Coal Mines around Larkhall, Lanarkshire

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Allanton

Name: Allanton
Owners: 1857-1880 - Austine & Co. 1890-1925- William Barr & Sons.
Location: Ferniegair: **NS 74677 53794**
Year Opened: 1860
Year Closed: 1925
Known Operational Dates:

Located north of Larkhall, opposite Chatelherault Country Park, immediately east of the A72 and west of M74 today. Hamilton Advertiser, 21 August 1858, mentions that the new colliery 'on the farm of Allanton' commenced May 1857. In 1910 there were 813 persons employed, 710 underground, 103 above, mostly from Larkhall area. It produced house, manufacturing and steam coal. For more information see Wilma Bolton's book 'Pit Props and Ponies'. Housing reports for 1910 from Scottish Mining website were as follows:

Allanton Mine - situated at Ferniegair, near Hamilton.
Persons employed underground - 710, above ground - 103, total 813.
The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Allanton - 121
In rented houses, situated at Larkhall and vicinity - 477; Hamilton and vicinity - 215

The mine owners' houses number 84 and are described in 3 groups as follows:

Allanton Terrace:-
10 two-apartment houses and sculleries Rental £10 8s.
10 Four-apartment houses and sculleries Rental £13 13s.
Rent includes electric light.

- Three-storey, stone front, back and gable brick, rough cast. Erected under Building Bye-laws.with damp-proof course; walls hollow built; wood floors, ventilated. Internal surface of walls and ceilings in good condition
- No overcrowding - apartments good size
- No gardens - wash houses and coal cellars provided
- WC inside each house
- Sinks in sculleries with gravitation water
- Scavenging - contents of moveable ashbins removed at owners' expense

Allanton Rows - Double Row:
10 One-apartment houses Rental £5 4s
10 Two-apartment houses Rental £6 10s

- One storey and half, brick built, back to back houses with garret rooms. No damp-proof course. Walls appear to be hollow built, plastered on brick. Floors: some brick, some wood, unventilated. Internal surfaces of walls and ceilings in fair repair.

Top Row:
16 Two-apartment houses: rental £5 4s

Boiler Row:
20 One-apartment houses: rental £3 18s

Deputy Row:
4 Two-apartment houses: rental £6 10s
4 Three-apartment houses: rental £6 10s

- One storey, brick built. Erected about 40 years ago - no damp-proof course. Walls appear to be hollow built, plastered on brick. Floors: some brick, some wood, unventilated. Internal surfaces of walls and ceilings in fair repair
- No overcrowding - apartments fair size, with the exception of the apartments in Top Row, which are somewhat small
- Gardens at Deputy Row only - the Deputy and Boiler Row are provided with wash houses, the others have none
- Coal cellars at Deputy Row only
- Three large privy middens
- There are 4 WC provided at Deputy Row, giving one to every two tenants
- Outside sinks provided at Top Row and one side of Double Row. Drainage from others by surface channels. Gravitation water at 3 pillar wells
- Scavenged fairly regularly, at owners' expense. Deputy Row has portable bins
- Meetings have been held with this firm relative to the unsatisfactory nature of sanitary conveniences, and promise has been made that sculleries with boilers, WC, and coal cellars will be provided
- Recently the Railway company proposed to widen their railway, which will encroach upon these dwellings and this has caused delay

Notes on Top Row: sculleries with sinks and water supply, and a WC for each house have been erected. Two wash houses also erected
Notes on Boiler Row: 20 houses of one-apartment have been converted into two-apartment dwellings with scullery, sink, water supply, coal cellar and WC for each house

The mine at Ferniegair should not confused with Allanton on the A71 between Newmains and Shotts. According to Guthrie Hutton (Lanarkshire's Mining Legacy) Harry Lauder worked at Allanton before leaving to pursue his theatrical career.

Durham Mining Museum website lists a number of fatal accidents at the mine:

Adams, John, 27 Jun 1909, 1.45 pm, aged 26, Machineman. Explosion occurred when electric trailing cable was being lengthened by means of a plug connection.

Aitken, Alexander, 14 Nov 1882, aged 38, Shaftsman. While repairing the cage slides he rested his foot on a bunton which fell away with him.

Curran, Patrick, 12 Apr 1880, (accident: 03 Apr 1880), aged 16, Collier. Explosion of firedamp. Died 12th Apr.

Feely, Robert, 07 Sep 1871, aged 15, Collier. Explosion of firedamp at stoops, caused by a roadman putting his naked light to a fall where gas was.

Gilchrist, John, 23 Jul 1864, aged 64, Labourer. Killed by crane handle.

Hamilton, D., 21 Sep 1934, Machineman, killed by a fall of stone.

Hamilton, James, 14 Sep 1878, aged 62, Collier. Fall of side, at face, while relieving the coal after a shot.

Hunter, George, 27 Jun 1909, 1.45 pm, aged 22, Machineman. Explosion occurred when electric trailing cable was being lengthened by means of a plug connection.

Hutchins, James, 22 Mar 1909, aged 36, Miner. Fall of roof in working place while setting a prop.

Johnstone, William, 27 Jan 1910, aged 14, Miner. Stone fell from roof at coal face.

Kelso, John, 09 Feb 1904, aged 49, Manager. Caught by the cutting bar of a Hurd's coal cutting machine.

McInnis, James, 08 Aug 1872, aged 14, Drawer. Fall of stone.

McKendrick, John, 27 May 1881, aged 48, Fireman. Fall of roof while drawing props at the stooping in main coal.

Miller, James, 13 May 1871, aged 55, Collier. Fall of coal while holing.

Miller, John, 14 Mar 1903, aged 31, Bottomer. He pushed an empty hutch into the open shaft at a mid-working and fell after it to the bottom.

Ross, Alexander, 26 Aug 1876, aged 22, Collier. [Fall of roof] at "stoops".

Tate, Frank, 27 Jun 1909, 1.45 pm, aged 30, Gummer, Explosion occurred when electric trailing cable was being lengthened by means of a plug connection.

Taylor, Alexander, 09 Apr 1899, aged 16, Assistant Ostler. Deceased and another workman descended the shaft on the Sunday to feed the horses, and just as the cage arrived at a mid-working, the Main Coal, where both were to get off, he fell into the shaft to the Splint Coal, a distance of 11 fathoms. He was not the usual attendant on the horses but was acting in the place of another man who had failed to turn out to his work.

Wands, Robert, 08 Jan 1887, Labourer. Crushed by waggons.

Whitelaw, Thomas, 27 Apr 1896, aged 22, Miner. Fall of coal at face of stooping.

Wilson, John, 19 Jul 1870, aged 17, Drawer. His neighbour suddenly tilted up the end of the tub they were drawing.

Wright, John, 27 Oct 1883, (accident: 28 Sep 1883), aged 16, Collier. Fall of roof removing stoops.

Annabella

Name: Annabella, also known as Threepwoodbank - See also Castle
Owners: <1872 - James Ferguson & Co.
Location: **NS 81945 47341**
Year Opened: after 1836, before 1858
Year Closed: abandoned 1884
Known Operational Dates: (1864), abandoned 1884

Mentioned in John Milligan's *'Larkhall Coalfield'* list as being at 'Rosebank/Netherburn' but located at Threepwoodbank, on A72 between Sandyholm and Crossford. (There is an Annabella Road in nearby Netherburn). Railscot website mentions that the mine at 'Annabella or Threepwoodbank' was served by the Coalburn Branch (Caledonian Railway). 'Coal Pit' marked on OS 6-inch map dated 1864 at above location. Listed in Disused Mines and Shafts lists held in NMM and on corresponding map NS 84 NW. According to notes made by a local Crossford man, coal from Annabella was 'hauled by pulley in hutches up to the plateau, whence it was conveyed by railway to the main Auchenheath branch line'. The 'steep slope up which the coal was carried on hutches drawn by a wire rope from pit-head to rail-head went by the name of 'The Pulley Brae''

National Records Scotland holds a plan, dated July 1858, for a 'House built by James Ferguson near Annabella Pit'. There seem to have been two cottages built and they are shown on subsequent OS maps as 'Annabella Cottages'. James Ferguson's niece, to whom he left a substantial bequest in his will, was called Annabella (born 1836) and it seems likely that Ferguson named it after his niece.

Ashgill (1)

Name: Ashgill (1)
Owners: Merry & Cunningham (1869), Andrew Spencer & Co (1871-1875), Brand & Co (1884, 1888).
Location: **NS 79315 49565**
Year Opened: before 1869
Year Closed: 1896
Known Operational Dates: 1869-1888

Located just southeast of Ashgill village, immediately north of Over Dalserf Cottages, adjacent to the disused railway line. Note later colliery, also called Ashgill, annotated Ashgill (2) below. Several fatal accidents were noted in the Durham Mining Museum website:

Findlayson, John, 30 Jun 1874, aged 43, Fireman. Explosion of firedamp which ignited while they were putting in brattice with naked lights instead of safety lamps.

Forrest, Andrew, 30 Jun 1874, aged 22, Engineman, Explosion of firedamp which ignited while they were putting in brattice with naked lights instead of safety lamps.

Gardner, John, 18 Sep 1873, aged 35, Roadsman. He and another man had gone on the cage at the surface to descend the pit. The engineman took the cage up instead of down, and Gardner getting alarmed jumped out and fell to the ground; the other man stayed on the cage and escaped unhurt.

McLean, John, 30 Dec 1871, aged 14, Assistant Pitheadman. Ran tub into pit [while] gates off [for] repairing.

Quinn, James, 19 Jan 1869, Sinker. Fell out of sinking kettle while ascending shaft.

Rae, Robert, 15 Feb 1876, aged 54, Collier. [Fall of coal] at "stoops". He incautiously took away coal which was intended to be left.

Smith, William, 24 Dec 1888. In shafts, falling from part way down. Fell off cage while ascending.

Unknown, -, 23 Dec 1884, Fireman. Suffocated by the fumes of an underground fire while making the morning inspection of the workings.

Ashgill (2)

Name: Ashgill (2)
Owners: 1945 - Wilsons & Clyde Coal Co. 1947 - NCB
Location: **NS 79265 49565**
Year Opened: 1945
Year Closed: 1951
Known Operational Dates:

Located in Ashgill, immediately east of Netherburn Road and north of Over Dalserf cottages. In 1948 the output was 60 tons per day, with 59 employees. Two shafts, each 38m deep, producing house coal. No washery, baths or canteen and no medical services. Abandoned 1951 (Scottish Collieries, Oglethorpe). Note: there was another, earlier colliery called Ashgill, annotated Ashgill (1), above. Oglethorpe gives location of the Ashgill (2) mine as NS 7797 4990 but above location looks more likely.

Ashgillhead

Name: Ashgillhead
Owners:
Location: **NS 78617 50106**
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates: (1896)

Located on the south side of Ashgillhead Road, where Dalserf Primary School is today. 1896 OS 6-inch map shows colliery on west side of railway spur to nearby Caledonian railway line. Ashgillhead Rows housing, which seems to have been built on the site of earlier Hills colliery (qv), was on east side of railway. Scottish Mining website describes Ashgillhead Rows in 1910.

Ashgillhead Row
32 one-apartment houses, rental £41 17s 6d

- One storey, brick built - erected about 40 years ago - no damp-proof course - walls mostly hollow built - some floors wood, some brick - internal surface of walls and ceilings crumbling and patched - walls damp
- Apartments fair size
- Garden ground available but not cultivated - wash-houses provided - no coal cellars

- 2 open privy middens in front of houses
- No slop sinks - drainage by surface channels
- Gravitation water supply from pillar wells
- Scavenged fairly regularly at owners' expense

Action has been taken with regard to insufficient privy accommodation, but nothing has as yet been done.

Auldton

Name: Auldton
Owners: Andrew Spencer (1868-1874), Brand & Co. (1880-1900)
Location: **Ashgill NS 79078 50043**
Year Opened: 1868
Year Closed: 1914
Known Operational Dates

Located to the north of Ashgillhead Road and east of Millburn Road, close to where Clyde View is today. Produced house, manufacturing & steam coal. Employed 97 people in 1896, 81 below and 16 above ground. A newspaper advert in November 1868 indicated that Andrew Spencer 'has commenced to sell his coal at the pit, and hopes to merit a share of public support'. Price for the 'best Ell coal' was 5 shillings a ton and for 'upper or Four Foot coal 4 shillings and 2 pence per ton'.

Scottish Mining Museum website notes the following information on housing for Auldton workers in 1910:

Auldton Mine - situated near Netherburn
Persons employed underground 144, above ground 42, total 186
The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Dunlop Place 47, Ashgill 25
In rented houses, situated at Dalserf, Ayr Road, Rosebank, Larkhall and Netherburn 109
In houses owned by employees 5

Note there was another Auldton mine at Lesmahagow, owned by William Barr & Sons.

Avonbank/Avonbraes

Name: Avonbank/Avonbraes
Owners: Duke of Hamilton (Ord Adams) - 1844-1855. NCB - 1949-1965
Location: NS **73785 52866**
Year Opened: 1824-1857, then 1949-1965 under NCB
Year Closed: 1965
Known Operational Dates: 1951, 1958-59

Situated on the east bank of the River Avon, northeast of Quarter village. Avonbank was the early name for this pit, owned by the Duke of Hamilton, who normally leased mines on his land to coalmasters, in this case apparently Ord Adams (no further information). Avonbank operated from 1824-1857.

A later mine called Avonbraes was sunk at the same location under NCB ownership. In 1951 it had 48 miners, in 1958 28 miners and in 1959 37 miners. At the early mine coal was shipped by a mineral railway down the Avon gorge. Under NCB management coal was transferred in the opposite direction across a bridge over the Avon to Quarter for onward shipment. Average workforce of 32 under NCB. Avonbraes was the last of the Larkhall area pits to be closed in 1965 and, with Beaton's Lodge and Knowetop, was one of the last pits in Scotland to use pit ponies underground (Guthrie Hutton).

An explosion of 16 March 1841 at Avonbank left 11 dead.

Quarter 16th March 1841. On Tuesday last, the town of Hamilton and neighbourhood were thrown into great consternation on hearing of an extensive explosion of fire damp in the coal mine near Quarter, accompanied with the loss of 11 lives. It appears that about 8 o'clock that morning (the breakfast hour) there were six men and a boy in the mine, all of whom, it was too plain, must have perished instantly by the explosion. On the alarm being given, the overseer of the mine not being at hand, seven men who were on the outside of the mouth of the mine spontaneously, and under the impulse of humanity, and vainly hoping to aid their fellow creatures in the midst of this dreadful calamity, rushed thoughtlessly into the pestiferous atmosphere of the newly exploded mine; three of whom were dragged out alive and four dead, by a third party who, becoming alarmed for their safety, went to their assistance. Unceasing exertions were made to relieve the mine of the noxious vapour, but it was not till Wednesday morning that the bodies of the seven first sufferers were recovered, some of whom were shockingly mangled by the explosion, in a way that evidently showed that the death of the whole must have been instantaneous. Of the 11 sufferers, nine were married, who have left widows and families behind them to deplore their loss. The noble proprietor of the mine, the Duke of Hamilton, who is now at the Palace, was in the greatest distress on obtaining intelligence of the sad event, and immediately himself sent pecuniary assistance to the families of sufferers, and has caused every exertion to be made on their behalf, and arrangements to be made, at his own expense, as to their funerals and otherwise, suitable to the melancholy occasion.

The terrible accident, it appears, was in no degree owing to the negligence or want of skill of his Grace's overseers or engineers. The mine, where the explosion occurred, was completely ventilated, being open at both ends to the day, with a current of air constantly passing through it; and, on the morning when the accident occurred, had been carefully examined by two oversmen, and reported to be free of danger. It appears that the carbonated hydrogen had been instantly generated from certain fissures connected with a rise in the metals, the sad effects of which no human foresight could prevent.

For the satisfaction of those at a distance, who may have friends employed at the Quarter Coal works, we subjoin a list of the sufferers. The seven first were in the mine at the time of the explosion - the remaining four went in to their rescue: - **William Brounlie** and his son, a boy of 10 years of age; **James Duffie**; **John Duffie**; **Hugh McLean**; **John Smith**; **William Wotherspoon**; **James Fleming**; **George Pate**; **James Fisher**; **James Fyfe.**

By this most painful catastrophe about 60 individuals have been deprived of their bread winners, and it is hoped that their bereavement and consequent destitution will not be overlooked by the benevolent. [*Glasgow Herald March 19 1841*].

See also Wilma Bolton's book *'Black Faces and Tackety Boots'* for more information.

Avondale No 2

Name: Avondale No 2
Owners: 1895-1896 - Avondale Coal Co. 1900 - James Nimmo & Co
Location: Larkhall NS **76604 48650**
Year Opened: 1895
Year Closed: 1900
Known Operational Dates:

Between Birkenshaw and Canderside Toll, on the east bank of the Avon. Owned in 1896 by Avondale Coal Co, Drumshangie, Airdrie. In 1896 had 77 workers, 66 underground and 11 surface. The manager was W Stevenson and the under-manager Joseph Strang.

15 December 1900. Larkhall - Serious Pit Accident - On Saturday forenoon a serious accident occurred at Avondale Colliery, near Larkhall, belonging to James Nimmo & Co, whereby a miner named Wm Cairns, residing at Shawsburn, Larkhall, was seriously injured. He had prepared a charge of gelatine, when it prematurely went off and Cairns received a compound fracture of the thigh and injury to his eyesight. Dr Morrison was in attendance and the injured man was removed to the infirmary. [*Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser* 22 December 1900]

Bankhead

Name: Bankhead
Owners:
Location: Bankhead, near Stonehouse **NS 73758 45764**
Year Opened:
Year Closed: 1926
Known Operational Dates:

Southwest of Stonehouse on north bank of River Avon, just south of Bankhead farm. See disused shafts list and maps NS74NW. Noted that shaft was abandoned in 1926. There appears also to have been a Bankhead Lime works in the same area. Close to Cotcastle, qv. No further information.

Beaton's Lodge

Name: Beaton's Lodge
Owners: Currie Brothers, NCB
Location: Larkhall **NS 75168 51988**
Year Opened: 1940
Year Closed: 1960
Known Operational Dates

Situated at Fairholm, immediately north of Fairholm bridge over the river Avon. In 1949 output was 20 tons a day, with 23 employees producing house coal for the Curries' coal merchant business in Carluke. Currie brothers also owned Gillfoot colliery, Braidwood, Carluke parish. No washer, canteen or medical facilities. Transferred to NCB in 1949 and thereafter operated by a workforce of average 15 miners until closure in 1960 (*Scottish Collieries*, Oglethorpe).

Bentrigg

Name: Bentrigg
Owners: Larkhall Coal Co. (1874-1900), United Collieries (1905-1910), H M McNeill-Hamilton (1910-1920)
Location: Netherburn **NS 80015 47390**
Year Opened: 1869
Year Closed: 1922
Known Operational Dates: 1910

Located at the south end of Netherburn immediately east of Draffan Road, close to Netherburn colliery (qv) and next to today's Bent View Nursery. It employed only six men in 1910, but 138 men in 1918, 100 underground and 38 above, presumably as a consequence of WW1 requirements for coal. Housing in 1910 was as follows:

Bentrigg Mine - situated at Netherburn
Persons employed underground 3, above ground 3, total 6
There are no houses owned by the mine owners' in connection with this mine, and the employees all reside in in rented houses in Netherburn, Larkhall, Blackwood etc.

Birkenshaw

Name: Birkenshaw
Owners: James Bennie - before 1856. Allen (or Alan) Craig & Sons - 1866-1867. Birkenshaw Coal Co - 1890-1896. Larkhall Fireclay Co - 1902-1905
Location: Larkhall**. NS 76616 48732**
Year Opened: 1854

Year Closed: 1905 (1944)
Known Operational Dates: Some mining at Birkenshaw prior to 1854

'*Statistical Account of Scotland*', 1845, mentions coal mining in the Birkenshaw area. Situated on the banks of the River Avon, midway between Birkenshaw and Canderside toll. In 1896 there were 2 underground and 2 surface workers. Colliery acquired by Larkhall Fireclay Co in 1902. There was also a Birkenshaw colliery in Yorkshire. Hamilton Advertiser, 11 November 1944, refers to impending closure of 'Birkenshaw Mine, of which much promise was given on its opening a few years ago, is to close within a month. The 40 men employed are to be transferred to a neighbouring colliery.' Not know if this is the same location as the earlier mine.

Birkrigg 1-3

Name: Birkrigg 1-3
Owners: Birkenshaw Coal Co - 1893. Darngavil Coal Co - 1896, 1923
Location: Shawsburn, Larkhall Birkrigg No 1: **NS 77860 49782** Birkrigg No 2**: NS 77805 49536** Birkrigg No 3: **NS 78030 49530**
Year Opened: 1865
Year Closed: Individual mines may have closed at different times. List of Abandoned Shafts, held in SMM suggests Birkrigg abandoned March 1932.
Known Operational Dates

The mine consisted of three shafts, immediately east of the A71 road, just south of Shawsburn. There were 144 employees in 1914, 123 underground, 21 above; 183 employees in 1924, 158 underground, 25 above; 42 workers in 1930, 33 underground and 9 above. One of the mines was called Lady Martha. In 1910 housing was as follows, according to Scottish Mining website:

Birkrigg Mine - situated near Shawsburn
Persons employed underground 120, above ground 20, total 140

The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Shawsburn 25, Swinhill 16, Tinto View 12
In rented houses, situated at Larkhall 56, Birkenshaw 14, Stonehouse 10
In houses owned by employees at Larkhall 3, Swinhill 1, Birkenshaw 1

On 11 September 1920 the Hamilton Advertiser reported on a fatal accident at Birkrigg:

Larkhall – Fatal Pit Accident – On Wednesday morning, Alexander Flannigan (30), machineman residing at 84 Avon Street, Larkhall, accidentally lost his life in Birkrigg Colliery, Larkhall, belonging to the Darngavil Coal Company, Ltd. He was working in the Drumgray section when a large stone of considerable weight came away from the roof, completely enveloping the unfortunate workman and causing instantaneous death. Some considerable time elapsed before the body could be removed

owing to the serious nature of the fall. Deceased leaves a widow and six children. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 11 September 1920]

Blair

Name: Blair also Blair Braes (see also Craignethan)
Owners: Craignethan Gas Coal Co
Location: Near Crossford **NS 82004 46048**
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates: 1877, 1883, probably as early as late 18th century

Located on east bank of River Nethan, just east of today's Corramill nursery, on the road from Crossford to Tillietudlem. 1897 OS 6-inch map shows 'old shaft' at this location. Close to Craignethan mine and owned by same company and same manager (Thomas Watson jun.), but smaller. In 1883 has only 7 employees, 6 underground and one surface. Appears to have closed at same time as Craignethan. 'Annals of the Parish of Lesmahagow' Chapter XV, p 244, indicates that coal was 'wrought' at Blair as early as 1793.

An accident was reported in 1877:

1877, September 12. Blair Colliery, Lesmahagow Parish, owned by Craignethan Gas Coal Company: Robert Fyfe, Collier, age 20; Andrew Rankine, Collier, age 48. Falls of roof at coal face.

Bog

Name: Bog
Owners: John Watson & Son - 1863-1870. Hamilton, McCulloch & Co - 1871-1925
Location: Larkhall **NS 76110 52848**
Year Opened: 1863
Year Closed: 1928
Known Operational Dates

Located south of A72 Lanark Road, west of Duke Street and east of where Larkhall Karting Club is located today. Bog was one of the larger mines in the area. In 1914 it had 437 employees, 353 underground, 84 above ground. In 1924 it had 517 employees, 395 underground, 122 above. Hamilton McCulloch also operated Home Farm Colliery (qv). Housing conditions in 1910 from Scottish Mining website:

Hamilton M'Culloch & Co Ltd

Bog Mine - situated near Larkhall
Persons employed underground 230, above ground 70, total 300

The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Bog - 21, Old pit - 3
In rented houses, situated at Larkhall - 276

The mine owners' houses situated at **Bog** are described as follows:-
23 two-apartment houses rental £7 7s 4d

- One storey, brick built - erected about 26 years ago - no damp-proof course - not strapped or lathed - wood floors, mostly ventilated - internal surfaces of walls and ceilings in fair condition
- No overcrowding - apartments fair size
- No gardens - 6 houses have wash-houses, others none - no coal cellars
- One privy to every 4 houses, erected at request of local authority 3 years ago - doors have locks
- No sinks - drainage by brick surface channels in front of houses
- Gravitation water from pillar wells
- Scavenged fairly regularly at owners' expense

Subsoil drains were recently provided to improve condition of walls

Bog Colliery apparently had a brass band. See Hamilton Advertiser article of 31 Aug 1873 for details of Bog miners' excursion to Ayrshire. Hamilton Herald of 5 Jan 1915 reports non-fatal accident at Bog colliery. The Scotsman of 11 Feb 1916 reports fatal accident at Bog Colliery:

Fatal Pit Accident at Larkhall - Early yesterday morning Robert Russell, miner, 61 London Street, Larkhall, and his son, Thomas, residing at High Pleasance, Larkhall, were the victims of a serious accident in the ell coal seam, Bog colliery, Larkhall. They were about to start work when a fall from the roof took place, completely enveloping both men. Help was speedily at hand, and they were rescued. The father lived only a short time, while the son had a fracture to the skull and was removed to the infirmary in a serious condition. Two other workmen had a narrow escape. The Russell family sustained a loss at the battle of Loos, their third son, Alexander, being killed in action. [Scotsman, 11 February 1916]

Durham Mining Museum (DMM) website lists a number of other fatal accidents at the mine:

Barns, Charles, 21 Mar 1884, Collier. Fall of roof at face.

Barr, William, 20 Feb 1874, aged 62, Labourer. Jammed by wagons at screens.

Bulloch, Thomas, 31 Oct 1884, aged 14, Waggon Shifter. Jammed between waggon and a ladder at screens.

Davidson, William, 26 Mar 1890, 9.30 pm., aged 15, Coal Cleaner. Caught by engine flywheel.

Davis, John, 26 Nov 1885, aged 18, Collier. Fall of roof at face; stoop and room.

Duncan, John, 11 Mar 1891, 2 pm., aged 36, Collier. Fall of stone.

Dungavil, Thomas, 19 Feb 1910, aged 48, Haulageman. Fell out of bogie in which he was riding on haulage road and was crushed by full race.

Frame, Andrew, 16 Feb 1894, 8.20 p.m., aged 17, Pony Driver. Crushed by tubs.

Gardiner, Daniel, 21 Nov 1882, aged 50, Collier. Fell down the pit. The rope slipped off the drum and the cage fell 30 feet.

Laird, Charles, 25 Jun 1894, 9.30 a.p.m., aged 27, Miner. Fall of stone.

Maxwell, Alexander, 12 Feb 1896, aged 31, Roadsman. Fall of roof stone while drawing wood from stooping place. The roof came away suddenly from an unseen lype which deceased had just relieved.

Moffatt, William, 18 Nov 1884, aged 26, Collier. Fall of roof at face, while starting a "lift" at stoops.

Muir, George, 26 May 1906, aged 23, Miner. Overcome by the fumes of an underground fire.

Nesbit, Robert, 21 Nov 1882, aged 20, Collier, Fell down the pit. The rope slipped off the drum and the cage fell 30 feet.

O'Donald, John, 13 Jul 1889, aged 39, Shaft Repairer. Fell down shaft.

Ross, David, 21 May 1891, 9 p.m., aged 63, Screenman. Fell from coal cleaner.

Stirling, William, 26 May 1906, aged 42, Miner. Overcome by the fumes of an underground fire.

Wood, David, 16 Feb 1895, 9.30p.m., aged 15, Driver, Run over by hutch.

Broomelton

Name: Broomelton
Owners: (William Dixon)
Location: **Larkhall NS 74327 49938**
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates: 1858

Located on Broomelton Road, southwest of Larkhall and just northwest of Plotcock. 1913 Geological Survey of Scotland map, Lanarkshire Sheet XVIII S.W. held by the National Mining Museum, shows ‘No 1 Broomelton 1858’ with a list of coal seams. May have been owned by William Dixon. Further information may be available from University of Glasgow Special Collections ref GB 247 MS Gen 533/22-33.

Broomfield

Name: Broomfield – see Canderrigg
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Broomhill

Name: Broomhill
Owners: 1874 - Reid Bros. 1877 - D McNaughton & Co. 1890 - John Wilson. 1895-1900 - Broomhill Coal Co. 1905-1908 - Hugh Train. 1910 - Raploch Coal Co.
Location: Larkhall. **NS 76408 50792**
Year Opened: before 1874
Year Closed: 1910
Known Operational Dates:

Information from www.nmrs.org.uk Northern Mine Research Society. The mine was located near the corner of John Street and Machan Road, Larkhall. OS 6-inch map dated 1898 shows 'Colliery' at this location.

Scottish Mining website provides the following information from 1910:

Raploch Coal Company. *Broomhill Mine* - situated in Larkhall
Persons employed underground 31, above ground 8, total 39.

Mine owners have no houses in connection with the above, and the employees reside in rented houses in Larkhall.

11 June 1877. Boy Killed in Mine – A boy named George Hamilton, son of James Hamilton, engineer at Machan, Dalserf, was on Monday forenoon killed in a pit at Broomhill Colliery, belonging to D McNaughton & Co. He was a drawer, and while at the face, a large stone, weighing about 10 cwt., fell upon him, depriving him instantaneously of life. [*Hamilton Advertiser* June 16 1877]

Buffy

Name: Buffy – see Skellyton
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Canderrigg/Broomfield/Canderside

Name: Canderrigg/Broomfield/Canderside
Owners: (Canderside - Scott & Neish, 1874; Thomas Barrowman, 1875), James Nimmo & Co. <1947. NCB post-1947
Locations: Canderrigg 2&3 – **NS 76856 47250;**

Broomfield (Canderrigg 4&5) - **NS 78770 46968**; **NS 78785 47005;** Canderrigg 6 – **NS 77669 47005**; Canderrigg 7 **– NS 77502 46700**; Canderside 1-4 **NS 76825 47285.**
Year Opened: Broomfield 1902. Canderside 1868. Canderrigg 1938
Year Closed: Broomfield 1954. Canderside 1964. Canderrigg 1964
Known Operational Dates: Some operations in 1850s

Cluster of about 11 pits around Canderside Toll, to the south of Larkhall and east of Stonehouse, all working the same seams. See Guthrie Hutton for photographs of the mines. Canderrigg 4 & 5 was known as Broomfield after nearby Broomfield farm. All owned by James Nimmo & Co before nationalisation. Mining at Canderside mentioned in the Statistical Account of Scotland, 1845, so operational dates may be earlier than above mentioned. The Lanarkshire Miners (p315) indicates Canderside was open in 1874 and owned by Scott & Neish, then Thomas Barrowman, before James Nimmo & Co. Mr John Milligan's paper on Larkhall Coalfield also mentions Canderside being called 'Maid of the Glen'. It is also possible that other nicknames for Canderside collieries were 'Spion Kop' and 'Garibaldi'. See separate items on these two names. The Scottish Mining website gives the following information on employees and housing conditions in 1910.

Canderrigg Mine - situated near Stonehouse
Persons employed underground 425, above ground 85, total 510

The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Canderrigg Terrace - 11, Canderside - 1
In rented houses, situated at Stonehouse - 115, Larkhall - 21, Crossford, Netherburn and Marlage - 14, Blackwood, Draffan, Kirkmuirhill and Bridgend - 36
In houses owned by employees at Stonehouse - 8, Larkhall - 2, Blackwood &c. - 5, Netherburn &c. - 3

The mine owners' houses situated at **Canderdykehead** are described as follows:-
4 two-apartment houses, rental £11 1s 8d
8 three-apartment houses, rental £12 7s

- Two storey, brick built - erected under Building Bye-laws - damp-proof course - walls hollow built - wood floors, ventilated - internal surface of walls and ceilings in good condition
- No overcrowding - apartments good size
- No gardens - wash-houses and coal cellars provided
- WC inside each house
- Sinks inside, with gravitation water
- Drainage treated in small private installation

Scavenged regularly at owners' expense

At Broomfield (Canderrigg 4&5) output in 1948, post-nationalisation, was 190 tons per day, 51300 tons per year, from 267 employees. There was a canteen (pieces only) and no baths or medical services. At Canderside output in 1948 was 300 tons a day, 81000 tons per annum from 311 employees. There were no baths, canteen or medical services. Electricity for the pit was generated at Canderrigg 4 and all output was screened and all washing of dross was done at Canderrigg 4. A mineral railway was laid to connect Broomfield to the Caledonian Railway between Canderside Toll and Birkenshaw (Guthrie Hutton).

The Durham Mining Museum (DMM) website gives output from the Canderrigg/Canderside mines as 135000 tons of Household and Steam coal in 1947. In 1954 there were a total of 430 workers employed at Canderrigg 4&5, 330 below and 100 surface. DMM lists four deaths at the collieries:

1909. On 2 September James Plenderleith, age 58, was killed by a fall of stone.

1909. On 12 October Albert Cameron, age 30, was killed by a roof fall.

1910. On 8 February John Kane was killed by a fall of stone.

1936. On 6 November A Barnes was crushed by a coal hutch.

Canderside

Name: Canderside – see Canderrigg
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Castle

Name: Castle. See also Annabella
Owners: <1872 James Ferguson & Co.
Location: Crossford NS 81250 46510
Year Opened:
Year Closed: (1884)
Known Operational Dates:

Located just west of Craignethan castle, immediately north of the Craignethan burn, which flows into the River Nethan west of Crossford. Listed in the Description of Disused Mines and Shafts held in the mining museum with the comments ‘’No trace of shaft’. Possible remains of bing on 1898 OS 6-inch map but no mention of a mine on older maps. No further information.

Clyde Grove

Name: Clyde Grove
Owners:
Location: **Crossford Shaft 1 NS 82658 47154** **Shaft 2 NS 82661 47112**
Year Opened: probably after 1860
Year Closed: 1881

Known Operational Dates: 1881. Probably abandoned 1881

Located at junction of rivers Nethan and Clyde at Crossford. Two shafts noted on map of Scottish Area Shaft Register NS 84 NW. A book on the region, 'The Crossford-Hazelbank District', a survey of seventy years from 1880 to 1945 by Charles F Hoy, mentions that 'in the village itself there was at one time a pit which was probably abandoned in the early 'eighties. It was situated at Clyde Grove in the midst of what is now cultivated land. It was a very wet pit and it was necessary to keep a pump engine in action night and day to render it workable. At the end of the shift the workers were in a pretty sodden state and those who lived in the direction of Carluke simply waded waist-deep across the Clyde to save themselves the circuitous journey by the Crossford bridge'. The 1864 map shows a path going past the mine to a ford across the Clyde, called 'Smugglers' Ford' which is presumably the means by which the miners crossed the river. Another paper, written by a local man, indicates the pit was working in 1881. In 1861 it appears to have been farming land.

Cornsilloch

Name: Cornsilloch
Owners: N Cochrane & Co - 1868-1875; Archibald Russell Ltd - 1905-1910: Darngavil Coal Co - 1915-1930
Location: Dalserf, Larkhall Cornsilloch 1 – **NS 78517 50769** Cornsilloch 2 – **NS 78496 50778** Cornsilloch 3 – **NS 78678 50694**
Year Opened: 1868
Year Closed: 1945
Known Operational Dates:

Three shafts (Cornsilloch 1, 2 & 3) located on the south side of the A71 between Larkhall and Garrion Bridge, close to Clydeview cottages. There were 190 workers in 1874. In 1918 there were 260 workers, 205 underground and 55 surface. Manager in 1918 was Alexander Hill, under-managers John Wyper (Cornsilloch 1), Robert Gilmour (Cornsilloch 2), Richard Tait (Cornsilloch 3).

Miners' housing in 1910, according to Scottish Mining website:

Cornsilloch Mine - situated at Dalserf Station:-
Persons employed underground 350, above ground 69, total 419
The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Ayr Road, Millburn and Cornsilloch Rows - 114
In rented houses, situated at Larkhall, Ashgill, Shawsburn, and Overtown - 295
In houses owned by employees at Larkhall - 10.

Durham Mining Museum website lists the following fatal accidents at Cornsilloch:

Cairnduff, Thomas, 01 Mar 1869, aged 25, Collier. Explosion of firedamp.

Campbell, Archibald, 09 Dec 1901, aged 27, Miner. On entering their working place 2¼ hours after it had been inspected by the fireman, their naked lights ignited firedamp. Another miner was injured.

Cummings, James, 16 Sep 1896, aged 27, Miner. Ignited firedamp on longwall road in the Virtuewell seam, where they were redding a fall and using open lights.

Farrell, Richard, 05 Sep 1900, aged 20, Chain Runner. Deceased was employed as chain-runner at an inside haulage and had finished his shift and was on his way to the pit bottom. A rake of hutches drawn by engine power overtook him, and he got on to it and was crushed between the top of a water chest, which was on the rake, and the timber supporting the roof.

Galloway, James, 31 Mar 1884, aged 14, Screen boy. Jammed between the buffers of two waggons.

Halley, Walter, 16 Oct 1877, aged 40, Fireman. Explosion of firedamp. Came unexpectedly on gas in doing his rounds. He had a naked light.

Kerr, Colin, 05 Mar 1898, aged 27, Miner. Deceased was breaking away a place on the rise side of a horse road. While wedging down a corner, left by the first breaking of coal, a large triangular stone suddenly fell upon him, killing him instantly.

Kirkwood, Robert, 14 Mar 1871, aged 30, Collier. Fall of roof at face.

Lindsay, James, 16 Jul 1902, aged 56, Miner. Fall of roof at working face.

Livingstone, Robert, 09 Dec 1901, aged 30, Miner. On entering their working place 2¼ hours after it had been inspected by the fireman, their naked lights ignited firedamp. Another miner was injured.

Mathie, James, 29 Jun 1882, aged 27, Collier, He went into another man's place for tools. The fireman had stopped the man who worked in it until he had cleared out the gas.

McClusky, Edward, 01 Nov 1889, aged 34, Miner. Fall of stone.

McLean, Robert, 10 Dec 1901, aged 45, Repairer. Fall of roof on horse road while redding a previous fall.

McTaggart, Patrick, 24 Dec 1886, aged 50, Collier. Fall of side. At face.

Ninnes, James, 16 Dec 1896, aged 55, Miner. Deceased and another miner lighted their shots in adjacent places at the same time. The other miner's shot exploded and deceased not knowing it had been lighted thought it was his shot, and returned to his place, and was killed by his shot exploding.

Penman, Andrew, 06 Feb 1871, aged 60, Collier. Fall of cage while ascending shaft.

Rae, William W., 16 Sep 1896, aged 25, Miner. Ignited firedamp on longwall road in the Virtuewell seam, where they were redding a fall and using open lights.

Scott, Allan, 13 Oct 1909, (accident: 11 Jun 1909), aged 35, Miner. He is said to have strained and ruptured himself while pushing a hutch, and he died on 13th October.

Scottish Monumental Inscriptions lists the following item on Cornsilloch from December 1896:

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF CORNSILLOCH COLLIERY. 1896
On Monday a man named John Thomson, (48) residing at Ashgillhead, met with an accident at No. 3 Pit Cornsilloch Colliery. He had been engaged in his work, when a piece pf coal, weighing about a

cwt, fell from the face and striking him on the right leg, broke it a little below the knee. He was at once conveyed home and attended to by Dr Rogerson.
On Tuesday, a young man names James Millar, (22) residing at Raploch Street, got his left leg fractured in No. 2 Cornsilloch Colliery. He was engaged as a drawer, and it was while keeping some hutches on a tow rope in position at the head of a "cousie" that he met with the accident, the rail springing out and striking his leg with such force as to break it. He was conveyed to his home and attended to by Dr, Rogerson.

On Wednesday, at No. 1 Pit also Cornsilloch Colliery—another accident occurred whereby a miner names James Ninnes, 52 years of age, residing at Church Street Larkhall, lost his life. Ninnes who worked at the Splint coal seam had been preparing a shot, while another man working near him had one ready at the same time. After setting fire to the shots, both retired some distance away. One was heard to go off, and Ninnes, concluding that it was his one, went to see how successful it had been. The explosion, however had been in the other man's and Ninnes' own going off while he was going into the place, he got the full force of the shot about the head and chest. He was found lying half buried among the coal brought down and when extricated was quite dead. Dr Rogerson, who examined the body afterwards, found that the skull had been fractured, while there were also severe bruises about the chest, and was of the opinion that death must have been instantaneous. The deceased, who was a native of Cornwall was a most respectable man. He leaves a widow and two grown up daughters to mourn his untimely end. Ref Lanarkshire, 18/12/1896

Cotcastle

Name: Cotcastle (also Cot Castle)
Owners: A H Sneddon
Location: Stonehouse NS 74028 45666
Year Opened: (1895)
Year Closed: (1895)
Known Operational Dates:

Located at bend in River Avon at southwest end of Stonehouse, close to remains of Cot Castle. Mine and owner identified as coal mine on NMRS website but no further information. Old OS maps show ironstone mines in area but not coal.

Craignethan

Name: Craignethan (see also Blair)
Owners: 1854-1865 - James Ferguson. 1875-1884 - Craignethan Gas Coal Co.
Location: Craignethan **NS 81766 46586 (No 47)** **NS 81785 46529 (No 37)**

NS 81380 46952 (No 38) **See also below.**
Year Opened: 1854 (possibly earlier?)
Year Closed: 1884
Known Operational Dates: 1860,1883, 1884

1864 6-inch OS map shows two locations on either side of the River Nethan, linked by a bridge, immediately northeast of Craignethan Castle. These are shown as No 37 and 47 on the map of Disused Mines and Shafts held in the mining museum. The shaft at **NS 81750 46570** (No 47), on the north (left) is probably the main Craignethan mine. Recent videos taken locally show the mine entrance not as a vertical shaft but a sloping drift mine under the Nethan Crags. A description of Craignethan in the in the 1875 List of Coal Mines, remarks that the Craignethan 'Downcast is a mine dipping 1 in 8'. Coal extracted from the mine seems then to be transported across the river to the right (south) bank where the mine buildings (boilers, engine house, chimney and another, smaller 'Coal pit' (no 37) were located. From there, a 'Tram Road' for onward transportation of the coal led east and north in the direction of Crossford. Presumably this was easier than trying to get it to the top of the extremely steep Nethan Crags. The first owner, James Ferguson of Auchenheath House, also owned collieries in the Auchenheath area. Ferguson died in 1872, which is probably why the ownership of the mine changed in the mid-1870s. In 1880, which seems to have been the peak year of production, Craignethan had 185 workers, 145 underground and 40 surface. The mine produced Lesmahagow cannel coal, which was highly sought after for the production of coal gas. The manager in 1883 and 1884 was Thomas Watson Jr, who was also the manager of the smaller Blair colliery nearby (qv). The list of mines held in the mining museum indicates that Craignethan and Blair were both abandoned in 1884.

Death reported from Scottish Mining website:

1881, September 17. Craignethan, Lesmahagow, Craignethan Gas Coal Co. Wm. Steel, Chain runner, age 14. Run over by tubs on an engine plane.

Crookedstone

Name: Crookedstone
Owners:
Location: **Larkhall NS 73022 50155**
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Located just northeast of Crookedstone farm, close to the ruins of Darngaber castle. Marked 'Crookedstone Mine' on map of disused mines and shafts NS 75SW but possibly a limestone or Ironstone mine. No dates. Not marked on 19th century OS maps.

Crossgates

Name: Crossgates – see Raploch No 2
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Dawn

Name: Dawn
Owners: R Moffat & Sons, Cleland.
Location: Netherburn NS 80181 47725 (Dawn 1) **NS 80319 47969 (Dawn 2**)
Year Opened: 1943
Year Closed: 1945
Known Operational Dates:

Located at Netherburn, to the east of the Netherburn-Ashgill road and just north of Bentrigg colliery. Dawn 1 approximately where Station Gate, Netherburn is located today, Dawn 2 where Netherburn primary school is today. Listed in register of 'Disused Mines and Shafts' and noted on corresponding map NS 84NW. The register says the mines were abandoned 1945 but no further information. National Records of Scotland ref NRS RHP 33186 is a 'Plan of Dawn mine near Netherburn, showing underground workings and leasehold area, 1947 or post'. According to 1943 List of Mines, Dawn had a total of 19 employees, 13 underground and 6 above. 1945 List of mines indicates Dawn 2 opened 3/44 and discontinued 6/44, Dawn 1 abandoned 6/45.

Extract from Hansard, 11 May 1944.

> Coal Industry
>
> Worker's Dismissal, Lanarkshire
>
> Mr Fraser asked the Minister of Labour for what reason William Finnan was dismissed from Dawn Mine, Nether-burn, Lanarkshire; and why he has been directed to employment outwith the mining industry.
>
> The Minister of Labour (Mr. Ernest Bevin)
>
> Mr. Finnan was dismissed for serious misconduct. He was sent, but not directed, to other employment temporarily pending suitable coalmining employment being found for him. I am pursuing the question of the possibility of his return to coalmining.
>
> Mr. Fraser

Is the Minister aware that the nature of this man's misconduct was that he refused to work a double shift in the pit?

Mr. Bevin

I was not aware of that. I will look up the papers.

Mr. Foster

Is the Minister aware that a number of these youths have been discharged by the employers in the mining industry and are being permitted, by National Service officers, to go into employment other than mining?

Mr. Bevin

If my hon. Friend will give me particulars of that matter, I will look into it. I was not aware of it.

Dovesdale

Name: Dovesdale – see Overwood)
Owners
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Drygate

Name: Drygate
Owners:
Location: **NS 76392 51734**
Year Opened: Before 1850
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Mentioned in ‘Larkhall, Its Historical Development’, p34, as being in existence ‘before 1850’. Presumably a small pit in the vicinity of Drygate Street, Larkhall. Ordnance Survey 6-inch map of 1864 shows ‘Old Coal Pit’ at NS 76392 51734, on the south side of Drygate Street just east of the junction with Wellgate Street. No further information.

Dykehead/Summerlee

Name: Dykehead/Summerlee
Owners: 1857-1870 - Wilsons & Co. 1875-1940 - Summerlee Iron Co
Location: **NS 76040 52612**
Year Opened: 1860
Year Closed: 1940
Known Operational Dates:

Located at the end of Summerlee Road, immediately south of where the West of Scotland Karting club is now situated. Owned by the Summerlee Iron Company of Coatbridge, who owned a number of mines in the Lanarkshire area. The colliery seems to have been at its peak during and just after WW1, when it had a workforce of 676, with 573 men underground and 103 surface workers in 1918, and 716 (612 underground and 104 surface) in 1923. At the time of closure in 1940 it had a total of 460 (380 underground and 80 surface). There was another colliery called Dykehead near Shotts. The headquarters of the Summerlee Iron Company was in Coatbridge.

On 7th August 1861, a major accident occurred at Dykehead, resulting in the death of 13 miners. A fire broke out in wood in the shaft of the colliery. At least 45 men were in the pit when the fire started.

Smoke was noted issuing from the shaft at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon and within 10 minutes the fire had ignited the pit head framework. The alarm was raised and fire engines sent for - engines attended from Hamilton and Hamilton Palace and eventually these succeeded in extinguishing the flames.

A temporary hutch was then sent down shaft and the survivors were raised. By 7 o'clock 13 men had been rescued in this way. Andrew Hunter, ironstone miner, then volunteered to be lowered into the shaft. He discovered that the remaining men were too weak to come to the surface without help and another miner, Fleming, descended to help. Hunter and Fleming worked for some time and managed to rescue several men until they could no longer continue due to the effects of chokedamp. They were replaced by other volunteers and by 9 o'clock 28 men had been rescued. One of the rescued men, McLeod Nelson, died shortly after rescue. He was 44 and married with six children.

By half past 12 on 8th August all the men who had gone to work on 7th had been brought to the surface. 12 men had died due to the effects of the chokedamp. David Maxwell died on 19th August bringing the death toll to 13.

The miners killed were:
McLetchie Baxter**,** 25, married
Francis Casey**,** 29, single
John Craig**,** 18, single and Hugh Craig, 15, single, brothers
Thomas Currie, 18, single
David Hamilton 21, single and Alexander Hamilton, 16, single, brothers
Thomas Miller, 23, single

McLeod (or Glaude) Neilson, 40, married
John Potter, 24, married and Thomas Potter, 19, single, brothers
Neil Thomson, 25, married
David Maxwell, 19, single, died 19th August

See also Wilma Bolton book '*Black Faces and Tackety Boots*' and Scottish Mining website for a comprehensive account of this accident.

Another accident at the mine, reported in local newspapers, occurred on 24 April 1916.

Larkhall Pit Fatality – Three Men Killed at Dykehead – Strenuous Rescue Work – A colliery accident – the most serious which has taken place in the district for a number of years – occurred on Monday forenoon at Dykehead Colliery, Larkhall, belonging to the Summerlee Iron Company, Limited, and resulted in the deaths of three men. The mishap was due to an extensive fall from the roof which involved the place where Archibald Banks and his two sons worked. At the time one of the sons had left to visit another place, but a young man named Thomas Russell was in the working when the fall occurred, and was caught in it along with the elder Banks and his other son, also named Archibald. The fall consisted largely of rock, and it was seen that the only possible means of rescuing the entombed men was by driving mines. Under the superintendence of Mr John Stewart, manager, who was in the pit at the time of the accident and immediately repaired to the scene, several shifts of men were organised for the work. The rescuers devoted themselves to their task with great energy, and notwithstanding that they were greatly hampered by fresh falls, they wrought strenuously to free their imprisoned comrades. Some time after, the voice of Banks senior could be heard entreating help. He also indicated the position in which he was placed and how the fall had occurred and this spurred on the rescue party in their efforts. The work was carried on unceasingly, but it was not until 3.45 on Tuesday morning that the rescuers were able to reach the elder Banks. The unfortunate man had spoken shortly before he was extricated, but when he was got out he was unconscious, and died on the way to the pit bottom, from shock following on his injuries. The operations were continued with unabated energy, but it was 8am when the body of Archibald Banks junior was recovered. Three hours later the party came upon the remains of Russell. Both men had died from asphyxiation. Mr Stewart, manager, who took charge of the rescue operations at the outset, remained on the scene throughout, and did not leave until Russell's body was recovered at 11am yesterday. Dr M'Nay was also in attendance and went down the pit when Archibald Banks, sen., was extricated. Thomas Russell, who was 18 years of age, resided in Victoria Street, Larkhall, while the Banks lived in Millheugh. The father was 55 years of age and the son 20. The news of the sad accident quickly spread and a large crowd gathered at the pithead and anxiously awaited throughout the day and night the outcome of the rescuers efforts. Among those who were present and rendered valuable assistance were Superintendent Taylor and Inspector Dalrymple of the County Constabulary. Archibald Banks senior was at one time a well known footballer, and fully two decades ago he was a prominent player in the Royal Albert F.C. [*Hamilton Herald* 26 April 1916]

A number of other fatal accidents occurred at Dykehead, according to Durham Mining Museun website:

Barns, John, 20 Jan 1894, 11.30 a.m., aged 59, Miner. Fall of stone.

Bell, Gardner, 27 Feb 1873, Roadsman. Fall of roof. A prop was knocked out accidently by a tub he was drawing.

Chapel, John, 19 Mar 1878, aged 24, Collier. Crushed by descending cage while attempting to cross the bottom.

Faulds, Daniel, 02 Oct 1879, aged 40, Oversman. Fall of roof. At "stooping" while drawing props.

McQueen, Robert, 07 Dec 1908, aged 50, Miner. Fall of coal while preparing to wedge it down.

Mitchell, William, 17 Feb 1877, aged 22, Collier. Fall of roof. At face.

Muir, George, 29 Nov 1886, aged 42, Collier. Fall of roof. At stoops.

Scott, Robert, 29 Jun 1899, aged 53, Roadsman. Deceased was laying a hutch road into a stoop which was about to be taken out when a stone, 5 ft. by 4 ft. at extremes and 5½ ins. in thickness, suddenly fell upon him, swinging out the props which had been under its lighter end. He sustained injuries to which he succumbed three days later.

Sweeney, James, 12 Dec 1876, aged 24, Collier. [Fall of roof] at "stoops," while drawing props.

William, R., 15 Dec 1867, aged 16, Collier. Jumped on the cage while it was in motion.

Wilson, Robert, 21 Mar 1867, aged 14, Driver. Crushed by tubs (found dead).

Factory

Name: Factory
Owners:
Location: Larkhall/Strutherhill
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Not located. Mentioned by John Milligan in his list of mines in the Larkhall Coalfield with description ‘Various to 1942 Strutherhill/Green Loan’. Probable alternative name for one of the Struther collieries (qv) in the same area.

Fairholm

Name: Fairholm (also called Sunnyside)
Owners: Larkhall & Fairholm Collieries (Hamilton Colliery Company)
Location**: Larkhall** **Fairholm 3 NS 75069 51431** **Fairholm 1 NS 74269 51160** **Fairholm 2 NS 74548 51357** **Fairholm 4 & 5 NS 74559 51072**
Year Opened: 1873
Year Closed: 1903

Known Operational Dates:

There appear to be five shafts located at Fairholm, Larkhall, on the east bank of the river Avon. Mines appear also to go by the name of Sunnyside, presumably after the nearby Sunnyside Farm. What appears from the 1898 6-inch OS map to be the principal mine at NS 75069 51431 is identified as Fairholm 3 on the 'Description of disused shafts and mines' held in the mining museum. The other four are slightly further west, in the vicinity of Sunnyside Farm. All five appear to have been closed by 1903. In 1896 the mine employed 119 people, 101 underground and 18 surface workers. The manager in that year was W Hogg and the under-managers R Walker and A Taylor.

20 February 1896. Two men named Robert Cook (19) and John White were badly burned by an explosion of fire damp while working in the Drumgray seam at Fairholm Colliery, Larkhall. [Scotsman, 21 February 1896]

27 April 1896. Fatal Pit Accident - An accident occurred at Fairholm colliery , belonging to the Hamilton Colliery Company, to Gavin Winning (18), waggon shunter. He was bringing waggons to the pithead and had managed to "snibble" the first one, but in attempting to put the brake on the second he fell on the rails, the waggon passing over both his legs and right arm, nearly severing them. He was removed in the ambulance waggon to the infirmary but died on the way. [*Scotsman*, 28 April 1896]

Fence

Name: Fence - see also Fence (Licensed)
Owners: Nitshill & Lesmahagow Coal Co.
Location**: Tillietudlem. Fence No 1 NS 80892 45887** **Fence No 2 NS 80390 45924**
Year Opened: after 1858
Year Closed: 1893 (poss as late as 1904?)
Known Operational Dates:

Located at Tillietudlem on disused railway line at Tillietudlem station, immediately east of today's Fence Farm. 'Shaft (dis)' located on current OS 1:25000 map. There were two mines, Fence 1 and Fence 2, from about 1890. Does not appear on 1858 OS map. No evidence of operations after 1893 from Home Office reports, although the List of Abandoned Mines and Shafts says 'Abandoned 1904'. Charles Hoy's book on 'The Crossford-Hazelbank District' mentions that the 'Old Fence Pit, at Tillietudlem station, had closed down in the middle years of the nineties and the Wee Fence Pit was now in operation'. A later mine, also called Fence (see Fence (Licensed), was located nearby and appears not to have any connection with this mine.

29 March 1886

Fatal Pit Accident – On Monday afternoon an accident occurred at the Fence Pit, whereby two men lost their lives. It appears that the cage was being raised with four men on it when something went wrong with the gearing. The cage got partly overturned and stuck in mid-shaft, two of the men,

named James Hamilton and W. Atkinson were precipitated to the bottom and instantaneously killed, their bodies being frightfully mutilated. The other two men held on and were as soon as possible rescued from their perilous position, and, though injured, were able to walk home. [*Hamilton Advertiser,* April 3 1886]

Fence (Licensed)

Name: Fence (Licensed) – see also Fence
Owners: Thomas Sinclair & Sons
Location: Tillietudlem NS 80192 45593
Year Opened: 1944
Year Closed: 1961
Known Operational Dates:

Located just southwest of Tillietudlem. Current 1/25000 OS map shows 'Mine (dis)' at location. Appears to have opened in 1944 and operated under licence to Thomas Sinclair until 1961 (Oglethorpe).

Ferniegair

Name: Ferniegair
Owners: 1860-1865 - James Nisbet. 1869-1947 - Archibald Russell. 1947 - NCB
Location: Ferniegair **NS 74206 54377**
Year Opened: 1850
Year Closed: 1947
Known Operational Dates:

Located to south of Ferniegair, between A72 Carlisle Road and railway, near where Kennoway Crescent is today. During 20th century employed around 450 workers – in 1923 there were 440 employees (360 below, 80 surface) and in 1947, 448 (370 below, 78 surface). For more information see Wilma Bolton's book 'Pit Props and Ponies'. Hamilton Advertiser, 6 August 1859, refers to an outing by Ferniegair miners and families, by train and steamer, to Rothesay. The mine was probably responsible for much of the subsidence beneath Chatelherault (*Scottish Collieries*, Oglethorpe). Closed immediately after nationalisation in 1947. Baths built in 1931. 1910 housing report from Scottish Mining website:

Archibald Russell Ltd

Ferniegair Mine - situated at Ferniegair, near Hamilton.
Persons employed underground 349, above ground 59, total 408.

The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Ferniegair - 89, Hamilton - 14

In rented houses, situated at Ferniegair - 13 , Larkhall - 81, Ross - 8, Blantyre - 6, Hamilton - 192
In houses owned by employees at Ferniegair - 5

The mine owners' houses situated at **Ferniegair** are described as follows:
13 One-apartment houses Rental £5 1s 10d
31 Two-apartment houses Rental £6 18s 8d
7 Three-apartment houses Rental £8 6s 10d

- One storey, brick built - Erected about 20 years ago - no damp-proof course - Walls appear to be hollow built - Wood floors, ventilated - Internal surface of walls and ceilings in good condition.
- No overcrowding although the rooms in the two-apartment houses are somewhat small
- No gardens but a number of tenants rent small plots in the vicinity. There is sufficient ground to rear of houses for gardens, but this is unfenced - common wash houses - coal cellar to each house.
- One privy to every 4 or 5 houses, situated to rear of houses.
- Inside sinks with gravitation water in three-apartment houses - 5 outside slop sinks for 12 houses at single rows - surface channels for remainder of houses.
- Gravitation water from pillar wells
- Scavenged regularly at owners' expense

Privy accommodation has recently been improved, at instance of Public Health Department, by structural repair, numbering of doors, and fitting these with locks. The owners have also met with regard to the providing of slop sinks for houses fronting the main highway.

Fatal accidents reported in DMM website:

Adams, John, 27 Jun 1909, 1.45 p.m., aged 26, Machineman. Explosion occurred when electric trailing cable was being lengthened by means of a plug connection.

Aitken, Alexander, 14 Nov 1882, aged 38, Shaftsman. While repairing the cage slides he rested his foot on a bunton which fell away with him.

Curran, Patrick, 12 Apr 1880, (accident: 03 Apr 1880), aged 16, Collier. Explosion of firedamp. Died 12th Apr.

Feely, Robert, 07 Sep 1871, aged 15, Collier. Explosion of firedamp at stoops, caused by a roadman putting his naked light to a fall where gas was.

Gilchrist, John, 23 Jul 1864, aged 64, Labourer. Killed by crane handle.

Hamilton, D., 21 Sep 1934, Machineman. Killed by a fall of stone.

Hamilton, James, 14 Sep 1878, aged 62, Collier. Fall of side, at face, while relieving the coal after a shot. Stoop and room.

Hunter, George, 27 Jun 1909, 1.45 p.m., aged 22, Machineman. Explosion occurred when electric trailing cable was being lengthened by means of a plug connection.

Hutchins, James, 22 Mar 1909, aged 36, Miner. Fall of roof in working place while setting a prop.

Johnstone, William, 27 Jan 1910, aged 14, Miner. Stone fell from roof at coal face.

Kelso, John, 09 Feb 1904, aged 49, Manager. Caught by the cutting bar of a Hurd's coal cutting machine.

Kinney, William, 01 Jun 1911, aged 32, Repairer. Deceased and another man were engaged widening a part of the main haulage road; two shots had been fired, and while taking off the loose material a stone fell from the roof. The stone which fell had a prop under it, and the prop was thrown out when the stone fell.

McInnis, James, 08 Aug 1872, aged 14, Drawer. Fall of stone.

McKendrick, John, 27 May 1881, aged 48, Fireman. Fall of roof while drawing props at the stooping in main coal.

Miller, James, 13 May 1871, aged 55, Collier. Fall of coal while holing.

Miller, John, 14 Mar 1903, aged 31, Bottomer. He pushed an empty hutch into the open shaft at a mid-working and fell after it to the bottom.

Ross, Alexander, 26 Aug 1876, aged 22, Collier. [Fall of roof] at "stoops".

Tate, Frank, 27 Jun 1909, 1.45 p.m., aged 30, Gummer. Explosion occurred when electric trailing cable was being lengthened by means of a plug connection.

Taylor, Alexander, 09 Apr 1899, aged 16, Assistant Ostler. Deceased and another workman descended the shaft on the Sunday to feed the horses, and just as the cage arrived at a mid-working, the Main Coal, where both were to get off, he fell into the shaft to the Splint Coal, a distance of 11 fathoms. He was not the usual attendant on the horses, but was acting in the place of another man who had failed to turn out to his work.

Wands, Robert, 08 Jan 1887, Labourer. Crushed by waggons.

Whitelaw, Thomas, 27 Apr 1896, aged 22, Miner. Fall of coal at face of stooping.

Wilson, John, 19 Jul 1870, aged 17, Drawer. His neighbour suddenly tilted up the end of the tub they were drawing.

Wright, John, 27 Oct 1883, (accident: 28 Sep 1883), aged 16, Collier. Fall of roof. Removing stoops. Died 27th Oct.

Garibaldi

Name: Garibaldi –see also Canderside.
Owners:
Location: Stonehouse (NS 7681 4770)
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates: (1879)

Located immediately east of the A71 between Canderside Toll and Stonehouse, just north of Canderside Farm. It's possible (probable?) that 'Garibaldi' is a nickname for one of the Canderside mines (qv). Stonehouse Online website mentions that:

'During the late 19th century there was a pit known as the 'Garibaldi Pit' near to the Spion Kop Colliery, immortalised in the line of an old poem dating to 1879.

Are ye aye working ower at Garibaldi yet?
That's a place no' likely ever I'll forget
For I began tae work as soon as I was fit
And I started first at Garibaldi Pit.'

Location identified from 'Description of Disused Shafts and Mines, Lanarkshire', Sheet NS 74NE (held by NMMS). See also Spion Kop.

Gin/The Gin

Name: Gin/The Gin
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Mentioned as 'The Gin (Marshall)' in Mr John Milligan's list of Larkhall Collieries but no mine of that name noted in the area. Possibly a nickname for another colliery?

Hareleeshill & Machan

Name: Hareleeshill & Machan see Machan
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Haughhead

Name: Haughhead
Owners: 1865-1886 - Merry & Cunningham. 1886 – Col. Robertson Aikman
Location: Ferniegair **NS 73661 54785**
Year Opened: 1865
Year Closed: 1886
Known Operational Dates:

Located to the north of Ferniegair, immediately east of the Glasgow-Carlisle road bridge over the river Avon. Served by a short mineral line from Ross Junction on the Caledonian railway. In 1886 it was bought by Col. Robertson Aikman, who owned nearby Ross colliery (qv) from which the coal was then worked, allowing Haughhead to close. Note that there was another Haughhead near Uddingston.

14 February 1876. Fatal Colliery Accidents in Lanarkshire - On Monday night, about 10 minutes to 11 o'clock, two roadsmen, named Thomas Twaddle, aged 37 and John McKeever, aged 22, residing at Haughhead Colliery Hamilton, were employed in No 1 Pit Haughhead belonging to Messrs Merry & Cunninghame. They were engaged repairing and strengthening the roof in the main road by removing old trees or supports and replacing them with new ones, when a piece of the roof about 9 tons in weight gave way, burying them in the debris. Twaddle was killed instantaneously, and McKeever was so severely injured that he only survived for about 10 minutes afterwards. [*Herald* February 16 1876]

Hill Colliery

Name: Hill Colliery
Owners: James Smith & Sons - 1873-1880. McLean, Dalzell & Co - 1886. James Gemmell - 1896
Location: Netherburn **NS 79418 48248**
Year Opened: before 1866
Year Closed: after 1913
Known Operational Dates: 1896, 1910

Northwest of Netherburn village and northeast of Hill Cottages, across the disused railway line from Longlee colliery. List of Disused Mines and Shafts, held by Scottish Mining Museum, suggests two shafts existed. Some confusion exists with Hills colliery Ashgill (see below). Owned by James Gemmell, Coal Master, of Slamannan, deceased 1897. In 1896 the manager was James R Benson and under-manager David M Ritchie. Employed 69 people, 54 underground and 15 above. Reference in 'The Scottish Miners' (Campbell) to 'Woodside & Hill', owned by James Smith & Son in 1874, with 208 employees (from both pits?). See Woodside, below.

Housing conditions in 1910 from Scottish Mining website:

Hill Mine - situated near Netherburn (Owner James Gemmell):-
Persons employed underground 95, above ground 13, total 108.

One resides in a mine owners' houses at Hill Terrace.
In rented houses, situated at Stonehouse, Netherburn and Larkhall - 50
In houses owned by employees at Netherburn - 1

The mine owners' houses number 39, and are described in 2 groups as follows:-

1. Hill Terrace
23 two-apartment houses, rental £7 16s and £8 9s.

- One storey, brick built - erected about 15 years ago - damp-proof course - walls hollow built - wood floors, ventilated
- Internal surface of walls and ceilings good
- No overcrowding - apartments good size
- No gardens - wash-houses and coal cellars provided but the latter and dilapidated
- One privy to every 4 houses - at rear of buildings
- No sinks - drainage by surface channels
- Gravitation water from pillar wells
- Scavenged regularly at owners' expense

2. New Row, Netherburn
16 two-apartment houses, rental £9 15s.

- Erected under Building Bye-laws - damp-proof course - walls hollow built - wood floors, ventilated - internal surface of walls and ceilings in good condition
- No overcrowding - apartments somewhat small
- No gardens - wash-houses and coal cellars provided
- One privy for every three houses
- Inside sinks, with gravitation water
- Drainage to septic tank, thence to burn

Scavenged regularly at owners' expense.

Accident reported in *The Scotsman*.

10 November 1883. At the Hill Colliery, Dalserf, on Saturday, a miner named James Inglis was severely injured by a fall of stone from the roof of the pit. [*Scotsman,* 12 November 1883]

Hills Colliery

Name: Hills Colliery
Owners: (James Smith & Son 1875-1880. James Gemmell 1895-1896)
Location: Ashgill/Shawsburn **NS 77968 50206** also Ashgill **NS 78608 50113**
Year Opened: before 1864
Year Closed: not known circa867
Known Operational Dates: 1864

Just east of A71 Ayr Road at Shawsburn and on the south side of Ashgillhead Road adjacent to Andrew Baxter Avenue. Another pit also named 'Hills' located at Ashgill, just south of Ashgillhead Road, adjacent to Dalserf Primary school. Both of these locations shown as 'Hills Colliery' on OS six-inch map published 1864. Owners given in Northern Mines Research Society website as James Smith (1875-1880) and James Gemmell (1895-1896) but is this confused with Hill colliery, above?

Home Farm

Name: Home Farm
Owners: Hamilton, McCulloch & Co
Location: Larkhall/Ferniegair **NS 75399 53770**
Year Opened: (1864)
Year Closed: 1927 Abandoned 11 Nov 1927
Known Operational Dates:

Located directly east of Allanton colliery, next to where the M74 runs today. Opening date of Home Farm given in Northern Mines Research Society website as 1870 but colliery is in 1864 6-inch OS map. 305 workers in 1914 (240 underground, 65 surface) and 445 in 1924 (354 underground, 91 surface). In January 1877 a major accident occurred, resulting in the deaths of four men.

Report by Inspector of Mines, 16 February 1877:

> 23 January 1877. Home Farm colliery has been worked for the last 10 years; the lessees are Messrs Hamilton, McCulloch and Co and the lessor is the Duke of Hamilton. About 6 o'clock on the morning of Tuesday 23rd January last, when upwards of 60 men had descended the mine for the day, there was a sudden rush of water, sand and mud from the Ell coal workings to the two shafts which are within 40 feet of each other. Fortunately for about quarter of an hour it ran down only one of the shafts and all the men except 4 escaped by the other to the surface. The stream then flowed down the shafts for 10 hours until by calculations subsequently made all the hollows in the mine were filled and it seemed hopeless to expect that the four men who were in the workings could be alive. Attempts were made, however, to reach them by clearing away sand out of the Ell coal, but after 2 days it was abandoned.
>
> The colliery works 3 seams, the Ell, Main and Splint at 47, 59 and 72 fathoms respectively. It appears that 8 days before the final inundation a fall of roof had taken place in the extreme rise workings of the Ell coal where that seam was known to be within 108 feet of the surface; this fall of roof allowed the water from the sand and gravel above the seam to run down into the Ell coal and through the shaft to the seam below known as the splint coal. It appears that the pumps were unable to keep the water under, and the men in the seam were laid idle; the workings in the middle or Main coal were never interrupted. I had not heard anything of the occurrence until a telegram on the morning of the 23rd, and I was there that day.
>
> It appears that the managing partner of the colliery called in Mr McCreath, the Duke's Mineral adviser, and he descended the mine and examined the place. Mr McCreath is a mining engineer of high standing in Scotland and I have no doubt advised what in his opinion the

circumstances seemed to require, and his suggestions were being carried out up to the morning of the final inundation, which was wholly unexpected.

The Procurator Fiscal, on behalf of the Lord Advocate, in accordance with Scotch Law, is making an independent inquiry into the circumstances.

Names of the dead were:

- John McNeil, collier, 39 (age given as 36 on death certificate)
- David Hinds, collier, 34 (death not registered until November 1878)
- Jno. McGregory, collier, 51 (age given as 50 on death certificate)
- Jno. McAllister, collier, 50

The bodies were not recovered until the flooded areas were pumped out a year later. For more reports see Scottish Mining website.

1888 Description of Hamilton McCulloch & Co:

'Hamilton, McCulloch & Co., Coalmasters, Bog and Home Farm Colleries, near Hamilton. Head office, 88, Great Clyde Street, Glasgow.

'This firm are the lessees of the Bog and Home Farm Collieries, which are situated in the parish of Hamilton, county of Lanark, and forming part of the rich mineral field belonging to the Duke of Hamilton. Messrs. Hamilton, McCulloch & Co. are said to have been amongst the first to undertake coal-mining on the formation of the Lesmahagow Branch of the Caledonian Railway, and for many years they have held a post among the foremost coalmasters of the west of Scotland, controlling a volume of business whose constant growth and increase have been commensurate with the energetic spirit that has at all times characterised their administrative policy.

'The Bog and Home Farm Collieries produce very superior qualities of Ell, Main, Splint, and Cannel coal, all of which enjoy a high reputation. There is no better coal to be had in Scotland than Messrs. Hamilton, McCulloch & Co.'s Ell coal for house use, while the Main coal is likewise an excellent household coal, and meets with high favour both at home and abroad for steam and general purposes also. The eminent authority of Dr. W. Wallace, F.R.S.E., F.C.S., F.I.C., can be cited in recommendation of Messrs. Hamilton, McCulloch & Co.'s Splint coal, which has been pronounced to be a first-rate coal of its species, well adapted for raising steam, for use in pottery kilns, and for furnaces generally. This coal has been found to possess a particularly good heating power, combined with a low average of sulphur and ash. The same coal is strongly recommended also by Mr. D. Drummond, of the Caledonian Railway Locomotive Department, as one of the most satisfactory of Scotch coals for locomotive use ; and the well-known firm of Messrs. Dubs & Co., Glasgow Locomotive Works, additionally attest its excellence by making constant use of it. The same firm have found the dross of the Splint coal good for steam-raising.

'Messrs. Hamilton. McCulloch & Co.'s Cannel coal has achieved a considerable celebrity as a gas coal, its yield in gas being large in volume and excellent in illuminating power, and in coke thoroughly first class in quality. Specialities of the firm are — "Selected Nuts", expressly

chosen for gas making ; “Washed Nuts”, for kitchen ranges ; and “Washed Dross” and “ Ell Dross”, for general furnace purposes.

‘The equipment of the pits of the Bog and Home Farm Collieries touches perfection as an illustration of complete modem mining system and organisation. The daily output is between twelve and fourteen hundred tons. This latter circumstance affords a clue to the nature and extent of the firm’s trade The firm send their coal to all parts of the United Kingdom, and they also control a large amount of export trade, shipping from Glasgow, Greenock, Leith, Granton, Grangemouth, South Alloa, Dundee, Ayr, Troon, and Ardrossan, extensive consignments to all the continental ports, as well as to the West Indies, San Francisco, and South America. Both at home and abroad the coal thus supplied finds always a ready and profitable market, and the favour in which it is held by every class of the community making use of it is a gratifying consummation of the firm’s continuous endeavours to place in every market to which their operations extend a coal of first-rate quality and reliability’.

John Street

Name: John Street
Owners:
Location: Larkhall Poss **NS 76890 50811**
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates: (1898)

Mentioned as being in the The County of Lanark, the Third Statistical Account of Scotland. No further information. 1898 OS 6-inch map of Larkhall shows ‘Colliery’ on south side of John Street, approximately at above location.

Kittymuir 1-4

Name: Kittymuir 1 - 4
Owners: Kittymuir 1 & 2 - 1935 Kittymuir Coal Co, 1938 W & G Walker, 1940 W Walker & Sons. Kittymuir 3 & 4 - Matthew McCulloch
Location: Larkhall Kittymuir 1 **NS 75805 47805** Kittymuir 2 **NS 76135 47695** Kittymuir 3 & 4 **NS 762 480**
Year Opened: 1935 Kittymuir 1 & 2. 1953 Kittymuir 3. 1954 Kittymuir 4.
Year Closed: 1940 Kittymuir 1. 1939 Kittymuir 2. 1953 Kittymuir 3. 1954 Kittymuir 4
Known Operational Dates:

Located on the west bank of the River Avon, to the north of Stonehouse and east of Millheugh Road (Avon Walkway). In 1938 W & G Walker listed as based in Caldercruix, Airdrie, and Kittymuir 2 listed as only having two employees. Kittymuir 3 & 4 operated under licence to Matthew McCulloch.

Kittyymuirhill

Name: Kittymuirhill
Owners: 1935 William Campbell. 1950 Daniel Beattie & Co/Beattie Bros.
Location: Larkhall NS **75590 48852**
Year Opened: 1935
Year Closed: 1951
Known Operational Dates:

Located to the southwest of Larkhall and east of the Millheugh Road (Avon Walkway) near Glenavon farm and Kittymuirhill. Kittymuirhill colliery was not taken into NCB ownership in 1947 but continued to operate privately under licence to Daniel Beattie & Co.

Knowetop

Name: Knowetop
Owners: NCB
Location: Quarter **NS 73195 50960**
Year Opened: 1948 (sinking commenced 1947)
Year Closed: 1966
Known Operational Dates:

Located on the Plotcock Road, southeast of Quarter village. Scottish Collieries (Oglethorpe) indicates that there were two surface mines with output of 30 tons per day, 7500 tons per year. Average workforce 31, peak workforce 42. According to 1949 report there was an Ambulance room but no washer, baths or canteen. One of the last pits in Britain to use ponies for underground work.

Lady Martha

Name: Lady Martha –see Birkrigg
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed: Abandoned 20 November 1926
Known Operational Dates:

Abandoned 26 November 1926. List of abandoned mines indicates this is a nickname for a Birkrigg colliery, qv.

Larkhall

Name: Larkhall
Owners: 1856-1861 - Dundas Simpson. 1862-1865 - Larkhall Coal Co. 1866-1869 - Hamilton McCulloch.
Location: Larkhall **NS 76377 52354**
Year Opened: 1856
Year Closed: 1869
Known Operational Dates:

Located to the west of Duke Street, approximately at the end of Queen Mary Drive today. Close to Dykehead Colliery. When a major accident occurred at Dykehead in 1871 (qv), the manager at Larkhall, Mr W G Simpson of Dundas Simpson, directed operations to drive a tunnel through to Dykehead in the hope that it might provide a means of escape for the trapped miners.

29 May 1866. Accident at Larkhall Colliery – On Tuesday morning, an accident occurred at the pithead at Larkhall Colliery (Hamilton & M'Culloch's) whereby a boy fourteen years of age, named Wm Haddow, got his left leg broken above the knee. The accident was caused by the hutch on the top of the cage falling off. He was conveyed to his home in Drygate Street, here, and attended by Dr Weir. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 2 June 1866]

Longlee

Name: Longlee, sometimes spelled Longlea
Owners: 1860-1865 - Dunn Brothers. 1869-1870 - Longlee Coal Co. 1874 - Lesmahagow & Longlee Coal Co. 1880-1896 - William Barr & Sons
Location: Netherburn **NS 79665 48373 - No 3 pit** **NS 79699 48984 – No 4 pit** **NS 79657 48545 and NS 79832 48712 – poss no 1 and No 2 pits**
Year Opened: 1860
Year Closed: 1896
Known Operational Dates:

Longlee was located directly west of North Netherburn, close to the Dalserf burn. Longlee No 3 Pit was immediately to the south of Longlee. Longlee No 4 Pit to the north (at NS 79699 48984) was connected to Longlee by a 'Tramway', according to OS 6-inch map of 1898. A Longlee No 2 pit (sunk in 1870) and Longlee No 1 pit also existed. Exact locations unknown but two pits marked 'Old Coal

Pit' on 1898 map at locations above may be No1 and No2 pits (see above). In 1874 the mine employed 111 workers.

14 July 1870. Dalserf. On Wednesday last, a melancholy accident took place in No 2 Pit, Longlee, in the course of being sunk by the Longlee Coal Company. It appears that three brothers named Abercrombie, residing at Rosebank, were engaged in putting slides in the shaft. The rope employed to lower the slides had a D hook attached, from which depended what is termed a muzzle – something resembling a shear-hook for clasping timber. As this muzzle was being raised to the mouth of the shaft, to be refilled with slides, the pitheadman caught the tow to pull it to the side, when in some unaccountable way the muzzle became detached and fell down the shaft, a distance of some 62 fathoms, striking Alexander Abercrombie on the head and killing him on the spot. Deceased was 24 years of age, and unmarried. It was somewhat singular that in August last the deceased was severely hurt, and had a collar bone broken by a piece of timber which fell upon him in almost similar circumstances. For some time after he refused to go into a pit, but was ultimately prevailed upon, with the unfortunate result mentioned above. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 16 July 1870]

16 July 1874. Larkhall – Fatal Accident at Longlee Colliery – On Tuesday morning, a serious accident happened to George Smith, bottomer, in Longlee Colliery, belonging to the Lesmahagow and Longlee Colliery Company. It appears that Smith was working at the pit bottom in the soft coal seam of No 2 Pit, where some empty hutches were being conveyed from the pit head to the pit bottom, the cage always returning empty to the pit head. The oversman had taken off a hutch and signalled for the empty cage to be raised, Smith, who had only commenced to work on Saturday, having been previously warned not to cross while the cages were revolving. Although nothing positive is known, it is surmised that he must have failed to attend to this caution, as after the cage had given a sudden jerk, the poor fellow was seen falling from the doorheads – a distance of eight feet. He was conveyed to his residence at Red Row, Dalserf, but death ensued about two hours after the accident. He has left a widow and three children. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 18 July 1874]

Machan

Name: Machan (also known as Prospect). See also West Machan
Owners: 1890 - Howie & Train. 1895-1896 - Hugh Train. 1900 - Larkhall Collieries. 1905 United Collieries. 1915-1920 - Machan Coal Co.
Location: Larkhall **NS 76671 50465**
Year Opened: pre-1890
Year Closed: 1913 - Machan (1). 1922 Machan 2 & 3.
Known Operational Dates: possibly as early as 1845

Also known as Prospect. Mention of coal being mined at East Machan in 1845 'Statistical Account of Scotland'. There may have been up to three pits in all (see 1931 Abandoned Mines Plan). Also may have been nicknamed Prospect. Located immediately to the east of Machan Road between Larkhall and Strutherhill, just north of Keir Hardie Road, approximately at the end of William Spiers Place. In 1900 it had 30 workers. In 1918 it had 48 employees, 37 underground and 11 surface. The manager was David Forsyth.

15 January 1892. Larkhall – Fatal Accident – Yesterday a young man named Wm Williamson, son of Robert Williamson, residing at Machan Brickwork, was killed at Machan Colliery (Messrs Howie & Train's). He was at work at the pithead repairing the drum of the winding engine when it fell on his head and he expired in a few minutes. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 16 January 1892]

Marlage

Name: Marlage
Owners: 1854-1865 - Colin Dunlop & Co. 1873 - William Sym. 1875-1880 - James Sym. 1890 McLean, Dalzell & Co. From 1951 operated under licence to J & J Mc Phee
Location: Larkhall **NS 78590 49257 (early mine)** **Marlage 1 NS 787 485** **Marlage 2 NS 783 485** **Marlage 3 NS 782 485**
Year Opened: pre-1830
Year Closed: early Marlage mine 1886 Marlage 1 1953 Marlage 2 1959 Marlage 3 c1963
Known Operational Dates: 1830, 1845, probably considerably earlier than 1830.

Mines at the Marlage operated at two different periods.

Marlage is listed in 'Statistical Account of Scotland', 1845 and coal seems to have been mined in the area since at least as far back as the 1830s. An early mine, at NS 78590 49257 was located east of Larkhall and south of Ashgill, near Bogside. OS maps indicate coal transported via tramway to railway line near Ashgill. It had 17 workers in 1874 and appears to have closed in 1886. According to notes made by a Crossford man, coal was brought from Marlage to Crossford as early as 1830. 'Soft' coal cost 2/- per cart and 'hard' coal about 2/3d. Other undated 'Old' mines around Marlage existed at NS 78405 48490, NS 78616 48436, NS 78818 48432 and NS 78545 48743.

In the early 1950s three new mines, called Marlage-1, -2 and -3 were opened and operated under licence to J & J McPhee (see *Scottish Collieries*, Oglethorpe). These closed in the late 1950s, the last being abandoned c1963.

Accidents:

ANDREW BENNIE. 22/5/1896.FATAL ACIDENT INQUIRY. At Hamilton Sheriff Court on Tuesday 15/6/1896 before Sheriff Davidson and a jury—inquiries were made into the death of Andrew Bennie who was fatally injured in the course of his employment at Dalserf. The first witness into the death of Andrew Bennie, who was injured at Marlage Colliery Dalserf on the 6th May and died on the 22nd May 1896 was William Gold, who worked with Bennie in the Drumgray seam, about 50 fathoms from the pit bottom. About two o'clock on the 6th of May, he was drawing a hutch to the bottom, when he heard Bennie shout that his shirt was on fire. Witness ran and helped him to put it out, and then saw him home. Bennie was able to go home, and did not complain greatly at the time; but Dr Morrison, doctor to the works ordered his removal to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where he

died on the 22nd May. The fire had been caused by an explosion of gas which had accumulated in a cutter in the roof. They all knew that there was gas in the cutter, and held down their heads when they passed underneath. John McLean, another drawer, gave similar evidence. Robert Alexander, fireman in Bennie's section of the pit, stated that there was very little gas in the mine, though he had found some small feeders in some of the old workings. He had examined Bennie's place about ten in the morning and found no gas. Other witnesses having given evidence of a somewhat similar nature, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the death of deceased was due to injured received from an explosion of gas. [*Hamilton Herald*. 19/6/1896. Page 6].

Mary Campbell Hamilton or Henderson-Hamilton

Name: Mary Campbell Hamilton or Henderson-Hamilton
Owners: Messrs Heathfield (worked by Marchbanks)
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates: (1889)

Mentioned in John Milligan's list of Larkhall coal mines as being in the Muir Street/Margaret's place area but no evidence on old OS maps of the area. No further information.

Maid of the Glen

Name: Maid of the Glen - see Canderrigg
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

McNeil Street

Name: McNeil Street – see Raploch
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Merryton

Name: Merryton
Owners: 1860 - Colvill & Brand. 1865-1870 - Cochrane & Brand. 1875-1900 - Merryton Coal Company
Location: Larkhall **NS 75237 53190**
Year Opened: 1860
Year Closed: Abandoned 5 August 1901
Known Operational Dates:

Located at Lanark Road End, junction of A72 and Carlisle Road (B7078). Adjacent to railway line just north of A72. In 1896 had 261 employees, 207 underground and 54 surface. Manager was John McBride. Had its own Merryton Colliery Rows accommodation for workers.

7 January 1869. Charge of Culpable Homicide - On Thursday morning, John McKay, collier, residing in Union Street, Larkhall, died from the effects of injuries sustained a few days previous in Merryton colliery, Hamilton, where he was employed. While engaged "waffing" out a quantity of foul air which had gathered in his working place, it ignited at his naked lamp and exploded, and resulted in injuries which have proved fatal. In connection with the case, the fireman at the pit, Alexander Mathieson, was yesterday apprehended, examined by the Sheriff, and committed to prison on a charge of culpable homicide. [*Scotsman* 9 January 1869]

NB: John Mackie age 35 died 7th January 1869, of burns, 12 days after the accident.

12 September 1896. Fatal Accident - On Saturday forenoon a fatal accident occurred at Merryton colliery, near Larkhall. John Moodie (30), miner, was drawing wood in the splint coal seam, and was taking out his last prop when the roof came away upon him. When extricated life was extinct. [*Scotsman* 14 September 1896]

January 1901. SILVER WEDDING. On Friday, Mr and Mrs McBride celebrated their silver wedding at their residence here, when a large party of friends and officials connected with Merryton Colliery (of which Mr McBride is manager) assembled in honour of the occasion. Among the guests were—The Rev, James Rae) of Larkhall E.U. Church) Mr and Mrs Rae, Mr and Mrs Murray, (0f United Collieries, Ltd. &c. Mr and Mrs J.C. Gibson, cashier at the colliery, occupied the chair. In the course of the evening, the worthy couple, whom time has touched but lightly, were the recipients of several very handsome souvenirs of the event. Among others were two beautiful sets of solver plate—one on behalf of the officials, and the other from the workmen at the colliery, presented by Mr John Davidson and by Mr James Simpson respectively. Each in a few neat and appropriate remarks testified to the esteem in which Mr McBride is held by those employed at the colliery. Mr William Brown, organist, Larkhall, presided at the piano, and a most harmonious evening was spent, during which songs, recitations and the many dances engaged the company until the night was “almost at odds with morning.” [*Hamilton Advertiser*. 5/1/1901, Page 5]

Millburn

Name: Millburn – see also Skellyton
Owners: 1867- Hamilton McCulloch. 1890 - Cornsilloch Coal Co. 1900 - Archibald Russell. 1905-1908 - Archibald Russell Ltd
Location: Larkhall **NS 77977 51110**
Year Opened: before 1845
Year Closed: after 1910
Known Operational Dates: 1845, 1867

Located near the Mill burn, Burnhead, between the Monkey Road and the A71, adjacent to the railway line, just northwest of Ayr Road station. Millburn was also known as the 'Monkey Pit' because of its proximity to the Monkey Road. Scottish Mining website indicates in a report of 1910 that the mine had 192 employees, 171 underground and 21 surface. Mentioned in Statistical Account of Scotland, 1845.

Note that the Disused Mines and Shafts list held at the NMM mentions another 'Millburn Mine, abandoned 1944', located south of Swinhill at approx. NS 7763 4801. There is a Millburn Farm at this location. 1931 List of Abandoned Mines shows Millburn as part of Skellyton.

18 June 1867. Fatal Accident – About 8 o'clock on the morning of Tuesday last, George Burnside, collier, residing at Simpson's Row, was working at the face in No 1 Coal Pit, Millburn, belonging to Messrs Hamilton McCulloch & Co., coalmasters, a quantity of coals, weighing about 2 tonnes, fell on him, killing him on the spot. Deceased was 48 years of age, and has left a widow and four children. [*Hamilton Advertiser* June 22 1867]

29 August 1882. Fatal Accident – On Tuesday, James Robertson, 26, miner, High Pleasance, lost his life in one of the pits at Millburn Colliery, by a piece of coal weighing from one to two tons falling upon him while drawing stoops. His brother William, who was working along with him, escaped. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 2 September 1882]

Housing Information for 1910 from Scottish Mining website:

Millburn Mine - situated at Dalserf Station
Persons employed underground 171, above ground 21, total 192

The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Millburn, Ayr Road and Cornsilloch Rows - 29
In rented houses, situated at Larkhall, Ashgill, and Dalserf - 158
In houses owned by employees at Larkhall - 5

The mine owners' houses number 107, and are described in 3 groups as follows:-

1. Cornsilloch Rows-
60 two-apartment houses rental £6 10s. Two storey, brick built - erected about 16 years ago - no damp-proof course - walls hollow built - wood floors, ventilated - internal surface of walls and ceilings in good condition

- No gardens - wash-houses and coal cellars provided
- One privy to every 4 houses - doors have locks

- Outside sinks, without water, at stairheads - surface channel for ground flat
- Gravitation water from pillar wells
- Scavenged regularly at owners' expense
- The above privies were constructed recently, and allocated to tenants

2. Ayr Road Rows
40 two-apartment houses, rental £5 10s

- One storey, brick built, rough cast - erected about 35 years ago - overhauled 16 years ago - no damp-proof course - walls probably hollow - plastered on brick - 12 kitchen floors concrete; other floors wood, ventilated - internal surfaces of walls and ceilings in fair condition.
- No overcrowding - apartments good size
- Some 12 houses have gardens - common wash-houses - coal cellars.
- One privy to every 4 houses - doors have locks - no sinks - drainage by surface channels.
- Gravitation water from pillar wells
- Representatives of company were met recently regarding remodelling of privies and allocating same to tenants. The work has since been carried out.

3. Millburn Rows
7 two-apartment houses, rental £5

- One storey, brick built - erected about 30 years ago - no damp-proof course - walls appear hollow - plastered on brick - floors in kitchen brick - floors in rooms wood, partly ventilated - internal surface of walls and ceilings fair.
- No overcrowding - kitchens good side but rooms somewhat small
- Three or four gardens - wash-houses - no coal cellars
- Two privies, with locks on doors
- Outside sinks, with gravitation water
- Drainage underground
- Scavenged regularly at owners' expense.

Notes on Millburn Rows- These are now demolished - colliery given up.

Millheugh

Name: Millheugh
Owners: Millheugh Colliery Ltd
Location: Larkhall **NS 75626 50759**
Year Opened: before 1860
Year Closed: 1896
Known Operational Dates:

Located at Millheugh, east of the river Avon, south of Grier Place and close to the now-demolished Broomhill House. Colliery marked on 1864 6-inch OS map but not on later maps. 1931 list of abandoned mines says closed in 1896.

Monkey Pit

Name: Monkey Pit – see Millburn
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Netherburn

Name: Netherburn
Owners: 1860-1865 - Steuart & McKechnie. 1874,1875 - Smith & Gray. 1896 - Netherburn Coal Co.
Location: Netherburn. **NS 80033 47418**
Year Opened: 1860
Year Closed: 1896
Known Operational Dates: poss as early as 1845

'Statistical Account of Scotland', 1845, mentions mining at Netherburn but not clear whether it is this mine or another in the vicinity. Located in the centre of Netherburn, just east of the Draffan Road, very close to Bentrigg colliery (qv). It had 32 employees in 1874 and in 1896, the year it closed it had 14 employees, 12 underground and two surface. The manager was Robert Houston.

Newhouse

Name: Newhouse, also called Newhouserigg
Owners: 1895-1896 - Robert Grant & Son, Lochside, Larkhall
Location: Larkhall **NS 74020 49650 (No 2 shaft), NS 74069 49836 (No 1 shaft)**
Year Opened: 1895
Year Closed: 1919
Known Operational Dates:

Two shafts located to the southwest of Millheugh, near the junction of the Broomelton Road and the Plotcock Road. Description of Disused Shafts and Mines indicates two shafts, abandoned 8 July 1919, which can be identified on current OS 25000 map. In 1896 it had 22 employees, 14 underground and 8 surface. The manager was Robert Grant. Appears to have closed after WW1.

New Struther

Name: New Struther– see Struther
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened: before
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Nutyard

Name: Nutyard (also seen as Nityard) – see Skellyton
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened: before
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

'Nityard' mentioned in 'Larkhall, its Historical Development' as existing before 1850. 1931 List of Abandoned Mines held in mining museum, lists Nutyard as being part of the Skellyton mine.

Old Buffy

Name: Old Buffy (see also Skellyton)
Owners:
Location: Larkhall Possibly at **NS 772 518**
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates: 1862

The 'Buffy Woods' is a local name for the wooded area along the banks of the Skellyton Gill, running northeast from Burnhead Road in Larkhall to the south bank of the River Clyde. The Skellyton Colliery (NS 7690 5182), which closed in 1951, was also known as the 'Buffy' pit. It is possible that 'Old Buffy relates to a 'Coal Pit' in the 1864 6-inch OS map at NS 7720 5180, located immediately to the east of the Buffy woods and near the more modern Skellyton pit. Operational date of 1862 given in John Milligan's list of Larkhall Coalfield pits but no other information is given.

Over Dalserf

Name: Over Dalserf
Owners: 1866-1867 - Robert Hastie. 1871-1874 - James Barr. 1875 - William Barr & Sons. 1900-1930 - Brand & Co
Location: **Ashgill. Over Dalserf No 1&2 NS 79292 49557.** **Over Dalserf No 3 NS 78997 49114**
Year Opened: before 1866
Year Closed: 1931
Known Operational Dates:

There appear to have been three pits, according to the List of Disused Mines and Shafts held in the Scottish Mining Museum. Number 1 and 2 pits were located southwest to Ashgill, on the east side of the Ashgill-Netherburn road, immediately north of Over Dalserf cottages. Number 3 pit was located on the north side of the Candermill & Marlage Road near the junction with Netherburn Road, just south of Over Dalserf cottages. There were 123 workers in 1914, 107 underground and 16 surface. In 1924 the numbers had reduced to 51 underground and 16 surface. In 1918 the manager was William Young and the under-manager Walter Fleming. In 1910 Scottish Mining website notes the housing conditions as follows:

Over Dalserf Mine - situated near Netherburn
Persons employed underground 86, above ground 17, total 103
The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Ashgill - 17, Dunlop Place - 15, Woodside - 12
In rented houses, situated at Dalserf, Longlee, Netherburn and Larkhall - 68
One employee owns a house at Overtown

13 January 1866. Larkhall – Accident – On the morning of Saturday last, an accident occurred to a collier named David Mackintosh, residing at Red Row, in the parish of Dalserf. He is employed in Over Dalserf Colliery and a quantity of the coal which he had been engaged picking, on the morning above referred to, gave way and fell upon him, causing fracture of the collar bone, cutting his head, and bruising him on several parts of his body. Dr Rae of Stonehouse attended and dressed his wounds. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 20 January 1866]

Overwood

Name: Overwood (also called Dovesdale). See also Watstone.
Owners: 1937-1946 - Overwood Coal Co. 1949-1955 - NCB
Location: Stonehouse **NS 77024 46002**
Year Opened: before 1858
Year Closed: 1955
Known Operational Dates:

East of Stonehouse and west of M74, between Overwood and Dovesdale. Located just south of Dovedale farm on the banks of Cander Water, between Spital Road and the B7078 (formerly A74). Note also 'disused shaft' at NS 7697 4583 on current 1:25000 OS map, also close to Overwood. There appear to have been up to twelve shafts in the area attributed to Overwood, according to NCB list of disused shafts and mines, held at the NMM. *Scottish Collieries* (Oglethorpe) indicates mine opened in 1937 but 'Overwood Colliery' appears on 1864 OS 6-inch map (surveyed 1858). This may account for the multiplicity of shafts in the area.

In 1949 (after nationalisation) there were two surface mines. Output was 35 tons/day, 9000 tons/year using longwall working, and there were 39 employees. There was no washer, baths, canteen or medical facilities (Oglethorpe, *Scottish Collieries*).

Plotcock

Name: Plotcock
Owners: William Crooks
Location: Larkhall NS 739 500
Year Opened: 1929
Year Closed: 1929
Known Operational Dates: coal may have been mined as early as 1845

Located to the west of Larkhall on the Plotcock Road, just north of the junction with Broomelton Road and close to the Thinacres mine (qv). Appears only to have existed for a short period around 1930. List of Abandoned Mines says 'abandoned 1929'. Railscot website indicates that a branch line to Plotcock from the Larkhall-Stonehouse railway line was planned but not brought into use 'possibly because planned mining developments were not proceeded with'. However, the 'Statistical Account of Scotland', 1845, mentions (p258) coal being 'wrought' at Plotcock on a 'smaller scale' than at nearby Quarter.

Prospect

Name: Prospect – see Machan
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Quarter Collieries 1-8

Name: Quarter Collieries 1-8 see also Simpsonland
Owners: 1815-1854 - Duke of Hamilton. 1854-1890 - Colin Dunlop. 1918-1930 - United Collieries. 1947-1960 - NCB.
Location: Quarter Quarter 1 **NS 73853 51718** Quarter 2 **NS 7447 5172** Quarter 3 **NS 73004 51438** Quarter 4 **NS 72888 51743** Quarter 5 **NS 74068 51441** Quarter 6 **NS 72434 51821** Quarter 7 **NS 72302 52320 (also called Simpsonland, qv)** Quarter 8 **NS 72208 52643**
Year Opened: 1815 Quarter 1. 1855 Quarter 2 & 3. 1857-1859 Quarter 4 & 5. 1863 Quarter 6. 1869 Quarter 7. 1892 Quarter 8.
Year Closed: 1951 (abandoned 1960)
Known Operational Dates:

A group of around eight mines in and near the village of Quarter, west of Larkhall. According to Guthrie Hutton, coal had been mined in the area for several centuries before the Duke of Hamilton opened his first mine in 1815. In 1854 the duke leased the mineral rights to Colin Dunlop & Co of Clyde Ironworks. Two more shafts (2 & 3) were sunk in 1855 and shafts 4 & 5 between 1857 and 1859. Shafts 6, 7 and 8 were sunk in 1863, 1869 and 1892 respectively. The 'Statistical Account of Scotland', 1845, mentions that coal was brought from Quarter by a railway along the banks of the Avon to the Avon bridge, half a mile from Hamilton. From there, horse and donkey carts were used to transport the coal into Hamilton. Some Quarter coal also went to Stonehouse and Strathaven. After nationalisation in 1947 only Quarter 1, 2 and 5 remained in operation. Colin Dunlop built over 200 houses and a pub for the workers. In 1910 the Duchess of Hamilton provided a miners' institute with a meeting room, library, billiards, carpet bowls, baths and a skittle alley/curling rink. After the pits closed it became a nursing home. Quarter also had a cricket team, one member of which was the miners' leader and the first Labour MP, James Keir Hardie. Bob Smillie, the Lanarkshire miners' leader mentions in his autobiography, 'My Life for Labour' (p34) that he had played cricket with Keir Hardie in a 'Larkhall vs. Quarter' match, although they had not known each other at the time. Harry Lauder (later Sir Harry) worked at Quarter No 7 and married the under-manager's daughter (Guthrie Hutton). The colliery also had a brass band and held a flower show.

In 1896 there were 744 employees, 645 underground and 99 surface. In 1910 there were 1082, with 872 underground and 210 surface. In 1918 there were 496 (332 underground and 164 surface) at Quarter 1, 2, 4 & 5 pits. At that time the manager was James McDowall and the under-managers James Low (1, 2 & 5) and William Nicol (4). After nationalisation, in 1948 there were 98 employees, producing 115 tons of coal per day, 27445 tons per annum. There were no baths, canteen or medical facilities but there was a nurse in the village.

Books and research by Wilma Bolton, held in the mining museum library, provide a great deal of information on life and work in the collieries at Quarter.

Housing report for 1910 from Scottish Mining website:

Quarter Mines - Situated at Quarter, Parish of Hamilton
Persons employed underground - 872, above ground - 210, total - 1082

The employees reside in the following localities:-
In mine owners' houses, situated at Quarter 379
In rented houses, situated at Larkhall - 205, Strathaven - 114, Limekilnburn - 35, Quarter - 23, Hamilton 307
In houses owned by employees at Larkhall - 14, Strathaven - 1, Hamilton - 4

The mine owners' houses number 224, and are described in 2 groups as follows:

1. Carscallan Rows, Darngaber, Store, Furnace and New Rows
107 One-apartment houses. Rental £1 12s 6d to £5 4s
75 Two-apartment houses. Rental £5 4s to £9 2s
5 Three-apartment houses. Rental £7 3s to £10 8s

- Houses are one storey, some brick, some stone, with the exception of 32, which form 2 two-storey tenements - Most of the streets have good surfaces and surface water channels and footpath kept in good repair - Houses probably erected 40 years ago - no damp-proof course - External walls appear hollow built - About 2/3 houses have wood floors, which were originally provided with ventilation openings, now in many instances closed up - Other houses have brick or concrete floors - No strapping or lathing - Much of the wall plaster loose and crumbling, due to age or dampness - Number of ceilings much patched.
- No overcrowding, although garret apartments at New Row are small and have very low ceilings, and rooms at Store Row are also small.
- Garden ground available for all houses, and since inauguration of village flower show, three years ago, this has been largely taken advantage of.
- Wash houses are provided for 40 houses at new buildings and tenement.
- Number of tenants of rows have erected wooden wash houses at rear of their dwellings but the majority have to wash inside dwellings or in open. Coal cellars at new buildings and tenements - all others store their coal under beds or in wooden erections of their own outside.
- Privies, with doors and locks, at new buildings and tenement, one privy for every 4 houses - all others have open privies at a rate of one privy for every 5 or 6 houses, situated to rear of buildings at foot of gardens, and adjoining ashpits.
- Outside sinks, without water, at stairhead of new buildings and tenements - all other houses have outside slop sinks, without water supply, in front of houses - one sink to every 4 houses.
- Gravitation water from pillar wells - supplied from private source belonging to company, which has frequently been complained of as insufficient in quantity.
- Scavenger constantly employed at owners' expense.
- The new drainage system was laid down at request of Public Health Department. The defective water supply and damp conditions and floors of a number of houses is presently being dealt with.
- A workmen's institute with bathing arrangements has recently been erected.

Notes on Garscallan Row - 22 houses have been provided with scullery (without sink and water supply), coal cellar and wooden pail privy. 4 wash houses also provided

Notes on Darngaber Row - 30 one-apartment and 6 two-apartment houses have been provided with sculleries, coal cellars and 9 wash houses, also a pail closet for each house

Notes on Store Row - 18 two-apartment houses have been provided with sculleries, coal cellars and 5 wash houses

Notes on Furnace Row - 20 one-apartment houses and 40 two-apartment houses have been provided with sculleries and coal cellars. 12 houses at east side provided with two wash houses, while 12 at west side have each a washing boiler in scullery, and pail closet in each

Notes on New Buildings - 24 two-apartment dwellings, 12 of these have been provided with a pail closet for each dwelling and the foundations have been put in for the other 12

Notes on Castle Buildings - 8 two-apartment dwellings. 2 houses have been provided with a pail closet each

2. Low Quarter and Mid Quarter
25 One-apartment houses Rental £2 12s
12 Two-apartment houses Rental £6 10s

- These houses are probably the oldest miners' dwellings in the County, having been in existence for over 100 years, and were originally thatched - Walls stone, solid built - no damp-proof course - 16 houses recently reconstructed, provided with wood floors, ventilated - the others have brick or stone floors - The reconstructed houses have internal wall surfaces and ceilings lined with wood, painted - the old houses are plastered on solid, and are in bad state of repair.
- No overcrowding - apartments fair size.
- The ceilings of old houses are very low.
- All houses have gardens.
- One wash house at Low Quarter for 7 houses - others have to wash inside dwellings or in open - no coal cellars.
- Privies are provided at rear of dwellings, in the proportion of one to every 4 or 5 houses. A few have doors fitted with locks.
- At Low and Mid Quarter, outside sinks, without water supply, in front of dwellings - one sink to every 4 houses.
- Drainage - part surface channel and part underground.
- Gravitation water supply from pillar wells, supplied from private source supplying Quarter Village.
- Scavenged fairly regularly at owners' expense.
- Action has been taken regarding damp and dilapidated condition of a large number of houses at these rows, as the result of which 18 have now been reconstructed The repairs, consisting of rebuilding portions of the walls, providing larger windows (to open), new slated roofs in place of old thatch, removal of soil abutting on back wall, draining ground along back wall, new wooden floors and wood lining on internal wall surfaces. Underground drainage was also provided, and water pipes extended. 6 old thatch houses at Low Quarter are presently being dealt with, and 4 at Mid Quarter have just been rebuilt and drains provided.

Notes on Low Quarter - 3 one-apartment houses and one of three-apartments have been provided with sculleries and a pail closet for each dwelling. At 5-one-apartment houses, 4 of two-apartments and 2 of three-apartments, one of these three-apartment houses has been provided with a scullery, and all have a pail closet each.

There were many fatal accidents at Quarter. On 16 March 1841 11 miners were killed by and explosion of firedamp:

Brownlie, -, aged 10, in the mine at the time of the explosion, son of William.

Brownlie, William, in the mine at the time of the explosion.

Duffie, James, in the mine at the time of the explosion.

Duffie, John, in the mine at the time of the explosion.

Fife, James, died trying to rescue those in the mine.

Fisher, James, died trying to rescue those in the mine.

Fleming, James, died trying to rescue those in the mine.

McLean, Hugh, in the mine at the time of the explosion.

Pate, George, died trying to rescue those in the mine.

Smith, John, in the mine at the time of the explosion.

Wetherspoon, William, in the mine at the time of the explosion.

A number of other individual accidents resulted in additional deaths:

Anderson, John, 31 Dec 1879, aged 13, Collier. Fall of roof. Stoop and room.

Baird, John, 24 Nov 1904, aged 41, Brusher. Struck by a stone projected by a shot of Arkite; having failed to take proper shelter.

Baxter, Alexander, 28 May 1909, aged 67, Overman. Fall of roof in lye while clearing away a previous fall.

Black, Hugh, 18 Feb 1871, aged 14, Collier. Fall of coal at face while holing.

Campbell, George, 14 Oct 1875, aged 50, Collier. Crushed between a loaded hutch and roof while riding out on the horse road.

Coyle, William, 23 May 1904, aged 20, Drawer. When taking an empty hutch down a dook another hutch let away by two drawers ran down on him.

Crossley, George, 27 Jul 1903, aged 32, Miner. Fall of roof at working face.

Fleming, W., 20 Sep 1869, aged 42, Sinker. Rope caught on bunton and fell on him.

Gemmell, John, 17 Aug 1896, aged 30, Miner. Fall of roof stone at face of close place.

Hamilton, Thomas Wilson, 15 Jan 1908, aged 53, Reddsman. When setting props to secure broken timbering on a road which he was repairing, the roof gave way and fell on him.

Keith, John, 08 Nov 1884, aged 36, Labourer. Suffocated by falling under a hutch of manure which he was emptying.

Kyle, Hugh, 29 Feb 1904, aged 45, Haulage engineman. Caught in some unknown manner by the haulage engine when putting tar on the rope.

Law, Mathew, 10 Dec 1858, Roadsman. Crushed by cage whilst attempting to go from one side of the pit bottom to the other.

McCann, Edward, 07 Jan 1885, aged 50, Reddsman. Fall of roof. On drawing road, stoop and room.

McDonald, Donald, 30 Dec 1879, aged 35, Banksman. Crushed by locomotive against screen.

McGregor, John, 06 Apr 1893, 3.15 p.m., aged 27, Driver. Fall of roof.

McMillan, Robert, 13 Mar 1895, 7p.m., aged 19, Screenman, Caught by screening belt.

McPake, Thomas, 17 Dec 1903, aged 32, Miner. Fall of roof in working place.

Moore, William, 14 Jul 1870, Pit Headman, explosion of firedamp.

Perrie, William, 29 Dec 1904, aged 20, Miner. Fall of coal while holing. It fell between two sprags set ten feet apart.

Prentice, James, 14 Dec 1881, aged 40, Collier. The deceased and other three men were ascending the pit. The engineman did not stop the cage until it was about eight feet above the landing, and deceased, apparently alarmed, jumped on to the roof of the shed, which sloped towards the shaft, and he slid off into the shaft. The other three men remained on the cage and sustained no injury.

Ramage, William, 24 Sep 1904, aged 41, Shaftsman. When repairing the shaft he overbalanced himself and fell out of the cage. He was under the influence of drink.

Reid, Samuel, 29 May 1890, 7.00 p.m., aged 21, Miner. Crushed by cage.

Robson, John, 30 Sep 1904, aged 45, Miner. When drawing props at the stoops the roof gave way and caught him.

Semple, John, 15 Dec 1871, aged 17, Pithead man. Run over by waggons.

Small, William, 04 Mar 1862, Drawer. Fall of roof at face.

Smith, Harry, 18 May 1898, aged 72, Labourer. Deceased was employed cleaning bricks on the side of the railway leading to the colliery, and it is supposed he was struck by the locomotive engine as it passed.

Smith, James, 11 May 1904, aged 44, Brusher. Fall of roof and side in working face.

Swanbrick, John, 03 Nov 1865, aged 45, Collier. Fall of roof. He had only been 2 years in pits.

Ward, James, 14 Jul 1870, Sinker. Explosion of firedamp.

White, David, 03 Aug 1880, aged 20, Collier. Fall of roof. At face, longwall.

Williamson, Gavin, 14 Jul 1870, Sinker. Explosion of firedamp.

Wilson, John, 19 Mar 1896, aged 30, Shiftman. Deceased was repairing a cage seat at a mid-working. While testing a plank by standing upon it with one foot, it broke, and he fell with it to pit bottom, a distance of 11 fathoms.

For more information, Press reports, etc. on these accidents, see Scottish Mining website.

Raploch

Name: Raploch
Owners: 1854-1865 - Robert Couper. 1865-1873 - James Frew. 1875-1880 - Trustees of James Frew. 1886 - Frame & Co.
Location: Larkhall **NS 75894 51166**
Year Opened: Pre-1845
Year Closed: 1886
Known Operational Dates: (1886)

Mentioned in 'Statistical Account of Scotland', 1845. Also known as McNeil Street. Located on north side of McNeil Street close to where Gasworks Park is today. A different and older pit from Raploch 2 (see below). Seems to have existed until about 1886. Slater's Commercial Directory of 1886 lists among Coal Owners 'Frame & Co, Raploch Colliery, Larkhall'. 1864 6-inch OS map indicates 'Coal Pit' on north side of modern-day McNeil Street at approximately location given above, close to Gasworks Park. On 1898 map built over by McNeil Street houses. Presumably closed shortly after 1860 to enable building of new houses. Not to be confused with Raploch 2 (qv), sometimes called New Raploch, which is to the north.

Raploch No 2

Name: Raploch No 2 also known as Crossgates/New Raploch
Owners: Raploch Coal Co.
Location: Larkhall **NS 75895 51615**
Year Opened: 1910
Year Closed: 1930
Known Operational Dates:

Located in central Larkhall close to railway line to Hamilton, just west of Crossgates Street. Also called Crossgates colliery (see below). Opened in 1910. In 1914 there were 121 employees, 103 underground and 18 surface. In 1918 there were 146 employees, 120 underground, 26 surface, and the manager was R L Waugh. In 1924 there were 112 employees, 87 underground, 25 surface.

Larkhall - Serious Pit Accident. Three Men Injured. About midday on Saturday [10 March 1910] an explosion of gas occurred in Crossgates Colliery, Larkhall, belonging to the Raploch Coal Company Ltd. Three men, James Blyth (35), residing at Brown's Buildings, Avon Street; David McCormack (29), Claremont Place; and William London (30), Avon Street, were employed at the pit bottom changing a pump, and when in the pump chamber, their lights ignited some gas that had been flying about, with the result that an explosion was caused. Blyth received a fracture to the left arm above the elbow and burns on the face, arms and hands; McCormack received a scalp wound and burns on the face

and arms; while London received burns on the face and arms. The unfortunate men were attended by Drs. Stevenson and McNay, and and Blyth and McCormack afterwards removed to the Royal Infirmary. London was taken to his home. On enquiry at the infirmary on Monday, Blyth was reported to be in a critical condition. The colliery is just opening up and the explosion took place 65 fathoms from the surface. [*Hamilton Herald*, 16 March 1910].

20 December 1922. Fatal Pit Accident at Larkhall - Thomas M'Cutcheon, miner, Union Street, Larkhall, was instantaneously killed yesterday in Raploch Colliery, Larkhall. He was working in the Virtuewell seam, and preparing to leave off work, when a fall came away from the roof. When extricated, he was found to be dead. Deceased was a married man and leaves a wife and family. [*Scotsman* 21 December 1922]

Red Lyon

Name: Red Lyon
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Mentioned in John Milligan's list of Larkhall collieries but not located and no further information. Possibly a nickname?

Rohne

Name: Rohne (possible nickname)
Owners:
Location: Crossford possibly **NS 82302 46955 or NS 82385 47130**
Year Opened: possibly as early as 1818/19
Year Closed: before 1898
Known Operational Dates: mid-late 19th century

Located on north bank of the River Nethan at Crossford. A book on the region, 'The Crossford-Hazelbank District', a survey of seventy years from 1880 to 1945, by Charles F Hoy, mentions that the mine was 'on the north bank of the River Nethan, not far from Nethanfoot Bridge'. The coal was 'highly suitable for gas production. On a railroad along the bank of the river ponies pulled hutches carrying the coal from the mine to the main road at the Bridge. There, the coal was loaded on to horse-drawn lorries to be taken to Braidwood station for further transport'. A local Crossford man has written that this coal was used by the Glasgow Gas Works when gas street lighting was introduced there in 1818-19. The 1864 6-inch OS map shows 'Mine' at both above locations, which

fit the description in the book, but do not occur in 1898 or later editions. The name of the pit is very unusual. I can find no other record. Is it possible that the name 'Rohne' equated to the Scottish word for gutter, referring to a narrow bridge or gutter along which the coal was transported?

Ross

Name: Ross
Owners: 1883 - Colonel Robertson Aikman. 1890-1896 - Thomas Barr. 1900-1915 - Trustees of Thomas Barr. 1918-1945 - Archibald Russell.
Location: Ferniegair/Hamilton **NS 74114 55237**
Year Opened: 1883
Year Closed: 1945
Known Operational Dates:

Included because of association with Haughhead (qv). Located northeast of Haughhead on other side of today's M74 motorway. In 1896 it had 138 employees (108 underground/30 surface) and the manager was William Twaddle, under-manager T. Nesbit. In 1918 it had 331 employees (250/81), the manager was Andrew Clarkson, under-manager John Ross. See Wilma Bolton book 'Pit Props and Ponies' for much more information. Listed below are fatal accidents at Ross Colliery, taken from the Durham Mining Museum website:

Bond, John, 24 May 1904, aged 39, Chain runner. A race of empty hutches on a dook got unhooked from the rope and ran down on him.

Cox, James, 03 Feb 1904, aged 63, Miner. Fall of roof at working face. He was working at a point which he was instructed not to touch and which was not propped in terms of the regulations. [Report in *The Scotsman* of 3 Feb 1904 gives age as 55 and provides some more detail.]

Hamilton, Robert, 22 Oct 1888, aged 18, Collier. Fall of side, at face, stooping.

Henderson, William, 15 Feb 1898, aged 13, Miner. Killed by a fall of roof stone, liberated by a "lype" and smooth parting, in a place driven along a stoop side in the Main Coal Seam.

Martin, John, 04 Dec 1903, aged 28, Miner. Fall of coal. It was not spragged in terms of the regulations.

McCook, Samuel, 12 Nov 1896, aged 25, Brusher. Fall of roof stone in longwall waste while getting stones for buildings.

Murphy, William, 28 Dec 1900, aged 56, Fireman. Deceased was making his second visit of inspection, as usual with an open light, when he ignited some gas and caused an explosion. He examined the same place six hours before with a safety lamp, and found all clear; in the interval, the roof had broken up to the Pyotshaw coal, and gas was liberated. Gas was seen at the heading face, some distance above the place of ignition, eight days before, during a storm, when the barometer was exceptionally low.

Nisbet, John, 16 Apr 1907, aged 38, Brushing contractor. He lit the fuses of three gelignite shots. Thinking all had gone off he returned too soon, when one of the shots went off on him.

Paterson, Alexander, 26 Mar 1907, (accident: 09 Mar 1907), aged 56, Overman. When walking out to the pit bottom he struck his head against a crown and cut it. Blood-poisoning set in and he died on 26th March.

Reid, Charles, 02 Mar 1893, 11.15 a.m., aged 24, Screenman. Run over by waggon

Robb, Thomas, 19 Nov 1909, aged 24, Pitheadman. Fell from mid-working or cage while ascending shaft.

Taylor, Alexander, 13 Apr 1907, aged 47, Overman. Fall of roof in working place while starting a coal-cutting machine.

Tweedie, James, 17 Jun 1885, aged 40, Driver. Jammed between prop and hutches while putting in snibbles.

White, William, 20 Aug 1912, aged 37, Repairer. Whilst repairing in a fallen roadway a piece of stone, 15 inches by 12 inches by 9 inches, fell from the roof and struck him on the head. The work was under the charge of an oversman, who had examined the roof and thought it was safe, and therefore relied on its not falling. It would have been better to have started from one end of the fall, and protected the workers overhead with temporary timber as they advanced.

Wright, John, 16 Oct 1889, aged 63, Miner. Fall of head coal.

3 February 1904. Fatal Accident at Ross Colliery **-** James Cox (55), miner, Ferniegair, Hamilton, has been fatally injured in Ross Colliery, belonging to Thomas Barr's trustees. He was engaged at the stoops in the main coal seam when a stone weighing between 3 and 4 cwts., fell from the roof, killing him almost instantaneously. [*Scotsman* 6 February 1904]

School

Name: School – see Shawsburn
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Shaws & Shaw No 2

Name: Shaws & Shaws No 2
Owners: 1900 - Larkhall Collieries. 1905-1910 - United Collieries Ltd.
Location: Larkhall **NS 77615 49095** (Shaws) **NS 77570 49320** (Shaws 2)

Year Opened: before 1900
Year Closed: 1918
Known Operational Dates:

Two pits located on east side of A71 Ayr Road, just north of junction with Swinhill Road. Shaws located almost opposite where the Shawlands Park Hotel is today, Shaws No 2 slightly to the north. Shaws collieries situated to the south of Shawsburn and Shawsrigg, all on the stretch of Ayr Road between Canderside and Burnhead Road. List of 'Disused Shafts and Mines' held in mining museum indicates Shaws closed in 1918. 'The Lanarkshire Miners' indicates that in 1900 there were 25 employees at Shaws. Scottish Mining website gives following information for 1910:

Shaws Mine - situated near Larkhall
Persons employed underground 31, above ground 6, total - 37
The employees reside in the following localities:-
In rented houses, situated at Larkhall and Stonehouse - 32
In houses owned by employees at Stonehouse - 5

Shawsburn 1-4

Name: Shawsburn 1-4 (also Shawsburn B?)
Owners: Shawsburn 1. 1866 - Andrew Spencer. 1890 - Stonehouse Coal Co. 1890-1900 - W & D Sym. 1905-1910 - United Colleries. Shawsburn 2 – 1873 - Andrew Spencer. 1890 - William Sym. 1940 - Peter Frew. Shawsburn 3 (or B?) – 1938-1940 - Peter Frew Shawsburn 4 – 1873 - Andrew Spencer.
Location: Shawsburn 1 **NS 77654 50127** Shawsburn 2 **NS 77658 49973** Shawsburn 3 (or B?) **NS 77620 50085** Shawsburn 4 **NS 77691 49742**
Year Opened: Shawsburn 1 1866. Shawsburn 2 1873. Shawsburn 3 1938. Shawsburn 4 1873
Year Closed: Shawsburn 1 1910. Shawsburn 2 1940. Shawsburn 3 1940. Shawsburn 4 1873.
Known Operational Dates: Poss as early as 1845?

Collieries located on the Ayr Road between Canderside and the Burnhead Road junction. See also Shaws and Shawsrigg collieries in the same area. John Milligan's list of Larkhall collieries mentions the name 'School' in connection with Shawsburn collieries, possibly a nickname for one of the pits in the vicinity of Shawsburn school. Scottish Mining website indicates that Shawsburn colliery was operating in 1866, owner Andrew Spencer. 'Statistical Account of Scotland', 1845, mentions mining at Shawsburn in 1845. 'The Lanarkshire Miners' indicates that Shawsburn had 78 employees in 1874 (owner Andrew Spencer) and 17 employees in 1900 (Owner W D Sym). In 1896 there were there were 34 employees, 30 underground and 4 surface. The owner was W Sym and the manager William Scott. Scottish Mining website gives the following information for 1910:

Shawsburn Mine - situated near Larkhall
Persons employed underground 55, above ground 5, total - 60

The employees reside in the following localities:-
In rented houses, situated at Larkhall - 50
In houses owned by employees at Larkhall - 8, Stonehouse - 2

21 April 1914. Pit accident at Larkhall - Yesterday morning Robert B. Paterson, colliery fireman, residing at Grangerfield Place, Larkhall, lost his life in. Shawsburn Colliery, Larkhall. He was examining the working places, and in the course of doing so he seems to have fallen down the shaft and been fatally injured. *[Scotsman* 22 April 1914]

Shawsrigg, Shawsrigg No 2

Name: Shawsrigg, Shawsrigg No 2
Owners: Shawsrigg. 1893 - Stonehouse Coal Co. 1895-1908 - Shawsrigg Fireclay & Enamelling Co. 1910 - Southhook & Shawsrigg Fireclay Co. Shawsrigg No 2. 1918 - H M McNeill-Hamilton.
Location: Shawsrigg **NS 77655 50130**. Shawsrigg No 2. **NS 77848 50533**
Year Opened: Shawsrigg 1893. Shawsrigg No 2 1918
Year Closed: Shawsrigg 1910. Shawsrigg No 2 1918
Known Operational Dates:

Shawsrigg was located on the west side of the A71 Ayr Road, between Canderside and the Burnhead Road, very close to the Shawsburn 1 pit. The Shawsrigg Fire Clay and Enamelling company, owners of the mine, was incorporated in 1895 to continue the business carried on by William Hunter at Jamaica Street, Glasgow and at Larkhall. Hunter had taken over an earlier business, the West of Scotland Fireclay and Sanitary Enamelling Company Limited. He took a lease from Henry Hamilton of Raploch dated 1895 covering 200 acres in the lands of Shawburn and Harelees. Their brickworks was situated about 1 1/2 miles south-east of Larkhall, near Shawsburn Colliery and was connected to the Shawsrigg pit by a mineral railway. The Company went into voluntary liquidation in 1910, when its assets were bought by the Southhook Fireclay Company. It continued trading as Southhook and Shawsrigg Fireclay Co Ltd at least to 1921. (Source: Kenneth W Sanderson).

Shawsrigg 2 was located on the south side of Burnhead Road, Larkhall, just west of the junction with the A71 Ayr Road. Although they shared the 'Shawsrigg' name they appear to have had different owners and operated at different times. In 1896 Shawsrigg had 17 employees, 13 underground and 4 surface and the manager was B Neilson. Shawsrigg 2 appears to have been abandoned on 19 November 1918, just one week after the end of WW1. At the time it had 7 employees, 4 underground and 3 surface and the manager was Andrew Tait. The owner, H M McNeil Hamilton also owned the nearby Bentrigg colliery.

Shotlinn

Name: Shotlinn
Owners: 1940-1945 - John Watson Ltd. 1945-1948 - licensed to Overwood Coal Co.
Location: **NS 70766 48695**
Year Opened: 1940
Year Closed: 1948
Known Operational Dates:

Located at Shotlinn, north of Strathaven and southwest of Quarter, just east of the A723 Hamilton-Strathaven road. Licensed after coal nationalisation to Overwood Coal Co. and closed in 1948. *Hamilton Advertiser*, 2 December 1944, refers to theft of coal from Shotlinn.

Simpsonland

Name: Simpsonland - see also Quarter 7
Owners: United Colleries
Location: Quarter **NS 72285 52317**
Year Opened: 1905
Year Closed: 1920
Known Operational Dates:

Appears to be alternative name for Quarter No 7 pit. Located just north of Quarter village, to the north of the Carscallan Road leading to Eddlewood. Close to other Quarter collieries which were also owned by United Collieries. In 1908 it had 589 employees, 495 underground and 94 surface. In 1914 it had 587 employees, 503 underground and 84 surface. Statistics in 1918 are linked to Quarter No6 colliery, with both pits having the same manager (David Gennell) and apparently employing 340 men, 268 underground and 72 surface. The undermanager at Simpsonland in 1918 was John Morris.

Accident report from Scottish Mining website.

1906, December 21. Simpsonland No 2, United Collieries Ltd. Accident took place in the shaft of Simpsonland No. 2 Pit, Lanarkshire, and by it the manager (Robert Gardiner, age 49), the overman (Andrew Maxwell, age 60), and a roadsman (James McGinty, age 39) lost their lives. It appears that when the dip cage containing two empty hutches was being lowered it stuck about 6 fathoms above the main coal bottom, and after being released by two of the deceased climbing up the shaft, they spent some 45 minutes in putting right the defect, but what the defect was does not seem to be known. In response to a signal, the engineman was slowly lowering the cage, when the side of the shaft collapsed and broke the barring some 6 or 7 fathoms above the cage. The consequence was that the falling mass of debris struck the cage and broke the rope. The bodies of the deceased were afterwards found in the cage seat beneath the cage. Apparently the pressure behind the 4-inch barring first broke the buntons, and then the barring itself gave way. See Scottish Mining website for more reports. Some newspaper reports give the location as Quarter No 8 pit.

1920, January 12. Simpsonland Colliery, Quarter. Richard Ritchie Register of Fatal Accidents - scalding by escape of steam and hot water from boiler under repair. William McCaig, died 2 Feb, injured in same incident.

Sims

Name: Sims
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Mentioned in John Milligan's list of Larkhall collieries but not located and no further information. Possibly nickname (Sim's?) of a pit (eg Marlage or Shawsburn) owned by William Sym or member of the Sym family?

Skellyton Nos 1, 2, 3, 4

Name: Skellyton Nos 1, 2, 3, 4 (also known as Buffy)
Owners: 1857-1860 - Duke of Hamilton & Wilson. 1862-1875 - Hamilton & McCulloch. 1875-1880 - Alexander Smith. 1895 - Hamilton Colliery Co. 1896 - Larkhall& Fairholm Collieries. 1900-1905 - United Collieries. 1908-1945 - Darngavil Coal Co
Location: Larkhall **NS 76898 51804**
Year Opened: pre-1857
Year Closed: 1945
Known Operational Dates: Possibly as early as 1845

Immediately west of Skellyton woods, close to Carrick Place. Also known as 'Buffy' Colliery because of proximity to Buffy (Skellyton) woods. Appears to be a different operation from the Skellyton 2&3 collieries, see below. Mentioned as being operational in 'Statistical Account of Scotland', 1845. Alan Campbell (*Lanarkshire Miners*) suggests mining operations go back as far as 18th century but see also Old Buffy, above. 70 employees in 1874. In 1918 there were 240 employees, 203 underground and 37 surface. The manager was John Richmond and under-manager James Peacock. *The Hamilton Advertiser* of 10 February 1945 reported that the pit was scheduled for closure at the end of March 1945.

Durham Mining Museum website lists the following fatal accidents at the colliery:

Arbuckle, George, 29 Oct 1864, aged 25, Collier. Fall of top coal.

Baxter, David, 22 Oct 1937, Manager. Killed by an explosion of gas.

Bruce, William, 15 Aug 1902, aged 21, Miner. Gas, which was known to be given off, accumulated at the brushing face and was ignited by a naked light. Apparently one of the deceased had taken down a screen, and this prevented the air current from playing upon the feeder.

Davidson, George, 17 Nov 1910, aged 23, Assistant Machineman. When the bar of a coal cutting machine was being swung into the face as soon as the bar touched the coal the machine bounded back and the deceased, who was working the lifting handle, was caught by the leg by the bar and drawn in and killed.

Fleming, A., 15 Jul 1868, Driver. Hutch got off rails, and knocked out a prop, and the roof fell upon him.

Gillespie, James, 03 Nov 1870, aged 14, Collier. Fall of coal. Boy worked with his father.

Lindsay, William, 24 Mar 1897, aged 18, Bottomer. Deceased pushed a loaded hutch into the shaft at a mid-working when the cage was not there. The gate at the mid working was connected with an indicator in the engine house as required by Special Rules.

Ludon, J., 25 Jul 1868, aged 40, Overman. Was leaning over pit mouth at low scaffold, when the cage came down, and knocked him into the pit.

Lyle, Charles, 22 Oct 1937, Fireman. Killed by an explosion of gas.

Magee, James, 10 Jun 1903, aged 19, Bottomer. He pushed an empty hutch into the open shaft at a mid-working and fell after it to the bottom.

Muir, James, 15 Aug 1902, aged 20, Miner. Gas, which was known to be given off, accumulated at the brushing face and was ignited by a naked light. Apparently one of the deceased had taken down a screen, and this prevented the air current from playing upon the feeder.

Spence, David, 11 Oct 1911, aged 43, Brusher. He was stowing the debris made from a brushing shot, when the roof fell upon him; the stone came away from some "lypes," which were unseen.

Stewart, James, 19 Aug 1895, 6p.m., aged 36, Roadsman. Caught by cage.

Wardrop, James, 19 May 1866, aged 19, Drawer. Crushed by tubs running over him on incline. See Scottish Mining website for more detail. Scottish Mining website also lists:

8 May 1915. Fatal Accident – Junior Footballer Killed – About 1 o'clock on Saturday morning John Rodger (36), residing at 97 Drygate Street, Larkhall, was instantaneously killed in Skellyton Colliery, belonging to the Darngavil Coal Company Ltd. It appears the deceased was working at the machine walls in the garves section of the Kiltongue seam when a large stone, weighing about 30 cwt, came away from the roof, and crushed him to the pavement. Assistance was speedily at hand, and by the combined efforts of his fellow workmen the stone was removed. Artificial respiration was resorted to, but it proved of no avail, death having been instantaneous. Dr Caldwell, who examined the body, certified death to be due to fracture of the cervical vertebra. Deceased was the well-known junior left back, and for several years played for Burnbank Athletic, being a member of the team when they won the Scottish Junior Cup in 1901. He represented the Scottish Junior Association in the match against Wales in 1902, and was also capped by the Lanarkshire League against the Irish League in 1901. He was a rare defender and played wholeheartedly in every game. He assisted both Larkhall Thistle and Larkhall United in later years, and was in the Thistle team when they won the Scottish Cup in 1908. The funeral, which was of a public nature, took place to Larkhall Cemetery on Monday and was largely

attended. Many prominent junior officials were present, as well as representatives from county and local clubs, and many floral tributes from members of the family and friends were received. Deceased was a member of a highly respected family in the town, and the death of one under such tragic circumstances has occasioned widespread sympathy and sorrow. A widow and five of a family are left to mourn the loss, and the sympathy of the community is extended to them in their bereavement. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 15 May 1915]

Skellyton 2 & 3

Name: Skellyton 2&3 see also Skellyton
Owners: 1944-1946 - Wilson's and Clyde Coal Co. 1947-1951 - NCB.
Location: Larkhall **NS 76940 51845**
Year Opened: 1944
Year Closed: 1951
Known Operational Dates:

Situated near Willows Road, almost equidistant between the Duke Street cemetery and the M74 today. A more recent colliery than the one of the same name near the Buffy woods (see above). According to '*Scottish Collieries*' (Oglethorpe) there were two mines sunk to a depth of 14 metres (No2) and 50 Metres (No3). Report from 1948 indicates output at 560 tons/day, 30000 tons/year from both stoop and room and longwall working. There were 92 employees and no baths, canteen or medical facilities.

South Longrigg

Name: South Longrigg
Owners: 1900-1920 (approx.) - Wilson & Clyde. 1920-1940 - James Gemmell
Location: Netherburn **NS 79750 47980**
Year Opened: 1900
Year Closed: 1940
Known Operational Dates:

Located just west of Netherburn village, on the north side of Broomfield Road, between South Netherburn Farm and the disused railway line. Marked on 1913 OS 6-inch map. List of Disused Shafts and Mines held in Scottish mining Museum suggests there may have been more than one shaft. In 1908 there were 256 employees 221 underground and 35 surface. The manager was D Paterson and the under-manager George Lammie. In 1918 there were 192 employees (150/ 42) and the manager was James Aitken. There were two pits operating, No 2 with under-manager George Lammie and No 3 with undermanager Robert Wotherspoon. In 1924 there were 208 employees (163/45) and in 1934 there were 146 (109/37).

Spion Kop

Name: Spion Kop –see also Canderside and Garibaldi.
Owners:
Location: Stonehouse – poss at NS 7684 4784
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates: (1879)

Located at Stonehouse, on A71 between Canderside Toll and Stonehouse village. Stonehouse Online website mentions that:

'During the late 19th century there was a pit known as the 'Garibaldi Pit' near to the Spion Kop Colliery, immortalised in the line of an old poem dating to 1879.' It is possible that 'Spion Kop' was a nickname for one of the Canderside collieries (qv). No further information.

Struther

Name: Struther
Owners: 1889-1893 - Frame & Co Larkhall. 1895-1908 - Struther Coal Co. 1908-1934 - D Marchbanks & Sons
Location: Struther 1 **NS 77091 49539**. New Struther **NS 77115 49545**. Struther 5 **NS 77076 49802**
Year Opened: 1889
Year Closed: 1934
Known Operational Dates:

Located at Strutherhill, Larkhall, to the east of the B7078 where Strutherhill industrial estate is today. Two pits, Struther and New Struther, to the south of Middleton Avenue and Struther 5 to the north. Presumably other Struther pits existed and the 1898 6-inch OS map shows several 'Old Shafts' in the immediate vicinity. According to Scottish Mining website, Frame & Co owned the mine in1893 and the manager was John Brown. In 1896 there were 125 employees (103/22), presumably the total number at all the Struther pits in operation at the time, and the manager was W M Kirkpatrick. In 1908 New Struther had 4 employees (3/1). In 1918 Struther 1 had 28 employees (20/8) and the manager was D Marchbanks. In 1934 there were 28 employees (22/6) at New Struther and No1. Plant and equipment from 'Struther Colliery' was sold at auction in 1937, so it's possible that mining operations continued for a short while after 1934.

Summerlee

Name: Summerlee – see Dykehead
Owners:
Location:

Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Sunnyside

Name: Sunnyside - see Fairholm
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened: before
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Swinhill 1-6

Name: Swinhill 1-6 see also Millburn
Owners: Swinhill 1. 1866 - Swinhill Coal Co. 1869-1873 - Dalserf Coal Coke & Oil Co. 1874-1875 - Miller & Rodger. 1880 - George Miller & Sons. 1900-1915 - Darngavil Coal Co. Swinhill 2. 1918-1940 - Darngavil Coal Co. Swinhill 3. 1890 - George Miller & Sons Swinhill 4. 1890 - George Miller & Sons Swinhill 5 & 6. (1923) - Darngavil Coal Co.
Location: Swinhill 1 **NS 77579 48705** Swinhill 2 **NS 77776 48553** Swinhill 3 **NS 77578 48839** Swinhill 4 **NS 78278 48355** Swinhill 5 & 6 **NS 77965 47935**
Year Opened: 1866 (Swinhill 1)
Year Closed: 1940 (Swinhill 2)
Known Operational Dates: 1923 for Swinhill 5. Possibly some operations pre-1845

A group of six collieries located to the east of the A71 Ayr Road between Swinhill and Canderside Toll. Mentioned in 'Statistical Account of Scotland', 1845. Various owners in the 19th century but from about 1900 they seem to have been owned by the Darngavil Coal Company. Most seem to have declined after WW1, with only Swinhill 2 & 5 surviving into the 1920s. In 1914 there were 275 employees (219/56) and in 1918 there were 260 at Swinhill 2 & 5 only, manager Alexander Gray and under-manager John Law. In 1923 there were 344 employees (230/114) at Swinhill 2 and 5 and the manager was Alexander Gray. In 1933 it appears that only Swinhill 2 was operating, with a workforce of 105 (79/26) and the manager was John Richmond. In 1937 Swinhill 2 had 183 employees (150/33) and the manager was Alex Harley. In 1940 there were 219 employees (185/34) and the manager was Peter Johnstone.

Fatal accidents from DMM website. See Scottish Mining website for more details.

Carlow, P., 14 Oct 1870, aged 15, Collier. Fall of coal. He was working with his father.

Cuthbertson, Robert, 16 Nov 1901, aged 38, Pitheadman. While riding on footstep of Caledonian Railway Co.'s locomotive on branch railway he fell off and was run over.

Delvin, John, 27 Mar 1889, aged 46, Miner. Fall of roof.

Donnelly, John, 16 Dec 1901, aged 30, Miner. When about to descend the shaft from the pithead, the engineman started the engine the wrong way and overwound the cage, out of which they fell down the shaft. Another man in the cage escaped.

Frame, Jamieson, 13 Aug 1906, aged 22, Miner. Fall of roof in working place where coal cutting machine was used. The fall crushed out the props.

Greer, Walter, 06 Jun 1902, aged 35, Miner. Fall of roof at working face where coal cutting machine was used.

Lott, Walter, 07 Feb 1913, aged 36, Fireman. The deceased entered an old road in which gas had accumulated. He exploded the gas with his naked light and was thus instantly killed. In thus entering this place he contravened General Rule 64 (1 and 2).

Maclean, William, 13 Mar 1909, aged 29, Fireman. Fall of roof on road while repairing it.

McGowan, Peter, 16 Dec 1901, aged 17, Miner. When about to descend the shaft from the pithead, the engineman started the engine the wrong way and overwound the cage, out of which they fell down the shaft. Another man in the cage escaped.

Melvin, Alexr. 02 Oct 1904, aged 23, Miner, He went into a section of working not examined by the fireman and from which the ventilation had been cut off, and his naked light ignited fire-damp.

Morrison, John, 16 Feb 1874, aged 27, Collier, Fall of roof at face (stoop and room).

Plenderleith, William, 13 Mar 1909, aged 16, Chainrunner. Fall of roof on road while repairing it.

Pollard, Richard, 20 Aug 1884, Collier. Fall of roof. While setting props, stoop and room.

Pow, Adam, 18 Mar 1901, aged 29, Miner. Fall of roof at working face.

Torrance, Alexander, 21 Oct 1905, aged 30, Weigher. A line of 9 inch pipes was being taken down, and the supporting trestles having swung, he was struck by a falling pipe.

15 May 1916, Larkhall - Fatal Pit Accident - Early on Monday morning John W M'Dade (30), miner, residing at Drygate Street, Larkhall, lost his life in Swinhill Colliery, belonging to the Darngavil Coal Company, Ltd. He was working in the Kiltongue seam, No 2 Pit, at the machine walls, when a large stone fell from the roof, completely enveloping the unfortunate workman and causing instantaneous death. The body was examined by Dr Morrison. Deceased leaves a widow. [*Hamilton Advertiser* 20 May 1916]

PIT LAD “LOST” FOR TEN HOURS, 1938. A young Ashgill miner, Stewart Speirs (19) 12 Douglas Drive, had a unique and alarming experience in Swinhill Colliery last Friday night, going by mistake in some old working places adjoining a machine run in the Lower Drumgray section. The “damp” extinguished his carbide lamp, and he was unable to find his way out, as it was impossible to relight his lamp in the damp. Owing to the great danger attached to moving about in the darkness of old workings, Speirs made his way to a roadhead and decided to stay there until assistance came. Actually he had a ten-hour wait in the eerie darkness and damp-polluted atmosphere without light

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or food, and although several searchers latterly passed quite near to him he did not hear them owing to the effects of the drowsiness caused by the “damp.” After an all-night search, in which a rescue brigade from Coatbridge took part, the missing lad was found in the morning. Mr Peter Harley, the manager, on learning what had happened, hurried to the colliery and organised the search party. [*Hamilton Advertiser*. 26/11/1938].

Telfer

Name: Telfer
Owners: Darngavil Coal Co
Location: NS 7906 5147
Year Opened: before 1937
Year Closed: 1945
Known Operational Dates: 1937, 1940

Located just north of Garrion Bridge, between the old and new A72 Lanark Road. Owners Darngavil Coal Co. also owned Birkrigg, Cornsilloch, Skellyton & Swinhill collieries. Does not seem to have been operating earlier than the 1930s. Almost certainly named after one of the directors of the Darngavil company, W H Telfer, who was chairman in 1937 and 1940. In 1945, at time of closure, there were 85 employees (66/19) and the manager was J Swanson.

Feb 1945. Larkhall’s mining industry, which has been steadily declining for the past fifteen years, has been further deteriorated in a decision to close three more collieries—Skellyton, Cornsilloch and Telfer Mine. The pits, it is expected, will cease production at the end of March. About 400 men are employed, but the bulk of them will be transferred to other districts. The Telfer Mine, near Garrion Bridge, was opened a number of years ago to cover a particular field of coal. The bulk of this, however, has been extracted. With the closing of these three collieries, only Canderrigg Colliery and a few small mines will be in production in the Larkhall area, where there were once over twenty collieries employing over 5000 miners. [*Hamilton Advertiser*. 10/2/1945].

Thinacre

Name: Thinacre, also called Thinacres
Owners: 1938-1946 - Overwood Coal Co. 1947-1963 - NCB.
Location: Near Quarter **NS 73931 50042**
Year Opened: 1938
Year Closed: 1963
Known Operational Dates:

Located just southeast of Quarter village, on Plotcock Road, very close to Plotcock colliery. Often spelled ‘Thinacres’ but 1957 photo of mine shows the name as ‘Thinacre’. Shortly after opening in 1938 there were 19 employees (14 underground/5 surface) and the manager was James Stirrat. In

1945 there were 35 employees (27/8) and Stirrat was still manager. After 1947 mines nationalisation, operated under licence to Overwood Coal Co until transferred to NCB in 1949. 1949 report indicated Thinacre was a surface mine with average of 91 employees. Output was 60 tons/day, 3000 tons/year. There were no baths, canteen or medical facilities.

Threepwoodbank

Name: Threepwoodbank – see Annabella
Owners:
Location:
Year Opened: before
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Watstone

Name: Watstone - see also Overwood
Owners:
Location**: Stonehouse NS 7669 4593**
Year Opened:
Year Closed:
Known Operational Dates:

Located east of Stonehouse, almost halfway between Watstone and Overwood on modern OS map. Also noted on description of disused mines and shafts (Lanarkshire), held at NMM. Otherwise, can find no mention of this pit. Located very close to Overwood mine (qv). Could possibly be nickname for one of the Overwood mines? But 'Old coal pit' noted on old OS maps from 1864, so may be very old mine (pre-1860).

West Machan

Name: West Machan
Owners: J Burns & Sons
Location: **NS 76747 51249**
Year Opened: 1925
Year Closed: 1960
Known Operational Dates:

Located immediately south of B7019 Burnhead Road, approximately where Livingstone Gardens is located today. This pit was not taken over by the NCB after nationalisation in 1947 but continued to operate under licence to J Burns & Sons until it closed in 1960.

Woodside 1-3

Name: Woodside 1-3
Owners: Woodside 2. 1854-1855 - Joseph Hutchinson. 1860 - Hastie & Smith. 1865-1874 - James Smith & Son. 1880 - Joseph Hutchinson. 1890-1905 - Woodside Coal Co. 1908 -1930 - Brand & Co. 1935-1946 - Wilsons & Clyde. 1947-1955 - NCB.
Location: Woodside 1 **NS 79253 48563** Woodside 2 **NS 79273 48887** Woodside 3 **NS 79576 49104**
Year Opened: 1848 but probably as early as 1812
Year Closed: 1955
Known Operational Dates: 1812, 1845

Mentioned in Statistical Account of Scotland, 1845. Three pits between Ashgill and Netherburn, near the junction of Marlage Road and Netherburn Road. Only Woodside 2, which operated into the NCB era post-1947 nationalisation, seems to have been in existence for any length of time. 1948 NCB report indicates it was a surface mine and gives output of 40 tons/day, 1100 tons/year, worked by hand picking and machine cutting. There were 37 employees, no baths or canteen and an ambulance room in the office. From the accident reports below there must have been underground workings in the pre-nationalisation era. Seems to have declined rapidly after WW2. In 1896 there were 121 employees (98 underground/23 surface) and the manager was John Wardrop. In 1918 there were 185 employees (146/39), manager W Young and under-manager Walter Fleming. In 1934 there were 148 employees (105/43).

Fatality from Scottish Mining website:

4 February 1812. On Tuesday, the 4th curt. Archibald Reid, collier at Woodside coalwork, parish of Dalserf, having reached the height of ten fathoms in ascending the coal-pit, fell from the creel, and was precipitated to the bottom. He was immediately taken up speechless, and so cut and bruised, that although medical aid was procured, he survived only 36 hours, in the greatest agony. He was a sober industrious, man and has left a wife and two infant children. [*Caledonia Mercury* 20 February 1812]

The following fatal accidents were noted from the DMM website:

Anderson, George, 05 Oct 1910, aged 25, Driver. When a horse was pulling four loaded hutches up a "lye" one of the hutches became derailed and collided with the roof supports and displaced them. About 1½ cwts. of roof stone, in consequence, fell upon and killed him.

Barr, John, 11 Feb 1875, aged 15, Switch keeper. Crushed on engine plane. He was found under the tubs. It was supposed he had been riding on the train, which was against orders.

Brown, David, 14 Jun 1872, Miner. Fall of coal.

Copeland (or Copely?), John, 05 Mar 1859, Collier. By fall of stone while engaged repairing an old drawing road.

Currie, John, 27 Nov 1866, aged 46, Miner. A piece of wood was being sent to him on a handline. The knot slipped and the wood fell and struck and hit his head.

Melvin, Thomas, 11 Jul 1863, aged 45, Drawer. He fell down to a lower seam. The scaffold had been removed unknown to him during the previous night, and had not been replaced by the overman.

Melvin, William, 30 Nov 1875, aged 34. Roadsman. A stone fell from the roof of a drawing road while he was examining it (Stoop and room).

Muir, Peter, 04 Feb 1884, Collier. Fall of roof. At face, removing stoops.

Thomson, Thomas, 24 Dec 1885, Collier. Fall of roof. While redding a road; stoop and room

Main Sources of Information

SCOTTISH MINING website: http://www.scottishmining.co.uk/

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY website: https://www.nmrs.org.uk/

DURHAM MINING MUSEUM website: http://www.dmm.org.uk/

'*Black Faces and Tackety Boots'* by Wilma S Bolton

'The Story of the Quarter Collieries' by Wilma S Bolton

'Pit Props and Ponies' by Wilma S Bolton

'The Scottish Miners, 1874-1939 Volume 1' by Alan Campbell

'The Lanarkshire Miners' by Alan B Campbell

'Lanarkshire's Mining Legacy' by Guthrie Hutton

'*Larkhall, Its Historical Development'* by Jack McLellan

'Larkhall Coalfield' by John Milligan (Paper held by National Mining Museum, Scotland)

'The Statistical Account of Scotland', Vol 6, Lanark (1845)

'*The Crossford-Hazelbank District'*, 1875-1945 by Charles F Hoy (copy in Natl Library of Scotland)

Description of Disused Shafts and Mines, Lanarkshire (held by NMMS)

Rail Lines in Larkhall Area, 1905

