

## **An Historical Note**

*The lands of Callendar on which the college stood, and the area surrounding them, have many historical associations and features. The raised ridge of ground lying just to the south of the former building is an esker – a winding, worm-like heap of material laid down by a glacier many thousands of years ago – no doubt part of a great ice sheet covering the Kilsyth hills. The ground on which the college stood was also glacial material, while the main road running past the site is one of Scotland's famous raised beaches, again a memento of a time during and after the fourth Ice Age when sea levels round the country's coast changed considerably.*

*At nearby Polmont shell heaps have been found, the remnants of seafood eaten by the earliest Mesolithic inhabitants of the area. The Neolithic and Bronze-Age peoples created the famous sanctuary at Cairnpapple (near Linlithgow) which remained a sacred place for millenia. The area was important to later Iron-Age people whose three local forts dominated the area: Cockleroy at Linlithgow, which could not be seen from the site of the College, Dumyat near Stirling and Myot Hill near Denny, both of which could be.*

*At nearby Torwood there is one of the "rogue" brochs; that is to say, one of the twelve (out of about six hundred) which have mystified historians by being located in unusual places, in this case on high ground overlooking the cause of Forth.*

*Part of the great Roman defence system created by Lollius Urbicus, the Antonine Wall, runs through what were the college grounds, and in its day formed a physical and, more importantly, a psychological barrier. However, its great strength was ultimately ineffectual as the Romans withdrew south. Thereafter, this area of Scotland was invaded by many peoples, including the Scots from Ireland, the Angles from Northumbria, and the Vikings from Scandinavia – all of these peoples leaving place names or language traces behind them.*

*Though Angles took possession of the Lothians, the Vikings did not succeed in conquering the area, largely because of the great Pictish Kingdom which extended from the Forth to the Orkney Islands. It was probably in this time that the name 'Callendar' was given, meaning 'the wooded place'. The woods were sanctuaries for the Scottish guerrilla fighters in the Wars of Independence. At Torphichen Edward I rested before advancing to meet William Wallace who emerged from the Callendar Woods just a mile away to fight a battle he should not have fought; at the end of the day he had lost a battle, a Kingdom, and a reputation – in sad contrast to his glorious state a year earlier at Stirling Bridge. Robert the Bruce, at Bannockburn in 1314, chose his moment and his ground more skilfully.*

*By the 15<sup>th</sup> Century the influence of the Renaissance was evident, and the Royal Palace at Stirling Castle and Linlithgow Palace show the architectural heritage of Scotland from that great cultural impulse. In St Michael's Church, Linlithgow, James IV was warned not to go to Flodden, a warning he ignored, to his and Scotland's misfortune. The House of Callendar itself was not untouched by events. It was the home of the Livingstone family, and Mary Livingstone was one of the Four Maries, all friends of Mary Queen of Scots who stayed several times at Callendar. The friendships created there continued in less happy days, for the Livingstones stayed with Mary during her English exile until she died at Fotheringay Castle.*

*In later years, General Monck occupied the House and Cromwell seized it. After the 1715 rebellion the estate was forfeited, its owners having been Royalist supporters. The Earl of Kilmarnock who acquired it shortly after 1720 did not learn from that example and supported Charles Edward Stewart, joining him at Prestonpans. After reaching Derby, the Jacobites were forced to retreat. On 16 January the Jacobite army was in Denny, Bannockburn and St Ninians. When Lord Kilmarnock left*

*to join the Prince, Lady Kilmarnock remained at Callendar House; the Hanoverian Army under General Hawley occupied Falkirk. On the morning of 17 January Lady Kilmarnock invited Hawley to breakfast and delayed him there until after 2pm which gave the Jacobites the chance to outflank the Hanoverians and to reach the open moorland at South Bantaskin, about a mile south-west from Falkirk. The Hanoverians lost this battle. On 1 February Kilmarnock looked on Callendar House for the last time. By 16 April 1746 he was at Culloden. His son, Lord Boys, was on the Royalist side. Kilmarnock was captured and led along the lines of the Hanoverian infantry. He had lost his hat – his son stepped out of the Royalist ranks and gave his own to him. Kilmarnock, with others, was tried for treason by the House of Lords, was found guilty and sentenced to death. Again the Callendar Estate was forfeited; then in 1780 it was sold to William Forbes of Kilkenny in Aberdeenshire, and his family held the Estate until its purchase by Falkirk Town Council in 1963.*

*During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the Estate played a significant part in the great Agrarian and Industrial Revolutions, and it helped to create the foundations of modern industrial life in Central Scotland through the development of mining and brickworks for local foundries.*

*In 1964, 43 acres of the Callendar Estate was set aside for building Callendar Park College of Education.*

*(Adapted from a prospectus Introduction by Thomas Rae, Principal of the College from 1979 to 1981.)*