandyford Place, had gone away for the weekend, leaving only the eighty-seven year old father, James, known as 'Old Fleming' in the care of the servant. 'Old Fleming' was an Anderston weaver and an elder in Anderston U.P. Church (Heddle Place) but, despite his seemingly respectable credentials, he was in fact a known heavy-drinker and womaniser, having been responsible for fathering at least one illegitimate child by a domestic servant. Jessie McLachlan, having worked as a servant at Sandyford Place, was well known to 'Old Fleming' who, on several occasions, had called uninvited to her home at 182 Broomielaw.

On the afternoon of Monday, 7th July 1862, the Fleming family returned from their weekend retreat and discovered the body of Jess McPherson hacked to death in her bedroom. The police were called and a murder investigation followed. A pawnbroker, reading of the incident in the newspapers, recognised the description of a silver plate, missing from the scene of the crime, which had come to him via Jessie McLachlan. Police visited McLachlan's Broomielaw home and arrested her on suspicion of murder. At the trial, based largely on the fact that she had been in possession of the silver plate so soon after the crime, McLachlan was convicted of murder and sentenced to hang.

Apparently it was patently obvious to everyone who followed the case, except the jury and the presiding judge, Lord Deas, that McLachlan was innocent and that the real perpetrator of the crime was in fact 'Old Fleming'. Petitions to delay the sentence flooded-in, eventually leading to McLachlan being reprieved, however, she spent fifteen years in Perth Prison. Soon after her release McLachlan left for America where she lived out the rest of her days. 'Old Fleming' was never brought to book; he spent much of his time at the family weekend retreat, Avondale, near Dunoon. Upon his demise he was buried in Anderston Kirk Yard (Heddle Place).

BAKERIES

J.B. Stevenson's Cranstonhill Bakery was the first steam-powered bakery in Scotland. Prior to the establishment of this factory, local bakers made bread by hand. 'Stevenson's Machine Bread' was first produced in 1865, claiming that the product, untouched by human hand, was produced entirely by machine. Later, premises built of red brick and designed in the Italian style, were erected on the north side of Cranston Street. When the property was taken over by 'Beattie's Bakery' in the 1950s the bakery was converted into a biscuit factory. The building, which stood close to the present Anderston Kelvingrove Church, was finally demolished during the summer of 1969.

Bilsland

Construction work on Bilsland's Bakery in Hydepark Street began in 1881, with bakery production commencing the following May. Bilsland's was a family concern, run by four brothers, and a most successful business it proved to be. All the brothers were actively engaged in the public life of the city. William, was Councillor for Anderston Ward in 1886, and was elected Lord Provost of Glasgow in 1905; he was later knighted. At the height of their business prowess, as well as their bakery in Hydepark Street and their shop in Elderslie Street, Bilsland's operated several shops throughout Glasgow. The very mention of Bilsland was a guarantee of quality and value. As with so many other long-established businesses, Bilsland ceased operation during the 'Thatcher Years' (1980s). At the time of writing, the name 'Bilsland' can still be seen clearly emblazoned on the former bakery, which currently serves as the 'Expressway Business Centre'.

QUEEN MARGARET SETTLEMENT

Spurred on by their social conscience, members of 'The Queen Margaret Union', a student association connected with the University of Glasgow, decided to take an active interest in community work, with particular regard to the welfare of the poor and sick. Noting the high rates of alcoholism among the men of the working classes, the students focused their efforts on "*promoting the welfare of the poorer people, chiefly of women and children...*" Being in close proximity to the University and recognising the pressing social needs that families living in unhealthy congested areas had to contend with, Anderston was chosen as an ideal location for the project. In order to offer practical help a 'Settlement', on the east side of Port Street, was opened on 14th May 1897. The first nursery established in Glasgow, opened in 1914, was also accommodated at this address (74 Port Street). The 'University Settlement', as it became known, true to their motto '*Action not Words*' continued to provide sterling service within the community until the project was forced to leave the district in 1963 due to redevelopment of the area. The association also had premises in Piccadilly St. (opened in 1938), which operated a men's club, a nursery, and a savings bank. The Piccadilly Street property closed during the early 1960s.

1880-1900

The 1880s evidenced the birth of The Boys' Brigade. The BB, as it is popularly known, is a voluntary youth organisation that began life on 4th October 1883 in a Mission Hall at 329 North Woodside Road, Glasgow. This Christian-based organisation found great momentum in Anderston; of the first ten Companies formed in Glasgow between 1883 and 1885 three were formed locally. The 2nd Company met in a Mission Hall in Richard Street, the 7th met in the Mission Hall in Warroch Street and the 9th met in Allan's Halls, Stobcross Street. Since the inception of the Movement no fewer than twenty-eight Boys' Brigade Companies have operated within the square mile that made up Anderston.

The International Exhibition of 1888, held in Kelvingrove Park, was the first of three such successful events, the others following in 1901 and 1911. David Carlaw opened his Printing Works in 1879 on Finnieston Street, at the foot of Houldsworth Street. In the years that followed, Carlaw established an envelope works, an engineering shop and a motor vehicle garage. I suspect many will be surprised to learn that the birthplace of Scotland's longest surviving motor manufacturer began life in Finnieston; the name of the company was 'Albion Motors'. Although the Anderston motor industry lasted for only a decade (1889-1910) the area saw the birth of no fewer than four motor vehicle manufacturing companies, the aforementioned Albion, 'The Glasgow Motor Lorry Co.', 'The Kelvin', and 'The Saint Vincent'.

In 1889, Robert Service the renowned poet and author of the often quoted, but seldom completed epic poem set in the Klondike '*The Shooting of Dangerous Dan McGrew*', worked as a bank clerk in the Stobcross Branch of the Commercial Bank of Scotland. The bank was situated at 994 Argyle Street, on the corner of Minerva Street; the tenement block is still standing although, of course, the bank has long since gone.

Opposite: Argyle Street at Finnieston Cross, looking west towards Minerva Street, (January 2004)



THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

During the early 1900s the circus paraded annually along Main Street (Argyle Street) and a popular attraction it proved to be. Other entertainments visiting the district included the '*Show Pend*' that stood on Argyle Street and, as the name suggests, that is exactly what it was. For the cost of one penny you could visit the '*Penny Geggie*' and watch a ghost show or other numerous attractions on offer. The '*Show Pend*' occupied the site at 724 Argyle Street, on which The Salvation Army erected their Citadel in 1904. Throughout the winter months a carnival was held on the site, and during the summer months a huge Gospel Tent occupied the vacant ground. Open-air Gospel Meetings were held on most street corners each Saturday evening and, in spite of the large number of Public Houses and inebriated men, the Gospel Meetings were seldom interrupted.

Around the turn of the 1900s, Simon Wolfson, a White-Russian immigrant from Bialystock arrived in Glasgow and soon after opened a furniture shop on Stobcross Street. Wolfson's son built a multi-million pound empire and was eventually knighted. Sir Isaac Wolfson was a great benefactor towards deserving causes; he gifted the Estate of Wolfson Hall to the University of Glasgow and, in May 1971, in recognition of his generosity to the City of Glasgow, he was granted the Freedom of the City.

During the 'Trades Holiday' a procession of carts and lorries representing the various neighbourhood businesses toured the district, led by the local BB Bands. Trade merchants took horses to be re-shod, or their carts for repair, to Mitchell's blacksmith shop that stood in Shaftsbury Street. A number of 'trace-horse' were stationed at the blacksmith's stables and, upon sighting a tramcar, the 'trace-boys' would gallop the horses down Main Street, hitch their steed to the tram and help draw the vehicle up the long slow gradient of Cranstonhill.

Cattle unloaded from the 'Irish Boat' were driven up Hydepark Street and then along Stobcross Street on their way to the slaughterhouse. It was not uncommon for those ill-fated animals to make a desperate bid for freedom. Some ran up tenement closes, others into backcourts and some even managed to get into shops, causing all sorts of chaos!

THE GIRLS' GUILDRY

The new century saw the birth of the once well-known sister Movement to The Boys' Brigade - The Girls' Guildry. Dr. William Somerville, son of the minister of Anderston Free Church, as well as running a private nursing home and being a West End practitioner, he was something of a pioneer in X-Ray technology - being the first Radiologist appointed to the Western Infirmary. Dr. Somerville, who, in his spare time was Captain of the 28th Glasgow BB Company, was approached to form a girl's organisation along similar lines to that of the BB. One February evening in 1900, two-dozen girls attended the inaugural meeting of the 'Guildry'. The concept of the organisation was readily welcomed and before long, new 'Guildry' Companies were being formed throughout Scotland.

The Founders of the 'Guildry' chose for their emblem a 'lamp' taken from the Bible story of the 'Wise Virgins'. Based on the emblem, it was only natural that the motto of the organisation should be *"Wise unto that which is good"*.

Towards the end of the 1960s the 'Guildry' united with The Girls' Brigade and The Girls' Life Brigade, Organisations that held similar aims. The reorganised Movement became The Girls' Brigade, whose worldwide object is *"To help Girls become follower's of Christ"*. Unfortunately, due to lack of leaders The Girls' Brigade presence in Anderston came to an end during 2002.



Dr. Somerville with the 1st Glasgow Girls' Guildry Company, 1900

ANDERSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The first Public Library in Anderston, which stood on the west side of McIntyre Street, was opened on 21st December 1904. Included within the facilities of the fine ornate building was a Lending Library and Reading Room on the ground floor, with a Children's Department on the upper level. The Library was closed in 1969, a victim of the Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme, and was demolished the following year. The Anderston Lending Library is now housed within the Mitchell Library.

CHARACTERS 1900-30

Each Monday evening a black doctor would stand at the gushet of Cranston Street and Main Street selling medicine for a cough, a cold, or as a blood purifier. For sixpence (2.5p) he would painlessly remove a troublesome tooth, or a corn, with his thumb and index finger. A man with a dancing bear regularly toured the streets. There was also the inevitable man with a barrel organ and monkey. As part of the entertainment the primate would climb the drainpipes to the top storeys, rap on a window and hopefully return with coins in its mouth.

Two men who were dressed in heavy coats, sailor caps, and playing a '*Hurdy-gurdy*' (a small box-organ fixed to the top of a long pole) were known as the '*Dry Land Sailors*'. The point of interest is, each man had an arm missing, so they took turns at holding the instrument while the other cranked the handle to generate music. Street-singers were in abundance, each operating within his 'own area'. One man in particular who toured 'Wee Hill Street' (Guest Street) specialised in Scots songs. He toured his patch at the same time every morning and was so punctual that when children heard him, they knew it was time to leave for school.

TROUBLED TIMES

The outbreak of war in 1914 saw thousands of Glasgow men volunteer for military service. Among the many regiments recruited in Glasgow perhaps the best known was the Highland Light Infantry (HLI). The 15th Battalion - '*The Tramways Battalion*' was recruited from the city's Transport Department, the 16th - '*The Boys' Brigade Battalion*' formed from ex-members of the BB, and the 17th Battalion raised from the '*Chamber of Commerce*'. Of course, the HLI was not the only service to recruit in Glasgow - among the many others were the Royal Navy, the Cameronians, the Black Watch and the Argyll's. World War One exacted a heavy toll on the men and women of Glasgow. The city lost a greater proportion of men killed in the trenches of France than did any other part of Britain. When the Great War finally drew to an end in November 1918, many of the troops returned home only to be faced with the grim prospect of unemployment and hardship.

On the 31st January 1919, a few months after the cessation of hostilities, a public meeting was held in George Square. The Square was crowded with workers and unemployed men hoping to learn of the government's response to rising unemployment, high rents and poor housing. Due to the huge numbers attending the meeting traffic soon became clogged. Police, trying to clear a pathway, clashed with a section of the crowd. Police officers drew their batons, blows were exchanged and before long a large-scale riot threatened. Around sixty people were injured during the fracas and several arrests made. Among those arrested were Willie Gallagher and Mannie Shinwell, both of whom, in later years, became prominent public figures. In an attempt to quell the situation the 'Riot Act' was read. Perhaps un-nerved by the revolution that had changed the face of Russia a few years earlier and fearful that revolt and civil riot was imminent, armed soldiers and tanks were summoned to occupy and safeguard the city centre.

Quarantine Measures

During the early 1920s Richard Street was closed-off when an outbreak of Lascar Fever, a condition similar to Typhus, was reported. The residents of Richard Street were confined to their homes and, to ensure complete isolation, a cordon was placed around the area. Troops were stationed at the Elderslie Street and North Street entrances to the thoroughfare to enforce the quarantine. It is thought sailors from the West Indies who had been lodging in the area introduced the epidemic. Not long after the outbreak had abated the tightly packed tenement properties in Richard Street were demolished.

Unemployment

The 1920-30s were years of uncertainty and soaring unemployment. A practical response to local unemployment was instigated in 1932 when a 'Work Club' for unemployed men was opened at 168 Stobcross Street. A nominal weekly subscription of one penny provided members with access to materials that enabled them to perform jobs for themselves and for their friends. Not only did the scheme give the unemployed something to focus on, it also helped ensure that skills were kept sharp until such times as employment prospects improved.

It is a true saying "*The devil makes work for idle hands*" and that is exactly what happened when groups of young men formed into gangs and roamed the streets looking for mischief. Like most areas, Anderston was not exempt from trouble. Perhaps it was through boredom and frustration that the gangs found it necessary to confront each other. In common with many other areas, Anderston always enjoyed a strong sense of identity; perhaps this was partly due to families living in close proximity. It was not uncommon to have family members living up the same close. Of course, this meant that when bother did breakout, local residents usually knew the identity of the troublemakers; accordingly, any 'gang trouble' was usually confined and kept to a minimum. Ordinary people could wander the streets unmolested; any violence to be had was only meted-out to rival gang members. Whilst there were the well-known troublemakers, there were also those who organised healthy social activities such as, cycling and camping. During this worrying period the voluntary youth organisations, often under very difficult circumstances, did a sterling job in offering activities designed to keep young people out of trouble.

Archie Conn was one of the many colourful characters who devoted their time and resources to voluntary youth work. He was member of Anderston Old (Heddle Place) and an Officer in the 51st Glasgow Boys' Brigade Company. Archie eventually left Glasgow, in 1937, to carry out missionary work in Blantyre, Nyassaland, and was so highly respected by the local community that, in time, he was elected Mayor. He returned to the UK, in 1961, and settled in Liverpool where he continued his BB work as Captain of the 40th Liverpool Company and, later, as Secretary of the Liverpool Battalion. Archie died in January 2006 at the age of 96.

ROYAL VISIT

It had been raining on 5th March 1936 when King Edward VIII decided to pay a surprise visit to Anderston. The King had been on a scheduled visit to Clydebank to inspect progress on the passenger liner the 'Queen Mary'. The Royal party moved on to Knightswood to view a new housing development after which, they made an unscheduled visit to Anderston. Accompanied by the Lord Provost, John Stewart, the Royal party was escorted to the close at number 4 Crieff Court, where they visited all eight dwellings. It is recorded that the King was so impressed by the cleanliness of each house, that he congratulated the housewives on maintaining such high standards in what were obviously difficult circumstances. As the Royal party ascended the tenement stairs, the King enquired what the small rooms situated on the half-landings were. He was informed that they were communal toilets, shared by the residents of each landing. The King was bewildered and is reputed to have commented - "*Must everyone use that?*"

Entry to Crieff Court was through a Pend on Argyle Street. The sky was overcast, it had been raining and there were puddles filling the uneven cobbled street. Hemmed-in by dark gloomy tenements Crieff Court must have made a depressing picture that day. Word quickly spread that Royalty had arrived and by the time the King was ready to depart, a large crowd had gathered to cheer him off. Many of the homes in Crieff Court were subject to 'ticketing' - an attempt to stop overcrowding. The 'tickets' were small round, or oval, metal plates affixed to the outer door of each dwelling, detailing the maximum number of people officially allowed to be resident therein.

STORM CLOUDS AGAIN

Following the declaration of war with Germany in 1939, mobilisation and preparations for the coming conflict led to full employment. Local engineering firms such as 'Harland & Wolff's Lancefield Works' began manufacturing materials for the war effort. 'Carlaw's Print Works' produced Ration Books, while another branch of the firm, the motor garage, in Finnieston Street, manufactured weapons.

During the early hours of 13th/14th March 1941 incendiaries and bombs dropped by the German Luftwaffe, intent on damaging Clyde shipping and industry, fell among tenement dwellings in the Cranstonhill area destroying or damaging a number of properties in Guest Street, Hydepark Street, Lancefield Street and Finnieston Street.

NOTABLE PERSONALITIES

Two of Scotland's most famous boxers, Jackie Patterson and Peter Keenan, began their fight training at 'The Anderston Boxing Club' that met in Crieff Court. The story is told of Jackie Paterson who, in order to keep his weight down, would occasionally workout in the sweltering heat of the boiler room of the Kelvin Cinema, in Argyle Street. When Peter Keenan retired from boxing in the 1960s he maintained a number of commercial interests in Anderston. He had a Public House at the foot of Elliot Street and a motorcar showroom on the corner of Houldsworth Street and Argyle Street, adjacent to Ladola's Café. Another well-known figure in Anderston, during the early 1950s, was Christopher Grieve, better known as the writer and poet Hugh MacDiarmid. He was a frequent visitor to a printer's shop that stood adjacent to Ladola's Café.

Roddy McMillan, born at 71 Cranston Street, was a well-known and respected actor, playwright and songwriter. Roddy grew up in Anderston and got his first taste of the stage while appearing in a local Boys' Brigade Annual Concert in Stobcross House (Allan's Halls). Among his many professional acting roles, he is perhaps best remembered as '*Para Handy*' the mischievous and scheming captain of a Clyde Puffer, in BBC Television's version of Neil Munro's '*The Vital Spark*'. Interestingly, while a pupil at Finnieston School one of Roddy's teachers was Duncan Macrae. The craggy featured Macrae was another well-known Scottish actor who appeared in many films and TV shows. He is perhaps best remembered for his role in the film '*Whisky Galore*' and for his rendition of '*The Wee Cock Sparra*' in the televised 1960s 'New Year Show'. Interestingly, it was Macrae who first played the role of '*Para Handy*' while McMillan served as '*Dougie*' the deckhand, before the latter succeeded to the principal role.

THE STONE of DESTINY

During the early hours of Christmas Morning 1950, the Stone of Destiny, the ancient symbol of Scotland that had been plundered by Edward I and taken to London in 1296, was illegally removed from its resting place beneath the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey. Later that morning, as soon as the theft was discovered, a nationwide hunt was launched for the recovery of the relic. The four young Scots students, who had removed the Stone from the Abbey, discovered the relic had been broken in two. The students spirited the Stone north to Glasgow, where they left it in the care of Bertie Gray, a Glasgow Councillor.

It was perhaps no coincidence that the ancient symbol of nationhood was deposited with Mr. Gray, not only was he a proponent of Scottish independence, he also owned a Monumental Stonemasons Yard, which lay between North Street and Bishop Street and was entered by way of St. Vincent Street. Where better to hide the Stone of Destiny than among similar blocks of sandstone? Mr. Gray repaired the stone and made a number of duplicates. After many weeks of fruitless searching by the authorities, the Stone of Destiny mysteriously turned up in Arbroath Abbey, draped in the Saltire of Scotland. One question that has been posed ever since is, "*Was the genuine Stone returned to London, or was it one of Bertie Gray's copies?*" The Stone of Destiny that was taken back to Westminster was officially returned to Scotland in 1996, seven hundred years after it had first been carried away from Scone.

WILSON'S ZOO

Housed in the former St. Peter's Church at 68-72 Oswald Street, 'Wilson's Zoo', opened during December 1936, remained a popular attraction well into the late 1950s. On the ground floor level of the Zoo was an aquarium, whilst the upper level contained a variety of caged animals including lions, tigers, monkeys, alligators, parrots etc. In such a confined space the stink from the animals left a lot to be desired. However, it was a popular place to visit, after all, where else could you enter the jungle and come face to face with wild animals and all for only sixpence (2.5p)?

CINEMAS

Throughout the 1940-50s Glasgow was often referred to as either '*The Dancing City*' or '*Cinema City*', there being at that time a choice of over 200 dance venues and 130 cinemas. Locally, a good evening's dancing could be enjoyed at 'Bresland's Dance Hall' in Stobcross Street, which was run by a husband and wife partnership. A popular family outing was a visit to the cinema, or '*The Pictures*,' as they were affectionately called. There were two main cinemas in Anderston - 'The Gaiety' at 625 Argyle Street near Anderston Cross, and 'The Kelvin' at 1073 Argyle Street - at Finnieston. Both cinemas hosted children's matinees on Saturday afternoons between the hours of 1-4pm. The main feature was usually an action film - Tarzan, Jungle Jim, Superman, or a Western. The supporting programme normally comprised of cartoons and a serial to ensure children would return the following week. Programmes normally ran Monday to Wednesday, with a change of feature Thursday to Saturday. Cinemas were not open on Sundays.

'The Gaiety', which was part of a tenement property, originally served as a warehouse until it was converted, in 1899, into 'The Tivoli Music Hall'. The theatre was turned into a cinema in 1909, and was remodelled during the 1920s re-opening as 'The New Gaiety'. In the aftermath of the fire that destroyed the Saint Andrew's Halls, in 1963, 'The Gaiety' temporarily reverted back to a theatre after it was refurbished to serve as 'The Glasgow Concert Hall'. The Gaiety was finally demolished in 1968.

Opened in 1930, 'The Kelvin Cinema', at 1071 Argyle Street, had a particularly interesting feature inside the main auditorium, to the right of the screen, above the emergency exit, was a half-scale model of a Spanish hacienda and above the left-hand exit was the depiction of a Turkish-style building. Shortly after television became affordable for the masses cinemas went out of fashion and 'The Kelvin' closed in 1960. The property was converted into 'The Kelvin Sporting Arena', hosting boxing and wrestling matches. The building latterly operated as a popular Indian restaurant under the title of the 'Crème de la Crème'; the property was demolished in 2005 to make way for a housing development.

PUBLIC HOUSES

At one time public houses were in abundance throughout Anderston, with at least one 'pub' being part of most tenement blocks. While most of the pubs were pretty basic affairs, with poor lighting and sawdust covering the floors, there were the odd exceptions to the rule. 'The Prince of Wales Bar' which stood on Cranston Street adjacent to St. Marks-Lancefield Church, was a bright cream coloured building with a verse painted on the gable-end of the property declaring "*Be ye a Prince or be ye a beggar, there's aye a welcome frae curly Macgregor*". Some of the other pubs revelled in interesting titles such as - 'The Western Isles', 'The Breadalbane Arms', 'The Venture Inn', 'Why Not?', 'The Welcome Inn', 'The Kettledrum', 'The Wee Man's' and perhaps strangest of all - 'Dirty Dicks' (Finnieston Street).

Public houses were required to close at 10.00pm, however closing times in Anderston were often variable. 'The Prince of Wales', locked their doors at 9.30pm, and often business continued under the guise of a 'private function' until the police arrived, usually around midnight, to conclude festivities, and perhaps partake of a 'wee refreshment'. Ruxton's Bar at 21 Elderslie Street closed early each Thursday evening at 7.30pm, to allow the owner to attend his Masonic Lodge meetings. At the time the property housing Ruxton's Bar was due for demolition the unique interior of the pub was dismantled and exported to America, where it would be used in the movie industry.



*The Shandon Bells & The Buttery (1968)
(652 Argyle Street)*

It was no mere accident there was an array of pubs and wine & spirit merchants in Anderston, they were there to capitalise on business from the huge workforce employed in the many engineering workshops and factories. It is interesting to note that the pubs disappeared along with most of the population and the industries. Prior to redevelopment there were forty public houses situated throughout Anderston, which meant a pub on just about every block. Today, pubs are only to be found around the periphery of the area.



Part of the old village of Anderston (Main Street, Anderston Cross c1863)

The precise location of the buildings featured is unclear; it is likely they stood to the east of Bishop Street. The coach to left is that of Duncan MacGregor, the coach in front is that of his rival Andrew Menzies.

Around Anderston



Anderston Public Library, McIntyre Street (1969)
The clock tower to the left is that of St. Mark's-Lancefield Church.

Adjacent Church Properties c1900



St. Peter's Parish Church
 68-72 Oswald Street (opened 1836)
This property later served as 'Wilson's Zoo'.



The Old Scots Kirk
 64-66 Oswald Street (opened 1837)

Anderston

THEN & NOW PART TWO

GRAHAMSTON

Nowadays the Central Station marks the eastern extremity of the area considered to be Anderston. Before the invention of the railways the village of Grahamston, named after John Graham of Dougalston, occupied the site of the station. The pleasant little village of Grahamston, first mentioned on late seventeenth century maps of Glasgow, was to be found situated mid-way between Glasgow and Anderston, and it was here, in 1764, that one of the first regular theatres in Scotland was established.

In the years following the Reformation, theatrical performances were frowned upon, particular by the clergy, so it was little surprise that when a London company tried to establish a permanent theatre in Glasgow, they found no one willing to rent, or sell, land for such "*Works o' the Devil*". The London thespians travelled to Grahamston, hoping to find ground on which to establish a theatre. Their journey proved worthwhile and the theatrical company managed to secure a piece of land for the sum of five shillings per square yard. Before long, construction of the theatre was making good progress however, as completion drew near, the building caught fire. Whilst the actual structure did not suffer greatly from the effects of the fire, a considerable amount of damage was inflicted on costumes, scenery and general theatrical equipment. The attempt to destroy the theatre was harried on by a local preacher, who stood in the street denouncing the erection of such an evil building. He told the gathered audience that he had dreamed the previous night "*that he was in the infernal regions, and there he saw a grand entertainment at which 'Auld Nick', the Devil himself, gave a toast in honour of Mr. Miller who, had sold the ground to the theatre company, so that they could build a house for Satan*".

Despite the preacher's exhortations the theatre eventually opened for business. The property changed ownership several times until the 5th May 1782, when the building was again subjected to fire, this time the property was completely destroyed, leaving nothing but the outer walls standing. Being in sound order the walls of the former theatre were roofed over and the property fitted out as offices and stables. The remains of the first theatre in, or around, Glasgow survived until the village of Grahamston was swept away. A statue of Shakespeare, which once adorned the entrance to the theatre, was removed to Craig's Estate, Carmunnock. It is unclear if this is the same statue that adorned the entranceway of the Citizen's Theatre. Observant and curious visitors to the city might wonder why Drury Street, off Union Street, is so named? It is a mute reminder of the theatre that once stood nearby.

A great calamity befell a six-storey sugarhouse in Grahamston when, on 2nd November 1848, without any warning, the building collapsed killing twelve of the eighteen employees. It took rescuers four days to fully recover the bodies of the victims. Despite its stable-looking outward appearance, it was thought the sugarhouse which, had been erected around 1808, had been in a state of insecurity for some time. Investigation into the tragedy revealed that the structure had become weakened due to the constant vibration of machinery coupled to the copious quantities of steam produced during the sugar-refining process. Such was the sympathy expressed towards dependants of the victims that within eight days of the incident, over £400, a large sum in those days, had been raised by public subscription for their benefit.

The village of Grahamston was blotted-out in 1879 with the construction of the Central Station. Every so often the story that the remains of Grahamston lie buried beneath the Central Station is revived. Following personal investigation over forty years ago, I can say with confidence that not even a trace of Alston Street, the main thoroughfare, remains.

The huge Central Station Bridge that spans Argyle Street is a well-known and popular meeting point. The structure was a favourite meeting place of exiles and new arrivals from the Highlands and Islands and, as it would almost certainly be raining, what more convenient place to meet than under the shelter of the bridge? Given those circumstances, what more appropriate title to confer on the Central Station Bridge than '*The Highlandmans' umbrella*'?

Opposite: *The 'Highlanman's Umbrella',
Central Station, Argyle Street (January 2004)*



PEDEN *the* PROPHET

Born in a farmhouse at Auchinloch, Ayrshire, in 1626, Alexander Peden grew up to be a fervent Covenanter and was often referred to as 'Peden the Prophet'. It is possible he might have stayed somewhere in the vicinity of Cranstonhill around 1648, while he was attending University, situated at that time in High Street. Perhaps he found lodgings in one of a number of farmhouses that dotted the area. Whatever his connection with the district might have been, he is recorded as prophesying, "*that the Cross of Glasgow would one day stand at the hill-head of Stobcross*". The term 'hill-head' is a reference to the highest point in the locality - the crest of Cranstonhill.

Given that Peden died in 1686, forty years before the community of Anderston existed his prophecy can be considered as having some measure of credence. There are two main interpretations of Peden's prophecy. The obvious one, the '*Cross of Glasgow*' could be a reference to the city centre - today Anderston is considered to be part of central Glasgow. The second explanation is, perhaps Peden was making reference to the church when he speaks of the '*Cross of Glasgow*'. Might this be reference to one of the many churches that were erected close to the hill-head of Cranstonhill? Of course, the suggestions offered are but mere conjecture.

What of Peden himself? Well, he was exactly what imagination conjures up of a Scots Covenanter. He led a full and exciting life, punctuated with many of the dangers associated with the Covenanting times. Peden was described as being a tall, strange man, with a mysterious look in his eyes - as though he were gifted with 'second sight'. Robert Louis Stevenson featured Peden in his novel, 'The Tale of Tod Lapraik'. The following is an extract from the book:

"In thir days, dwalled upon the Bass (Rock) a man of God, Peden the Prophet was his name. Ye'll have heard the wale o' him sin syne, and it's a question wi' mony if there war his like afore. He was wild as a peag hog, fearsome to look at, fearsome to hear, his face like the Day of Judgement. The voice o' him was like a sloan's an' dinnled in folks lugs, and the very words o' him like coals o' fire".

During the early 1970s the Scottish National Museum of Antiquities, in Edinburgh, acquired a leather mask believed to have belonged to Peden. It is thought that Peden, who claimed to be able to vanish into thin air, used the mask, complete with moustache and teeth, in his disappearing act.

Peden Cross

Although Peden's actual association with the district is somewhat tenuous, a former Bailie of Anderston erected an ornate tenement property on the corner of Elderslie and Argyle Streets in 1856. On the cornerstone of the building inscribed in bold lettering was 'PEDEN CROSS' and placed in a pediment, near the rooftop, perched the carved bust of Alexander Peden himself, looking out over Anderston.



Over the years Peden's bust became weathered and worn and by the 1960s the bust, although clearly that of a man, was faceless. Perhaps this was an appropriate and fitting end to the effigy of an extraordinary man who, throughout his life, liked to maintain an air of mystery.



Peden Cross (prior to demolition) 1971.
This tenement block also had the somewhat unfortunate title of 'Belch Place'.

EARLY INDUSTRIES

The '*Glasgow Directory of 1786*' lists the following businesses and merchants active in the Anderston area during that period; the term 'manufacturer' is a reference to the textile business:

Broomielaw: *Frances Buchanan, dealer in strong beer and ale; Daniel Campbell, retailer of fine beer and ale; William Robertfon, merchant and nail-works; William Shaw manager, Lindfays wood yard; William. Clark, Comptroller, and John Geddes, manager of the flint and bottle glaſs work.*

Finniefton: *Robert Andrew merchant Taylor; John Graham of Achinfickan at Finnieston, and John Semple, manufacturer and bleacher.*

Lancefield: *Gavin Beugo, tanner and glew maker.*

Anderfton: *Allan Arthur, manufacturer; Peter Falconer, manufacturer; Wm. Gillespie, linen printer and cotton twift dealer; Alexander Glasgow, manufacturer; Henry Monteith & Co.; Murdoch & Warrwick & Co. brewerie; Wm. Reid & Co. manufacturer; Adam Thomfon, manufacturer; James Warrwick, manager of the large brewerie, and Peter Whytelaw, clerk to the large brewerie at Anderfton.*

In little less than a century, Anderston had developed from a small farming and weaving community into an integral and important part of Glasgow's economy. The foundations for the future development and wealth of the district was very much dependent on the business acumen and the quality of produce supplied by Anderston's early industries. The following is a brief outline of some of the people who began and developed the industries that flourished in Anderston.

THE ANDERSTON WEAVERS SOCIETY

Apart from some modest farming and market gardening activity, the principal employment of early eighteenth century Anderston was weaving. The original village comprised of a long row of single, and two storey, cottages lining either side of Main Street (Argyle Street). Most weavers' cottages had living accommodation upstairs with space set aside downstairs for a handloom. One of the weaver's cottages was roofed with turf and according to tradition it was within that house in 1754 that a weaver fabricated the first ever checked handkerchief produced in Scotland. The hankies were known as 'Half Ell Half Quarter Divotes' in recognition of the material that roofed the cottage. A 'Divote' was a measure of turf.

On 4th November 1738, the weavers of the village formed themselves into an incorporation under the title of '*The Weavers' Society of Anderston*'. The Society had a two-fold purpose, firstly, to control the quality of Anderston produce and, secondly, to provide welfare support for any of their members who suffered illness or who had become infirm or destitute. Income to help fund welfare payments was raised via membership fees, fines, and from the hire of the 'mort cloths' that were rented out for funerals. In effect the Weavers' Society provided care from the cradle to the grave. An extract from the constitution of the Anderston Weavers' Society is replicated below:

"The society shall continue to be called The Weavers' Society of Anderston and its objects are declared to be charitable aid of such of its members and their widows as may be reduced to destitute circumstances".

It is of interest to note that in the days before schooling was widely available all but two of the original twenty-one signatories to the Anderston Weavers' Charter of 1738 were able to sign their names. The names of those who signed, or made their mark were:-

'James Sym, Archibald Anderson, Michael Murdoch, John Horn, Andrew Campbell, John Jamieson, Robert Hamilton, John Murray, John Paton, Thomas Scott, James Gemmill, John Flemming, John Kerr, James Holdin, Matthew Baird, William Anderson, William Scott, Jno. Taylor, William Steven, Jno. Campbell all Weavers in Anderstoun and, Robert Marshall, a Dyer'.

Extracts from Weavers Society Minute Book:

The rules of the Weavers Society provide some interesting reading. Orderly behaviour was expected at all times and fines for swearing were imposed on any member swearing in the presence of another member –

'That no freeman Curse or Swear in the presence of the oversman and Masters Under the Penalty of Six pence Sterling to be paid into the Common box for each transgression. That whoever be chosen as oversman The Common box Shall not be Removed or Taken from Anderstoun. That any Oversman to be Chosen at any time hereafter shall be a Resider and Dweller in Anderstoun.....'

Applying the Rules: On 2nd February 1739 ‘William Anderson, One of the Masters being convicted of swearing in the presence of the Oversman master and most part of the Society He refused to pay The fine Stipulated by the Original Charter (six-pence) therefore, Whereupon, By the Voice of the whole Society And is hereby Declared to have lost all part of priviledge therein’.

Rule of Discretion: An entry in the record books of the Society dated 6th August 1762 records: ‘That whatever member of this committee shall reproach any member thereof for their poverty, Or Contemptuously throw up their having received the Communities Supply in their need, He shall for the first Transgression this way be rebuked by the Oversman and his Masters, for the second Transgression he shall be fined Att the Oversman and his Masters their option, and for the third Transgression He shall be classed (dismissed)’.

Level of Hospitality: A partly deleted entry in the Society’s Minute Book, dated 20th November 1773, suggests that perhaps the committee overindulged a wee bit one evening when it records - ‘The Committee Closed at 7 o’clock with a glass of Double whisky at the Expence (expense) of the Deacon to be a president (precedent) for all Deacons in time to Come. Same night proceeded to the Collectors house to see him home when we were Entertained with whisky and Rum to be a presedent for all Collectors in time Coming likewise to shew future members how to behave towards their Collector’.

The Weavers’ Society convened their inaugural meetings in a local Inn, possibly John Sharpe’s Hostelry, prior to erecting a substantial property in 1865, at 584 Argyle Street. Incorporated into the new building, which stood between North Street and Heddle Place, was an engraving of the Weavers’ Coat of Arms, a design based on the heraldry of the Anderson’s of Stobcross. When the building, known locally as the ‘Weavers’ Pend’ was being demolished in 1967, a lead-box containing coins, newspapers and a lamp were retrieved from the foundation stone. The box and its contents were assigned to the custody of The People’s Palace, Glasgow Green. The section of masonry bearing the Weavers’ Coat of Arms was carefully removed in the hope that it would be incorporated into one of the new buildings proposed for the area. The Anderston Weavers’ Society still exists and maintains the same charitable object, although, of course, it is extremely doubtful if any of the current membership is actually an Anderston weaver.



Arms of the Weavers Society of Anderston

Membership of the Anderston Weavers’ Society was extended to weavers in the neighbouring village of Finnieston in 1774. During the early 1800s the Finnieston weavers dubbed a portion of their village ‘World’s End’, so named, because of their perceived and pessimistic views regarding politics and declining moral standards.

EARLY EMPLOYERS

The weaving industry in Anderston expanded steadily during the 1750s, and it was around this time that James Monteith, who was to become a prominent figure in the development of the area, opened his first weaving mill in Bishop Street. The clickety-clack of the weaver’s looms increased both in speed and volume with the application of steam-power, which in turn required the services of skilled mechanics to maintain and repair the mechanised looms. The success enjoyed by the Anderston weavers meant that as demand for local produce grew so too did the need for additional labour to service the daily needs of the community including farmer-workers, bakers, carpenters and other trades. Before long the village had mushroomed into a town. Although at the peak of demand, there were around a dozen steam-powered mills operating in Anderston, a great deal of contract work was still being carried out by weavers operating hand-looms from within their own homes.

Prior to the redevelopment of the area, during the 1960-70s, there were a number of reminders of Anderston’s weaving past, among which, was the aforementioned Weavers’ Pend, at 584 Argyle Street, where the remains of ‘Wee Corks’ premises was still in evidence. The term ‘Cork’ was the Scots word for a ‘master weaver’ and in this context ‘Wee Cork’ indicated the small number of skilled weavers employed by the business. Street names such as Heddle Place, Warp Lane and Carding Lane also served as a reminder of Anderston’s weaving roots.

The Anderston weavers worked hard at improving the manufacturing process and quality of the various fabrics produced within the neighbourhood and the success of the local produce was reflected in a steadily growing export trade. Among the principal entrepreneurs involved in developing the early textile industry were people like the Monteiths, the Gillespies, and the Houldsworths.

THE MONTEITHS

Born in the Aberfoyle area, around 1670, James Monteith regularly fell victim to Rob Roy MacGregor, the Highland outlaw, because he refused to pay protection money to the scoundrel. Monteith's defiance and refusal to succumb to extortion, led to the rogue raiding Monteith's farm and stealing his cattle. Frequent theft of his livestock eventually proved too much of a strain for Monteith and contributed to his early demise. James Monteith was survived by his four children - Jenny, Margaret, Nancy the youngest, and Henry. Once the funeral expenses and other outstanding debts had been settled, young Henry, who was born around 1710, decided to make his way to Glasgow to seek his fortune. He took up residence in the new village of Anderstoun where he established himself as a market gardener.

The main crops grown by market gardeners included barley, oats, peas and kail (a curly leafed cabbage) useful for soups. Later, wheat, turnips and potatoes were added to the harvest. Added to the aforementioned vegetables, herring and the occasional salmon would have supplemented the diet. No doubt, as was the practice in those far-off days, the market gardeners would travel to the markets in Glasgow to sell their produce. I wonder if Henry Monteith ever encountered Rob Roy as he passed through Anderston on his way to market with his cattle. Rob Roy is reputed to have been a regular visitor to a coach-house, near Sandyford. During the 1800s the coach-house became known as 'The Star Hotel'. At the time of writing the former 'coach-house' still exists, at 1125 Argyle Street, sandwiched between tenement properties, opposite Kelvingrove Street.

To counter the threat posed by the Jacobite Rising of 1745, Glasgow raised two Regiments of Volunteers, each comprising of five hundred men. Most lowlanders feared that if Bonnie Prince Charlie, *'The Young Pretender'*, managed to regain the throne, Scotland would become subject to a Catholic monarchy. Being a staunch Presbyterian, Henry Monteith decided that this would be a good opportunity to display his opposition to the Jacobite cause, while at the same time defend his faith. Thirty-five year old Monteith joined the Glasgow Regiment as a volunteer and, on 17th January 1746, fought with distinction at the Battle of Falkirk. The Jacobites routed the Government forces that day, inflicting heavy casualties on the Glasgow Regiment in particular. Monteith survived the battle unscathed. Those who fought alongside him said that he was reluctant to leave the battlefield and only did so after firing the last shot of defiance from the Government side. When Henry died, his son James, who was born in 1734, succeeded him. James Monteith was destined to become a leading figure in the community and his influence was to have a huge impact on the weaving industry, not only locally, but also nationally.

James Monteith entered the weaving industry as an apprentice handloom weaver, and opened his first weaving mill in Bishop Street in 1758. Dedicated to producing fabrics of the highest quality, his business flourished enabling him to introduce additional looms into his factory. In his search for perfection, in 1767, he invited forty-six Frenchwomen to come to Anderston to teach the locals the art of spinning fine yarn. It is unclear whether any of the Mademoiselles married locals, or if they returned to France once their task was complete.

The first web of muslin wrought in Scotland was produced in Monteith's mill in 1769. Other pioneering work included muslin webs spun from a *'Mule Jenny'* in 1785, with the first linen being spun shortly thereafter. Prior to this period, most homespun yarns were very coarse and quite unsuitable for use in the creation of fine fabrics, it was therefore necessary to import yarn from France, Belgium and Holland. Monteith, being an astute businessman, imported direct from his own supplier, a Monsieur Mortier, who lived in Cambray, Flanders. Monteith invited the Frenchman to visit Scotland, an offer that was gratefully accepted. Accompanied by his twelve-year old son, Mortier arrived in Anderston in 1780. Such was the hospitality enjoyed during his sojourn that when it was time for Mortier to return to France, he left his son in Monteith's care. The young Mortier attended various classes and completed two years at the University. At the end of a three-year stay, young Mortier returned home to France.

With trade continuing to flourish, Monteith opened a steam-powered mill, which accommodated two hundred looms, adjacent to his original premises in Bishop Street. As his business grew, so too did his reputation for quality. Monteith discovered an inexpensive method of making good quality imitation Indian muslin from cotton. He was able to produce muslin so fine that a dress made from the fabric could be passed through a finger-ring. A dress made of this fine material was presented to Queen Charlotte.

The Auld Alliance

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, France was at war throughout Europe and was occupying Holland and parts of the Rhine. The war was having an adverse effect on the weavers of Anderston, who transacted a great deal of business within Europe.

Monteith's eldest son, John, who had become involved in running the family business, proposed that Patrick Falconer, one of his partners, should attend one of the Trade Fairs in Germany with the aim of securing orders for Anderston produce. Being fluent in French and with a smattering of German, Falconer agreed to the suggestion. His intention was to proceed to Germany by the shortest route via Holland. However, shortly after arriving in Holland, Falconer was stopped by a French patrol and arrested on suspicion of being a spy. He was taken to the local military headquarters where a French Officer interrogated him. A short time passed, when to Falconer's astonishment, his interrogator smiled and said in good broad Scots, "*But, my frien' dae ye no' ken James Monteith o' Anderston?*" A surprised Falconer responded, "*Aye, I ken him weel, for he's my ain partner's faither!*" Satisfied of his authenticity, the Frenchman addressed Falconer in Scots, informing him that he had spent three years in Anderston as a guest of Monteith. He was of course, none-other than the young Mortier who, had joined the army and, showing enterprise, quickly attained the rank of General. Whilst attending a festival, on 28th July 1835, Mortier was killed by an assassin's bullet, meant for another dignitary. A monument erected to the memory of Mortier stands in the Pere-la-Chaise Cemetery, Paris.



James Monteith 1734-1809

James Monteith died in 1809 and was described as "*being a man of good character, honest and even in old age, hale and hearty, as well as possessing a good erect figure and pleasing countenance*". His portrait continued to adorn the Session Room of the Relief Church (Heddle Place) that he helped found, until the building was removed in 1966 to make way for construction work on the Kingston Bridge.

James Monteith raised six sons - John, James, Henry, Robert, Adam and William. The third son, Henry, went on to emulate his father's success. As well as looking after his father's business interests in Anderston, he also operated a large mill in Barrowfield. On the death of his brother James, in 1802, Henry assumed control of yet another mill, this time at Blantyre. The Blantyre Mill of Henry Monteith achieved a worldwide reputation and by 1816 over two thousand people were dependent on their livelihood from that mill.

As may have already been deduced, David Livingstone, the world-famous missionary and explorer, was born in one of the mill-workers houses. Today, the Blantyre Mill serves as a permanent memorial to David Livingstone.

Henry Monteith was twice elected Lord Provost of Glasgow (1814-16 and 1818-20), as well as serving as a Member of Parliament. Three decades earlier the suggestion that a weaver's son would one day become Lord Provost far less an MP would have been considered laughable. He purchased the Estate of Carstairs in 1824 and here he erected a splendid mansion-house.

Considering the huge influence the Monteiths had in Anderston, it is surprising to note that there are no reminders to honour the family name within the district. There is however a mausoleum to the family in the Necropolis and, in the East End of the city, Monteith Row serves as a reminder of Henry Monteith. In conclusion, it has been said, and rightly so, that "*Anderston was the cradle of the cotton industry in Scotland*". That being the case, the Monteiths must surely have been the fathers of Scottish weaving.

WILLIAM GILLESPIE

Around the time of the '45 Rebellion' the Gillespie family, who lived in Cowal, Argyll, moved to Pollokshaws, Glasgow, where they set up business as linen-printers. William Gillespie, who was born in 1743, was destined to become a pioneer in Anderston's early textile industry.

William Gillespie moved to Anderston in 1772 where he established himself as a bleacher and linen-printer on the '*Lang Road*' as North Street was called at that time. He erected Wellfield House on the west side of North Street, on what would eventually become the corner of William Street. The mansion enjoyed a pleasant location set amidst green fields and surrounded by silver birch trees. Within the grounds were lavish gardens and one of the finest vineries in the West of Scotland. Gillespie constructed two large ponds, for cloth-bleaching purposes, on either side of North Street between Saint Vincent Street and Sauchiehall Street. The ponds were supplied with water from burns at South Woodside and Pinkston.



Wellfield House, North Street c1875

Gillespie purchased property at North Woodside in 1784 and here he established Glasgow's first water-powered cotton-spinning mill on the banks of the River Kelvin, near where the present Great Western Road Bridge stands today. Twelve years later (1796) he erected a second mill, at the foot of Cheapside Street, Anderston. Acknowledged as a caring and benevolent employer, Gillespie sponsored a school and Mission Church at Woodside where he provided a basic education for his two hundred employees. In time he recognised that running the two mills was becoming too demanding, so, he invited a Nottingham man, Henry Houldsworth, to manage the operation of the North Woodside Mill. This seemingly innocuous business invitation led to a chain of events that, in time, saw Houldsworth elected to the office of the first Provost of Anderston.

The Gillespies, who had acquired the mansion-house and estate of Bishopton in Renfrewshire, in 1790, raised a family of three sons and three daughters. His sons Richard, James and Colin all went into business in Anderston. Richard, who purchased part of the Cranstonhill Estate, also served as a major in the local militia - the Anderston Volunteers. Of the three daughters, Anne married Dr. John Mitchell of Wellington Street Church, Margaret wed a Glasgow merchant, and Mary married a Professor of Scots Law at Edinburgh University.

William Gillespie, like James Monteith, was also an Office-bearer in Anderston Relief Church (Anderston Old). Gillespie was vehement in his opposition to the slave trade and through this humanitarian interest he developed a business association with David Dale, the son of a Stewarton shopkeeper, who became a well-known mill-owner and philanthropist. Dale was an interesting character whose strong religious beliefs caused him to secede from the National Church and establish his own church and congregation - called the 'Old Scots Independent', of which he was also the preacher.

Gillespie took an active and philanthropic interest in supporting missionary work and financed a project to send Gaelic-speaking missionaries to the Highlands and Islands. Unfortunately, the venture failed due to a lack of suitable recruits able to speak the language. Gillespie was also responsible for subsidising families who wished to leave the Hebridean Island of Barra and settle in Anderston, where he promised them work and a roof over their heads. William Gillespie died at his Bishopton home in 1809 and was duly interred in the burial ground of Anderston Relief Church (Heddle Place). When the Gillespie family decided to wind-up their commercial interests at Woodside the former mill property was rented out to tenants.

As the years passed, during the winter months locals would ice-skate on the frozen-over ponds on North Street, with few perhaps giving thought as to how such a facility came about. Although Wellfield House was structurally sound it was demolished in 1899 to make way for new tenement buildings. The only reminders of William Gillespie in the area is William Street, named in his honour, and Richard Street, named after one of his sons, who acquired ownership of the lands of Dawsholm, in 1792. Next time you have cause to pass along North Street or William Street, spare a thought for William Gillespie whose mansion, Wellfield House and print-field, were situated on the '*Lang Road*' over two hundred years ago.

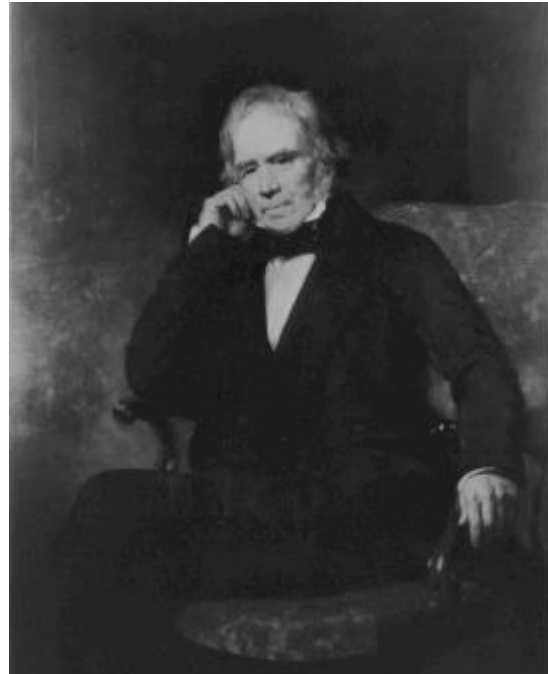
HENRY HOULDSWORTH

Born in Nottingham, in 1774, Henry Houldsworth, accompanied by his wife and two children, moved to Glasgow in 1799 to manage William Gillespie's cotton-mill at North Woodside. Ownership of the mill passed to Houldsworth in 1801 and, two years later, he began constructing a new steam-powered cotton mill in Cheapside Street, which proved to be among the largest mills operating in the Glasgow area. When drawing up plans for powering his new 'Anderston Cotton Works', Houldsworth sought the advice of James Watt. The new six-storey high mill in Cheapside Street measured 230 feet long and 40 feet wide. Work was completed on the Cheapside Street mill in 1805. Incorporated into the supporting framework of the building were iron pipes through which, steam to power the looms was passed. The steam-pipes helped maintain a warm environment, not for the comfort of the workers, but beneficial to the production of textiles. Whilst the 'central heating' might have been welcome in the winter, I expect during hot weather it would have been most uncomfortable.

By the late 1840s, other than Houldsworth's 'Anderston Cotton Works' in Cheapside Street, there was only one other cotton mill still operating in Anderston. Recognising that the demise of the textile industry was not far off, Houldsworth opened a mechanics shop adjacent to his Cheapside Mill. This new enterprise afforded him the opportunity of not only repairing his own machinery, but also of offering his services to a wider clientele. In time the mechanics shop developed into an iron-works, which became known as 'The Anderston Foundry'. The 'Anderston Cotton Works' fell silent during the late 1860s and eventually, like most of the other mills in the area, the building was pressed into service as a bonded warehouse. The iron foundry remained in operation until around 1930.

Henry Houldsworth married Jane Richardson in 1795 and shortly after their arrival in Glasgow the family took up residence in Cranstonhill mansion, a small villa that stood to the west of Anderston village. The union of Henry and Jane produced three sons, Henry, born in 1797, William was born in 1798, and John, born at Cranstonhill in 1807.

Within the grounds of Cranstonhill Estate was a Zoological Garden. Unfortunately, records detailing the contents of the Zoo are somewhat vague. When Anderston achieved Burgh status in 1824, Henry Houldsworth was elected as the first Provost. He served as Provost from 1824 until 1832 and again held the office between the years 1837-39. His youngest son, John, also held the office of Provost from 1843-46. Henry's son, John, was in fact the last Provost of the Burgh, Anderston being annexed by Glasgow in 1846. Between them, the Houldsworths held the office of Provost of Anderston for thirteen of the Burgh's twenty-two year existence.



Henry Houldsworth 1774 – 1853

Henry Houldsworth was a demanding employer who was not afraid of confrontation with his workforce. During the mid-1830s the weaving industry was experiencing a sharp decline in business due to foreign imports; in an effort to reduce costs by forcing down wages, he offered employment to Irish immigrants who were desperate for work and willing to accept low remuneration for their labours. In June 1837 a long-running cotton-spinners strike culminated in the death of an Irishman, employed at the Cheapside Mill, who refused to support the strike-action. Five men were arrested and sentenced to seven years transportation for their part in the crime.

Aware that the cotton industry was going into decline Henry and his brother, Thomas, acquired the Estate of Coltness, near Wishaw, in 1836, and two years later they established the Coltness Iron Works. In 1848, at the age of seventy-four, Henry still retained an interest in ironworks, opening the Dalmellington Iron Company, at Dunaskin. Henry Houldsworth died at his Coltness home on 10th October 1853, and his mortal remains were buried in the Churchyard of Dalmellington Old, near Wishaw.

Houldsworth's youngest son, John, married Eliza Muir in 1836, and in due course, they were blessed with a family of five children, three boys and two girls. John was described as a well-respected, even-tempered man who had a passion for the arts and sailing.

John Houldsworth was elected Provost of Anderston in 1843 and held the Office until 1846 when Glasgow annexed the Burgh; he went on to become Senior Bailie of the City of Glasgow. John Houldsworth purchased property at number 1 Park Terrace in 1857 and had plans to furnish the house in the most elegant style imaginable but he died, in 1859, before the work was completed.

Apart from the mill in Cheapside Street, perhaps the most memorable monument of more recent times to the Houldsworths was St. John's Episcopal Church. The church, opened in 1850, stood on the corner of Houldsworth Street and Argyle Street and was known locally as '*The English Church*'. The first minister of the church was Alex D'orsey, principal teacher of English at Glasgow High School. Soon after the congregation vacated the property, around 1959, the building was used as a joinery shop. The splendid building was removed in July 1971. The only local reminder of the Houldsworths is the Cranstonhill thoroughfare that bears the family name.

THE VERREVILLE

Patrick Colquhoun, one-time Lord Provost of Glasgow (1782-84), in partnership with Cooksons of Newcastle, established the 'Verreville Glass Works' at Finnieston in 1776. The 'Verreville', whose designation is of French origin, meaning 'glass town', was the first factory in Scotland to specialise in the production of fine flint crystal table-glass. Set amidst spacious green fields, Finnieston still maintained a rural ambience at the time the glassworks was built. The factory was easily identifiable for miles around due to its 120 feet tall cone-shaped chimney reaching up into the as yet, unpolluted clear blue sky.

John Geddes became involved with the Verreville around 1785, with the works eventually passing into his control in 1802, at which time he also constructed a pottery to the south of the glassworks. Geddes and his wife, Christian Robertson, lived in a large house adjacent to the factory. With its well-kept lawns and large garden stretching down towards the Clyde, Geddes' house commanded an unobstructed view from where he could watch his horses graze in the fields, just before the river. John Geddes was described as a tall, handsome man, who was well known throughout Glasgow as Colonel of the Anderston Volunteers, of whom we shall read presently.



(Courtesy of Glasgow University Special Collections)

A View of Anderston from the Clyde c1827

This interesting drawing by James Hopkirk features the conical chimney of the Verreville Pottery on the left. The large building in the centre is Houldsworth's mill; in the foreground is the Lancefield Engine Work of David Napier

Grace Street originally ran between Stobcross Street and Finnieston Street, until the street name was relocated to Cranstonhill in the late 1960s. The thoroughfare was named in memory of Geddes' young daughter, Grace, who died of burns when her dress caught fire while dressing for a party one evening. It is recorded that the death of the child was mourned throughout the community.

The Verreville exported produce to Europe as well to the American markets and in 1820 the production of fine china and ornamental-ware was added to that of glass and pottery. The Verreville was the first factory to apply steam-power for grinding and engraving glass and earthenware in the Glasgow area. Geddes remained with the Verreville until it was sold for £9,000 in 1835, to Robert A. Kidston, owner of the Anderston Pottery. The firm changed hands several times until finally, in 1864, Robert Cochrane procured the Verreville, in whose family the business remained until it was sold in 1918. At the height of manufacture, being equal in design and quality to anything produced in Europe, wares from the Verreville were much sought after and commanded exceedingly high prices.

For over fifty years, three examples of 'Verreville Pottery' featured as an attraction at the People's Palace, Glasgow Green. Following examination by experts, during November 1971, the articles attributed to Verreville were in fact identified as 'Meissen Pottery'. The error was discovered by mere chance. Apparently researchers had discovered several unrecorded Verreville trademarks. It was decided to inspect the pieces on display at the People's Palace to see if they bore any of the newly discovered trademarks. To the astonishment of all involved, the trademark of '*two crossed swords*' revealed that the items on display were not in fact Verreville, but 'Meissen'. For more than half a century visitors to the museum had been staring in awe at the beauty and quality of what was thought to be Verreville Pottery. Much to the dismay of the curator of the People's Palace, the items were relocated to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. It is thought likely that the 'Meissen' pieces belonged to Robert Cochrane, onetime owner of the Verreville, who had gathered the items as part of his private collection. When the articles of pottery came up for auction, fifty years after Cochrane's death, it was merely assumed the pieces in question were examples from the Verreville at Finnieston.

The Verreville occupied ground on the east side of Finnieston Street, a little to the south of the present Clyde Expressway. Offices and workshops of the Clan Shipping Line later occupied the site at 139 Finnieston Street. Archaeologists extensively surveyed the area during the summer of 2005 prior to the construction of a commercial development. During excavation work the archaeologist's uncovered and recorded evidence of kilns and buildings associated with the Verreville Pottery. Other Potteries operating within the district included, the Delftfield (1751-1823), the Lancefield or Anderston Pottery (1824-38) and the Hydepark Pottery (1837-44).

THE ANDERSTON VOLUNTEERS

When Britain went to war against France, Regiments of Volunteers were formed throughout the United Kingdom as precaution against invasion. Among the Regiments formed were the Anderston Volunteers, raised in 1803. The Regiment, part of the 6th Glasgow Battalion, was initially composed of eight Companies, comprising of thirty-two officers and five hundred men, under the command of Colonel John Geddes of the Verreville Pottery. Two officers of the Volunteers are named as Lieutenant Hugh Ross and Major Richard Gillespie. Because of their black uniforms the Volunteers were known locally as '*The Anderston Sweeps*' or '*The Sugarallie Corps*'.

A report in the Glasgow Courier of 1st May 1805 records an account of the presentation of a sword to Col. Geddes by a number of his admirers. On this same occasion, Mrs Geddes presented the Volunteers with a fine set of Colours comprising of the King's and the Regimental Colour. John Geddes was noted for his martial bearing as he rode his black Arabian horse through Anderston. He was immortalised in the words of a well-known street musician of the era, Alexander McDonald, better known as 'Blind Alik':

Like the fiery god of war,
Col Geddes does advance,
On a black horse that belonged,
To the murdered King of France.

Contemporary reports suggest the 'Anderston Sweeps' attained a high standard of efficiency, which was demonstrated in their general drill and discipline. The Anderston Volunteers were placed on duty one month of every year and, in addition to their free uniforms, they received the same rate of pay as the Regular Army. When the Volunteer system gave way to the Local Militia in 1808, the Anderston Volunteers, then around nine hundred strong, became the 3rd Company Lanarkshire Local Militia until the system was disbanded in 1815.

The mortal remains of John Geddes lie buried in the Ramshorn Kirk Yard, Ingram Street. His family tombstone, No. 36, can still be seen inserted on one of the perimeter walls, it reads simply:

In Memory of
John Geddes
of Verreville
and his family

Anderston

THEN & NOW PART THREE

LOCAL CHURCHES

Prior to the 1970s churches played a prominent role in the life of local communities. In the early days, as well as meeting spiritual needs and providing fellowship, the church was pivotal and pro-active in establishing schools and providing support to the needy. The structural life of Anderston began in the 1720s, but the first place of public worship did not materialise until almost fifty years later when, in 1770, under the leadership of James Monteith, a property was erected on the north side of Main Street under the title of Anderston Relief Church. Prior to the establishment of a local place of worship, many villagers wishing to attend church services made their way to the Barony Parish Church in Glasgow. To reach the 'Barony', villagers had to trek up Bishop Street, over Blythswood Hill and then on to Cathedral Square. Such a journey must have proved quite formidable when it is considered that there were no proper roads and, during inclement weather, decent shelter would have been rather scarce. What follows is the story of the founding of the first place of Christian worship in Anderston and of some of the others that followed.

ANDERSTON RELIEF CHURCH

The circumstances that resulted in the establishment of the first church in Anderston began one Sunday morning in 1768, when thirty-four year old James Monteith and his wife were making their way to church in Glasgow. Monteith, who was a weaver, was one of the most prosperous and enterprising men in Anderston; he was also an elder in the Anti-Burgher Kirk, which met in the Havannah (Cathedral Square), situated just off High Street. The couple hadn't travelled very far from their home in Anderston until they were caught in a thunderstorm. Mrs Monteith was convalescing from an illness, so the couple sought temporary shelter in the porch of the Tron Parish Church (Argyle Street). Being recognised by some of the duty elders, the Monteiths were cordially invited to participate in the church service, an offer they graciously accepted.

When word reached the Anti-Burgher Kirk that the Monteiths had been seen attending another church, there was a great furor. After much debate, the Anti-Burgher Session decided that the only way of absolving Monteith from his dreadful misdemeanour was for him to submit to '*Church Discipline*'. What the prescribed punishment was is uncertain, whatever it was, Monteith declined to comply and, in so doing, found his membership of the church severed. Records dated 17th January 1769, show that Monteith petitioned to have his sentence reviewed, but nothing came of it. Word soon spread that one of the most respected men in Anderston had been forced from his church. John Ewing, an Anderston weaver, who was an elder in Albion Street Relief Church, and another colleague, Joseph Neill were sympathetic to Monteith's plight. The three men met and following discussion, it was decided to establish a church within the Anderstoun community; before long ground was acquired on the north side of Main Street and work got underway in erecting the first church building in Anderston.

Known as Anderston Relief Church, the building was officially dedicated on 19th November 1770. The first minister of the congregation was one of the three original founders - Joseph Neill, a man of evangelical spirit and fervour. Unfortunately, Dr. Neill died just four years after his induction as minister at Anderston; his short ministry was described as brief but brilliant.

Whilst the date of the opening of the church is given as 19th November 1770, it is evident that a ready-made congregation was in existence prior to the building being erected. Records dating from 1769 indicate that 'ground was acquired from Mark Scott and disposed in favour of David Marshal, John Stobo, William Robertson, Robert Thomson, James McIlquhan, Gavin Miller, John Robertson, John Ewing and James Monteith managers appointed for building a church and transacting its affairs'. The church building was erected in what was described as 'a large dry well surrounded by a high wall, with an area set aside for a burial ground'. Entry to the property, which was to be the only place of Christian worship in Anderston for almost twenty-three years, was from North Street.

James Stewart

The Rev. James Stewart succeeded Joseph Neill, in 1774, to become the second minister of Anderston. It is of interest to note that the Rev. Stewart's annual salary amounted to £108-7s-4d. The total being made up of a stipend of £100 cash, twenty "*Kert's*" of coal at £1-13s-4d, a rent of £6 for the manse, bread for the sacraments, and a bun at New Year at a cost of fourteen shillings, amounting to a grand total of one hundred and eight pounds, seven shillings and four-pence.

One of the Rev. Stewart's legacies was the compilation of a 'Church Hymn Book' the production of which earned Anderston Relief a place in history as the first Presbyterian denomination to produce a Hymnal. The first five hundred copies of the new Hymn Book, published in 1786, was entitled '*Sacred Songs and Hymns on Various Passages of Scripture for the Congregation at Anderston*'. Of the 180 Hymns contained in the publication, among the better known are 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross' and 'How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds'. The publisher of 'The Anderston Hymn Book' was Hugh Niven, who lived in nearby Whitehall Mansion. A descendant of Hugh Niven was the internationally known film actor, David Niven, star of many films produced between 1940s and the 1980s.

The Reverend James Stewart, born at Dunblane in 1745, was reputed to have been an illegitimate son of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', a rumour that he neither confirmed nor denied. During his time as minister at Anderston, he also served as Chaplain to the Anderston Volunteers. The Rev. Stewart died at the age of 74, on 4th June 1819, having served the people of Anderston for forty-four years.

Dr. Gavin Struthers

The third minister of 'Anderston Relief' was Dr. Gavin Struthers who took charge on his predecessor's demise in 1819. During Struthers ministry, it was felt that the original church building was in need of alteration, so it was decided to partly demolish and remodel the property. David and Robert Napier, the engineers, were elders of the church and in connection with the renovation work they manufactured iron pillars as replacement for the original old wooden supports. As well as offering more comfortable surroundings, the new building also had improved acoustics and a new approach road from Main Street. Work began on remodelling the building in 1839, and during the eleven-month refurbishment programme, the congregation were invited to share accommodation and worship in the Secession Church in Wellington Street. In fact, it was Dr. Mitchell of the Wellington Street Church who, on 16th February 1840, assisted by Dr. French of Edinburgh, presided over the re-opening and dedication of the newly refurbished church (this was the building that stood in Heddle Place until it was demolished in 1966 to make way for the construction of the Kingston Road Bridge). In his sermon of the 23rd February 1840, the Rev. Struthers referred to old Anderston and the people who lived there. Part of his text is as follows:

"The first generation were a very sober and pious people. I have heard aged men say that in their younger days, family worship, both morning and evening, was universal, and that at a certain hour, every door was closed and the village became as if by common consent a hum of sweet Psalmistry. Amid the industrious population none were so rich as to forget God, nor so poor as to be tempted to steal their neighbours' goods. Jealousy and distrust were scarcely known in this happy neighbourhood, where all were acquainted with each other, and where sympathy and charity if required, was readily bestowed".

Dr. Struthers went on to sadly report the degeneration of the times was largely due to the terrific rate at which the population of Anderston had grown. Gavin Struthers died on 11th July 1858 and was described as a scholarly, public-spirited man and an able evangelical preacher; he is remembered as the author of '*The History of the Relief Church*'.

A Dorcas Society was formed in 1831, for the purpose of helping the poor and needy. The Society was composed of women of the church, who gathered together, to make clothes or provide food for the less fortunate.

The congregation established a Sunday School in 1851, and eight years later, a full-time day school was instituted. The day school was opened in 1859 at a cost of £1,800 of which, Robert Barclay, the shipbuilder, who was also a member of the Anderston congregation, donated five hundred pounds.



Anderston Old, Heddle Place c1961

The designation of the church changed several times over the centuries, in 1770 it was known as Anderston Relief, in 1847 Anderston U.P., 1900 Anderston U.F., until finally in 1930, it became known as Anderston Old, a title which the congregation retained until the building was demolished in 1966 as part of the aforementioned motorway plan. The ninth and last minister of the church was the Rev. H.A.D. Alexander who, ministered at Anderston for over forty years. With the closure of the church, the congregation united with the membership of St. Mark's-Lancefield and Anderston & St. Peter's to form the new congregation of Anderston Parish Church, now known as Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church.

The manse of the Relief Church survived until 1966 when, it too, was demolished. The manse was originally a two-storey building that stood in Sawmill Court and was accessed from 492 Argyle Street. A third storey was added to the building at a later date. The former manse was used as a workshop for the blind c1914, thus earning the entrance to the courtyard the title *'The Blind Mans' Pend'*.



Anderston Old, Heddle Place c1958



The Manse of Anderston Old (1963)

‘THE DISRUPTION’

Internal bickering is nothing new to the Church of Scotland. Disagreement over the exclusive-right of patrons, who may have built or funded a church, to select a minister, ultimately led to the secessions of 1733 and 1755 an action which brought into being new denominations such as the ‘Secession’ and the ‘Relief Church’. A century later a dispute that culminated in the ‘Disruption of 1843’ covered a wide range of issues, once again including the rights of congregations to choose a minister. The schism of 1843 was much more serious than any previous dispute, resulting in one-third of the ministers and half the membership leaving the Church of Scotland. This latest rift led to the formation of the ‘Free Church of Scotland’. In Anderston the ministers of Brownfield, St. Mark's, and St. Matthew's remained within the Established Church.

The decision of those who ‘walked out’ from the National Church was vindicated when, within a few short years, new buildings and schools were being erected under the auspices of the ‘Free Church’. This energetic building programme helps explain the number of church properties dotted around the city today, many of which are derelict. As will become clear the majority of local churches were either directly, or indirectly, associated in some way with one another. The passage of time coupled to church-politics led, in 1900, to the Free Church uniting with the ‘United Presbyterian Church’ under the banner of the United Free Church. Those Free Church congregations who did not embrace the denominational union of 1900 remained as the ‘Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)’. Twenty-nine years later the majority of the ‘United Free Churches’ rejoined the Church of Scotland. As an aid to understanding the origin and affiliations of specific churches I have highlighted the various groups and factions in bold print.

WELLINGTON STREET CHURCH

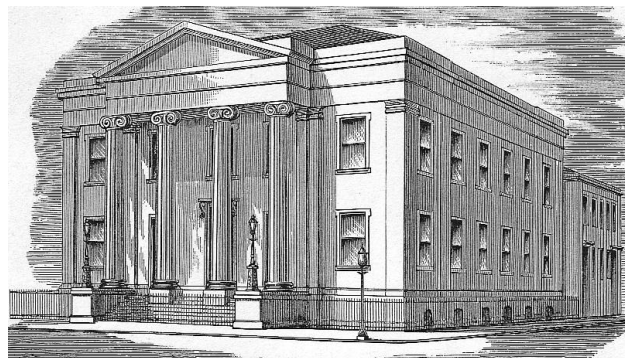
Towards the close of 1792 residents of Anderston who were members of the Anti-Burgher Secession Church in Havannah Street petitioned to have a church erected within their local community. Their desire was granted when, on the 1st August 1793, a Secession Church under the title of the '**Associate Congregation of Anderston**' was consecrated at 19 Cheapside Street. This building, often referred to as the 'Meeting House', was capable of seating five hundred people and was the birthplace of the present **Wellington Church** on University Avenue. Dr. John Mitchell was ordained as the first minister of this, the second church in Anderston.

The first marriage attributed to the Associate Congregation of Anderston was that of Margaret Young to Henry Bell in 1794. Eighteen years later, in 1812, Bell created history by launching the '*Comet*', the first sea-going steamship in the world. It is interesting to note that the connection with the '*Comet*' does not end here, the Captain of the steamship, Daniel McPhail, was buried in the churchyard in Cheapside Street, and alongside him lay the mortal remains of James Macfarlan, poet, and Dr. John Love, of whom, Lovedale, South Africa is named.

Services continued to be held in the Associate Congregation Meeting House until Sunday, 8th July 1827, following which, the congregation moved to newly built premises situated on the corner of Wellington and Waterloo Street. The new building, designed by the celebrated architect, John Baird, had seating for 1,450 and was the largest U.P. Church in Glasgow. Described as a quiet, yet able exponent of the Gospel, Dr. Mitchell, minister of the **Wellington Street** congregation, died on 25th January 1844. The old Meeting House, in Cheapside Street, was demolished soon after the congregation vacated the property and the ground lay vacant for about eight years, until **St. Mark's Established Church** was erected on practically the same spot.

Under the auspices of the **Wellington Street Church**, the congregation carried out considerable charity work within the Anderston district. In 1839 a Dorcas Society was formed, and in 1851 a Sunday school was opened in Catherine Street. In 1884 the Wellington Street congregation moved premises yet again, this time to their present location on University Avenue, carrying with them the title **Wellington Church**. When the Wellington Street property was sold, the former church building was converted into 'The Waterloo Rooms', which in time gave way to 'The Alhambra Theatre'.

Allan's Halls: The Wellington congregation did not forget their Anderston roots and continued to support Mission work in the area. One of the most notable aspects of their work was the erection of a large building containing several halls and meeting rooms. Alexander Allan, of the Allan Shipping Line, commissioned and presented the property to Wellington Church. The building, which stood at 185 Stobcross Street, became known appropriately enough as 'Allan's Halls'.



Wellington Street Church opened 1827

THE WATERLOO ROOMS & THE ALHAMBRA

Not long after the 'Wellington Congregation' removed to University Avenue in 1884, an amusing incident occurred in connection with the disposal of the vacant building in Wellington Street. Mr. Walter Freer was engaged to survey the property for a potential buyer, he entered the premises alone one evening and, during his tour of inspection, he ventured into the lower levels of the building. Whilst passing along a dark passageway, a draught extinguished his candle, leaving him in complete darkness. His only source of light gone, he panicked and moved briskly forward in the direction of a singular shaft of light. Suddenly, he lost his foothold and plummeted some six feet (c2m) downwards. Regaining composure, he felt around in the total darkness, eventually his fingers picked out the words "*Sacred to the memory of...*". The unfortunate surveyor had fallen into a tomb, left over from the former church. The property was eventually purchased and Mr. Freer was none the worse for his 'grave' experience.

The former church property was completely refurbished and reopened as 'The Waterloo Rooms', a venue that proved very popular for meetings and social gatherings. It is reputed that the first phonograph in Scotland was demonstrated in the premises during April 1889, followed soon after with the first 'moving pictures'. The Waterloo Rooms were eventually sold and the property cleared away for the erection of 'The Alhambra Theatre', opened in 1910.

Those who remember 'The Alhambra', with its revolving stage, will, no doubt, have fond memories of the various acts that performed there, not least, of the '*Bluebell Girls*' and the fabulous '*Five Past Eight Show*'. The theatre was demolished in 1971 to make way for the modern office block that currently occupies the site on Wellington Street.

ANDERSTON & St. PETER'S

In 1799 a Chapel of Ease, funded by public subscription, was opened in Clyde Street (later Clydeferry Street). When the 'Auld Kirk' petitioned for the erection of a Chapel of Ease (church extension of the eighteenth century) the population of Anderston was around five thousand souls. The first ordained minister of the **Clyde Street Chapel of Ease** was Dr. John Love who, prior to taking up his appointment in Anderston, was secretary of the London Missionary Society (LMS), which he helped found in 1795. Despite being described as "*a thoroughly spiritual minded man and a powerful preacher*" there was a great deal of opposition to his election as minister of the church. Whatever opinions people may have held, that did not discourage Dr. Love from devoting himself to the work of his congregation and of spreading the Gospel.

Struthers, Mitchell and Love, the ministers of the three Anderston churches, worked together in complete harmony and were all fervent supporters of the Glasgow Missionary Society (GMS), founded in 1796. It was through Dr. Love's commitment and enthusiasm to the work of the LMS and the GMS, that Lovedale, a town in South Africa, was eventually named in his honour. Dr. Love died on 17th December 1825, a year after the founding of the first settlement in Cape Colony (Cape Province), South Africa. Worn out by a combination of his labours in Anderston and his work on behalf of the GMS; it was particularly fitting that one of the missionaries working at Incehra in Africa wrote soon after Dr. Love's death:

"We think it the very least tribute of respect due from us to the late Dr. Love, that able minister of the New Testament and zealous promoter of the Mission in Caffraria. We have therefore dropped its former name Incehra, and have called it Lovedale in memory of John Love of Anderston."

Anderston Free:

On the Sunday following the 'Disruption of 1843', Dr. Alexander Somerville, on completion of his sermon, left the **Clyde Street Church** (Chapel of Ease), still in his robes, followed by most of the congregation. The dissenters held church services in Catherine Street School under the auspices of **Anderston Free Church** until 1849, when their new church premises in Cadogan Street were opened. The congregation remained in Cadogan Street until 1878 when they again moved, this time to new premises on the eastern edge of University Avenue. The new church, in time, became known as **Gilmorehill Church** until the charge was dissolved in 1959; the University of Glasgow now owns the former church property. It is interesting to note that both Wellington and Anderston Free began life only a street apart, they then relocated eastwards where they operated in close proximity. Finally, both congregations moved westwards, to Gilmorehill, where both buildings now stand only one hundred yards apart.

St. Peter's:

Expansion of the Central Station caused the congregation of St. Peter's (established as a Chapel of Ease in 1836) to vacate their Oswald Street property in 1904. Still retaining the title of **St. Peter's**, the congregation united with **Brownfield Est. Church** in Brown Street (Brownfield Church, founded in 1835, had earlier been reduced to a Mission Station). The congregation of St. Peter's united with **Anderston (St. Martin's)** in 1951 to form **Anderston & St. Peter's**. The former St. Peter's building at 68-72 Oswald Street was converted into 'Wilson's Zoo', an attraction that opened in 1936 and continued to generate interest until the property was demolished in 1963.

St. Peter's Free:

Another congregation that evolved from St. Peter's Established Church was **St. Peter's Free** (1843), who met at 55 Mains Street (Blythswood Street). The congregation united in 1909 with **St. George's U.F.** to become **St. George's & St. Peter's U.F.** whose premises stood at 137 Elderslie Street. A congregation meeting under the auspices of the **Original Secession Church** took up residence in the property at 55 Blythswood Street and held Services there until the building was demolished during the early 1960s.

Broomielaw Free:

A congregation that evolved from St. Peter's Free was **Broomielaw Free** who met in Carrick St. (1861). This church was reduced to a Mission, operating under the auspices of **Broomielaw U.F.**, and was run by students from the United Free College. Broomielaw U.F. united with **St. Mark's West** in 1929.

Anderston & St. Peter's:

The split of 1843 was not the end of the **Clyde Street Church's** troubles, six years later, on the 6th May 1849, the property, which was originally established as a Chapel of Ease in 1799, was badly damaged by fire which spread from an adjacent sugar refinery. A long running insurance dispute followed, however, despite their problems, the congregation remained intact and, in 1864, having gathered enough money they erected a new building at the gusset of St. Vincent Street and Argyle Street. The new property, completed in 1865, was known as **Anderston Parish Church**. The building was particularly ornate; being built of white sandstone inlaid with bandings of red sandstone; placed above the main entrance was an effigy of Dr. John Love, minister of the first congregation who met in 1799 (Clyde St. Chapel of Ease).

The first minister called to the new Anderston Parish Church was John Marshal Lang, a distinguished preacher of that era. Lang's three sons all held prominent ecclesiastical positions in different denominations. The eldest son, Cosmo Gordon Lang, became Archbishop of Canterbury, the second son, became a Bishop in the Church of England, while the youngest became Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Anderston Parish Church had the distinction of being the first Presbyterian Church to 'legally' install and use a pipe organ during public worship. The designation of the congregation was changed in 1929 to **Anderston (St. Martin's)** with the title 'St. Martin's' intentionally placed in brackets in order to distinguish the congregation from that of other Anderston churches. In 1951 the congregations of Anderston (St. Martin's), and St. Peter's united to form **Anderston & St. Peter's**.

When Anderston & St. Peter's closed in 1968 the organ was removed and placed in storage, it has since been relocated to **St. Bride's Episcopal Church** in Hyndland. The effigy of Dr. Love that once adorned a roundel above the main entrance of Anderston & St. Peter's was also safely removed during demolition work in 1971, and transported to Lovedale, South Africa, where it serves as a reminder of the debt owed to Dr. John Love of Anderston. The last cleric to hold the charge of Anderston & St. Peter's was the Rev. Gordon Milne Ewan, who died during August 1969. The former congregation of **Anderston & St. Peter's** now forms part of **Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church**.



Anderston & St. Peter's (1966)

*This fine property, opened in 1865, stood on the gusset of Argyle Street and St. Vincent Street.
The roundel above the main entrance featured an effigy of Dr. John Love.*

St. MARK'S-LANCEFIELD

A new church building was erected, in 1835, on the site of Dr. Mitchell's Secession Church in Cheapside Street, of which only the burial yard remained. The new church, called **St. Mark's**, was originally opened as a Chapel of Ease and did not become a Parish Church until 1863, by which time the congregation had erected a new building on the same site.

The Houldsworth family commissioned an exact-size stained-glass window, which they intended donating to Glasgow Cathedral, however, the authorities rejected the offer as they considered the style of the glass was not in keeping with that of the other stained-glass windows within the Cathedral. The rejected window was offered to St. Mark's, where it was incorporated into the new church property being built in Cheapside Street (completed in 1863). St. Mark's remained active in Cheapside Street until the charge was dissolved in 1959.

St. Mark's Free:

During the Disruption of 1843 that wracked the Church of Scotland, the majority of the congregation of St. Mark's disassociated themselves from the National Church and walked out of their eight-year old property in Cheapside Street. Uniting with some former members of **Brownfield Church** (Brown Street), who had also turned their back of the Established Church, the two groups decided to meet for services under the title of **St. Mark's Free**. In due course the unified congregation erected a fine Gothic-style building (1850) on Argyle Street, near the junction of Cranston Street. An architect of the time wrote:

"The congregation of St. Mark's Free are to build on the south side of Main Street, a church with a spire one hundred and seventy feet high with a clock and bell. This erection will be a striking feature in the picturesque appearance of our leading thoroughfare. It will relieve the monotonous line of the square masses of masonry in that direction and, moreover, if there be any dependence on the old prophecy which says, "Cranstonhill will one day be the centre of Glasgow", the new St. Mark's may yet be dignified as the Cross steeple of Glasgow".

Adjacent to St. Mark's Free was a large open field, considered by locals to be 'free ground' on which they could hang out their washing, sheep could graze, and children could play undisturbed.

In 1900 the church changed its designation to **St. Mark's U.F.** The congregation was strengthened in 1929 with the arrival of members from **Broomielaw U.F. Mission**, Carrick Street (founded 1861), causing the Church's designation to be changed yet again, this time to **St. Mark's West**.

A Mission in Lancefield Street that was under the care of **Wellington Church** became so strong that, in 1875, it was raised to full-charge under the auspices of **Cranstonhill U.P.** This congregation became known as **Lancefield U.F.** in 1900, and in 1931 united with **St. Mark's West** to form **St. Mark's-Lancefield**.

St. Mark's-Lancefield, Argyle Street c1960

A few weeks prior to Christmas each year an enormous Christmas tree, fully decorated, was positioned above the main entrance to the church. As well as brightening up the locality the presence of the tree heightened the awareness of Christmas among local children.



The Dedication Service and the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new **Anderston Parish Church** was held in St. Mark's-Lancefield Church in 1966. The three congregations of Anderston Old, Anderston & St. Peter's, and St. Mark's-Lancefield united to form the congregation of the new Anderston Parish Church when it opened in 1968. The Rev. Archie Russell, former minister of St. Mark's-Lancefield was given charge of the spiritual welfare of the new congregation. St. Mark's-Lancefield, in Argyle Street was demolished during September and November 1969.

THE MITCHELL CONGREGATION

Shortly after the congregation of **St. Mark's Free** vacated their Cheapside Street premises in 1850, to move to a new site on Argyle Street, an independent group (including a faction from Wellington Street Church) who had been meeting in the Temperance Hall in Jamieson's Lane (1852), and later in Catherine Street School (1855) erected a new building adjacent to St. Mark's (Cheapside Street) in 1856 under the title of '**Mitchell U.P. Church**'. The church was named in memory of the late Dr. Mitchell, minister of the church that had earlier occupied the site (1793).

In 1873 the 'Mitchell Congregation' erected premises at 12 Breadalbane Street under the title **Sandyford U.P.**, changing to **Sandyford U.F.** in 1900. The congregation moved in 1914 to Novar Drive and became **Hyndland U.F.** When the Sandyford congregation vacated the premises in 1914 another group, whose building in Kent Road was condemned, moved into the Breadalbane Street property, under the title '**West U.F.**' The West U.F. congregation occupied the Breadalbane Street premises until 1917 and, not long after their departure, the building was converted into the **Grove Cinema**. Many years later the building was adapted as a 'Boxing Arena' and became known as the '**Grove Stadium**'. At the time the property was destroyed by fire, during November 1969, a firm of 'Straw Merchants' occupied the premises.

St. MATTHEW'S

A congregation who gathered under the auspices of **West Bath Street Independent Church** erected a fine gothic-style property in 1850, at 256 Bath Street, on the corner of Holland Street. When the congregation of **Blythswood Est.** (formed in 1875) moved into the Bath Street property, the church became known as **Blythswood Parish**.

St. Matthew's, founded in 1837, originally met in premises at 76 North Street, on the corner of William Street. The congregation left their William Street property in 1925 and united with the congregation of **Blythswood Parish** to form **St. Matthew's Blythswood**. A congregation who meet under the designation of **Renfield St. Stephens** now occupy the property.

St. Matthew's Free:

As a result of the 'Disruption of 1843' a breakaway group calling themselves **St. Matthew's Free** was formed. The congregation erected a church at 15 Kent Road in 1844, and seven years later, moved to 357 Bath Street. When the Bath Street property was destroyed by fire, in 1952, the church relocated to the Knightswood area to form part of the **Netherton St. Matthew's** congregation.

Cranstonhill Free:

St. Matthew's Free erected a Mission School on the north side of Main Street around 1847. Thirty-one years later, in 1878, the Mission congregation opened a church in Hill Street (Guest Street) under the title **Cranstonhill Free**. In 1900 the church operated under the auspices **Cranstonhill U.F.**, the designation was again changed in 1931 to **Central U.F.**. Elizabeth Barr, daughter of the Rev. Jimmy Barr, one time Labour MP for Coatbridge, was the last minister to serve the congregation. The building was vacated in 1960 and lay derelict for many years prior to its demolition in 1968.

Cranstonhill U.P. (Erected 1887 - demolished 1968)

This substantial property, pictured just prior to demolition in 1970, stood on the east side of Lancefield Street.

The property was vacated when the congregation united, in 1939, with St. Mark's West to form St. Mark's-Lancefield.

The building was used latterly for commercial purposes.



KELVINGROVE CHURCH

In 1849, under the patronage of **St. Matthew's Free** (15 Kent Road), Robert Dunlop, known as the '*Singing Joiner*', was tasked with establishing a day school in a cottage at the foot of **Grace Street** near Stobcross Street. In those days Grace Street was a long narrow thoroughfare, running northwards from Stobcross Street, before turning at right angles, down a steep hill into Finnieston Street.

Robert Dunlop was described as being around five feet seven inches in height, of stocky build and bow-legged. He had sharp penetrating eyes, a black beard and, although a strict disciplinarian, the local children were very fond of him. Mr. Dunlop devised a scheme to provide children with a musical education and is credited as being the first person to introduce the '*Tonic Sol-Fah*' system into Glasgow schools.



Robert Dunlop

Such was the success of the Mission School that, three years after its foundation (1849), a larger building was required. The cost of the new school, erected in Grace Street, was paid for partly by Free St. Matthew's and partly by local residents. School fees were charged according to the ability of parents to pay. The cost of the fees ranged between four-pence, and one shilling and four-pence, for local families rising to two shillings and sixpence to five shillings per quarter for children from outwith the Finnieston area. Families with more than one child attending the school paid a reduced fee; no contribution was expected from children of unemployed parents.

Mr. Dunlop and his band of workers decided, now that the local children were attending the day school in droves, they should target the parents, and so, the day school was turned into a Mission School and Church in the evenings. The Mission met with the same success as the day school and before long thoughts were turning to the erection of a 'proper church'.

FINNIESTON FREE:

Following a meeting with the elders of **Free St. Matthew's** (which by this time had removed to 357 Bath St.) it was decided to erect a church near the top of Finnieston Street, at the foot of Havelock Street (Houldsworth Street). The new church known as **Finnieston Free** was opened in 1856 and the first minister called to the charge was an outstanding preacher of the time - the Rev. Andrew Bonar, who was mentor to the Rev. Robert Murray McCheyne. The Rev. Bonar was also a loyal supporter of the American Evangelist, D.L. Moody, who was invited to preach at Finnieston Free.

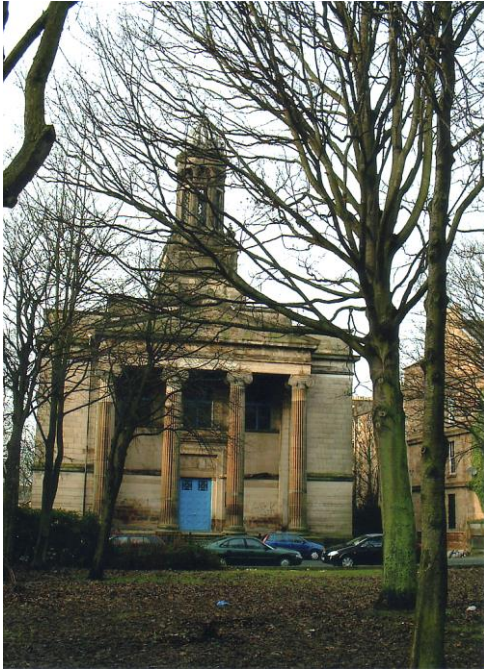


Grace Street Mission

Within two years of commencing his ministry at Finnieston the Rev. Bonar was attracting a congregation of up to 500 people each week.

Mr. Bonar's preaching was not solely confined to the pulpit - he visited local factories and his lunchtime meetings at Thomson's Foundry (169 Finnieston Street) regularly attracted gatherings of over 100 workers. During Rev. Bonar's ministry the congregation were responsible for supporting no fewer than three day schools within the locality (Grace St., Elliot St., and Argyle St.)

When Alexander MacKeith, an elder of the church, along with three helpers, decided to form a branch of the 'Glasgow Foundry Boys' Religious Society', at the Grace Street Mission Hall, in 1865, over 150 boys enrolled; before long, membership had increased to over 300. Alex. MacKeith was also a founder of the world-famous **Tent Hall**, in the Saltmarket. Another member of Finnieston Free, Robert G. Munsie, established the **Artizan's Gospel Hall** at 12 Teviot Street, Kelvinhaugh, in 1891, and here great evangelical work was faithfully carried out until the Mission was forced to close in 1971.



By early 1870 it had become clear to the members of Finnieston Free that a new church building was required. A committee was set up to consider options and search for a suitable site. In June 1875 a plot of land on Derby Street near Kelvingrove Park was purchased. The new church, retaining the name Finnieston Free, and designed in the classical style, was opened on 9th December 1878. Etched in the stonework above the main entrance was a Hebrew text from Proverbs Chapter 11 v 30:

לֵקַח נַפְשׁוֹת חָכָם
(He who wins souls is wise)

Opposite: At the time the photograph was taken (January 2004) the former Kelvingrove Church property was being used as a recording studio.

As well as maintaining an interest and supporting the work of missionaries in foreign lands a number of the Finnieston congregation heeded the call to serve in the mission fields of China, Africa, India, Morocco, Egypt and Sudan.

During the early hours of 13th/14th March 1941 Finnieston Church suffered damage when a landmine, dropped from a German bomber, exploded in Kelvingrove Park. The explosion damaged the bridge on Kelvin Way, brought down the ceiling and blew in the windows of the church and as well as causing similar damage to surrounding tenement homes.

CLAREMONT U.P.

Some members of the United Presbyterian Church desirous of erecting a new church property purchased a piece of ground, in 1854, from John Fleming owner of Claremont Estate. The new building, situated on the northern part of Claremont Street, was completed in 1856 and the church was appropriately named **Claremont U.P.**. The first minister called to serve the new congregation was Rev. Alexander McEwan M.A.. Included in the building was an organ, the first such instrument to be installed in a Presbyterian church, however, permission to use the instrument during worship was not granted until 1873.

The congregation of Claremont U.P. was drawn mainly from the professional classes - doctors, lawyers, teachers etc. Spurred on by missionary zeal the congregation began outreach work in the poorer neighbouring areas of Kelvinhaugh and Finnieston.

Shortly after the police vacated their premises in Warroch St., the Claremont U.P. congregation purchased the property, demolished the old building and erected a Mission Hall. Opened in 1868, the **Claremont U.P. Mission** carried out tremendous evangelical work within the Anderston area. Organisations included a Sunday School, Bible Class, and meetings for women and men, Girl Guides, and a Boys' Brigade Company. Many influential people were involved in the work of the Mission, one such example is Hugh Reid (of N.B. Loco fame) who, as a young man, was Captain of the 7th Glasgow BB Company.

The first union of the Claremont congregation came about when a nearby church, **College and Kelvingrove**, was consumed by fire in 1925. The roof of College and Kelvingrove building was set alight by airborne embers from the conflagration that destroyed the Kelvin Hall. The two churches were officially united in 1927. Thirty years later (1957) the congregation of **St. George's and St. Peter's** (Elderslie Street) joined with Claremont.

KELVINGROVE CHURCH

The sudden death, in 1964, of the Rev. W. Jardine Weir, minister of **Claremont**, coupled with a vacancy in the pulpit of **Finnieston** led to the decision to unite the two congregations; the following year the name of the united congregation was changed to **Kelvingrove**. Shortly after the union the vacated Claremont property showed signs of structural defect and had to be demolished. The site of Claremont Church is currently occupied by an office block.

The former charges that made up the **Kelvingrove** congregation included: **Finniester Free; Claremont U.P.; College Free; Kelvingrove U.P.; Kelvinhaugh Est.; St. Enoch's Free; St. George's Free,** and **St. Peter's Free.**

When **Kelvingrove Church** finally closed in 1978, the congregation united with **Anderston Parish Church** to form **Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church.** Soon after the congregation's departure the vacant Kelvingrove building was converted into a recording studio. Following closure of the studio (2005) the property was converted into luxury flats under the title of 'Kelvingrove Mansions'.

GRACE STREET MISSION

The Mission in Grace Street, founded in 1849, continued to serve the local community for over one hundred years and, in the days before dining rooms were an integral part of school buildings, the hall of the Mission served as the 'dinner school' for pupils attending Finnieston School. A Girl Guide Company was formed in 1925 and five years later, in an attempt to encourage the unemployed to attend religious gatherings, the first 'Muffler Meetings' were held. Everyone who attended the meetings, including the organisers, wore mufflers (scarves), this was to disguise the fact that many of the unemployed had neither shirts nor decent 'Sunday clothes'. The men attending the meetings were treated to tea, cakes and entertainment before the evening was rounded off with a suitable Gospel message.

When Walter McAllister, the full-time voluntary missionary retired, in the early 1950s, he was succeeded by his son, Gavin, and Jimmy Arlow, who continued the work. Grace Street Mission remained active in the district right up until their property was demolished in 1958 as part of the Anderston Redevelopment Programme. When the building was being dismantled the bell was carefully removed and donated to Kincourth Church, Deeside. Immediately after the Mission closed, Mrs McDonald, the former hall-keeper, opened her home for evening meetings, until a shop at 64 Grace Street was acquired and turned into a temporary Mission Hall.

Great emphasis was placed on children's ministry and even in the difficult days of displaced families due to redevelopment, Sunday School attendance attracted in the region of one hundred children. Due to the large numbers of children attending meetings Gavin McAllister approached the education authorities seeking permission to hold Sunday school in Finnieston School. Consent was granted and meetings continued at the school until around 1962, by which time most families had been re-housed outside the locality. Former members of the Grace Street Mission, who remained in the area, began attending services in **The Foundry Boys' Mission** when shop premises were acquired at 8 Minerva Street. At the time of writing, the former Foundry Boys' Minerva Street Mission is still functioning under the auspices of **Finniester Evangelical Church.** The changing face of the neighbourhood is reflected in that fact that the church now mainly serves members of the local Asian community; the one constant factor is Gavin McAllister who, at 87 years of age, is still actively carrying on the role of Pastor.

ANDERSTON KELVINGROVE PARISH CHURCH

Erected on a wedge of land framed by Argyle St., Cranston St. and what was once Guest St., the pyramid-shaped copper roof of **Anderston Parish Church**, opened in 1968, presented a striking feature against the unimaginative architecture of the new housing stock erected during the 1970s. With a fine suite of halls and meeting-rooms the new church, was designed with service to the community very much in mind. Following union with **Kelvingrove Church** in 1978, the designation of the new church was changed to **Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church.**



Anderston Kelvingrove Church, Argyle Street (January 2004)

At present, a total of fourteen former full charges, and at least three Mission congregations, have, over the last century and a half, united in one way or another, to form the present Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church.

St. PATRICK'S R.C. CHURCH

With its close proximity to the Clyde and the need for cheap labour Anderston, during the 1830s, was an ideal location for Irish immigrants. Within a short period of time, the influx of Irish and Highland incomers exacerbated the critical problems of overcrowding in the already poor housing conditions prevalent throughout the area.

A great deal of antagonism was displayed specifically towards the Irish immigrants who, were viewed with suspicion and mistrust throughout central Scotland. Weavers in particular, were vehement in their objection to the Irish incomers whose very presence threatened the security of jobs, and often resulted in the lowering of wages. Despite the fierce opposition to Irish Catholic emancipation, the Rev. Gavin Struthers, minister of **Anderston Relief Church**, appears to have had a more enlightened attitude towards the Irish settlers. Against all the odds he was a staunch supporter of their emancipation and integration into the local community.

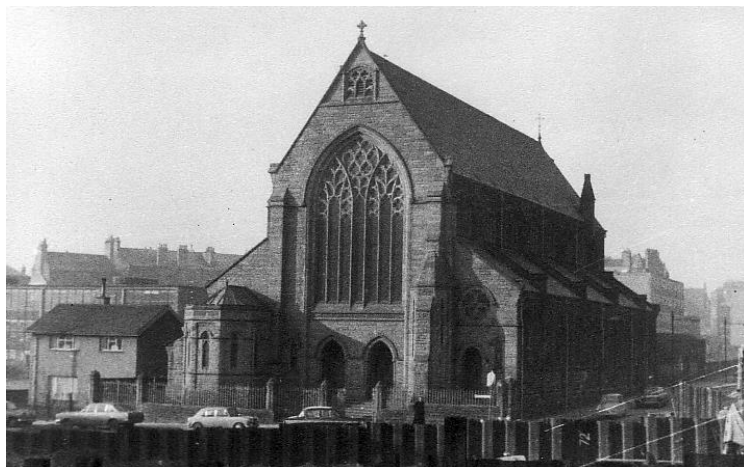
Roman Catholicism in Anderston, as with much of Glasgow, had small beginnings. For example, in 1780 records indicate that there were only a few Roman Catholics who had neither priest nor chapel. From the 1830s onwards, thousands of Irish settlers were arriving in Glasgow annually. Prior to the establishment of a chapel in Anderston, people of the Roman Catholic faith wishing to attend Mass, had to journey to **Saint Andrew's R.C. Cathedral** on Clyde Street.

In the face of strong opposition, ground was feued, on the edge of Cranstonhill Estate, from the Houldsworths, and in November 1850, **St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church**, with seating for around eight hundred people, was opened on west side of Hill Street (Guest Street). The congregation of St. Patrick's at this time was composed mainly of Irish immigrants. The first priest to be given charge of the first Catholic Church in Anderston was Patrick Hanley, an Irishman, born in Limerick on 8th May 1818. Looking back on history, it is not unreasonable to suggest that when Houldsworth feued the property on Cranstonhill, he was perhaps, not so much sympathetic to Catholic emancipation, as he was to ensuring that his factory would be kept supplied with cheap Irish labour. During this particular period, Houldsworth employed over three hundred low-paid Irish immigrants at his mill in Cheapside Street.

The present **St. Patrick's Church** was erected on the site of the Blythswood Foundry, which stood on the southern corner of William Street and North Street. The foundation stone of '**St. Pat's**', as it is affectionately known, was laid appropriately enough, on Saint Patrick's Day, 17th March 1896. The new building was completed and ready for occupancy on 2nd June 1898. The following story is told regarding the opening ceremony, whether it is true or not I cannot say. The congregation of St. Patrick's was composed of two distinct factions, the native Scots, and the Irish immigrants. Apparently there was clear division among members of the congregation during the period of the official opening. The Irish members insisted that an Irish priest should dedicate the chapel, while the Scots wanted the priest originally detailed to oversee the ceremony. The indigenous Scots got their wish, and the church was duly consecrated. However, later that day, the Irish adherents also had the church dedicated, by their preferred priest. As earlier stated, I don't know if there is any substance to the story, but, if there is, 'St. Pat's' must be one of the few churches to have been dedicated twice on the same day!

St. Patrick's R.C. Church (Opened - 1896)

This 1968 photograph, with girders in the foreground, demonstrates clearly the proximity of construction work on the Kingston Bridge and M8 Motorway.



St. Pat's narrowly missed being swallowed up in the 1960s redevelopment and motorway programme, making it now the oldest surviving place of Christian worship in Anderston proper. Road realignment meant that a portion of the pavement and main approach to 'St. Pat's' had to be altered. The entrance to the chapel is but a few short steps from North Street, nowadays a busy road serving both as an off-ramp from the Kingston Bridge and a feeder road between Argyle Street and St. Vincent Street.

The Boy Scout Movement was founded in 1907 and the first Catholic Scout Troop in Anderston was started in 1921, under the title 86th Glasgow Troop. The Troop reached its zenith during the 1950s although membership seldom exceeded thirty. The boys enjoyed participating in all the usual Scouting activities such as weekend camping and football. It is claimed that a member of the 86th Glasgow Scout Troop was the first holder of the King's Scout Award in the Glasgow area. With the advent of the 1960s, like most youth organisations, despite great efforts, the 86th Glasgow Scout Troop declined into a somewhat patchy existence, finally ceasing to operate sometime during the 1970s.

St. Patrick's became the centre of a brutal murder investigation during September/October 2006 after the body of a young Polish student, who had been frequenting the church, was discovered hidden within the sanctuary. A sixty-year old male who had been carrying out odd-jobs around the property was charged with the murder. During the murder investigation certain details relating to the behaviour of the parish priest came to light forcing his resignation. St. Patrick's remained closed for many months during the police investigation and throughout this period church services were transferred to St. Andrew's R.C. Cathedral, Clyde Street.

OTHER CHURCHES

It is extremely difficult to follow exactly the development of local churches due to church expansion, unions and internal disagreement. Suffice to say, that within Anderston, there were more than 30 church buildings and over twelve Mission Halls, the majority of which were either directly, or indirectly, connected with each other. As well as the major churches in the area there were also a number of smaller religious denominations that played a significant role in the spiritual life and welfare of the community.

Among the churches in the area not already mentioned was the '**Scots Independent**', a denomination founded by David Dale. Finding their original premises, the '**Candle Kirk**', in Greyfriars Wynd too small, the congregation erected larger premises at 64-66 Oswald Street in 1837 under the title of the '**Old Scots Independent Church**'. This congregation were still holding meetings in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, during the 1950s. Other congregations included **Argyle Free (Gaelic)** in Oswald Street (1847); **Mains Street, United Original Secession**, Blythwood Street (1837); **St. John's Episcopal** in Houldsworth Street (1850), and **Brown Street Congregational** (1830-41).

The Congregation of Christian Disciples met in North Hanover Street in 1837 before moving to 41 Brown Street where they remained from 1859 until 1897. The congregation moved to Shawlands where they still meet under the designation of the **Church of Christ**.

A faction from the **Emmanuel Congregational**, who originally met in Blackie Street, Overnewton, began holding meetings in the Mulberry Bank Hall, Finnieston (1891), they later moved to a new building in Stewartville Street, Partick.

MISSION HALLS

The Mission Halls in Anderston, not already listed, included **Claremont U.P.** who met at 15 Warroch Street; **Wellington U.P.** who had a Mission at 25 Piccadilly Street; **St. Vincent Street U.P.** whose premises were at 218 Holm Street; **Berkeley Street U.P.** met in Richard Street; **Elgin Place Congregational** met at 12 Bishop Street, and the **Mission to Seamen** who met in York Street.

FREE ANDERSTON MISSION

Following the 'Disruption of 1843' dissenting members of '**Clyde Street Church**' (originally established as a Chapel of Ease in 1799) formed an independent congregation under the auspices of '**Free Anderston Church**'. The congregation opened a Mission Hall at 33 Clyde Street in 1851. The name Clyde Street was later changed to that of Clydeferry Street.



Free Anderston Mission Hall c1880

(Picture by kind permission of Glasgow University Archive Services)

THE SALVATION ARMY

William Booth founded the Salvation Army Movement in 1865, but it was to be fourteen years before the Organisation took root in Scotland. Anderston has the distinction of being the birthplace of the Salvation Army north of the Border. The first Corps, or 'Number One Corps', as they were called, held their inaugural meetings under the leadership of Captain Black, on March 24th 1879, on a site currently occupied by housing at 643-649 Argyle Street.

The Salvation Army opened their 'Anderston Citadel' on 28th May 1904, on the north side of Argyle Street (724), directly opposite St. Mark's-Lancefield Church. Forming either side of the main entrance were six foundation stones, placed one on top of the other and bearing suitable inscriptions, laid by eminent celebrities of the time. From their Citadel the 'Army' grew in strength and, in 1910, a twenty-five strong Silver Band was formed to lead the Praise. The average Sunday Service found the Citadel packed with well over one hundred people, plus of course the Silver Band and Choristers; the Evening Services enjoyed an even larger attendance. The Sunday School could boast a membership in excess of one hundred and fifty children. Many young people who progressed through the Sunday School would one day carry on the work of the Movement. Perhaps the most prominent local person, in terms of rank at any rate, was John McMillan who, after devoting his life to the Organisation and serving in various parts of the world, attained the rank of Chief of Staff of the entire worldwide Movement.

In the early days, the Officers of the Anderston Corps had many unusual, if not strange, methods of presenting the Gospel. I was informed of one Captain who preached from a coffin, and of another who expounded the Gospel whilst riding a bicycle. At one time the Anderston Citadel had what was considered to be the finest choir or, Songster Brigade, in the country; during the 1920s, the sixty-five-strong mixed-choir was chosen to represent Scotland at a National Choral Competition held at Crystal Palace, London.

A 'Goodwill Centre' was opened in 1925 on the corner of McAlpine Street and Broomielaw. The 'Goodwill Centres' were originally referred to as '*Slum Posts*' reflecting the status of the areas in which the work was carried out. Many older Anderston residents were able to recall '*The Slum Sisters*', lady officers who volunteered their spare-time and service to staff the Centre. Work carried out from the 'Goodwill Centre' mainly consisted of providing meals for the poor to scrubbing out homes for the old and infirm. The '*Slum Sisters*' never missed an opportunity to give encouragement and share the Gospel with the poor and less fortunate. In later years the '*Slum Post*' title was replaced with the designation 'Goodwill Centre'.

In 1927 the 'Goodwill Centre' relocated from the Broomielaw to the corner of Argyle Street and McAlpine Street. Redevelopment in 1967 forced the 'Centre' to move yet again, to shop premises further up Argyle Street, near the '*Fish Pend*'. They again had to move a year or so later to the Citadel, until that too, was demolished in 1969. A new Salvation Army Scottish Headquarters, adjacent to Anderston Kelvingrove Church, was opened in 1972 on Cranstonhill. When the Movement celebrated its Centenary in Scotland, in 1979, the Anderston Corps of the Salvation Army paraded down Argyle Street, from Radnor Street, led by the Brass Band of 41st Glasgow Company of The Boys' Brigade, one of the Anderston Companies originally formed in 1886.

THE SEAMEN'S BETHEL

The story of 'The Bethel' had its beginnings when an American ship, the '*Morning Star*', docked at the Broomielaw on March 7th 1821. The Captain of the ship, a devout Christian, hoisted a blue flag with the word '*Bethel*', meaning '*House of God*' printed thereon. He announced to the general public milling around the harbour that he intended holding Gospel Meetings on the ship each Sunday morning and that everyone was cordially invited. In those days the Clyde was heavily congested with ships bringing goods from abroad as well as taking away local produce for export. When Sunday came, not only seamen arrived at the dockside to take part in the service, members of the public, curious to see what was going on came along. The outcome of those meetings was the realisation of the need of a place to which sailors could turn for help, both physical and spiritual.

Archibald Kay, a cabinetmaker, who had premises on Anderston Walk (Argyle Street), offered to continue the mission work after the '*Morning Star*' had set sail. Recruiting the assistance of some friends, they faithfully visited the ships berthed at the Broomielaw, inviting the crews to attend Gospel Meetings in his joinery workshop. Those who attended the Services were seated on planks of wood that would perhaps be made into furniture the next day. From those humble origins, began a chain of events that ultimately led to a meeting, held in the Trades House, Glassford Street, on 13th May 1822. The meeting resolved to form 'The Glasgow Seamen's Friendly Society' (G.S.F.S.). The object of the Society was the promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of seamen and their families.

The inaugural meeting of the G.S.F.S. was held in a Riding School in York Street, later moving to a room in the old Delftfield Pottery. The Delftfield premises soon proved too small and, accordingly, on 18th May 1823, at the Annual General Meeting of the G.S.F.S. it was resolved to erect a Mariner's Chapel near the harbour. Ground was acquired in Brown Street, and by late 1824, work on the new building, with accommodation for six hundred people was complete. The chapel was officially opened on 27th March 1825 and soon became known throughout the district as 'The Seamen's Bethel' or simply 'The Bethel'. As well as Sunday Services and mid-week Bible Study the Bethel had an active Sunday School that proved popular with local children.

Opposite: *The Seamen's Bethel, Brown Street (1969)*

The Seamen's Bethel is not to be confused with the Sailor's Home, opened in 1856, at 150 Broomielaw and whose premises were demolished in 1971.



The 'Good Ship Ebenezer' was a small clinker-built boat built in 1886 and used to convey The Bethel's Missionaries out to ships anchored in mid-Clyde. At Christmas the vessel was used to distribute gifts to the crews of the ships anchored in the harbour. When the craft became redundant it was presented fully rigged and ready for sea to 'The Bethel'. The Seamen's Bethel, which was the oldest Seamen's Mission in the world, retained the original building in Brown Street, near the Broomielaw, until it too fell victim of the demolition squads during the 1970s.



The Seamen's Bethel and Mission (1970)

This property was situated on the corner of Brown Street and the Broomielaw.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

In the aftermath of the Reformation it was the responsibility of every Parish Church to establish a school within the local community. Near the beginning of the 1800s the ministers of the three Anderston churches agreed to set up a Parochial School in North St. where the children of indigent parents could be taught to read and write. The congregation of Wellington Street Church sponsored a school in Bishop St., in 1805, for the "*common education of the children of the poor and dependent*". The same congregation opened a second school in 1807, in Piccadilly St., erected at a cost of £1,470. Brownfield Established Church opened a school adjoining their Brown St. property in 1838. The original church (Anderston Relief) sponsored a congregational school in 1823 and, twenty-eight years later (1851) opened a Sunday School and a day school for destitute children. Robert Barclay, the shipbuilder, who was a member of Anderston Relief, provided funding for the establishment of an Academy, opened in Church Place in 1859. The Academy was known locally as 'Alexander's School', in honour of the first schoolmaster.

An independent school established in 1810 stood in a courtyard that could be accessed from either, 425 Argyle Street or, 82 McAlpine Street. Very little is known of the school, however, it is reasonable to assume that it was the building referred to as 'The Academy' on a map of 1826 which shows a thoroughfare listed as 'College Street' (now Crimea Street). The Academy had separate entrances for male and female pupils and on the front of the building, in large bold letters, was the inscription, 'New British System of Education'. A Bible passage was read during morning assembly; indeed, the Bible was widely used for teaching purposes. Pupils were seated at long narrow wooden desks, each of which, had a trough filled with fine-grained sand, on which the scholars practised their writing and arithmetic. Once the teacher had inspected the work, the sand was smoothed over. On occasion, the desks were pressed into service as a tool for corporal punishment. The teacher would ring a bell, read out the sentence, lay the miscreant across the desk then administer a few strokes of the '*Scots tawse*'. School hours were from 10am until 3pm with a break for lunch between noon and 1pm. The school also met on Saturdays between the hours of ten and twelve. The Academy was forced to close within a few years due to lack of finance.

Factory Schools

A number of benevolent factory-owners also sponsored schools for their workers. The Glasgow Herald of 5th November 1810 carries a report informing the public that, "The West School will be opened on 6th Nov. inst., by Mr. William Boyd in a room connected with Mr. Houldsworth's Cotton Mill, Anderston. The accommodation has been granted until a proper School House can be built and finished". A few years later, a new school based on 'The Lancasterian System' was erected, between Brown Street and James Watt Street. Introduced by Joseph Lancaster, a Quaker (1778-1838), 'The Lancasterian System' enabled large numbers of pupils to be taught at relatively little cost. What became of the school is unclear, however, the former school building survived until the 1960s.

William Street Clinic

Older residents will no doubt remember the Anderston Clinic and Nursery in William Street, which was located in premises originally opened in 1844 as St. Mathew's School. The old school property was demolished during the late 1990s, and a new purpose-built clinic was erected close to the site of the original building. Bearing in mind the various church factions it is important to note that there was a clear distinction between **St. Matthew's Est.** in William Street (1837), **St. Matthew's Free** (1844) Kent Road, and **St. Mathew's Free Mission** (1853) Main Street.



William Street Clinic (1968)

The property was originally opened as St. Mathew's School in 1844

St. Mathew's Free opened a Mission School on the north side of Main Street in 1847, which, in time, formed the nucleus of Cranstonhill Free Church (1873) Hill Street (later Guest Street). The Parish churches of St. Marks, and Anderston, combined to sponsor a school in Catherine Street. The Burgh School, in School Wynd, was started by, or at least, sponsored by, the Provost, Bailies and Magistrates of Anderston. Part of the Burgh School still exists just off Argyle Street, attached to the Buttery. All Burgh and Parish Schools in Scotland were brought under State control when the Education Act was introduced in 1872, making school compulsory for all children of between five and thirteen years of age.

R.C. Schools

The first Roman Catholic school was held in the room of a tenement in Clyde Street in 1842. For over thirteen years this was the sole venue available to Catholic parents for the education of their children. Ground was feued at Cranstonhill in 1856 and the 'school' was transferred to Lancefield Street. Under the guidance of Father John Dwyer, the school was once again transferred in 1872, this time to the recently vacated 'Mitchell's Church' in Cheapside Street where the premises served as both chapel and school. The old 'Mitchell' building, sandwiched between tenement property and St. Mark's Church, became known as 'St. Bride's', and latterly was often referred to as 'The Polish Chapel'.

A new Roman Catholic school was opened in Bishop Street in 1927 and continued to serve the area until the building was demolished forty years later. At one time 'St. Pat's' School in Bishop Street could boast a Pipe Band and a very healthy violin class. One-time Lord Provost of Glasgow, Jean Roberts, taught at Bishop Street School during the 1920s, this being her first appointment on leaving Teacher Training College.

The Girl's School attached to St. Patrick's Church was consumed by fire in 1959. A replacement primary, the present St. Patrick's School, was opened in 1965 on North Street; part of the accommodation is currently shared with Sandyford Nursery. Most Catholic children are expected to commute to **St. Thomas Aquinas R.C. School**, in Whiteinch, for secondary education.

**St. Pat's Girl's School,
North Street c1946-47**

Miss Duff was the teacher responsible for ensuring the education and discipline of this class of 39 pupils.



Non-denominational Schools

Other schools operating within the area included **Washington Street Primary School** built in 1890. The building is still standing, although of course, it ceased to be used as a school during the late 1960s. Following closure, the building was re-opened as an Arts Centre; the property is currently derelict.

Finniester School, opened in 1897, was situated between Elliot Street, Port Street and Stobcross Street. The school, which closed in 1970, had accommodation for both primary and secondary pupils.

When Cranstonhill Police Station, in Lancefield Street closed, the former school building served as a temporary Police Office until the new Police Station on Argyle Street, at Finnieston, was opened in 1974.

Finniester School (Port Street)



St. Martin's Special School for children with learning difficulties was located at 24 Hydepark Street, near Catherine Street. In common with much of the area the building was removed during the late 1960s.

Current Schools:

As replacement for the three non-denominational schools that once served the community, a new **Anderston Primary School** was opened in 1972. The school, erected between what used to be Port Street and Lancefield Street, stands near the spot once occupied by the mansion-house of Cranstonhill over a century earlier.

Following closure of **Woodside Secondary School** (built on the site of Kent Road Primary and Girl's Secondary) the only non-denominational secondary school that served the area, pupils are now required to travel to Hillhead for secondary education.

The first dedicated **Gaelic-medium School** in Scotland (Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu) was opened in the former **Woodside School** building in August 2006. It is also proposed the Woodside campus (Taobh A' Chaille) will house 'An Lochran' - conference, theatre and ceilidh facilities.

CRANSTONHILL PUBLIC BATHS

Situated at the western extremity of Cranston Street where it butted Elliot Street, Cranstonhill Public Baths were opened in 1883, at a cost of £17,415. The building accommodated a 'male' swimming pool of 78 feet in length, by 42 feet in width; adjacent to the 'male pool' was a ladies pool - 52 feet long, by 28 feet wide. Included within the facility, on the balcony above the respective pools, were 37 male and 6 female private baths. Also included within the property was a Wash House, or '*Steamie*', comprising of 73 stalls.

A second Wash House with accommodation for 56 stalls was erected on Stobcross Street in 1889, at a cost of £6,470. This building was swept away when work began on the Clydeside Expressway.

Communal meeting places are important for the development of a community and 'The Steamie' was a popular venue for women to catch up on local gossip where any hint of scandal, soon became the '*Talk of the Steamie*'. Perhaps it is more than coincidental that Tony Roper, the actor and author, who was born and raised in Anderston, wrote the award winning play '*The Steamie*' - no doubt he was familiar with the '*Cranstonhill Steamie*' and its many interesting characters.

When cracks caused by subsidence began appearing in the floor of the main pool, in 1965, Glasgow Corporation took the decision to close both swimming pools, as repair was considered to be too expensive. The private baths and '*Steamie*' continued to operate until the early 1970s when the entire Cranstonhill facility was demolished to make way for the development of the 'Clydeside Industrial Estate', now known as 'Skypark.'



Cranstonhill Public Baths – 'The Steamie' (1968)

The facility was opened in 1883. The swimming pools were located in the building with the five arched windows. The Wash House was entered via the first arched doorway from the right. The low building with the double doors on the right is the boiler house that supplied hot water to the complex. The tall building to the extreme left is that of the current Clydeside Industrial Estate (renamed Skypark).

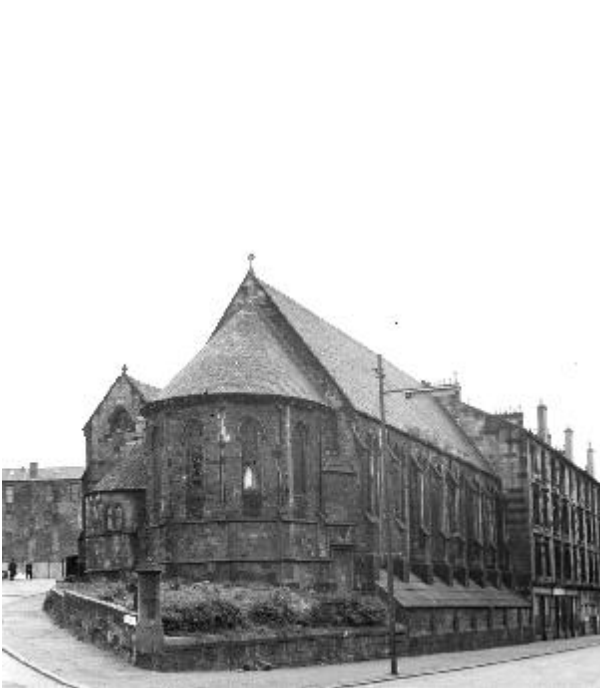
Around Anderston



Brownfield Church, Brown Street (1953)
The building dates from 1835.



St. Mark's Parish Church, Cheapside Street (1958)
Originally opened in 1863, this view is taken from Piccadilly Street.



St. John's Episcopal Church (1971)
Sponsored by the Houldsworth family, the church was opened in 1850. The building stood on the corner of Argyle Street and Houldsworth Street. The property was demolished shortly after the photograph was taken.



Argyle Street, Anderston
A quiet Saturday afternoon in 1962, the photograph features the 'Anderston Savings Bank'. The tenement property that housed the Salvation Army Citadel was situated to the right of the large van.

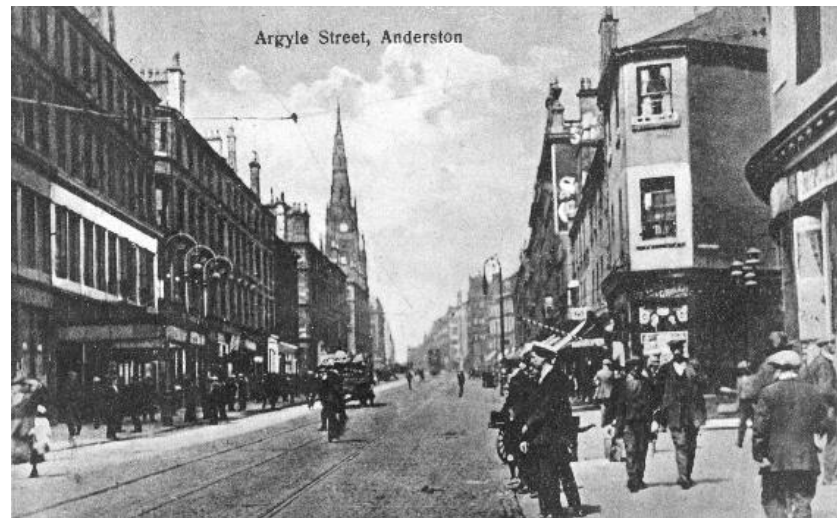
Around Anderston

Argyle Street c1920

The canopy to the left is that of the Gaiety Cinema.

North Street is on the right. The tall spire is that of St. Mark's U.F. Church (1850).

The picture is one of a series of postcards.



Argyle Street c1960

The low buildings featured in the picture were the sole remnant of cottages built during the 18th Century.

Beneath the advertising boards is the entrance to the 'Blind Mans' Pend'.

The tall building on the right is the Neptune Building (Pitt Street Model Lodging House).



Argyle Street at St. Vincent Street looking west towards Finnieston c1960.

The chemist shop on the right is McLean & Gowan. On the left, situated on the corner of Elliot Street and Argyle Street, is the Coffee Tavern - a restaurant that proved popular with the workforce.

Anderston

THEN & NOW PART FOUR

THE BURGH

Within a space of thirty years the population of Anderston had increased three-fold, rising from four thousand in 1790, to over twelve thousand by 1820. The sharp increase in population was due, in part, to the practical adaptation of James Watt's steam-power in the factories. To the original textile and pottery industries was added that of rope-works, iron foundries, shipbuilding and associated marine engineering. Increased manufacture led to the need for more workers and before long the rural village had been transformed into a thriving industrial town, however progress came at an extremely high cost.

The need to control environmental and social problems affecting the burgeoning district soon became glaringly obvious. Dilapidated and overcrowded houses, raw sewage, mounting refuse and deteriorating paths forced the inhabitants to seriously consider the need for proper building control, maintenance of footpaths and general disposal of waste. Socially, poor health and drunkenness was an extremely serious problem within the community. Recognising the pressing need to address the issues, the feuars of Anderston, in 1819, expressed their desire to raise the town to burgh status.

A Charter conferring Anderston as a Burgh of Barony was granted on 25th November 1824, five long years after the initial application had been submitted. Out of a population now approaching fifteen thousand, less than one hundred and fifty were entitled to vote in the first election. The first Burgh Council were elected on 28th December 1824 and comprised of a Provost, three Bailies, eleven Councillors and a Treasurer. As well as the encouragement of commerce and industry, central to the Burgh Charter was the requirement 'for the general preservation of peace and good order'. The first Council comprised:

Provost:	Henry Houldsworth.
Bailies:	Robert Miller, James Miller and Angus MacAlpine.
Councillors:	Thomas Wright, Andrew Scott, John Gemmell, Alex Anderon, R. Fotheringham, Joseph Taylor, William Scott, James Rutherford, John Cowan, William Kidston and John Horn.
Treasurer:	William Aitcheson (<i>who held the post of Clerk throughout the lifetime of the Burgh</i>).



Arms of the Burgh of Anderston

The Burgh Coat of Arms was based on that of the Anderston Weavers' Society, being described as a 'Saltire engrailed between a crescent in chief and two mullets in the flank. In the base was a leopard's head, with a spool in its mouth, representative of weaving. Supporters were added to either side of the Arms. On one side stood a craftsman and on the other stood a merchant, symbolic of home manufacture and commerce. On the crest was a ship in full sail representing foreign trade. On a scroll along the base were the words 'ALTER ALTERIUS AUXILIO VEGET' which translates as, 'The one flourishes by the help of the other'.

During the 1830s Anderston manufacturing was growing at a greater rate than that of Glasgow, but danger for the burgh was in the air. Following Glasgow's acquisition of the lands of Blythswood in 1830, further expansion by the city was inhibited by the surrounding towns of Calton, Gorbals and of course, Anderston. Gone were the fields and pastures that once separated the burgh from the city. Housing and commercial property stretched on either side of the main road joining the two communities. Mounting health and social problems coupled to the cost of governing law and order in the Glasgow area, must have given clear indication that sooner or later, the situation had to change.

A Typhus outbreak in 1837 added to the Burgh Council's mounting pressures. In response to the epidemic, Andrew Jackson, a local surgeon opened a dispensary at 67 Main Street, the following year, in 1838, the Burgh Council, in preparing for future emergencies, responded by forming the Anderston Health Board.

Ominous Signs

In 1841 the Clerk of the Glasgow Constabulary proposed that in an effort to improve efficiency and reduce operating costs, the City of Glasgow and the Burgh of Anderston, should amalgamate their resources. Fearing that this might be the long anticipated 'thin-end of the wedge' the Anderston councillors summarily rejected the proposal. However, the people of the burgh didn't have to wait very long for the inevitable. The next ominous sign was when Archie Wilson resigned his post as Superintendent of the Anderston Police, in 1844, in favour of a similar position in Glasgow.

Intent on strengthening their position, the Anderston councillors drafted a Bill, seeking permission to annexe the lands of Woodside, but the outcome was not in Anderston's favour. Other towns and communities surrounding Glasgow were also inundating Parliament with Bills proposing annexing the suburbs adjacent to their own neighbourhood. The House of Commons responded in 1845 with a warning to resolve their issues amicably, otherwise, the Government would impose a new system of administration. Threat of Government intervention was enough to persuade delegates from Anderston, Calton, Gorbals and Glasgow to meet and explore possible options. After much debate it was proposed to divide the city and its environs into sixteen Wards, each Ward being represented by three elected councillors. Anderston was designated as the Fourteenth Ward. The proposals were reported to the Anderston Burgh Council who rejected the plan and lodged an immediate objection. However, despite objections, the Bill passed through Parliament in February 1846 and became law with effect from 27th July 1846, and so, Anderston lost its independence and was absorbed into Glasgow. Thus, the pessimistic prophecy regarding the burgh was fulfilled, *"It cam' wi' a Houldsworth and it'll gang wi' a Houldsworth"*.



***The last Provost of Anderston
John Houldsworth (1807-1859)***

Provosts of Anderston	Term of Office
Henry Houldsworth	1824 - 1832
Angus McAlpine	1832 - 1833
Patrick McNaught	1833 - 1835
James Turnbull	1835 - 1837
Henry Houldsworth	1837 - 1839
James Jarvie	1839 - 1842
John Miller	1842 - 1843
John Houldsworth	1843 - 1846



The Houldsworth family clearly had a position of influence in Anderston; as well as operating an iron foundry and one of the largest cotton mills in the country and; they appear to have dominated the Burgh Council, holding the office of Provost for thirteen of the burgh's twenty-two year existence. Following the demise of the burgh, the Burgh Buildings, which stood on the west side of Warroch Street, were pressed into service as business premises. The Anderston Weavers' Society presented a Provost's Chain of Office but, like most of the Burgh Records, the whereabouts of the Chain is unknown.



The Anderston Brewery and Houldsworth's mill viewed from the Clyde c1827
(Courtesy of Glasgow University Special Collections)

ANDERSTON FAIR

An interesting extract from the minutes of the Weavers' Society, dated 4th February 1825, refers to the establishment of the Anderston Fair:

"In the course of the meeting it was proposed that the Members of this and other Friendly Societies within the Burgh should upon the day established by the Charter for the celebration of the Fair (10th May) accompany the Provost Magistrates and Council at the proclaiming of the Fair. The meeting having maturely deliberated upon this proposition they were unanimously of the opinion that it ought to be adopted and thereby promote their real interest by an increase of members – the Fair being a season at which the Inhabitants will be in possession of money which they cannot dispose of more usefully than by furthering the real ends of mutual assistance and benevolence".



POLICE

Prior to 1800 there was no properly managed police force operating in Glasgow. The fledgling Burgh of Anderston passed her first Police Act on 26th May 1826, the proposals included:

"An Act for regulating the police of the Burgh, and the adjoining lands of Lancefield and others, for paving, cleansing and lighting the streets and passageways of the district, and erecting a Court House and Jail". The Act also laid down the requirement for *"proper regulations for the apprehension and punishment of disorderly persons, suppression of common beggars, removal of nuisances and in general the preservation of peace and good order".*

The Anderston Police Force commenced proceedings from premises at 25 McAlpine Street, erected in 1826, which they retained until the 1880s. The Police Office comprised of eight rooms complete with prison cells. Unfortunately, I am unable to find the number of constables at this time, however records indicate that by 1846, the police force was composed of twenty-six personnel. Unbelievably, a report published in 1853, suggests that the greatest number of prisoners confined at any one time was three! The old police building in McAlpine Street, which became known as the Marine Police Office, was occupied by D.S. Baddeley Engineering Co. prior to demolition in 1969.

The Police Act of 1843 'for regulating police and burgh laws' extended the Anderston Burgh policing boundaries to include part of Blythswood, Newtonhill (Charing Cross), Finnieston and adjacent lands.

In order to help reduce outbreaks of Typhus Fever, caused by a combination of overcrowding, poor sanitation and contaminated water, among the many duties entrusted to the police was the responsibility for carrying out random checks on 'Ticketed Houses' to ensure there was no overcrowding and that all was in order.

Cranstonhill Police Station, opened in 1870, stood on the west corner of Cranston Street and Lancefield Street.

Adjoining the Police Office were Court Rooms situated on Cranston Street and adjacent to the Courthouse was a Fire Station.

Cranstonhill Police Station closed in 1970 and temporary accommodation was found in the former Finnieston School. New Police Offices, built on the corner of Argyle Street and Finnieston Street, were completed and formally opened on 25th April 1974.



Cranstonhill Police Station and Court Rooms (1970)

‘TROUBLE at MILL’

Without doubt the most infamous crime perpetrated in Anderston during the 1830s was the shooting of a cotton-spinner in Clyde Street (Clydeferry Street). The incident took place on 22nd June 1837, as John Smith, an Irishman employed in the Cheapside Mill of Henry Houldsworth, was walking along Clyde Street when a shot rang out and Smith fell to the ground mortally wounded.

Trouble had been brewing among the cotton-spinners for some time. They had been subjected to falling wages caused by a downturn in the textile business. In an effort to protect the mill-workers 'The Glasgow Association of Operative Cotton-spinners' was formed. They saw their role as being similar to that of a modern Trades Union. Unfortunately, the Association's funds had been depleted as a result of a lengthy strike the previous year (1836).

During the dispute of 1837, the mill-owners, eager to protect their interests and profits, began employing Irish labourers who were not too concerned about breaking the strike and were willing to accept low wages. When added to the cotton-spinners feelings of resentment, frustration and frayed tempers, this was a sure-fire recipe for trouble. On the day of the shooting, Smith, an Irish 'black leg', who had broken the piquet-line at Houldsworth's Mill in Cheapside Street, had been walking along Clyde Street when he was shot in the back. Apparently Smith was a rather unsavoury character and a known troublemaker. He had recently been accused of assaulting a female. Whether the incident with the woman was connected to the shooting or not is unclear, however, five leaders of the 'Cotton-spinners Association' were apprehended and charged with a variety of offences ranging from subversive activities to murder.

The subsequent trial was of enormous interest within the community and beyond. At the end of the eight-day trial the following sentence was passed on the five accused:

"The Lord Justice-Clerk, and Lord Commissioners of Justiciary, in respect of the aforementioned verdict, discern and adjudge the said Thomas Hunter, Peter Hacket, Richard McNeil, James Gibb and William McLean, panels, to be transported beyond seas for the period of seven years from this date, and that under the provisions and certifications contained in the Acts of Parliament made thereanent, and ordain them to be detained in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, till removed for transportation".

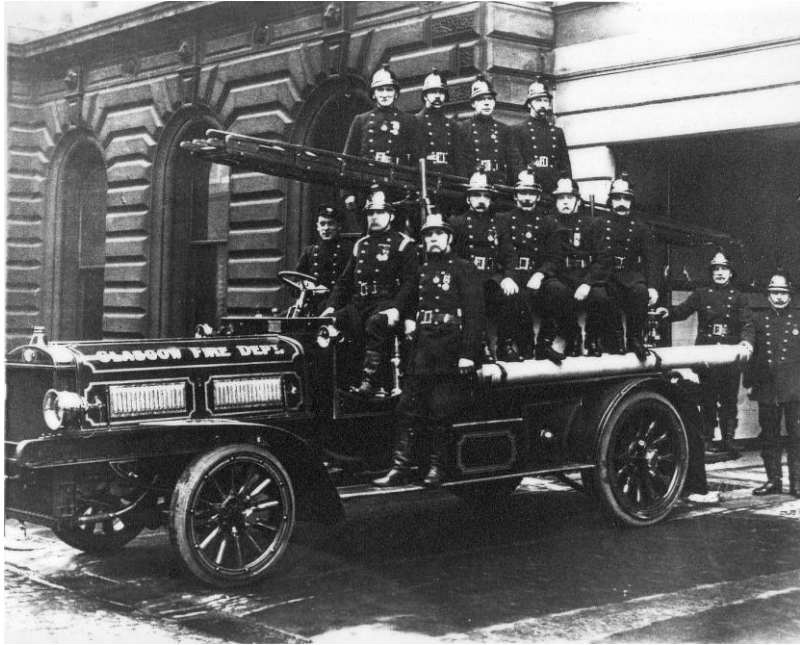
Despite a verdict of 'Not Proven' of murder, the five men were sentenced to seven years transportation, however they were released after spending three years aboard a prison-ship on the Thames. Interestingly, the seven witnesses for the prosecution received a share of the £500 reward offered for information that led to the arrest of the accused. The fact the witnesses were also offered the choice of free passage to either Australia or Canada suggests that it was advisable they not only make themselves scarce, but that they should also leave the country.



The tall building is a typical 18th Century Weaving Mill (Cheapside Street, 1969)
When the weaving industry came to an end the building was pressed into service as a warehouse.

THE FIRE BRIGADE

Cranstonhill Fire Station was erected on the eastern corner of Port Street and Cranston Street in 1859. The Station was originally equipped with two Fire-fighting appliances, each pulled by two horses. The facility comprised of a two bay engine room on the level with Cranston Street. On the lower level, accessed via a courtyard in Port Street, were stables for the four horses and living accommodation for twelve fire fighters. In later years the area above the appliance bays was converted to provide accommodation for the duty firemen



Cranstonhill Fire Station, date unknown, possibly c1920

The Cheapside Street Fire

With the collapse of the cotton industry many of the old weaving mills were converted into warehouses, and in such a tightly packed community it seemed inevitable that a disaster would strike, and that is exactly what happened when, on 28th March 1960, a former cotton mill, in Cheapside Street, converted into a bonded warehouse, caught fire. The fire was first noticed at around 7.00pm and within a short period of time the building was ablaze and rapidly getting out of control. Fire appliances from all over Glasgow rushed to the scene, and before that night was over, many of the fire-fighters had lost their lives. About 9pm the building was rocked by an unexpected explosion, causing a section of the wall to collapse on top of three fire appliances, trapping firemen beneath the rubble. Fire-fighters risked their lives in vain attempts to rescue their trapped colleagues. The battle to control the inferno continued throughout the long cold night and into the early hours of the following morning. It took until the 31st March before the bodies of all the fire fighters were recovered. The total cost in human life was nineteen dead - fourteen Firemen and five members of the Salvage Corps.

The people of Anderston owed their lives and homes to the bravery of all those involved in tackling the blaze. I recall the owner of a newsagent's shop, on Stobcross Street, near the corner of Piccadilly Street, placing large empty sweet-jars, on a box, outside his shop with a simple notice stating, "For the relatives of the dead Firemen". Within a short period of time numerous jars had been filled to overflowing with contributions ranging from the school children's penny to the workman's ten-shilling note.



Cranstonhill Fire Station (1969)

Cranstonhill Fire Station was closed in 1970 and a new Fire Station to serve the area was opened, one mile away, at Kelvinhaugh. Perhaps mindful of the tragic fires that had bedevilled Anderston during the 1960s, when the Anderston Commercial Centre, situated between Pitt Street and Blythswood Street, was opened in 1970 a fully operational Sub-Fire Station was sited within the complex. However, the Sub-Station was closed within a decade and responsibility for the area was again transferred to the new Fire Station at Kelvinhaugh.

BURIAL GROUNDS

There were three Burial Grounds in Anderston; the Burial Yard on North Street, adjacent to which, was the church burying-ground of Anderston Old (Heddle Place), and finally there was the Burial Yard attached to St. Mark's in Cheapside Street.

The old burial yard in North Street, divided by a wall, was known as North and South Woodside Burial Ground. One notable interred therein was Alexander Findlater, Supervisor of Excise in Dumfries and a friend of Robert Burns. The poet based the character of the Exciseman with whom the '*De'il danced awa'*' on Findlater. Recognising the association with Burns, the Sandyford Burns Club erected a memorial stone over Findlater's resting place, in 1923.

John Stobo, a draper, who erected the first house in Anderston in 1721, was the first person to be interred in the Burial Yard of Anderston Relief Church. Also buried here were the first three ministers called to Anderston - James Neill, James Stewart and Gavin Struthers. Others laid-to-rest in the churchyard included James Monteith a weaver, and William Gillespie a linen-printer. Also buried here was 'Old James Fleming' an elder of Anderston U.P. (Heddle Place) and a prime suspect of the Sandyford Place murder. Interred in the burial ground adjacent to St. Mark's in Cheapside Street, were Rev. Dr. John Love, minister of the church that originally stood on the site and of whom Lovedale, South Africa was named; Daniel McPhail, commander of the first steamship, the Comet; Dr. Jamieson, originator of the *Dictionary of the Scottish Language*, and James Macfarlan, poet.

In 1966 the mortal remains of the early Anderstonians were removed from their resting places in the burial grounds at Heddle Place, North Street, and St. Mark's Church, Cheapside St., and re-interred in Sections 22 and 26 at Linn Park Cemetery. This gruesome task gave rise to many stories. There was supposedly someone who believed that they would be reincarnated as a horse, so he asked to be buried in an upright position thus enabling him to gallop away! There were also stories of jewellery and other valuable items buried with the dead. Whatever the truth might be everything was removed to Linn Park. Ornately inscribed headstones that remained unclaimed were smashed to pieces and used for building rubble. Only two memorial stones were claimed, and of course, they can be seen at Linn Park Cemetery. One of the memorials saved was that of Alexander Findlater, the Exciseman, who was immortalised by Robert Burns.



***Buchanan's 'Black & White Whisky'
Horse and Cart (1969)***
Once a common sight on the streets of Anderston



Argyle Street (1969)

Around Anderston



*Argyle Street from Finnieston Cross looking east c1900
The thoroughfare to the left is Claremont Street. Toward the centre of the picture is Anderston St. Peter's Church.
Finnieston Police Office has replaced the buildings to the immediate right.*



*The Stewart Memorial Fountain, Kelvingrove Park (1969)
The University of Glasgow is in the background.*

Around Anderston



18th Century Coach House frequented by Rob Roy, 1125 Argyle Street (January 2004)



Saint Vincent Terrace looking east from Breadalbane Street (January 2004)



*The Salvation Army Headquarters, Cranstonhill (February 2006)
Part of Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church can be seen to the left.*

MODEL LODGING HOUSES

Up until the early 1960s anyone travelling along Argyle Street couldn't help but notice the number of beggars and tramps wandering the streets of Anderston. It's more than likely that the vagrants, known locally as 'Modellers' were residents of one of the many Model Lodging House's situated within the locality.

Rapid industrial development during the nineteenth century made it necessary to draw up regulations aimed at addressing the dreadful hygiene, sanitary and building problems that existed within the district. The regulations also required that accommodation be provided for those persons who were described as "*the dregs of the city*".

The first Lodging Houses appeared in Anderston during the 1850s when a 'Common Boarding House' capable of accommodating up to three hundred persons was opened at 28 McAlpine Street. Before long a number of other such facilities were established within the district. The Carrick Street Lodging House, opened in 1853, was capable of accommodating up to ninety-three women. Another 'Model' was opened in Hydepark Street in 1879, followed by Pitt Street in 1906 and the Argyle Boarding House (Brown Street) in 1931. Most of the Lodging Houses were for occupancy by men, with the exception of the aforementioned premises in Carrick Street, which was reserved for females.

Property erected on the corner of Pitt Street and Argyle Street designed by the eminent architect, Dr. Peter McGregor Chalmers, was known as the 'Neptune Buildings', so called because the exterior of the building was adorned with low-relief sculptures of sea creatures. Originally opened as a bank, with warehouse accommodation on the upper levels, the building was later converted into the 'Pitt Street Model Lodging House'.

Two 'Working Men's Hotels' were established within the district, both opened in 1901. 'The Exhibition Hotel' was located in Clydeferry Street, and 'The New Century Hotel', which later changed its name to 'The Popular Hotel', was situated in Holm Street. Both of those establishments provided a better level of accommodation than that offered by the Model Lodging Houses.

A combination of misfortune, illness and alcohol misuse often resulted in people ending their days in a Model Lodging House. One case in point is that of Jim Higgins, Bantam-weight Champion and three times winner of the Lonsdale Belt who was reduced to ending his days in the Popular Hotel. He was found dead one morning in a nearby Pend at 327 Argyle Street.



The Exhibition Hotel, Clydeferry Street c1962



The Popular Hotel, Holm Street (1970)

Of the nineteen Model Lodging Houses, which at one time operated in Glasgow, seven were located in Anderston, all within a stones-throw of each other. The last Model Lodging House to operate in the area was Laidlaw House situated at 95 Cheapside Street and capable of accommodating 239 people. Although the facility was built during the 1970s, the project closed during the spring of 2002 and the site was cleared to make way for new developments that were more in keeping with the waterfront regeneration programme.

Anderston

THEN & NOW PART FIVE

JAMES WATT

Ground on the south side of Anderston Walk was feued from John Orr in 1748 on which the Delftfield Pottery, the first factory of its kind in Scotland, was established. The pottery was named after the Dutch town of Delft, famous for its pottery, or '*Delftware*'. Access to the Delftfield Pottery, which stood near the Clyde, was via a long narrow lane leading from Anderston Walk. The partners of the firm, which specialised in the production of fine earthenware, were Robert Finlay, Patrick Nesbit and two brothers, Laurence and Robert Dinwiddie. In later years the partnership was joined by Hugh Niven, of whom, David Niven, the well-known film actor of recent years was a direct descendent.

The Dinwiddies brought potters from London to train the local workforce in pottery manufacture. Following lengthy legal disputes the Delftfield began producing large quantities of delftware, which were sold for export. The business continued to trade under the title of the Delftfield Pottery until around 1823, when the firm merged with the Caledonian Pottery whose business name they adopted when they moved to the latter's premises in the north of Glasgow.



An example of Delftware

In 1763, while employed by the University as a mathematical instrument maker, James Watt and his wife (Margaret Miller) took up residence in a small mansion-house in Delftfield Lane. Whilst history remembers Watt as being mainly associated with steam engines, he took an active interest in the Delftfield Pottery where he became a business partner. One of Watt's contributions to the firm was a formula he invented for the production of creamware. Watt maintained his investment in the Delftfield Pottery until his death in 1819.

If there is any credence to the story that, in 1765, Watt had inspiration for his steam-condenser from watching a kettle boil, then it is quite reasonable to speculate that he may have found his motivation whilst at his home in Delftfield Lane. The Industrial Revolution is directly attributable to Watt's steam-condenser, which improved the practical working efficiency of the steam engine. James Watt's house was removed in 1848 when Delftfield Lane was widened to form the street that now bears his name.



James Watt's House, Delftfield Lane, just prior to its removal in 1848

The above reproduction is of a painting by William 'Crimea' Simpson.

BUCHANITES

Elspeth Simpson gained employment as servant to the owners of the Delftfield Pottery and, in 1760, married John Buchan, one of the potters employed by the firm. Within a few years she began having strange dreams and religious visions. In 1784, based on the conviction of her religious hallucinations, she founded a sect that became known as '*The Buchanites*'. She deserted her husband and, gathering her followers, moved to Irvine, before finally settling at Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, where they lived as a commune. Before she died, in May 1791, Elspeth Buchan announced that she was the reincarnation of the Virgin Mary, promising that following her death, she would return again to lead her followers. Not surprisingly, she never fulfilled her promise. The leaderless sect dispersed soon after her demise.

THE NAPIERS

The history of Clyde shipbuilding is inextricably linked with that of two cousins, David and Robert Napier. David was accredited as being the inventor whilst Robert earned the mantle of 'the best engineer on the Clyde'.

David Napier opened a foundry at Camlachie in 1814 and when he procured the Vulcan Foundry, which stood at the foot of Washington Street, he decided to relocate to Anderston. Four years later (1818), his cousin, Robert, acquired the Camlachie property. In 1821 David Napier purchased Lancefield, a portion of land that lay between Hydepark and Lancefield Streets, from Anne Gillespie. (Anne married James, a member of the Gillespie family who at one time owned Wellfield Mansion). David Napier erected an extensive engine and boiler works known as the Lancefield Foundry; he also constructed a tidal basin on the riverside to accommodate ships requiring repair and refitting. The basin, known as 'Napier's Dock' was the only dry dock in Glasgow until the Kingston Dock was opened in 1867. On the northern portion of his property, Napier erected a small mansion, which he called Lancefield House, and it was in this residence that most of his family were born. Among his many engineering successes were the main engine castings of the first steamship, the Comet (1812).

After honing his engineering skills at the Camlachie Foundry, **Robert Napier** moved, in 1828, to take over his cousins' Vulcan Foundry in Washington Street. He quickly gained the enviable reputation of being the best engineer on the Clyde. Ably assisted by his works manager, David Elder, whom he had employed in 1821, Robert Napier re-equipped the Vulcan Works with heavy tools suitable for the manufacture of large engines. When his cousin David moved to London in 1835, Robert purchased the Lancefield Foundry and the mansion of Lancefield became his permanent residence.

Lancefield House was the setting for a meeting that laid the foundation of what is arguably the most famous shipping line in the world. On 13th July 1839, a breakfast meeting was arranged between Robert Napier, James Donaldson, George Burns and a Canadian, Samuel Cunard. By the time the meeting had drawn to a close Napier had secured the contract to supply the engines that would power the new shipping lines vessels. Cunard proposed the new shipping line should be called 'British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company' with such a lengthy title it is little surprise that the company was eventually dubbed 'Cunard'.

Interestingly, in the early days of steam-power the funnels of vessels were painted in the colours of the engine builder, both as a tribute and as a distinguishing mark. And so, the funnels of the first ships of the newly established Cunard Line were painted in the red and black of Robert Napier. As a fitting memorial the Cunard Line still displays Napier's colours on their funnels to this day.

The Glasgow Examiner of 16th October 1847 provides an interesting insight into the working environment at the Vulcan and Lancefield Works. The article reads:

"The works are admirably conducted, the machines are of first rate quality, and many of them were constructed within the works, and of a description to be found nowhere else. They are kept in first-rate order, and everyone about the extensive works seems perfectly master of his department. The only noise is that of the machines and hammers, not an idle, much less and improper word is heard. The men are respectful to strangers, and all being at their work. Many of them have high wages....."

Many of the great engineers who plied their trade on the Clyde began their careers with Robert Napier before going on to achieve fame in the shipbuilding industry. Included in the list were such notables as Charles Randolph and David Elder, founder of 'Elders of Govan'. On Randolph's death in 1868, William Pearce who was manager of Napier's was invited into partnership at Fairfields; he became the sole partner and, like Napier, he did much to enhance the reputation of 'Clyde Built'.



*Napier Brothers Windlass & Engine Works
Hydepark Street (1969)*

The Napier's were a family of engineering innovators; James and William owned the Swallow Foundry, which was situated near the Vulcan Works in Washington Street; it was James Napier who invented the tubular boiler in 1830. David Napier died in 1869 in London. Robert Napier passed away in his eighty-sixth year, on 23rd June 1876, at West Shandon, on the Clyde. The Napiers played a tremendous role not only in the employment and growth of Anderston, but in enhancing the reputation of Glasgow and the Clyde. The lettering 'Napier's Hydepark Windlass Engine Works' remained clearly visible on the exterior of the company's Hydepark Street building until the property was demolished during the late 1990s.

TOD & MACGREGOR

David Tod and John MacGregor entered David Napier's employment at Camlachie and accompanied him when he relocated to Lancefield. When the duo set up business on their own account in 1833, Napier offered to sell them his Lancefield Works as he was considering moving to London. The partners preferred to start on a smaller scale and opened a workshop in Carrick Street under the title of 'Tod & MacGregor Engineers'. The partners opened the 'Clyde Foundry', in 1834, a massive engine and boiler works which stood on the west side of Warroch Street. Four years later, just opposite Lancefield Dock, they constructed their first iron ship. With little space for expansion the business transferred to Meadowside, Partick, in 1844. Perhaps the best-known ship produced by the company was the '*Lady Nyasa*' built at the request of David Livingstone and destined to sail the Zambezi.

CLYDEBANK

In 1828 Robert Napier brought James and George Thomson into his employment. The two brothers set up in business on their own, in 1847, establishing the Clyde Bank Foundry at 169 Finnieston Street. They moved to the south of the river five years later, eventually relocating to a new site further down river in 1871 which, they called Clyde Bank, after the name of their original premises at Finnieston. The shipyard gave its name to the Burgh of Clydebank that grew up around the works. This company was the embryo of the once world-famous shipbuilders, John Brown & Co. of Clydebank.

BARCLAY CURLE

John Barclay feued ground at Stobcross in 1818 where he opened a shipyard. He constructed two small slips capable of accommodating vessels of up to two hundred tons. His son, Robert, inherited the property in 1845, and was later joined by Robert Curle and James Hamilton. The designation of the company was changed to 'Barclay Curle & Company'. Recognising the potential for ship repair, Barclay developed that side of the business. In particular he secured extensive orders for the repair of American built vessels thus, managing to keep the Stobcross slips busy. The launch of a five hundred ton, wooden ship, the '*City of Glasgow*', in 1848, proved to be an event of such importance that a public holiday was declared. The 'Clyde Trustees' purchased the Stobcross yard when the company relocated to their new yard at Clydeholm in 1855. Robert Barclay was the first president of the 'Scottish Shipbuilders Association' a position he held for two years.

LOCOMOTIVES

Walter Montgomerie Neilson, born in 1819, was the founder of the Hydepark Locomotive Works. Details surrounding the formation of the company are obscure, but Neilson must have demonstrated considerable enterprise, at the tender age of seventeen, he is listed as a partner in the firm of 'Mitchell & Neilson' whose premises were in McAlpine Street. The McAlpine Street property was retained for offices, while the works section of the firm appears to have been in operation at Hydepark Street in 1837. It is unclear if Neilson combined the dual role of partner and apprentice with the firm, even less is known of his partner, James Mitchell, other than that he was connected with the Camlachie foundry in 1848.

The name Neilson & Company first appears in 1837, when the firm are recorded as having an engine works on the west side of Hydepark Street, near the Clyde, with a boiler yard in Finnieston Street. The company concentrated their efforts on producing stationary and marine engines; in time they began specialising in the manufacture of locomotives. The first locomotive rolled off the production line at Hydepark Street in 1843. Unfortunately, little technical detail is known of the locomotive.



Part of Neilson's engine works, Hydepark Street (1969)

Shortly after the appointment of Henry Dubs as works manager in 1858, the firm, unable to find space for expansion, moved their locomotive production to Springburn. Dubs was given full responsibility for the layout of the new premises, which retained the name 'Hydepark Works'. The transfer of machinery and equipment from Anderston must have been quite an attraction. Horse-drawn wagons assisted by large gangs of employees pulling on ropes hauled the machinery from Hydepark Street all the way to Springburn. Neilson retired from active involvement with the Hydepark Works in 1872. In 1903 the firm became known as Neilson, Reid & Co. and in time amalgamated with two other locomotive manufacturers to become the 'North British Locomotive Co. Ltd'. At the peak of production the company was the largest locomotive builders in Europe, employing in excess of eight thousand workers. During almost sixty-years of existence the company produced over 28,000 locomotives; many of the engines exported are still in service today. The N.B. Loco closed during the early 1960s.

THE ALLAN LINE

The story of the Allan Line is really the story of shipping between Scotland and Canada. Founded by Captain Alexander Allan in 1820, the Allan Line were pioneers of transatlantic trade. Alexander Allan worked so closely with the British and Canadian authorities, it was once said that the prosperity of Canada was the prosperity of the Allan Line and vice-versa.

As well as operating the first steel ships to sail the Atlantic, the Allan Line owned the first turbine-powered liners built for commercial ferry service to Canada. At one time the fleet was composed of thirty wooden sailing ships, sixteen iron sailing ships, forty-eight iron steamers and seven steel steamers, a grand total of one hundred and one vessels.

When Alexander Allan died in 1854 the business was inherited by his five sons. Hugh and Andrew ran the Canadian office of the company in Montreal. Bruce looked after the operation in Liverpool, while James and Alexander managed the Glasgow headquarters. Hugh received a knighthood in 1871.

Allan's Halls

Alexander, the youngest of the Allan family, was a member of Wellington Street Church. When he heard of the difficulties facing the Mission-workers in Anderston, he offered to fund a building containing several halls and meeting rooms. The building, which was erected at 185 Stobcross Street on the eastern corner of Lancefield Street, became known appropriately as 'Allan's Halls'. Alexander Allan never saw the 'Halls' in their completed state; he died on 2nd April 1892 whilst on a prolonged business tour abroad. Managed by Wellington Church, the building proved to be a wonderful facility fulfilling its intended role in serving the people of Anderston. The name of the building was changed to 'Stobcross House' before it was sold, at a favourable price, to Glasgow Battalion of The Boys' Brigade in 1949. The property was later sold to Scottish Opera who occupied the premises during its last few years, prior to demolition in 1968. James Allan also erected a set of Mission Halls, on a smaller scale, in Piccadilly Street.



Stobcross Street c1920

*Tommy Lipton's first shop is on the right
This once thriving thoroughfare is now part of the Clydeside Expressway*

THOMAS LIPTON

On 10th May 1871, at the age of twenty-one, Thomas Lipton opened his first grocery shop, at 101 Stobcross Street and from humble beginnings in Anderston, Lipton, the family grocer, went on to build a multi-million pound empire. A combination of reasonable prices and advertising promotions helped ensure his success. One of his advertising gimmicks was to have two pigs, known as 'Lipton's orphans', led through the streets of Anderston, and to guarantee maximum impact the pigs were taken a different route each day. The animals had banners affixed to their sides declaring, *"I'm on my way to Lipton's, the best place in town for bacon"*.

Lipton's business acumen was so astute that within a short space of time he was able to open a second shop at Elderslie Street and then a warehouse in Lancefield Street. The story is told that when interviewing prospective employees Lipton would choose the candidate with the smallest hands as he maintained that one pound of butter appeared greater in quantity when held in a smaller hand.

In later years Lipton was very philanthropic especially towards deserving causes; he was also a great yachting enthusiast who, on a number of occasions, represented Britain in sailing competitions against America. He became so popular with the Americans that they presented him with a trophy in 1930, which became the 'Lipton Trophy'. Thomas Lipton was knighted in 1892, and when he died in October 1932 at the age eighty-two, he left his massive collection of yachting trophies to the City of Glasgow.

CRIMEA SIMPSON

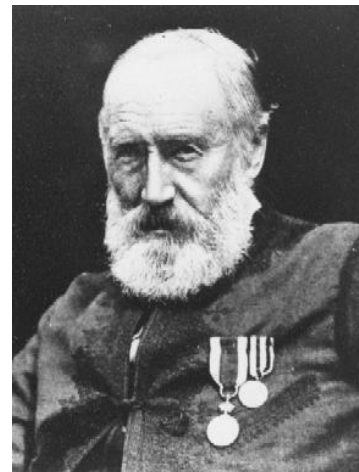
Born in Carrick Street, Anderston, on 28th October 1823, William Simpson showed great promise as an artist from an early age. Simpson was working for Day & Sons, London, when the Crimean War broke out in 1854, his employers were approached by Colnaghe and Sons who proposed sending an artist to the Crimea to record a series of sketches of the conflict. The assignment was offered to Simpson and in accepting the job he became the first person to be commissioned as a war artist. By mid-November Simpson was in Balaclava where he witnessed the disastrous campaign from then until the fall of Sebastopol. It was his many sketches of the Crimean Campaign that earned him the title 'Crimea Simpson'.

Simpson was sent to India in 1858 to record the events of the Indian Mutiny. Three years later, he returned home to Glasgow, with the intention of having his sketches published. He compiled 250 sketches of his experiences, placing the work in the hands of his employers when disaster struck, the firm went bankrupt and Simpson's drawings were impounded as part of the bankruptcy stock.

Simpson found employment as an artist with the 'Illustrated London News' and his first assignment was to sketch the wedding of the Czarewitch of Russia (Alexander III) to Princess Dagnar of Denmark in 1866. The following year he was in Jerusalem sketching archaeological work. He travelled to Abyssinia in 1868, then on to Egypt where he recorded the opening of the Suez Canal. He journeyed to Paris to cover the French-German war of 1870-71. On leaving France he travelled to China, Japan, then on to America, where he sketched the suppression of the Modoc Indians. He returned to India in 1875 and two years later he was in Troy, Ephesus and Mycenae. He accompanied Sir Samuel Brown through the Khyber Pass during the Afghan Campaign. Simpson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1875.

Despite all his world travel William Simpson never forgot his home city. Summing up a book of sketches entitled 'Glasgow in the Forties' he said, *"Doing these pictures has been a source of great satisfaction to me. I might say it has renewed my youth and I have felt like a boy again in the streets of my native town. I have found myself with an attachment to the spot, but what spot could compare to the place in which one has been born and brought up? I love the place itself; St Mungo's name meant 'Dear Friend' and the town of my early days has always been associated with that feeling towards it, and to that dear friend (Glasgow) I dedicate these drawings with the well-known words - Let Glasgow Flourish"*.

William Simpson's last few weeks of life were spent compiling memories and sketches of his early life in Glasgow. He died in 1899 shortly after completing the aforementioned 'Glasgow in the Forties'. In recognition of his association with Anderston, Crimea Street and Balaclava Street were named in his memory.



William Simpson, c1898

WILLIAM QUARRIER

William Quarrier, founder of 'Quarrier's Homes' at Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, was born in Greenock on 29th September 1829. The Quarrier family were no strangers to poverty and hardship; William was barely five years old when his father, a shipyard worker, died of Cholera. Finding it difficult to make ends meet, William's mother brought her three children to Glasgow, where she scratched out a living altering and repairing garments. At the age of seven, William was working twelve hours a day in a factory. The youngster eventually found employment as an apprentice shoemaker to a Mrs Hunter, who owned a shop on the south side of Argyle Street, a little to the west of Oswald Street. Mrs Hunter, a devout Christian, undoubtedly left a lasting impression on the young Quarrier that was to stand him in good stead for the rest of his life. Aware that Quarrier had no church connection, she invited him attend services at Blackfriars Baptist Church. Quarrier was challenged by the well-known Gospel verse of John 3:16, and converted to the Christian life.

As the years passed, Quarrier and his mother were able to afford the rent of a small simply furnished house in Alston Street, in the village of Grahamston. In 1852, at the age of twenty-three, Quarrier opened his first shop, which stood at the top of Piccadilly Street. Being a conscientious first-rate cobbler his business prospered and before long he was operating a chain of shoe-repair shops throughout Glasgow. Quarrier married Isabella Hunter, daughter of his former employer, on 2nd December 1856, at 5 Douglas Street, Anderston. Both William and his new wife, who raised four children of their own, were destined to live long and happy lives together.

Passing through the poorer areas of the city at night, Quarrier was deeply disturbed and challenged by the sights he witnessed. He observed children sleeping in doorways and closes, anywhere that offered a modicum of shelter. Troubled by what he saw, with the support of his wife, he began planning a home for orphans and abandoned children. His first venture was in organising the boys who earned a living polishing boots in Glasgow's railway stations. He formed the youths into a uniformed 'Shoeblack Brigade'. Using his own finances he acquired premises where he housed the waifs and provided them with a basic education. But Quarrier knew his efforts were only scratching the surface of a much deeper social problem, his vision was much greater than what he had achieved this far. He believed that abandoned children needed more than just shelter - they needed a safe and caring family environment. In a letter to the Glasgow Herald he outlined his vision for the care of vulnerable young people stating that he had no faith in institutions that were inflexible and ruled with a rigorous uniformity which only served to erode the individuality of those in its care. His ambition was to establish a home with a stable family environment where each individual would be cared for and nurtured by loving 'house parents'.

Quarrier continued rounding up waifs and strays and by the early 1870s he had established a number of 'Children's Care Homes' throughout the city, but still his vision was not fulfilled. When a farm, near Bridge of Weir, came on the market, Quarrier decided to submit an offer for the property. He estimated that it would cost in the region of £20,000 to realise his project. When asked where he was going to find such a huge amount of money, undeterred, Quarrier replied, *"This is a large amount, but not too large for our Heavenly Father to send"*. And so, with only a few helpers and a steadfast faith in God, he forged ahead. His faith and conviction were rewarded when the foundation stone of the proposed homes was laid at Bridge of Weir, on 10th February 1877. By September of the following year, the long awaited day arrived - the first of two cottages were opened. Four years later an anonymous benefactor donated money to Quarrier requesting that one of the buildings be named 'The Anderston Home' and that preference be given to orphaned children from that area. By the early 1890s 'Quarrier's Homes' was the habitat of over 800 children, living in a community, which comprised thirty cottages, a school, a church and a farm.



William Quarrier 1829-1903

The success of Quarrier's Homes is impossible to measure, suffice to say that over the years thousands of young people have benefited from William Quarrier's vision and determination. At the time of his death, 16th October 1903, William Quarrier was honoured all over Scotland as 'the man who devoted his life to caring for children'. The work of Quarrier's Homes continues to this day, testimony to a great man who had a great faith.

ELIZA JANE AIKMAN

Eliza Jane Aikman was born in Edinburgh on 24th May 1852. When she was four years of age her family moved to Anderston where her father, the Rev. John Logan Aikman, was appointed colleague and eventual successor to Dr. Gavin Struthers of Anderston U.P. Church (Heddle Place). Eliza Jane was the eldest of a family of four, two boys and two girls. Her mother was plagued by ill health, which meant Eliza had to bear the load of the everyday household chores.



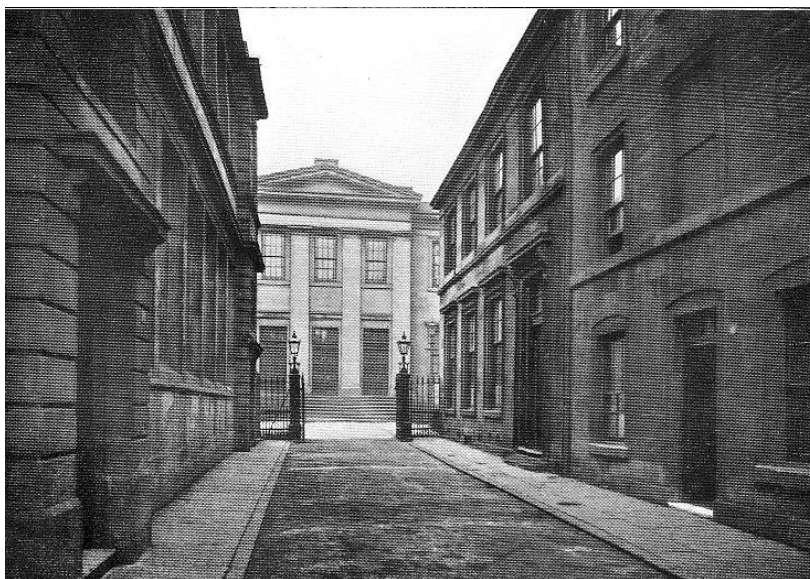
Eliza Jane Aikman 1852-1929

Her father the Rev. J.L. Aikman was one of the leading ministers of his day and a highly respected citizen, who devoted much time and effort in philanthropic causes. With such a background it was inevitable that Eliza would also become immersed in church work. As well as helping out in the Sunday School and other church organisations, Eliza ventured into social work within the neighbourhood, where she was already a familiar figure. Her first-hand knowledge of poverty and social conditions prevalent in Anderston gave her valuable insight into many of the problems facing working class and under-privileged families.

During her time as Probationary Officer for Cranstonhill she laid foundations in care work that were to make their influence felt throughout the city. In 1895 she became a member of the 'Children's Committee of the Glasgow Parish Council' whose duties included the care of orphans and deserted children. The welfare of children was central to Eliza's heart and she will be remembered as the inspiration behind the 'Glasgow Infant Health Visitor Association', or the 'Green Ladies' as they became known.

Miss Aikman's health began failing from 1925 until her death four years later. Throughout her last difficult years although her strength was deserting her she continued to carry out impeccably the numerous duties associated with the post of secretary of the 'Infant Health Visitor Association'. In 1927 she was presented with a Burgess Ticket which stated - *"Miss Aikman having paid her freedom has been admitted a Burgess and Guild Sister of the Burgh qua Weaver, and accordingly entitled to all the civil rights and privileges by law belonging to a free citizen"*.

Eliza Jane Aikman was held in very high regard throughout Anderston, and at her memorial service, many who had never set foot beyond a church door, came to pay their last respects to this remarkable lady. Those who knew and worked with Miss Aikman commented, *"It was not so much what she did, but what she was that made her so special"*.



Anderston Old, Heddle Place

This fine old property was erected on the site of the first church in Anderston. The building was removed in 1966 to allow construction of the Kingston Bridge and Motorway

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

It is impossible to measure the impact and value that youth leaders had on the young people growing up in Anderston. Among the many youth groups that existed, perhaps the best known are the voluntary organisations - Boys' Brigade, Scouts, Girl Guides and Girls' Brigade. There were a wide variety of other youth groups, which included church and school clubs, boxing clubs etc., all of those groups provided an interest but, for sheer endurance, the voluntary youth organisations stood the test of time longest.

How Times Have Changed!

Two photographs taken almost ninety years apart featuring band members of the 32nd Glasgow Company, The Boys' Brigade.

Opposite: *Members of the Company Fife Band at Strachur, Argyll, 1896.*

Below: *Members of the Company Silver Band in Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church, 1983.*



On Parade!

*32nd Glasgow Company
outside their Mission Hall,
Piccadilly Street (1927)*





17th Glasgow Company The Boys' Brigade (1935)

This photograph features the Company in its Jubilee year - outside St. George's and St. Peter's Church, Elderslie Street. The majority of the Boys in this photograph did not return from war service.



227th Glasgow Life Boy Team (1964)

The Team was attached to Finnieston Church

86th Glasgow Scout Troop

The photograph opposite features members of the 86th Glasgow Scout Troop (St. Patrick's) en-route to camp. The photograph was taken in the early 1970s.



The Girl's Guildry

Founded in Anderston Free Church in 1900, The Girls' Guildry was one of the first voluntary uniformed youth organisations for girls. Like many pioneering ideas the 'Guildry' initially faced hostility from certain sections of society. However, history has shown that not only was the Guildry able to bridge the social gap it was extremely successful in helping girls and young women hurdle the difficulties of adolescence and equip them to play a valuable role in society.

A Family Affair:

In later life, the young girl in the photograph, to the left below, married James McGregor, a member of the 51st Glasgow BB Company. Their daughter, 'Liz', maintained the family tradition - serving as a member of the 69th Glasgow Girls' Guildry then, later, as an Officer in the Girls' Brigade, and finally as Leader-in-Charge of the 32nd Glasgow Anchor Boys (the youngest section of The Boys' Brigade).



Euphemia McConnell c1927
69th Glasgow Girls' Guildry



69th Glasgow Girls' Guildry Company (Anderston Old)
Prize Giving at the Annual Display held in the Church Hall.
The Guardian (Leader-in-Charge) of the Company featured
in the photograph is Mrs Nancy Deane



Items from a
Guildry Display
(Anderston Old - c1962)



CRANSTONHILL WATERWORKS

Two reservoirs were constructed on the crest of Cranstonhill in 1808 for the purpose of supplying fresh drinking water to the residents of Anderston. In those days water was not fed directly into homes, instead, wells were located at various points throughout the district where water could be drawn off as required. An extract from the contract to build the waterworks reads in part:

“.... And fereval perfons hereinafter named being willing to undertake to procure an additional supply of water to be raifed from the River Clyde into Refervoirs, to be formed on part of the Lands of Cranftonhill and the adjacent ground, in the Barony Parifh of Glafgow and the County Of Lanark, fituated to the weft extremity of the faid city, which the faid perfons have purchased from Richard Gillepie of South Woodfide and Walter Logan of Cranftonhill, and to be conveyed from thence, by pipes underground through and along the road leading by Anderfton to Glafgow – through which pipes fuch water is to be diftributed through Anderfton and the city fuburfs of Glasgaw.....”

Once construction work was underway The Glasgow Herald of 1st July 1808 carried the following advertisement:

THE COMPANY of PROPRIETORS of the CRANSTONHILL WATER WORKS beg leave to intimate to the INHABITANTS of the CITY of GLASGOW and SUBURBS, that their FILTERING OPERATIONS and other WORKS are nearly finished, and their PIPES are laid in a number of the STREETS both of the City and SUBURBS, they will be able to supply FILTERED WATER in the course of a Month or Six Weeks.

As their Works have been carried on with the rigid economy, they have fixed upon the following very moderate terms which are to continue to Whitsunday 1812.

The inhabitants of any Street, so soon as the Company are ready to deliver Filtered Water in such Street, (of which due information shall be given,) shall be supplied for TWELVE MONTHS *gratis* from that date.

After the expiration of that space, Dwelling-Houses under £10 of rent shall be charged 5s per ann. Dwelling-Houses of £10 of rent and under £20 at 7s 6d. per ann. And Dwelling-Houses of £20 of rent or upwards, at Two per cent per ann. upon the rent.

Public Works, Stables &c. will be supplied upon the most moderate terms, according to their consumption of water.

Huge steam-powered engines pumped water direct from the Clyde into the reservoirs at Cranstonhill. Of course, in those days the Clyde was much cleaner than it is today. Professor Thomson of the University was engaged to carryout an analysis of the water to ascertain if it was fit for human consumption. In drawing his report to a close, Prof. Thomson declared that the water samples he examined consisted of the water of the Clyde in its greatest purity. Whilst the report from the University must have been encouraging, the timing of the newly opened Cranstonhill Waterworks Company was poor. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1809 granting permission to deepen the Clyde by up to at least 9 feet at neap tide in every part between Glasgow Bridge and Dumbarton Castle. The dredging work on the riverbed caused the water to become muddy and unfit for human consumption.

The Cranstonhill Waterworks Company ceased to operate in 1819, with the right to supply water being transferred to a rival company at Dalmarnock. The Cranstonhill reservoirs continued to receive water from the new supplier until the requirement for a better quality of drinking water was realised. Finally, after several years of planning, on 14th October 1859, the Loch Katrine Water Supply was inaugurated. The new water supply, pumped thirty-five miles from the Loch to Glasgow, had an immediate and positive impact on public health. The inauguration of the new water supply rendered the Cranstonhill reservoirs obsolete and the land was sold in 1857 to developers.

As a mark of gratitude to John Stewart, the driving-force behind the Loch Katrine water supply, a fountain to his memory was erected in Kelvingrove Park. Unfortunately, the Stewart Memorial Fountain has been allowed to fall into a state of poor repair. It is interesting to note that even with all the technology available today there are question marks over the purity of domestic water. Latest reports from the Scottish Water Authority suggest that over one hundred million pounds will have to be spent to upgrade and replace the present, largely Victorian, infrastructure.

TRANSPORT

During the early 1800s, other than commercial carriers conveying goods between Anderston and the city, the occasional carriage or a rider on horseback would have been the only traffic on the road. In 1849 Andrew Menzies started the first successful public transport system serving the city. He began business with ten omnibuses and within twenty years (1870) he had amassed a fleet of over fifty buses and five hundred horses. Menzies' stables were located in a three-storey building that stood on the corner of North Street near Main Street. The horses ascended and descended the building by way of an outside ramp.

Menzies' coaches were painted in brilliant Menzies tartan with his name emblazoned on either side of the vehicle. The coaches were pulled by two horses and driven by a man dressed in a long red coat complete with a tall white hat. By the mid-1850s Menzies had a fleet of coaches operating as far afield as Glen Coe and Glen Orchy, quite a distance when it is considered there were no proper roads at that time.

Whilst Menzies managed to capture the lion's share of the public transport business in Glasgow, among his greatest competitors were Wylie & Lochead, and a fellow Highlander, Duncan MacGregor, whose coaches sported the MacGregor tartan. No doubt the coaches would have added a much-needed touch of colour to the drab grey streets of the city.

Andrew Menzies, who died in 1873, became the first manager of the Glasgow Tramway and Omnibus Co. It was this company who laid the first tramlines on the city's main streets. The first of the new horse-drawn tram services were inaugurated on 19th August 1872 and ran from St. George's Cross to Eglington Toll. Anderston was part of a sixth route to be opened serving Whiteinch and Bridgeton. The new horse-drawn trams, gliding along on rails, were quieter, smoother and more comfortable than the previous methods of transport, which transmitted every bump as the wagon wheels clattered over the uneven cobbled streets. The city authorities acquired all privately owned tramways in 1894, thus securing what at one time had been the finest transport system in the world.

Situated on the east side of North Street was a tramcar depot that survived until c1910. There was also a tramcar terminus situated on Stobcross Street, a few hundred yards west of Anderston Cross. The first tramway route to be scrapped was the Finnieston Cross to Harbour Tunnel service, in 1927. This was a one-man operated single-deck tram that ran up and down Finnieston Street. Tramcars continued to serve the city until 4th September 1962, when they were withdrawn from service. The last tram route to operate was the No 9, Dalmuir West to Auchenshuggle, a route that passed along Argyle Street, through Anderston.



Horse-drawn tram on Argyle Street at Finnieston c1895

The buildings featured in this most interesting photograph still exist and are situated on the north side of Argyle Street, between Kent Road and Claremont Street.

Railways

Rail travel came to Glasgow when the Garnkirk line was opened in 1831. The Caledonian Railway Co. completed the 'Inner Rail Circle' connecting Anderston to Maryhill, in 1895, a route that included a passenger station on Argyle Street, at Finnieston, opposite Kent Road (closed c1917). The following year the Glasgow Cross to Anderston Cross line was opened. As a point of interest the tunnel connecting Anderston to Glasgow Cross is the longest rail tunnel in Scotland.

The arrival of the railway heralded the demise of the original 'Gushet House' that fronted Anderston Cross. A new building, which accommodated the entrance to the low level station, was erected in place of the Gushet House. This new property, built by 'The Caledonian Railway Company' and dating from the 1890s, is the building most generally featured in old photographs of Anderston Cross.

Anderston Cross Station closed during the 1960s and the fine red sandstone building was demolished. However, the track-bed and tunnels of the low level rail-link were retained as part of the 'Planning for Action Transport Plan'. A new Rail Station on the site of the former Anderston Cross Station was opened during the 1980s, once again providing an important arterial link to the city's public transport service.

Following closure of the Stobcross Rail Station during the 1960s a commercial flooring contractor occupied the premises for a number of years. As part of the planned transport development programme, Stobcross Station was demolished, and the new 'Exhibition Centre Station' was built to serve commuters travelling to and from the SECC and Finnieston.

River Traffic

In an effort to alleviate the pressure of pedestrian traffic on the Clyde bridges it was decided to establish a passenger ferry service at various intervals along the Clydeside. Three ferry terminals were established in Anderston - York Street, Clydeferry Street, and Elliot Street. The original ferries were simply large rowing boats that continued to operate until two fatal accidents occurred, one at Govan and the other at Clydeferry Street.

At 6pm on 30th November 1864 a ferry, tightly packed with workers, was crossing the river from Clydeferry Street when it was caught in the swell of a passing ship, the *'Inveraray Castle'*. The ferry was caught broadside to the swell and capsized spilling the workers into the murky and turbulent waters of the Clyde. Of the thirty-nine passengers aboard the vessel, only twelve survived. A similar incident happened at Govan prompting the authorities to replace the rowing boats with more suitable and stable craft. Steam-powered ferries were introduced in 1866 and continued in operation until diesel-powered vessels superseded them.



Finnieston Ferry on a cold winters day (1968)

A vehicular ferry, which operated from the bottom of Elliot Street, was popularly referred to as 'The Horse Ferry'. The vehicular ferry incorporated a deck that could be raised and lowered according to the tide. As the vessel was also capable of carrying passengers, this option reduced the waiting time for any pedestrians who may have missed the adjacent passenger ferry. The vehicular ferry was withdrawn from service in 1966, followed by the passenger ferry service during the early 1970s.

Glasgow Harbour Tunnel

A privately owned company opened the Harbour Tunnel for pedestrian traffic on 8th July 1895, and a section capable of conveying vehicular traffic was opened the following week. The tunnel provided quick and easy access to Kinning Park and Plantation from Finnieston. Along with the ferry service the tunnel was a route favoured by workers, as well as football fans making their way to Ibrox. The vehicle section had lifts, built into the rotunda, capable of lowering horses and carts, and motor vehicles to the lower level, where they could travel segregated from pedestrians.

The pedestrian tunnel was accessed from either side of the river via a long flight of 138 wooden steps that descended into the dimly lit wooden-floored tunnel. Inside the pedestrian tunnel, a three-foot diameter sewage-pipe running the length of the passageway was plainly visible.

The vehicular section of the tunnel closed during the late 1940s; the passenger section remained in regular use until it too was closed during the 1970s. The upper portions of the southern and northern rotunda were refurbished at the time of the Glasgow Garden Festival (1988). The Finnieston Rotunda is currently in use as a restaurant and casino.

THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

In 1899, less than fifteen years after Gottleib Daimler first developed a successful motorcar engine, Anderston entered the era of the 'horseless carriage'. Two men, T. Blackwood Murray and N.O. Fulton founded what could be termed as the most successful motor vehicle manufacturer in Scotland - 'Albion'.

Although the name 'Albion' was mainly associated with commercial vehicles, the founders originally manufactured private cars. The Albion Motor Co. Ltd. was established on 30th December 1899 in the first floor attic of the Clan Line repair shop, situated at the bottom-half of Finnieston Street (formerly occupied by the Clyde Bank Foundry of J & G Thomson). The premises measured 3,000 square feet in area and were fitted-out with two lathes and two vertical drills. With this simple equipment and only seven employees, the company set about producing their first petrol engine. Early 1900 saw the first completed Albion engine and chassis. For those with a technical interest, the vehicle specification included:

Two cylinders with horizontally opposed pistons capable of developing 8hp at 800rpm. Engine speed was governed by a bob-weight. Ignition was obtained from a low-tension magneto, designed by Blackwood Murray. This design of magneto remained in use in two cylinder Albion's until 1914. Power from the two-cylinder engine was transmitted to the road-wheels via a two forward and a single reverse speed gearbox driving a chain on a semi-floating rear axle.

Whilst the vehicle was reasonably economic in terms of fuel consumption, it required regular replenishing with coolant. By the following year good progress was being made, and twenty-one chassis of the 8hp models proved most reliable in trials associated with the International Exhibition being held at Kelvingrove. In that same year (1901) the first Albion was exported to Kuala Lumpur and a steering wheel was introduced as an optional extra - up until this time, tillers were the most common method of steering vehicles. The company also built their first commercial vehicle and increased the engine capacity to 10hp.

In common with much of Anderston based industry down through the years, lack of room for expansion forced the company to seek alternative accommodation. Albion purchased a new site at Scotstoun and moved from their birthplace at Finnieston during July 1903.

During the 1960s Albion Motors became part of the Leyland Group. At the height of production the company operated in 1,000,000 square feet of floor-space, employing over three thousand staff - a far cry from their early days at Finnieston!



An early Albion chassis

HALLEY

The second motorcar manufacturer to set up business in Anderston was the initiative of George Halley, who founded the 'Glasgow Motor Lorry Co. Ltd.' in 1901. He began production in the same group of buildings as had Albion Motors eighteen months earlier. Halley's first vehicles were steam-driven chassis but, by 1906, he recognised the greater potential offered by the petrol engine. Halley moved his company to Yoker in 1907, where, in later years, the company produced a considerable range of buses, lorries and fire engines. Perhaps the best-known range of Halley's vehicles were the 'Talisman' and the 'Ivanhoe' models. Albion Motors acquired Halley's Yoker premises after his demise in 1921. The name of Halley is perpetuated in the streets and squares of Yoker near where his factory once stood.

THE KELVIN

Another company associated with motorcar manufacture began in 1904, when, like Albion and Halley, Walter Bergius set up business in the Clan Line premises at 169 Finnieston Street. With only four employees, the 'Bergius Car & Engine Co.' was established. The first vehicle produced, during the latter part of 1904, was a medium-sized four-seat motorcar called 'The Kelvin'. Most motor vehicles of that time were chain-driven, but the 'Kelvin' had a 'live backend', driven by a cardan-shaft (prop-shaft). The engine had four-in-line cylinders producing in the region of 12-15hp. Following successful trials in 1905, three more 'Kelvin's' complete with redesigned bodies were produced.

In 1906 Walter's brother, William, suggested fitting an engine to a 23-foot long rowing boat. The idea was tried and the experiment proved successful. By the end of 1906 the company were fitting engines to fishing boats and yachts. This new innovation brought an end to the fledgling Kelvin motorcar company, but the Kelvin Marine engine had arrived and so began what proved to be a very lucrative business.

THE SAINT VINCENT

Little is known of the company that William McLean began in premises, situated on the corner of St. Vincent Street and North Street, in 1903. Originally McLean manufactured bicycles prior to showing an interest in motorcars. He called his motorcar 'The Saint Vincent' and between 1903-1910, he enjoyed modest success with various bus and car designs. McLean incorporated the Aster engine into his vehicles, and to assist sales outside Scotland, he named the vehicles 'Scottish Asters'.

Motorcar Dealers: Prior to the implementation of the 1960s redevelopment programme there were a number of reputable motor trade dealers operating within Anderston. Not only did those companies offer employment, the spin-off from their presence helped boost the local economy. The businesses included SMT in Finnieston Street; A&D Fraser, Washington Street; George & Jobling in Bothwell Street, and Peter Holmes, St. Vincent/North Street who carried on business in premises formerly occupied by James Henderson & Co. a firm of prestigious carriage builders whose business dated back to the 1850s.

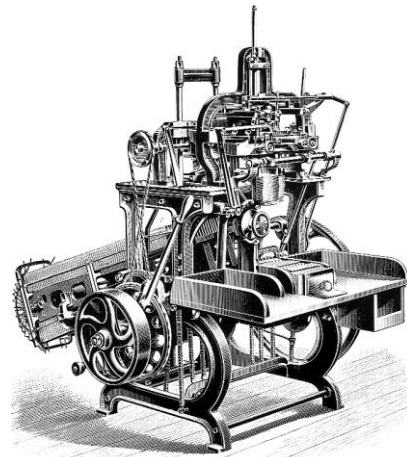
Haulage Companies: A number of reputable haulage contractors operated from premises in Anderston; the better known included Pickford's, Bishop's Move and Allison Haulage in Bishop Street; McIntosh Removals on Argyle Street (Weavers' Pend); Dawson Removals in Douglas Street, and Heggarty Motors in Pitt Street.



DAVID CARLAW ENGINEERS

David Carlaw was born in Glasgow in 1832 and began work, in the Gorbals, as a mathematical instrument maker at the age of fourteen. He became interested in repairing printing machines and, by the age of twenty-eight, had set up an engineering business on his own account. As well as carrying out repairs he also improved the design of a number of printing machines, which led to him building machines to his own design. Few give much thought to everyday commodities such as envelopes far less the machines that make them; Carlaw saw a niche for machines that could not only put print onto paper but could also fold the paper into gummed envelopes.

By the time 'David Carlaw Engineers' had erected their new headquarters on the corner of Houldsworth and Finnieston Street, in 1897, a site formerly occupied by Finnieston Free Church, four of Carlaw's sons had become involved in the business. Adjoining the new headquarters was the engineering and the printing side of the business - 'Glasgow Numerical Print Company'.



An early Carlaw envelope-making machine capable of producing up to 60 envelopes per minute.

At best the machines of 1888 could produce up to 350 envelopes a minute; less than thirty years later Carlaw had developed machines capable of turning out 70,000 envelopes per day! The three successful International Exhibitions held at Kelvingrove (1888, 1901 and 1911) opened the door to overseas customers and, before long, Carlaw's reputation for quality ensured the company was able to secure a lucrative slice of the global market.

David's son and eventual successor, John, took a keen interest in the developing motorcar industry, recognising that *"Motorcars will at some time require repair - good repair"*. He persuaded his father and brothers to open a motor vehicle department next to the Printing Works. With John in charge Carlaw's entered the motor industry in 1900, and nine years later they produced their first vehicle, powered by a 2 cylinder, 8hp engine.

The vehicle repair side of the business prospered and in 1919 company became the Scottish distributor for Austin motorcars a name with which Carlaw's became synonymous. In 1938 the firm opened an extensive garage at 32 Finnieston Street, on the opposite side of the street from the Printing Works. A commercial vehicle repair department was opened in Cook Street during the 1960s. At the peak of business 'Carlaw's' operated three separate enterprises – 'David Carlaw Engineering', 'Glasgow Numerical Printing Co.' and the motorcar dealership 'Carlaw (Cars)' - with a combined workforce in excess of 600 employees.



New flats built on the site of the Head Offices of David Carlaw (Engineers) Ltd., (Finnieston St./Houldsworth St. - 2006)

British Leyland who had bought over Austin, forced 'Carlaw (Cars)' to leave their prime site at Finnieston in 1975 and relocate to Pollokshaws. The vehicle repair side of the company went out of business a few years after their enforced move. Today, another motor dealer, 'Citroen Motors', occupies a prime site at Finnieston, close to where 'Carlaw (Cars)' had operated successfully for almost half a century.

KELVINGROVE

James Campbell of Blythswood, in 1754, agreed to sell twelve acres of meadow and woodland at Nether Newton, to Alex. Wotherspoon. Twenty-eight years later the property was sold to Patrick Colquhoun, owner of the Verreville Glass Works who, in 1783, founded of the '*Glasgow Chamber of Commerce*'. Colquhoun erected a small mansion-house and named the estate Kelvingrove. The natural beauty of the area inspired a Dr. Lyle to compose the lyrics of the well-loved song '*Kelvingrove*'. The Estate of Kelvingrove was purchased in 1852 by the City of Glasgow for the purpose of creating a public park. Kelvingrove became the venue for three great international exhibitions held in 1888, 1901 and 1911.

Features within the park include a granite staircase, erected at the northeast corner of the park at a cost of £10,000. The Stewart Memorial Fountain, designed by James Miller, was erected in 1872. Just beyond the fountain stands a bronze statue of a lioness and her cubs, presented to the city by John S. Kennedy - a duplicate stands in Central Park, New York. Other memorials within the park include - Lord Kelvin, Joseph Lister, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, mounted astride his horse, and a memorial to the officers and men of the Highland Light Infantry who fell in the Boer War of 1899-1902. Located at the western extremity of the park, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, opened in 1901, is home to one of the finest public art treasures in Europe.

Kelvingrove Park was a favourite playground shared by numerous generations of families who resided in the locality of Cranstonhill, Finnieston and Kelvinhaugh. During the summer months crowds flocked to the Bandstand to enjoy one of the many concerts. The children's play-park area, currently situated near the tennis-courts, at one time housed an open-air dance venue, which was converted for a short period into a roller-skating arena during the 1950s. Often referred to as the 'West End Park', Kelvingrove continues to be an important resource, offering residents living nearby the opportunity to relax among acres of pleasant parkland.



Stewart Memorial Fountain

BOTANICAL GARDENS

Thanks to the drive and vision of Thomas Hopkirk, a descendent of one of Glasgow's Tobacco Lords, eight acres of ground on the south side of Sauchiehall Street were purchased in 1816 on which, Botanical Gardens were laid out. The Gardens stood on a site now partly occupied by the former Claremont Church, currently the home of the Scottish National Orchestra. To mark the location of the Gardens, a stone tablet has been positioned in an obscure position mid-way up the gable end of the building in Fitzroy Lane, off Claremont Street, bearing the simple inscription 'Glasgow Botanic Gardens Instituted 1817'.

When the Gardens were removed to their present site at Kelvinside in 1842, a weeping willow, the last remaining tree from the original Botanical Gardens was replanted in Kelvingrove Park, situated mid-way between the Stewart Memorial Fountain and the 'Kennedy Lions'. Should you visit the park, make a point of looking out for the tree that once stood in the original Botanical Gardens of 1817.



Bishop Street School c1954

Among the forty-two boys in this photograph is Tony Roper who, in later years, achieved fame as an actor and writer. Tony is the fifth boy from the left in the second back row.



St. Patrick's R.C. Church viewed from William Street (looking east -1980)
On the extreme left is Anderston Clinic (formerly Free St. Matthews School of 1844)

Around Anderston



The Anderston Centre, Argyle Street (1971)
(Situated between Pitt St. and Blythswood St.)



The Finnieston Crane (1970)



Anderston Quay (1970)
*The photograph features dockland sheds and the Daily Record Newspaper Plant.
 The sheds have since been replaced by housing and the 'newspaper building' demolished.*

Around Anderston



The 'Anderston Savings Bank', Argyle Street / Shaftsbury Street (1970)
*The bank is viewed from the site of the cleared St. Mark's-Lancefield Church.
 The building to the extreme left is Peden Cross (Elderslie Street).*



Old and New Properties - Elliot Street (2006)
*The tall building on the left is new housing; 'Skypark' commercial development is in the centre.
 On the right are two of the many commercial properties that operated in the Cranstonhill area -
 William Cook Saw Manufactures, and Smith and Rodger Paint and Varnish Manufactures.*

ANDERSTON THEN and NOW PART SIX

1960s and BEYOND

The 'Anderston Cross Comprehensive Development' proposals of 1959 would, when fully implemented, bring about the biggest change in Anderston's history and would have a huge impact on the inhabitants living in the 3,376 dwellings as well as those employed in the 320 industrial and commercial properties situated within the area. The district had been subjected to redevelopment and housing improvement in the past but, by and large, the community had been left intact. This latest report identified in particular a substantial number of decaying properties and homes that were bereft of basic amenities:

"The land use Survey Map shows the haphazard mixture of residential, commercial and industrial uses in the area as a whole. The greater proportion of such uses is within buildings, which are old, and in poor condition from a structural aspect, and many of these buildings contain houses of low sanitary category. There is in the area a considerable extent of vacant and underdeveloped land."

It would be difficult to disagree with the report, many buildings were in extremely poor condition, but few residents could have envisioned the full impact of the changes about to be thrust upon the area. It was proposed that the population would be reduced from 11,500 in 1959 to less than 4,000 once the redevelopment process was complete. Whilst the decrease in population was expected, the complete reconfiguration of the district was not - the area was to be swept away in its entirety. Gone forever would be the familiar geographical layout of the streets - Argyle Street would be cut in two and would no longer be one of the city's major thoroughfares. Construction of the Clydeside Expressway ensured that Stobcross Street would disappear completely. Entire housing areas would be removed and not replaced. But, all was not doom and gloom; there was also the promise of a bright future for those who hoped to stay in the new Anderston. Once redevelopment was underway it would be relatively easy to build new dwellings, however, the real challenge for the planners was to retain the community spirit.

The 1960s got off to a bad start when, in March of that year, a terrible fire at a whisky-bond in Cheapside Street claimed the lives of nineteen fire-fighters. Shortly after this terrible tragedy the redevelopment plan was implemented. The population of the district were to be re-housed in two great sweeps, the first during 1960-65 and the second during 1966-1980. I can still clearly recall the condition of a number of the tenement properties prior to demolition. While still at school, I worked as a milk-delivery boy for the Garden Rose Dairy, 671 Argyle Street; my route included every street stretching from Oswald Street at the Broomielaw up to McIntyre Street. On one occasion, in 1961, while delivering milk, at the top end of Bishop Street, I found the entire close entrance had collapsed into a basement cellar, trapping the residents in their homes. I also recall some of the crumbling tenement buildings, particularly in Carrick Street and McAlpine Street, with their communal toilets situated on the half-landing. On a number of occasions while delivering milk, at the lower end of McAlpine Street, I tripped over vagrants who were sleeping on the wooden floors of the pitch-black corridors. I expect the men had been locked-out from one of nearby Lodging Houses. Interestingly, despite the poverty prevalent in parts of Anderston, it is testimony to the honesty of the locals that I never experienced the loss of milk from my barrow.

At Anderston Cross, 'McIntosh Removals' occupied premises at the Weavers' Pend in Argyle Street. Inside the Pend were the remains of a '*Wee Cork's*' premises. On the opposite side of the street, just along from the 'Army & Navy Store', was the Gaiety Cinema, which was acquired by the Corporation in 1963 and converted into 'The Glasgow Concert Hall' as a temporary measure to fill the gap left when St. Andrew's Halls were destroyed by fire. The Gaiety finally fell victim to the bulldozers in 1968.

1968 a Year of Disaster

For many people 1968 was a memorable year for all the wrong reasons. Throughout the night of 15th January and into the early hours of the following morning, Glasgow was battered by hurricane force winds. The storm accounted for the lives of twenty people across central Scotland. Nine people died in Glasgow, including a Port Street resident, who was killed when masonry from a chimneybreast fell through the roof of a tenement. Those who managed to sleep through the storm awoke the following morning to find the atmosphere still heavy with thick grey dust and the streets littered with debris that had been ripped from buildings. So great was the scale of devastation that soldiers from the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were called from Stirling Castle to help clear the streets of rubble. The storm left many tenement properties uninhabitable and for many months tarpaulins covered gaping holes in the rooftops. It appeared as though nature was intent on having a hand in hastening the demise of some of Anderston's older tenement buildings.

Another catastrophe visited the area in November of 1968, comparable only to that of the Cheapside Street fire some eight years earlier. Twenty-two workers perished when a clothing factory in James Watt Street caught fire. Fire exits were either inaccessible, or were locked, leaving the hapless victims trapped, behind iron-barred windows, inside the burning building. Firemen made desperate attempts to rescue the workers by sawing through the iron bars, but their valiant efforts were in vain. Passers-by could only stand watching in horror as billowing clouds of black smoke overcame the doomed workforce.

CHARACTERS 1950-60s

Every generation produces memorable characters and the 1950s and 60s were no different. I clearly recall a number of such people from my youth. 'Greasy Beard' was an elderly, unshaven gent, who could be seen regularly traversing the Cranstonhill area. He always dressed in World War One, khaki cavalry uniform, complete with officers hat and knee high, full-lace riding-boots. Exactly why he dressed in this fashion, no one could say for certain.

'Woodbine Annie' could be seen regularly meandering the streets of Anderston and, on occasion, she would be seen entertaining shoppers in Sauchiehall Street. No matter the weather 'Annie' was always dressed in an old ankle-length fur coat. She stood about five feet tall and the burden of her fur coat seemed to weigh her down. She would take up her stance, produce a mouth organ from her pocket and begin dancing to her own accompaniment. As a teenager, whilst delivering milk for the Garden Rose Dairy, I often saw Annie leaving the Model Lodging House in McAlpine Street at around 5.30 in the morning to begin her wanderings. Most folk who knew of Annie described her as a 'poor wee soul'. Another person, who made a lasting impression on me at that time, was a tall, white-haired, upright gent, dressed in overalls, who whistled 'Onward Christian Soldiers' as he strutted briskly along Cranston Street at around 6.30 each morning. The point of interest is, he never changed his repertoire, and always managed to give a smile and a nod of acknowledgment, without breaking tempo or melody as he marched on by.

Beggars frequently came around the backcourts; even as a very young child, I remember one tramp in particular, who had an exceptionally fine voice. Apparently the chap was a trained opera singer, who had performed at the *La Scala, Milan*, before he fell on hard times, caused by alcohol related problems. Although we were what could largely be termed a poor community, there was always someone willing to share some of the little they had with those less fortunate. It was not uncommon for a neighbour to throw some coins, or a sandwich wrapped in paper, from a kitchen window to the appreciative beggar in the backcourt below.

On Sunday afternoons the Salvation Army came around the backcourts playing instruments, singing choruses and preaching the Gospel. Sunday was lived at a different pace; the afternoon was a time for Sunday School, visiting relatives or bargain hunting at the 'Barra's'. Housewives would never dream of washing the stairs or hanging out a washing on the Sabbath.

Opposite: View of typical tenement backcourts in Cranstonhill, prior to demolition. The dividing walls have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair (Argyle St. 1971)



As youngsters we spent a great deal of time in our fruitless search for a 'Roman Well' that was supposedly located in William Street near North Street. There was a local policeman we referred to as 'Jump-the-dyke' due to his ability to seemingly leap effortlessly in a single bound over the five-foot high walls separating each backcourt. The police had a much greater presence in the community, and as they walked their beat they became familiar to us, as we no doubt did to them!

Whilst many Anderston people became actively engaged in the life and work of the local community, there has never been a shortage of individuals capable of making an impact on the wider society. Michael Martin was one such person, a sheet-metal worker to trade, he rose through the ranks of the political parties and, on 23rd October 2000, was elected Speaker of the House of Commons. On a more parochial level, another local to achieve high political office was Alex Mosson, who became Lord Provost of Glasgow. In the world of entertainment, the versatile Billy Connolly, alias *'The Big Yin'*, was born in Anderston in 1942 where he spent the first few years of his life. In later years Connolly left his job in the shipyards in search of fame as a folksinger with the *'Humblebums'*. He went on to become an accomplished actor and writer. Another very talented local who became a show business personality is Tony Roper, who has made a huge impact both as an actor and writer. To many he will forever be remembered as *'Jamesie Cotter'*- *'Rab C. Nesbit's'* associate. However, surely one of his finest achievements to date is his award winning play *'The Steamie'* an outstanding and highly entertaining portrayal of life in the 1950s, set against the backdrop of a Glasgow Public Wash House.



Finnieston Primary School – The 'Qualifying Class' of 1957-58

Mr McLeod, the Art Teacher at Finnieston School, incorporated the Finnieston Crane as a feature of the school's blazer badge



LIFE in the COMMUNITY

Like most major cities, Glasgow is a collection of villages that became swallowed up as the city expanded due to industrial development. Anderston was primarily composed of communities inhabiting the former neighbourhoods of Finnieston, Cranstonhill and Broomielaw. Each tenement close within the area fostered its own unique community spirit. It was not uncommon to share a pot of soup or some baking with another neighbour who just happened to be in need at that time. All of this support was offered quietly and in a spirit of friendship. No matter how poor the fabric of a property might have been, housewives took great pride in keeping their home clean and tidy and their windows were always sparkling.

Life was very different during the 1950s; residents of Anderston did not need to venture far for their daily requirements. Lining either side of Argyle, Stobcross and Elderslie Streets were a variety of shops that included Doctors and Dental Surgeries, Chemists, Banks, Post Offices, Clothes Shops, Butchers, Dairies, Grocers, Bakers, Cafés, Newsagents, Fish & Chip Restaurants, Fishmongers, Fruiterers and Ironmongers. Among the more popular eating-places was the 'Coffee Tavern' situated on the corner of Argyle St./Elliot St., and 'Reid's Café' at Heddle Place where the favourite delicacy was a 'Hot Pea Special' (a plate of mushy peas). The 'Caledonian Model Company' and 'Hobbies' were two popular outlets for the purchase of plastic or balsa-wood model aircraft. Both shops were located close to each other on Argyle Street and both carried a wide-range of construction kits and a variety of suitable craft materials at prices affordable to all age groups. Tuesday was half-day early closing for shops. Other than newsagents and dairies, shops were closed on Sunday and public transport was reduced to an hourly service.

Workhorses were still a common feature on the streets of Anderston during the 1950s and 1960s. Buchanan's the Whisky producers had a number of Clydesdales that could be seen hauling their famous 'Black & White' carts through the streets of the district. It was still possible to watch Mr. Mitchell, the blacksmith, shoeing horses at his premises in Shaftsbury Street. On the subject of horses, I recall an incident that took place one Saturday forenoon in 1962. A startled horse, complete with cartload of coal, went clattering along Stobcross Street causing quite a panic as it careered towards the busy intersection at Anderston Cross. Fortunately, a courageous pedestrian managed to catch hold of the horse's reins and bring the frightened animal under control, thus averting a potentially serious mishap.

REDEVELOPMENT

The Anderston Comprehensive Development Plan was first submitted for public discussion in 1959. Glasgow City Council, determined to press ahead with their redevelopment proposals, based much of their argument on the assertion that the vast majority of buildings in the area were structurally unsound, adding for good measure, that over 50% of the dwellings had no inside toilet and that less than 10% had a bath. Resident groups supported by the local business community opposed the proposals, arguing, that based on expert advice, many of the tenement properties could be refurbished and brought up to an acceptable standard, a practice that was not adopted until the 1980s, but too late for Anderston!

Despite strong local opposition, the Secretary of State for Scotland sanctioned the £20,600,000 redevelopment programme. Work began in 1961, with much of the area to the south of Argyle Street and Stobcross Street being cleared first. Due to construction work on the Kingston Bridge and M8 Motorway, Bishop Street disappeared entirely; Argyle Street was cut asunder, never again to feature as one of Glasgow's main thoroughfares. For many local residents this proved to be an emotional time as they watched familiar landmarks disappear, but perhaps the saddest part, was witnessing their own homes and the community they knew being torn apart. The Redevelopment Plan effectively tore the heart out of Anderston and its people.

One area outside the redevelopment zone that has survived reasonably intact, are the buildings situated on the north side of St. Vincent Street, stretching westwards from Elderslie Street. Those buildings offer some idea of the convenience of having commercial property situated at the base of tenement dwellings. Clark's Dairy, at 526 St. Vincent Street, one of the oldest family businesses still operating in the area, is a fine example of handy and friendly shopping.



Cranstonhill Housing Development (1970)

The buildings in the foreground belong to Anderston Primary School beyond which is the Salvation Army and the pyramid-shaped roof of Anderston Kelvingrove Church, immediately behind the church is St. Patrick's R.C. Church, with the spire of St. Columba (Gaelic) Church in the distance. The high-rise buildings are part of the 1960s redevelopment programme and are bounded by St. Vincent, Elderslie, and Argyle Streets.

Among the few interesting buildings that managed to escape the demolition workers hammer, is the 'Clyde Port Authority' building at 16 Robertson Street, on the junction of the Broomielaw. Designed by Sir John Burnett, the 'Clyde Port' building, with its highly ornate edifice, looks out of place set amidst the newly erected glass-fronted office blocks. Another building that has been preserved externally is the Tobacco Warehouse, in James Watt Street, built in 1854. The façade of a similar property on York Street has also been reprieved. 'The Buttery', part of a tenement block at 652 Argyle Street, formerly known as 'The Shandon Bells', became a very fashionable venue favoured by many of the wealthier citizens of Glasgow intent on dining-out during the 1950s. The tenement building housing 'The Buttery' was erected in 1869, and carved into the exterior of the property are symbols similar to those of the Free Masons. The designation 'Main Street', painted on the corner of the building, could be seen well into late 1980s.

Perhaps the most ornate edifice to escape the developers is the former Glasgow Savings Bank, designed by the prominent architects Salmon & Gillespie. The bank, which was opened in 1900, stands at 752 Argyle Street, forming the corner of Shaftsbury Street. Built of red-sandstone; the three-storey art nouveau dwelling is in a style reminiscent of Charles Rennie MacKintosh. The exterior of the property, which has a semi-octagonal turret on the corner, features some very fine examples of the stonemason's skill. On both sides of the doorway are figures carved in relief and above the main entrance is a coloured mosaic. Inside the building is a wonderfully ornate fireplace, replicating the features displayed on the exterior of the property.

New Housing

During the redevelopment period of the 1960-70s, whilst some 'Anderston families' held out for housing within the locality, the majority had to settle for relocation elsewhere.

As the 1960s progressed, amid the seeming chaos of construction work, at last new buildings began to appear. The first new housing in the area, built by 'Scottish Special Housing Association', was officially opened in Grace Street, Cranstonhill, on 26th August 1966.

Spanning the area between Pitt St., Blythwood St. and Cadogan St. the 'Anderston Centre' was the largest and most ambitious project of its kind undertaken at that time. Incorporated into the ground level of the development were car parks and a bus station while on the upper level, was the option for supermarkets, shops and restaurants. Among the first businesses attracted to the complex were the studios of 'Radio Clyde'. Included in the design of the complex were three multi-storey blocks of flats, capable of accommodating up to six hundred families.



Anderston Cross - Argyle Street (1962)

The Weavers' Pend was situated on the right (behind the lorry)

Other features began to slowly emerge from the desolation, including the Kingston Bridge, opened by the Queen Mother on 26th June 1970. The structure was the largest urban bridge in Britain, built at a cost of £11,000,000. The Daily Record, one of Scotland's foremost daily newspapers, left their premises in Hope Street and moved into a purpose-built development at Anderston Quay - the new nine-storey building housed the biggest web-offset newspaper plant in the world. A few streets away, at 45 Washington Street, the headquarters of 'Ceol na h Alba', the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, were opened on 23rd January 1970. Another establishment formally opened in January of that year, was the Cranstonhill Nursery School, capable of accommodating up to eighty children. To the west the massive Clydeside Expressway Industrial complex at Finnieston was formally opened. All this activity seemed to confirm Peden's prophecy that Anderston was on course to become the centre of Glasgow.



LIVING with the DREAM

It is interesting to look back over the years at the community in which you grew up and be able to observe and compare the changes that have taken place. I have been privileged to be able to write about, and revisit, the Anderston that I knew between the 1950-80s. I well recall many of the buildings and the people who lived and worked in Anderston. During the '*Swinging Sixties*' the community and most of the familiar landmarks I knew were about to disappear following the implementation of the Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme. Whilst the proposals for redeveloping Anderston seemed drastic, it was also an opportunity to create an exciting new community.

Between Brown Street and Carrick Street on a site once occupied by Turner Refrigeration, dwellings and commercial premises, the Ministry of Defence has erected 'Kentigern House', a property constructed in the form of a stepped-pyramid. On ground between Bishop Street and Pitt Street, two prestigious international hotels, reaching skywards were built. In Washington Street an up-market hotel occupies the former site of Harvey & McGavin's Grain Mill, of 1815.

New housing in Grace Street, opened in 1966, and the pyramid-roofed Anderston Parish Church, opened three years later, seemed to indicate that the development plans were beginning to come together. Attempts at revitalising the community spirit were made in 1976, with local churches playing a pivotal role in reviving 'The Anderston Fair'. At long last there was a definite glimmer of hope for the community.

By the early 1970s a new housing development fronting St. Vincent Street was complete. The complex of maisonette flats, ranging between eight and twelve storeys in height, stretched from North Street to what was once the Gushet of Argyle and St. Vincent Street, only being interrupted by the intersection of Elderslie Street. The stark appearance of the flats, coupled with the barred windows of the drying areas, soon earned the development the nickname '*Alcatraz*'. No sooner had the new tenants taken up residence in the prefabricated property than evidence of poor design, inferior materials and careless workmanship became evident. In the Shaftesbury Street development some families had to be decanted to allow essential tie-bars to be put in place. Rain permeated the buildings and, once again, tenants found themselves living in damp conditions.

Many of the redevelopment proposals promised in 1960 never materialised. A number of the pedestrian walkways above the motorway have, at the time of writing, still not been completed and, despite having ground set-aside on Cranstonhill, the Anderston Youth Club promised in 1969 has never materialised. The community is poorer due to the loss of public meeting places such as the Library, Swimming Baths and 'the Steamic', Cafés and Cinemas. The hopes and aspirations of a vibrant new community soon began to fade. However, it is important to remember that the population of the district has been considerably reduced, and given those circumstances, perhaps the previously promised facilities cannot be wholly justified.

The once thriving Anderston Cross now only exists in fading memories and old pictures. Much of what was Anderston Cross has given way to roadways and a forest of giant concrete pillars. West of the Kingston Bridge, the once thriving Argyle Street conveniently lined with shops and busy with people, nowadays has all the appearance of being deserted. Many of the commercial tenants including supermarkets, Radio Clyde and the Bus Station have departed the Anderston Cross Centre in favour of alternative accommodation.

Among the few remaining dwellings to the south of the Expressway is a short row of tenements sandwiched between commercial premises in Cheapside Street. One of the few long-established firms still active in the area is that of 'John McNicol, Electrical Engineers', who operate from 123, Elliot Street. One of the early tasks undertaken by this firm was helping convert the Glasgow Underground from rope-driven to electrical traction. When James Buchanan & Co., producers of Black & White Whisky closed their bottling plant and offices in Washington Street, the red sandstone building was converted into office accommodation that currently operates under the title of the 'Pentagon Business Centre'. On the Clydeside, both the 'Crown Flour Mill' in Washington Street, built in 1862, and the mill of 'J & R Snodgrass' at 10 Anderston Quay, which had been managed by five generations of the Snodgrass family since 1862, were demolished to make way for new commercial developments.

ANDERSTON TODAY

Society has changed considerably and nowhere is this better demonstrated than in the life of the local churches. Throughout history, the church has been one of the main focal points of the community. Whilst 'St Pat's' appears to maintain reasonable numbers, declining membership suggests that Anderston Kelvingrove and the Salvation Army may have to review their long-term presence in the area sooner rather than later. No matter which denomination might be affected, communities will be the poorer if a church is forced to close its doors for the last time.

On a brighter note, the Clydeside was completely transformed during the late 1980s when the old sheds were cleared to make way for luxury flats and prestigious hotels. The riverfront, where the Irish-boat used to berth back in the 1950s, was landscaped and a temporary terminal created for the world's last sea-going paddle steamer, the 'Waverley'.



*Members of The Girls' Brigade,
Anderston Parish Church (1970)*

It is approaching forty years since the demolition squads of the 1960s left and the construction teams began their building work. As the people of Anderston brace themselves yet again for another redevelopment upheaval, it is hoped that lessons can be learned from past mistakes. Once the plans for the regeneration of the area are finally complete, around 2015, the Anderston district will look very different.

Stobcross

The magnificent middle-class Victorian property on Saint Vincent Crescent/Minerva Street, erected in the 1850s, still exists largely intact and is highly sought after property. 'The Crescent' is home to no fewer than three Bowling Greens - Saint Vincent, the University of Glasgow Staff Club, and the Corunna. Nearby are modern office developments and flats, Melvin Motors, a large motor dealership, and the Exhibition Centre Rail Station.

Occupying the site where the mansion-house of Stobcross once stood is the Scottish Conference & Exhibition Centre. Adjacent to the SECC is the Clyde Auditorium, opened 1998, which has been nicknamed 'The Armadillo' due to its exterior design. The Rotunda of the old Clyde Tunnel currently serves as a restaurant and casino. On the riverside, standing sentinel, is the Finnieston Crane, adjacent to which, is the prestigious Moat House Hotel, with another two quality hotels nearby. Linking the north and south of the Clyde is Bell's Bridge, built for the Glasgow Garden Festival of 1988. Despite objections from local residents Glasgow City Council proceeded with their plans to build a bridge at Finnieston - the purpose of the crossing, nicknamed 'The Squinty Bridge', is to provide better access to commercial developments south of the river and help relieve traffic congestion on the troubled Kingston Bridge. As part of the riverside regeneration programme two pedestrian bridges are also planned - one spanning the Clyde between Lancefield and Springfield Quays, the other linking Anderston with Tradeston. Completing the ambitious waterside development is a proposal to build the 'QD2' - a national arena for Scotland, next to the SECC.

Site of Anderston Village

In an attempt to echo the past, the Philemon Housing Association erected tenement property on Argyle Street close to the site where cottages of the original village were laid out in 1725. Featured on the façade of the housing development at 640 Argyle Street is an illustration linking the past with the present; above the doorway is a terrazzo mural depicting a weaver and a modern day figure above which, is the wording 'Anderston Weavers' Association 1738 and Philemon Housing Association 1970'. Further along Argyle Street the 'Margaret Blackwood Housing Association' has a block of flats, on the north side of the street, specially designed to provide independence within the local community for physically impaired people.

The Kingston Bridge, which has been fraught with civil engineering problems, effectively acts as a barrier separating the community that once congregated around Anderston Cross. Below the bridge is the Anderston Rail Station sandwiched between busy traffic routes. St. Patrick's R.C. Church and School occupy most of the west side of North Street south of St. Vincent Street. The new Anderston Clinic In William Street, hemmed in by high flats on St. Vincent Street, was opened in 1998.

Finnieston

Stobcross Street has long disappeared under the Clydeside Expressway, part of the inner-city motorway link. The Clydeside Industrial Estate, now called 'Skypark', stretches over Cranstonhill occupying all of the original Grace Street area. The massive Skypark structure which towers over the Clydeside Expressway, has recently received a most acceptable upgrade to the exterior of the property.

As in days of old, Finnieston Street is still cut in two, this time by the Expressway. On the north side of Finnieston Street, the Police Station occupies the corner at Argyle Street, adjacent to which are flats, built on the site of the now forgotten 'Carlaw Print Works' that once occupied much of the north side of Houldsworth Street. The 'Skypark' commercial development takes up the remainder of this section of Finnieston Street. On the west side of the street is a computer store and a motorcar showroom. South of the Expressway are commercial properties, dwellings, hotels and the SECC.

Cranstonhill

Situated on Cranstonhill stands Anderston Kelvingrove Church, the Salvation Army and blocks of flats wedged between St. Vincent Street and Houldsworth Street. On the corner of Houldsworth and Elliot Street are the vacant premises of 'William Cook, Saw Manufacturers', adjoining which is the long established firm of 'Smith & Rodger, Paint and Varnish Retailers'. The Territorial Army occupy a site on Houldsworth Street close to where the firm of 'Brown & Tawse, Tube-manufacturers' were located. A Ten Pin Bowling Alley occupies the site of Finnieston School. To the east of the Bowling Alley is Anderston Primary School adjacent to which, overlooking the Expressway, is Cranstonhill Nursery.

Blythwood & Broomielaw

The bridge over Bishop Street that once linked St. Vincent Street and Bothwell Street has been superseded by an off-ramp from the Kingston Bridge. Alongside the off-ramp, at 215 Bothwell Street, is a modern office block, opened in 1992, and incorporated into the building, behind the smoked-glass frontage, is part of the facade of the earlier 'Eagle Building', built in 1854. The original property once housed 'Pickering & Inglis, Bookshop and Bookbinders'. Impinging on what used to be the northern portion of Bishop Street is another modern office block, which is currently home to a leading insurance company.

The 'Anderston Centre' that promised so much thirty years ago has, as yet, not reached expectations, however there are plans to regenerate the development. Between Blythwood Street and West Campbell Street an enormous block of luxury flats has been erected on the north side of Argyle Street. New flats have also been built in Brown Street and James Watt Street.

To the south of the Clydeside Expressway, between Oswald Street and Finnieston Street, ultra-modern glass-fronted commercial and luxury housing developments dominate the waterfront. The purpose-built Daily Record building, opened in 1971, has been demolished to make way for office and commercial development, however 'The Record' still maintains a major office site in the area. In an effort to generate interest and encourage wider use of a waterbus service the first of five proposed pontoons has been installed at the Broomielaw next to Anderston Quay.



The Waverley berthed at Anderston Quay (January 2004)

Around Anderston



*Anderston Cross, looking east c1920
The lower picture is a view of approximately the same area in 1969.*



Artist's impression of new buildings proposed by Sanctuary Housing

THEN & NOW

Whenever the topic of 'the old days' comes up in conversation someone is bound to comment, "*Anderston is not what it used to be*" and lament that the community spirit has all but disappeared. Whilst such comments are not without some foundation, those particular problems are not unique to Anderston. I suspect there has always been a tendency to look back nostalgically on the golden days of our youth when we were carefree and somehow the world was different. Without doubt, society has changed dramatically over the years, as we have become more affluent we have also become more self-centred. Perhaps there is something to be said for the 'hard-times' of the years before the 1960s. In those days, neighbours often shared what little they had. It was not uncommon for doors to be left unlocked. Children could play and grow in relative safety. Most mothers stayed at home to look after the children and strangers to the community were kept under close scrutiny. Yes, perhaps people were financially poorer, but they were also richer in friendship and community spirit.

In modern society all too often neighbours are the people we occasionally meet in the passing. It is not uncommon to find young people gathered in groups milling aimlessly around street corners. Young people need a place where they can meet and socialise in safety. Perhaps society has forgotten that the time and values we invest in our young people are the dividends society will reap in the future. The lamentations of the Rev. John Burns, writing in 1794, are perhaps even more relevant today - "*alcohol with its long-term evils is becoming more prevalent*".

REGENERATION & BEYOND

Over the years the Anderston Community Council (ACC) and the Anderston Scottish Homes Tenants and Residents Association (ASHTRA) proved to be a tremendous driving force in working to improve life within the local community. Under the auspices of the ACC and ASHTRA local residents were encouraged to discuss the regeneration of Anderston. Recognising that partnership is all important in shaping and influencing the future of the community, following lengthy consultation, the residents of Anderston elected 'Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association' to be their preferred partner in redesigning and rebuilding the housing stock in the area. Clearly, lessons have been learned from the disastrous redevelopment programme of the 1960s. Once complete the proposed development promises to create an urban community fit for the Twenty-first Century. Responsibility for helping smooth the regeneration of the area has now passed to a new group - the 'Anderston Sanctuary Tenants & Residents Association'.

It was recognised that much of the housing-stock, built during the 1960-70s, would have to be demolished and that the programme of decanting, demolishing and rebuilding would begin during 2006. However, despite a seemingly overwhelming vote in favour of the regeneration plan a number of residents opposed to the scheme had their appeal upheld by the City Council's Planning Committee. If the stalemate is to be resolved it seems likely that an appeal will be lodged with the Scottish Executive for their adjudication. Should the ambitious £50,000,000 regeneration programme ever get underway five-hundred homes are likely to be affected, but unlike the Comprehensive Redevelopment work of the 1960s, Sanctuary Housing have promised that residents, who so desire, will be offered newly built accommodation within the area. However, whilst bricks and mortar are important, the real success of the regeneration programme will be dependent on the ability to accommodate, integrate and motivate the various groups into a cohesive community.

When looking back at history, it is important to remember that the people who lived in the past were not too dissimilar from us, they too had hopes and aspirations. Whilst many, for good reason, will mourn the past, one of the most valuable lessons we can learn from history is to appreciate what we have and build upon it. People make up communities and just like buildings once they are gone they can never be brought back. Within Anderston there are a number of voluntary groups actively engaged in trying to ensure the betterment of the community, but the level of local support and political-will will always limit their efforts. For them to succeed they need the support of the community. The proposed housing regeneration of Anderston will herald the start of new opportunities to not only improve the local living environment, but to also recreate the once thriving community.

In drawing to a close, the success or otherwise of a community is largely dependant on the local residents. As already stated, political-will and support is essential in tackling housing and larger community problems, but the real power to bring about change is ultimately in the hands of local people working together. Good neighbourliness is the responsibility of everyone. Community spirit can make the difference. With those thoughts in mind, can there be a more appropriate ending to this history than the motto of the Burgh of Anderston?

ALTER ALTERIUS AUXILIO VEGET- *The one flourishes by the help of the other.*

Around Anderston



Argyle Street at Blythswood Street prior to the 1960s Redevelopment Programme (looking west)
Below: A view of the same location looking east (January 2004)



Around Anderston



The Finnieston Crane and new commercial and housing developments (January 2004)



The Kingston Bridge and new office development on the Broomielaw (January 2004)

Anderston

THEN & NOW PART SEVEN

REMINISCENCES

For many people, memories of an area often focus on images of specific buildings that once occupied a certain spot. But, it is people who erect buildings and it is people who create history. Few individuals aspire to achieving lasting recognition, but without the support of the forgotten masses, it is doubtful if any would attain fame. It is with those thoughts in mind that I offer the following reminiscences. People from differing backgrounds and financial status will have had different experiences of growing up, what follows is based on my own experience. Whilst the time and setting may be different, I feel confident that many who spent their youth in the Anderston area prior to the mid-1960s will be able to relate to some of my childhood memories.

TENEMENT LIFE

Prior to redevelopment in the 1960s the tenements in Anderston dated mostly from the 1850-1880s period and came in a variety of heights, ranging from two to four stories high. Access was usually gained via a common entrance known as the 'close'. Depending on the property, each level, or 'landing', had access to either two or three dwellings. Each dwelling varied in size, ranging from a one apartment, known as a 'single end', up to three apartments. Few dwelling had bathrooms, but most had inside toilets. Access to some of the older tenement properties was via an external turreted stairway, which also housed a communal toilet, usually located on each mid-landing. As well as being inconvenient, this particular arrangement could prove extremely cold during the winter months. Whilst some residents could afford to own their flats the vast majority of tenement dwellers lived in rented accommodation.

Prior to 'close' lighting being electrified, each landing was illuminated by gas-lamp. Being natural scavengers, boys were always on the lookout for the carbide residue, discarded by the lamplighter. We would gather the carbide and place a small amount on the palm of our hands, spit on it, and see who could endure the burning sensation longest. The winner earned a painful blister for his efforts, definitely not recommended!

Most houses were warmed by means of heat generated from a coal-burning fireplace. Kitchen fireplaces were generally of two types, either a kitchen-range, or a tiled fire-surround. The 'kitchen-range' was constructed of black cast-iron and was usually around five feet wide and five feet high. The 'range' normally comprised of a grate, or fireplace, with an oven to one side. Above the oven would be a gas ring for boiling kettles or cooking. The oven would either be fuelled by gas, or heated from the coal fire. The entire unit was topped off with a shelf, or mantelpiece, onto which ornaments could be placed. One of the regular household chores, apart from clearing the ashes from the fireplace, was to clean the range with 'black-lead' or some commercial brand cleaner such as '*Zebrite*' until the cast iron shone. The tiled fireplace was a more modern replacement for the kitchen-range, it was also much smaller in size with an open grate at floor level; this arrangement was much easier to keep clean.

The most common fuel used for heating was coal, or 'briquettes'. Briquettes were made from coal dust and straw moulded into a brick shape. They were a cheap substitute for coal but did not burn quite as long. Towards the end of the 1950s electric, or gas, fires began appearing in homes. With very few exceptions central heating was unknown in the tenements before the 1980s. Coal was purchased each week from the coal merchant who toured the streets with his horse and cart, or lorry, calling out "Coal! – Coal!" The briquette merchant attracted attention and sold his wares in similar fashion. During the early 1960s a hundredweight bag of coal cost around fifteen shillings (75p).

A story is told of an unscrupulous 'briquette merchant' who was rather fond of alcohol. One Saturday, his round complete, he left his horse and cart in Blythwood Street whilst he adjourned to a local pub to avail himself of 'a wee refreshment'. Some local worthies, taking advantage of the situation, helped themselves to what remained of his load of briquettes, whilst others unhitched the horse, dismantled the cart, and took both the cart and the animal up a flight of stairs into a backcourt, whereupon the cart was reassembled and the horse again hitched to the vehicle. One can imagine the puzzled look of the inebriated 'briquette-man' as he wondered how his horse and cart got into the backcourt, followed by how he was going to get it out again! Of course, the story is apocryphal, but I am assured there is a measure of truth in it.

It is interesting to read the reports of food poisoning today and compare living standards against the 1950-60s. Very few homes had refrigerators, my mother kept milk and any butcher meat on the outside windowsill of our tenement in Argyle St., where it would be prone to attack from seagulls. Pre-packed

food had still to make an impact. Meat was suspended from hooks inside the local butcher's shop, where it was exposed to customers coughing and brushing against the carcasses. Grocers displayed their produce outside their shops, where vegetables and fruit would be open to the elements, not to mention cats and dogs. Yet, amazingly we all survived. Most main meals usually comprised mince and potatoes, corned beef, or fish, and on special occasions, steak pie, or chicken, all augmented with potatoes, peas or beans. Special treats included a 'fish supper' from the local chip shop. There were numerous shops throughout the locality where a child could purchase a '*Penny Vantis*' (soft drink) served in a salmon paste jar or small tumbler. Most soft drinks were referred to as 'ginger' the favourites being '*Irn Bru*', '*Tizer*', and '*Vimto*'.

SCHOOL DAYS

During the 1950s there were five primary schools serving the Anderston Area - Washington Street; St. Patrick's, in Bishop Street, with the Girl's Primary, off Perth Street; Finnieston, between Port Street and Elliot Street, and Kent Road. Although classes were large, usually in excess of thirty-five pupils, a mixture of boys and girls, discipline problems were virtually unknown. Teachers were assigned to a particular class for an entire year. While most teachers were dedicated caring individuals, life could be miserable for anyone who fell foul of an abusive teacher. If a teacher took a dislike to a pupil at the very least the child would be subject to humiliation and 'the belt' (corporal punishment). I often wonder how many children's lives were affected due to abusive teachers.

Each class had to attend the 'medical room' on a regular basis where the 'nurse' inspected each pupil's head for lice. It was always the same unfortunate children who were singled out as having a 'dirty head', and children were never slow in capitalising on the misfortune of their classmates. School uniforms were practically non-existent during the early 1950s. It was not uncommon to see children wearing frayed jerseys and torn trousers/dresses. Boys often wore 'tackety boots' most of which, would be worn through within a short space of time, due to sliding along the roughly concreted playground. When the assembly-bell rang the pupils quickly and automatically formed into lines, and on the signal from the duty teacher, beginning with the youngest class, we quietly processed in succession into our respective classrooms. School uniforms slowly began to appear towards the mid-1950s, with each school having its own distinctive tie and blazer badge.



Bishop Street School c1952

ELECTIONEERING

There were two main political parties active in the Anderston area - the Unionists had premises on Argyle Street (opposite Houldsworth Street), and Labour met in the Labour Halls near Finnieston (site of the present Police Station). For most children, Polling Day meant a day off school, however for some of us it was a time for enterprise. While most of us had no interest and were blissfully unaware of the significance of the different political parties, we volunteered to post election leaflets through letterboxes in the knowledge that at the end of our task we would be rewarded with a sit-down meal of a fish supper in the Labour Halls for our efforts. When we eventually learned the outcome of the election we were quite convinced that without our support the candidate would not have won the seat! To demonstrate our complete impartiality we also offered our leaflet delivery service to the Unionists.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

During the 1950s, when most of the heavy industries closed down for the Glasgow Fair Fortnight, a strange silence fell over the city. Those families unable to afford a holiday spent time at home with frequent visits to Kelvingrove Park. Those who could afford to spend a week, or fortnight away, went to such exotic places as, Dunoon, Saltcoats, Rothesay and Arran - the foreign holiday had not yet arrived! Youth organisations such as The Boys' Brigade and Scouts provided opportunities for boys to attend summer camp. For most this was their first venture into the countryside and a holiday under canvas, for many it was also their first experience of being away from home and family.

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

During the 1950s most young people were associated with youth organisations such as The Life Boys, Boys' Brigade, Cubs, Scouts, Girls' Guildry, Brownies or Guides. During this particular era schools did not cater as much for the extra-curricular activities of young people as they now do. Most of the Reformed churches had a BB Company, offering boys fellowship and activities that would have been outwith their normal reach. As well as developing social skills, membership of the youth organisations offered the chance to learn First Aid, or join the Pipe Band, or Brass Band. As we grew into teenagers Saturday mornings and afternoons were taken up with organised football. Long before schools and paid youth leaders, voluntary youth organisations provided outlets for young peoples' energies. During the 1950s the Glasgow Battalion of The Boys' Brigade operated the largest football league of any kind in the world, fielding over 200 teams every week.

There were over twenty Boys' Brigade Companies, two Scout Troops, three Girls' Guildry Companies and four Brownie and Guide packs operating within Anderston at any one time. The average membership of each Boys' Brigade Company was around fifty members, although, it was not uncommon for some BB Companies to have in excess of one hundred members. Scout Troops and girl's organisations tended to be smaller, with around thirty or forty members. Sadly, the decline of disciplined youth organisations is reflected in Anderston - the Girls' Brigade, Guides and Scouts no longer operate and whilst the Boys' Brigade is still active, it is but a pale shadow of what it once was.

Most children attended one of the Sunday Schools that were held in the main churches, the Salvation Army, or the Seamen's Bethel. I can recall my first Sunday School trip to Stonehouse. Around two hundred children descended on St. Mark's-Lancefield to eagerly await the arrival of the double-deck buses that were to convey us to our destination. When the transport duly arrived a mighty cheer erupted. As we boarded 'our bus' with our cups tied on a string around our necks, the sense of excitement was palpable. During the hour long bus journey to Stonehouse there was much merriment, singing and pranks, and before long children were swarming like ants all over the public park. On a given signal we gathered into our groups to participate in races and various games, after which, we were given a bag containing sandwiches, a piece of fruit and a biscuit. All too soon we were on our way home again, our adventures over for another day. The only other event that could compare to the Sunday School trip was the Life Boy outing, which was run on similar lines. The Life Boys was the junior element of The Boy's Brigade.



St. Mark's-Lancefield, Argyle Street (1963)

AT PLAY

There was little space given over for children's play areas within the Anderston district. There were in fact only three designated play areas - the 'swing park' at Crimea Street, with a similar facility at Oak Street and another at School Wynd. Each play area comprised of around six swings, a roundabout and a chute. The swings were usually broken and the ground was often littered with glass from broken bottles. The play area was bedded in concrete, not for us the luxury of falling on soft ground!

The nearest public park was Kelvingrove, which was kept well maintained. It might be difficult to believe, but, with one exception, it was not until the early 1960s that the public were actually allowed free access to walk on the grass. The only grassed area the public had free access to was the 'Burroo Park'; this was the gentle slope that overlooked the duck pond. Perhaps the term 'Burroo Park' is a throwback to the days of high unemployment, when the unemployed had to 'sign-on at the Burroo' (a colloquialism for the 'Bureau of Employment'). Prior to this era, signs were placed on the ground demanding 'Please Keep off the Grass'. Needless to say this directive merely encouraged mischievous youngsters to run onto the grass whenever a Park Ranger (or Parkie) came into view. Upon noticing the youngsters breaching the park rules, the 'Parkie' would blow his whistle and a chase would ensue. Of course, this did not deter boys from engaging in a game of 'catch me if you can'. If you were caught for any misdemeanour, depending on your age, you could expect either a boot planted firmly on your backside, a skelp on the ear, or if you were very young, threatened with the police.

Horses and carts, and later lorries, offered great opportunity and challenge for a free ride. The idea was to run behind the vehicle, grab hold of the tailboard and get a 'hudgie'. It was not uncommon to see youngsters getting a 'hudgie' hanging from the back of a three-wheeled Scammell truck, known locally as an 'Ellie'. Exactly why the truck was called an 'Ellie' is uncertain, perhaps it was because a number of such vehicles were parked in a yard off Elliot Street?

'Skiffle Time' c1955

*Borrow mum's washboard and pots;
add a few discarded boxes, a little imagination,
and these happy youngsters, in Cranston Street,
are able to give their rendition of 'Skiffle'.*



The Gang's all Here!

*Children take time-out from playing in the backcourts of Cranston Street / Port Street
to pose for a photograph c1954*

STREET GAMES

Few homes had television even fewer had telephone. Today, television and computers have more or less taken the place of children's street-games. Virtually gone are the activities enjoyed by children down through the years. Games played in the backcourts, or the quieter streets free of traffic included, 'Tag' (or 'Tig'), 'Kick-the-Can', 'Hide and Seek', 'Chases' and 'Follow my Leader'. Between the ages of ten and thirteen we tested our abilities (and nerve) at the 'Jumps'. We climbed onto walls and leapt from wall to wall across a series of increasingly difficult and ever widening gaps where a fall meant certain injury. We also matched our competitive spirit with backcourt sports - races, high and long jumps. We even extended our skills to include archery using bows and arrows made from bamboo cane.

Football was the year-round game, but we also had our season for Cricket, Rounders and Tennis, all played within the confines of our backcourt, and seldom was a window broken! Girl's also participated in many of the aforementioned games, but tended more often than not, to play 'Peever' (Hop Scotch), Skipping-ropes, and Ball-games sung to a particular rhyme or chorus. Perhaps one day the true value of tenement backcourts as play areas will be fully appreciated.

Participation in street-games taught children to socialise. Playing together developed our social skills and occasionally we also had to learn to fight. But even in disagreement, we learned the need to make friends again. We were inventive, creating playgrounds out of little. A discarded box could become a tank. A wooden barrel was quickly converted into skis, and the hoops made great girds. With a piece of chalk, a rope and a ball there was no limit to the games that could be played and the endless hours of happy, innocent enjoyment to be had.

THE CINEMA

Television and all the modern home entertainment we take for granted was either expensive or did not exist during the 1950s. A popular family outing was a visit to the cinema or the 'pictures' as they were most commonly referred to. It was not unusual to visit the 'pictures' twice a week. Programmes usually ran Monday to Wednesday, with a change of feature Thursday to Saturday. Cinemas were not normally open on a Sunday.

There were two cinemas in Anderston, 'The Gaiety' (Argyle Street) near Anderston Cross and 'The Kelvin' at the Finnieston end of Argyle Street. There were of course cinemas in town and elsewhere, but it was only on special occasions we would travel outside our locality to visit 'the pictures'.

An evening's entertainment at The Kelvin Cinema meant more than just watching films. During the 'Rock and Roll' era of the 1950s the manager of 'The Kelvin' organised a talent show each Friday and Saturday evening. Between main features the house lights went up and local talent was invited onto the stage to perform the latest songs from the 'Hit Parade'. There was no shortage of performers, ranging from the individual soloist, to the group, who would arrive on stage complete with guitars, drums, washboard and an empty tea-chest pressed into service as a double bass. On other occasions, words of the latest songs were displayed on the screen, a recording of the artist played and the audience encouraged to sing along. Truly a full evening of entertainment!

Both 'The Gaiety' and 'The Kelvin' held children's matinees each Saturday afternoon between the hours of 1 - 4pm. We rushed to take our place as near the front of the queue as possible. The nearer the head of the queue the earlier you were allowed into the cinema; there was constant jockeying for position from those towards the back of the queue. Came the magic moment, the doors were opened, we paid our sixpence and were ushered inside, the seats being filled from the front of the hall. There were perhaps up to two hundred and fifty children present each Saturday afternoon. Once the lights dimmed and the film started, bedlam often broke loose, as those seated near the front attempted to crawl under the seats, toward the better seating at the rear of the auditorium. This action defied the logic of trying to be first in the queue. After all, if you wanted a seat at the rear, you only needed to arrive a bit later! However, week in week out the same ritual was followed. I supposed there was as much entertainment in relocating to another seat as there was on screen. I suspect there is no need to mention peashooters and other seasonal projectiles. Suffice to say that the cinema attendants, brave souls that they were, had their work cut out each Saturday afternoon.



Anderston THEN & NOW

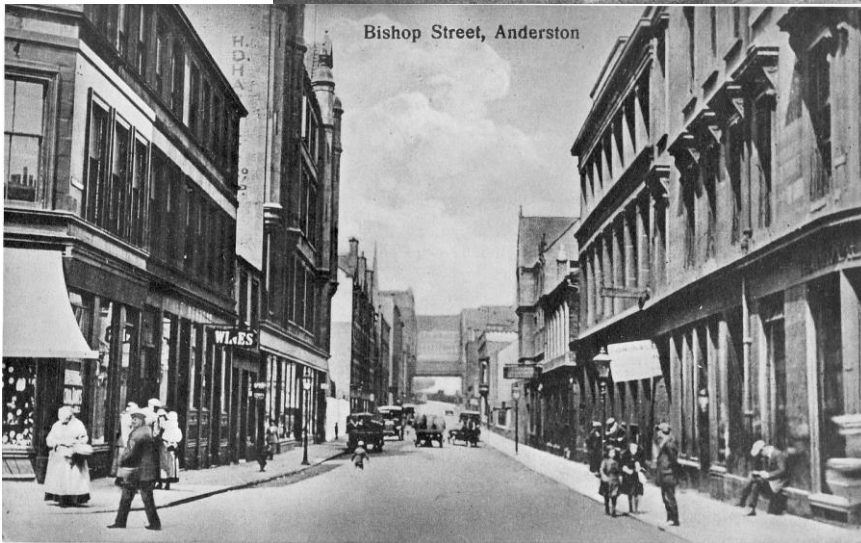


POSTCARDS *from* ANDERSTON

Below are examples of a series of postcards that were produced somewhere around 1920. It has been necessary to reduce the size of the images for publication purposes.

Anderston Cross

To many people this junction was the heart of Anderston. The street to the left is Stobcross Street (now part of the Clydeside Expressway). On the right is Argyle Street.



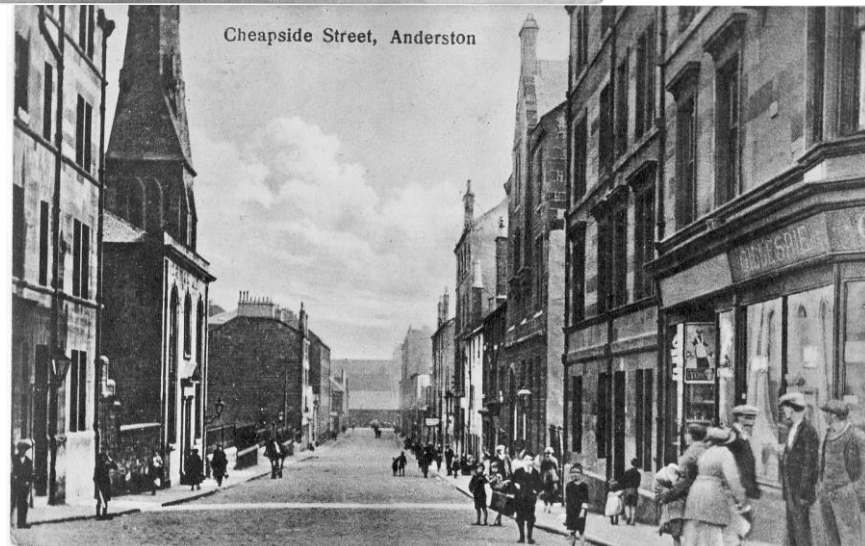
Bishop Street.

It is widely believed this street was the route used in olden times by the Bishops of Glasgow on their way to Partick Castle.

The thoroughfare ran from St. Vincent Street southwards to where it joined Argyle Street at Anderston Cross. A prestigious hotel now occupies much of the site today

Cheapside Street

St. Mark's Church can be seen on the left of this normally quiet street which has gone down in history as the place where 19 Fire-fighters lost their lives tackling a bonded warehouse blaze in 1960.



Anderston

THEN & NOW PART EIGHT

STREET NAMES & THEIR ORIGINS

Anderston	Named after James Anderson one time owner of Stobcross and founder of Anderstoun village
Anthony St.	Not known. Originally called Hope Street. Name currently reallocated to the Anderston Centre
Argyle St.	Named in memory of the Duke of Argyll. Originally called Anderston Walk. The thoroughfare was called Main Street until c1909
Atlantic Quay	A recent designation to complement commercial developments along the Clydeside
Balaclava St.	Named in honour of William ‘Crimea’ Simpson who was born in nearby Carrick Street
Beltane St.	Named after a Pagan Festival
Bishop St.	Thought to be part of a route used by the Bishop’s of Glasgow during pre-Reformation times
Blythswood St.	Named after the Estate of Blythswood Estate. Originally called Mains Street
Breadalbane St.	Named after an area in Argyll
Broomielaw	Describing a grassy slope (hill) or meadow on which broom grows
Brown St.	In memory of the senior partner of a bleachfield that once occupied the site
Carding Lane	Called after a weaving process. Originally known as Jamieson’s Lane
Carrick St.	Opened in 1800 and named in memory of Robin Carrick of the ‘Ship Bank’ and a partner of the bleachfield that once occupied the site
Catherine St.	Not known. In later years the northern part of the thoroughfare was known as Hydepark Street
Central Quay	A new designation to complement the commercial developments along the riverside
Cheapside St.	Borrowed from the London district
Claremont St.	Named by the owner of the estate after a town in France
Cleveland St.	Named after an area in England
Clydeferry St.	Being the main approach to the ferry that once served the area. Originally called Clyde Street
Corunna St.	Commemorating Sir John Moore’s victory at the Battle of Corunna during the Napoleonic Wars
Cranston St.	Named after the estate on which the street was formed. Origin unknown
Crieff Court	Named after the Perthshire town. Originally called Cameron Court
Crimea St.	Named after William ‘Crimea’ Simpson who was born nearby. Originally called West College Street
Dorset St.	Named after a county in England
Douglas St.	Named in honour of James Douglas of Blythswood Mains
Dover St.	Named after an English port
Elderslie St.	Named after the Renfrewshire town of that name. Peden Cross formed the corner of Elderslie and Argyle Street. At one time the tenement block had the unfortunate designation of ‘Belch Place’.
Elliot St.	Not known. Thought to be named after a one time local Councillor
Elliot Square.	Skypark Industrial Estate occupies much of this site

Finniestic St.	Reminder of the village of Finniestic founded in 1751 and named in honour of Rev. John Finnie
Finniestic Square	Situated within the 'Skypark' development (see Finniestic Street)
Grace St.	Originally located in Finniestic and named in memory of the daughter of John Geddes of the Verreville Pottery
Guest St.	Named in honour of Bailie Guest, one time Councillor of Anderston. Originally called Hill Street
Heddlc Placc	Named after part of a handloom as a reminder of Anderston's weaving roots
Holm St.	Being the Holm (or Hollow) of Blythwood that marked the southern boundary with Anderston
Houldsworth St.	Named in memory of the Houldsworth family - mill owners and Provosts of Anderston. The western portion, running between Finniestic/Elliott Street was at one time known as Havelock St.
Hydepark St.	Borrowed from the London district. The northern section between Stobcross Street and Cranston Street. The thoroughfare was originally called Catherine Street
James Watt St.	Named in Memory of James Watt, who lived in a house that stood on the site
Kent Road	Name after the Duchess of Kent, mother of Queen Victoria
Lancefield St.	Named after the mansion of Lancefield that once stood here. Origin unknown
Little St.	Not known. The street originally connected Whitehall Street and Warroch Street
McAlpine St.	Named in memory of Angus McAlpine, Provost of Anderston (1832-33), who was a partner of the bleachfield that once occupied the site
McIntyre St.	Opened in 1856 - origin not known.
Minerva St.	Named after the Roman goddess of intelligence and the arts
North St.	The title is derived from the direction the road led out of Anderston. Originally called Woodside Road and in the early days was commonly referred to as the 'Lang Road'
Oak St.	Not known. The name has been reallocated to the Anderston Centre
Oswald St.	Named after James Oswald owner of the land on which the thoroughfare was built
Piccadilly St.	Borrowed from the London district
Pitt St.	Named after William Pitt the Statesman
Pembroke St.	Named after a county in Wales
Perth St.	Named after the Scots town of that name
Port St.	Origin unknown
Quays	There were five Quays: Anderston, Hydepark, Lancefield, Finniestic and Stobcross
Richard St.	In memory of Richard Gillespie, son of a linen-printer who had his dwelling nearby
Robertson St.	Named in memory of Mr. Robertson of Plantation, who owned part of Broomielaw Croft
School Wynd	The area where the Burgh School once stood. Originally called Union Place
Shaftsbury St.	Named in honour of Lord Shaftsbury
Stobcross St.	Named after the Estate of Stobcross. Derived from an ancient wooden cross - 'Stob Cross'
St. Vincent St.	A reminder of the victory at the Battle of Cape Saint Vincent (14 th Feb. 1797)
St. Vincent Cres.	Refer to St. Vincent Street
Tunnel St.	The thoroughfare leading to the old tunnel under the Clyde

Warp Lane	A reminder of the cloth weaving process. Originally called Sharpe's Lane
Warroch St.	Named in memory of the junior partner of the Anderston Brewery
Washington St.	Named by Miss Mary Reid, owner of the land, in honour of her hero George Washington, founder of American Independence
Wellington St.	Named in honour of the Duke of Wellington
Whitehall St.	Borrowed from the London district
William St.	In memory of William Gillespie, owner of Wellfield Mansion, a property which stood nearby. The eastern portion between North St. and Bishop St. was originally known as West Bothwell St.
W. Campbell St.	Named in memory of the Campbell family - owners of Blythswood Estate
W. Greenhill Pl.	Reminder of the one time rural surroundings - also known locally known as 'World's End'
York St.	Named in honour of the Duke of York

Earlier Street Names

Anderston Walk	The main route connecting Glasgow to Anderston (now Argyle Street)
Belgrave St.	Later changed to Beltane Street
Cadzow St.	Off William Street, possibly a reference to an area near Hamilton
Catherine St.	Origin unknown. Originally connecting Stobcross Street and Cranston Street later changed to Hydepark Street
Church Place	Being the entrance to the original church. Later changed to Heddle Place.
Clyde St.	Road leading to the Clyde. Later renamed Clydeferry Street
College St.	Named after an Academy that stood in the vicinity around 1810. Now Crimea Street
Delftfield Lane	Named after the Delftfield Pottery that stood on the site
Havelock St.	Not known. This thoroughfare connected Finnieston Street and Elliot Street; the name was later changed to Houldsworth Street as tribute to the Houldsworth family
Hill St.	Being situated on the brae of Cranstonhill. Renamed Guest Street
Hill Square	Later renamed Stobcross Square
Hope St.	The northern part was known as Wee Hill Street. Latterly known as Anthony Street
Jamieson Lane	Possibly named after a one-time owner of the property. Later called Carding Lane
Main St.	Being the main thoroughfare. Now called Argyle Street.
Mains St.	Leading to of the Mains of Blythswood (now Blythswood St.)
Paterson St.	This thoroughfare used to run off William Street, possibly named after a local worthy.
Rope Walk	A reminder of where ropes were made
Sharpe's Lane	Named after John Sharpe who had a hostelry here in the 1750s. Later called Warp Lane
Union Place	Commemorating the Union of the Crowns. This street now forms part of School Wynd
West Bothwell St.	Changed latterly to William Street
World's End	Area named by weavers of Finnieston who took a pessimistic view of world situation



Anderston
Anderston
 THEN & NOW



Remains of the old Village of Anderston, Main Street c1863
This property stood near where the present 'Buttery' now stands - 652 Argyle St



Modern housing built on the site of the original Anderston village, Argyle Street (January 2004)

Anderston

THEN & NOW



Argyle Street c1920

My, how times have changed!
Views of the same location – Past, Present and Future?



*St. Mark's-Lancefield, Argyle Street,
 c1958*



Argyle Street, March 2006



Argyle Street - Sometime in the future?

Anderston

THEN & NOW

Acknowledgements

I again gratefully acknowledge the assistance and encouragement of the many people who helped with the original publication '*Simply Anderston*' particularly those who shared their reminiscences and helped complete the picture of life in Anderston during their era. Without their valuable assistance any version of local history would be very much incomplete.

Unfortunately, the original copies of some photographs featured in this publication are of impaired quality however, as they are the only representations of specific interests known to exist I thought it reasonable to include them in this history.

I gratefully acknowledge the willing advice and assistance of a number of my friends and colleagues. I am indebted to the following for their support; Linda Crawford and my wife Heather for proof-reading the manuscript; The Mitchell Library, Glasgow University Library (Special Collections), and Glasgow University Archive Service; The Minister and Session of Anderston Kelvingrove Church for permission to use photographs from their library; James Mackenzie for sharing his vast knowledge of local churches; David McLaughlin, Derek Robertson and Mattie Cooper for sharing their reminiscences and photographs; Gordon Laurie (Sanctuary Housing) for permission to use images of proposed housing; Stephen McCann for his assistance in helping prepare the photographs for publication and Mark Temple for sharing his invaluable IT expertise and support.

Finally, I have tried to accurately include a wide-range of topics in this history of Anderston; I trust I will be forgiven for any omissions, or errors that may have inadvertently crept in.

J. N. Cooper

April 2006 (Fully Revised Special Edition - May 2007)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of PHOTOGRAPHS & ILLUSTRATIONS

Mitchell Library: Maps (p9 & 10); Henry Houldsworth (p36); James Watt's House (p68); William Simpson (p6 & 72).

Glasgow University Special Collections, and Archive Services: Stobcross House (p6 & 20); Anderston Brewery (p15 & 60), Verreville & Mill (p37); Clyde St. Mission (51).

Photographs from the David McLaughlin Collection: Finnieston Cross (p6 & 65); Argyle Street (p58), Fire engine (63); Scouts (p76); Horse-drawn tram at Finnieston (79); Bishop St. School (p84 & 100); Skiffle & Gang's all Here (p102); Argyle St. (p112).

Anderston Kelvingrove Church: St. Peter's Parish (p28); Anderston & St. Peter's (p44); St. Mark's-Lancefield (p45); Cranstonhill U.P. (p46)

Photographs from the James Mackenzie Collection: Old Scots Kirk (p28); Anderston Old (p40); Wellington St. Church (p42); Brownfield & St. Mark's (p57).

Sketches by the late Bob McKeown: Robert Napier (p6); John Houldsworth (60); William Quarrier (p6 & 73); Eliza Jane Aikman (p6 & 74).

Jim Scott: (p76) 227th Life Boy Team.

Nancy Deane: Anderston Old (p41); Girls' Guildry (p77); ***Elizabeth McGregor:*** (p77) Girls' Guildry.

Mattie Cooper: St. Pat's Girls School (p55); St. Mark's-Lancefield (p109)

Gordon Laurie (Sanctuary Housing): Proposed housing (p 95, 109 & 113)

Sketches by the author based on originals: John Stobo's House (p11); Map (p14); Stobcross House (p16); Weavers Arms (p32); Wellfield House (p35); Burgh Arms (p59).

Photographs from the J.N. Cooper Collection: All photographs not mentioned above including: Cover and pages 4, 6, 8, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 41, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 101, 104, 108, 109, 112 & 113.

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Annals of Wellington Church	James Mitchell (1872)
Anderston Weavers Society	Annual Report (1879)
Life of Robert Napier	J. Napier (1904)
Rev. J. Kirkwood an Autobiography	(1827-1880)
St. Patrick's R.C. Church Centenary	T. Brady (1950)
Square Mile of Murder	Jack House (1961)
Simply Anderston	John N. Cooper (1972)
God's Amen People	Margaret & Ralph Mair (1978)
Glasgow, Making of a City	Andrew Gibb (1983)
Glasgow's Gain	Derek Dow & Michael Moss (1986)
Villages of Glasgow (<i>Vol. 1</i>)	Aileen Smart (1988)
Anderston as it Was	David Glenday (Glasgow Libraries, 1998)



Main Street c1863



Argyle Street (1961)



Cranstonhill (1970)



Old and new buildings Elliot Street (2006)

Anderston

THEN & NOW



Finnieston:

Minerva St. /Argyle St. (2006)

The lower part of this elegant tenement property once housed the 'National Commercial Bank of Scotland' (later the Royal Bank of Scotland). At one time this splendid property was known as 'Napier Place'.

It seems incredible to recall that similar property on the opposite side of Minerva Street was demolished during the 1960s as a requirement of the redevelopment programme.

The cream painted 'shop front' is the property of Finnieston Evangelical Church.

The former Anderston Savings Bank, Shaftsbury Street /Argyle Street (2006)



Anderston Housing of the future?

Anderston

THEN & NOW



Publications
by
John N. Cooper

Simply Anderston

The Story of a Glasgow Burgh (1972)

All Part of the Story

*A concise history of The Boys' Brigade
in the Anderston District of Glasgow
(Limited Edition - October 2004)*

We Have an Anchor

*Reminiscences of BB membership
from Anderston to Australia
(Limited Edition - October 2005)*

Anderston Then & Now

*A concise history of a Glasgow District
(Limited edition - November 2006)
(Fully Revised Special Edition - May 2007)*

Copies of the above publications have been lodged with the Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

