

### Back to Pasley Family Scotland Roots

Cecil Milam, Laurens County resident and member of the Paisley Family Society, made a second trip to Scotland on July 18<sup>th</sup> along with his first cousin, Martha Brown and her husband Tom. Leaving from Atlanta they journeyed to Glasgow where they met Geni Vogel, commissioner for the society, and Ernest and Muriel Paisley who had also arrived from the USA. Traveling via taxi to Moffat, they were to embark on a 5 day tour of places in Scotland that were important to the Pasley/Paisley family history and attend the AGM of the Society.

The first event was an evening reception and the opening of the Paisley Family Society Museum at Roseburn in Moffat, home of Anthony duGard Pasley. President of the Society. The museum will be open to members of the society who wish to do research and to see the many exhibits, books and articles that have been donated. There were 19 members of the Society from the USA, 5 from New Zealand, 1 from Canada and a good number from the UK. Duncan W. Paisley of Westerlea, chieftain of the society and Lady Val, along with their daughters Sarah, Olivia and Claire welcomed the group and following a time of hors' devours and drinks, Lee Gardinor, Westerlea's piper began the ceremony for the dedication and tour of the museum. On hand was Miss Marion M. Stewart, an archivist in Scotland. A fine mist became a good rain as the group from the USA experienced first hand typical Scottish weather.

The next morning a tour of Gretna Green Museum, where the infamous Priest of Gretna Green (Joseph Paisley) performed marriages at a time when the laws of Britain had changed in regard to the age someone could get married. Scotland's had not, and it

was possible to be married at the age of 16 without parental consent. Gretna became the site of many run-away marriages struck over the anvil in the blacksmith's shop.

Gretna also houses a good collection of carriages.

Foot and Mouth Disease prevented the visit of two former Paisley seats - Mount Annan and Cleughhead (Annan). Instead the tour took a turn to the small town of Brydekirk, established by General Alexander Drummond who was married to Magdalene Paisley. An imposing church stood on the top of a hill, and was funded by Magdalene as was the minister's first year's salary. Lockerbie, famous for its lamb's fairs and site of the tragic plane crash in 1988 was on the route back to Moffat. Lunch was at the Moffat House Hotel.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held that afternoon, following tea, at the Old Well Theatre in Moffat and a photograph was made of the Society.

That evening dinner was held at the Moffat House Hotel. Dinner was followed by a Ceilidh with William Williamson and "Sounds Scottish", a wonderful musical group. With instruments of drum, pipe and accordion the band played traditional Scottish songs, and dancing was enjoyed late into the night.

Saturday found the group in Paisley. First event was an ecumenical service at Paisley Cathedral, conducted by the Rt. Rev. John Mone, Bishop of Paisley, Vice President of the Society. Paisley Abbey, established in 1163, was next on the tour. The beautiful abbey was full of interesting history. Lunch was in the City Hall where the city officials welcomed the Paisleys.

Simultaneous Open Houses were held at Glen Annan House and Roseburn that evening.

Morning worship service was attended at St. Andrew's Church (Church of Scotland) in Moffat. This is the chieftain's local church. Rain was pouring down following the service, and cars were provided for the trip back to local B&Bs. Afternoon was free. Cecil, Tom, Martha and Geni found lunch at the Rumbly Tum and then set out for shopping at the Moffat Woolen Mills. Sheep herding is seen all over the countryside, and the mill enjoys a nice trade with wool clothing.

The last day was a busy one! Through the beautiful Scottish countryside on roads that were too narrow to comfortably meet other vehicles (especially other tour buses), the bus wound itself through the part of the country known as Eskdale. The Telford Memorial and library at Bentpath was the first stop. The library was started by Thomas Telford, known in very early engineering circles, and inspired to build this library by his teacher, Elizabeth Paisley. Telford was a visitor in the Paisley home and was given free rein of their library.

A short distance away the bus again stopped at Westerkirk Bridge built in 1734 by Robert Paisley. Complete with piper, Lee Gardinor, Westerlea unveiled a plaque at the bridge commemorating Paisley's construction of the bridge. The group made their way to the Westerkirk Cemetery, passing the Westerkirk Church. The church is being remodeled as a ecumenical church. A wreath was placed at the memorial stone of James Paisley of Craig. This is said to have been the family of the Laurens County Paslays.

Lunch was at Burnfoot House, the home of Margaret - "Bonny Peggy" - Paisley Malcolm, "The mother of heroes". A Malcolm descendant, John Crouch, prepared a meal including Curried Chicken from a curry mix contained in a cookbook that

Margaret's daughter-in-law wrote. All of the meal was food that would have been eaten at the time Margaret lived. The house is now a B&B, with beautiful fishing and wildlife grounds.

A civic reception was held at Langholm Town Hall where a picture of James Paisley of Craig was displayed.

In the evening the group re-assembled at the Moffat House Hotel for farewell drinks.

Over the course of the 5 days there were some 80+ people involved in the Paisley Family International Gathering. The group from the USA besides the entourage that left Atlanta were the Kennedy/McCollum/Hurt/Robinson family from North Carolina and Virginia, the Maxwells from Illinois, the Fifields from Florida, the Ernest Paisleys from Ohio and Geni Vogel from Iowa.

The Paisley Family Society will again assemble at the Charleston Games on September 15 when they will be honored guests of the games.

Ask Cecil to tell you the story of how the "i" came to be left out of the Paslay name!