

## Cambusnethan (Wishaw, Law, Overtown and Allanton)

Wishaw is not mentioned in the First Statistical Account of Cambusnethan between 1791-99, only "a village on the lands of Wishaw and Coltness..(which) had no existence 20 years ago". The abundance of coal in the parish of Cambusnethan is noted. By the second statistical account in 1845, Wishawtown and Stewarttown are listed as the chief village of the parish with a population of 1700. Wishawtown was built on the Wishaw estate of Robert Hamilton, and Stewarttown on the Coltness estate of Sir James Stewart.

Early collieries in the area included the Distillery Pit which was the first pit in the area to use steam haulage, and the Quarry Pit. The Coltness Ironworks were opened in the 1830s. However it was the opening of the Wishaw and Coltness Railway in the 1840s which allowed the expansion of mining in the area. Between 1841 and 1851 the population doubled to over 4000 and new settlements including Craigneuk, Newmains, Overtown and Waterloo grew up.

### **Wishaw,**

Constituted a police burgh in 1855, and extended in 1874 so as to comprise Wishaw proper, Cambusnethan village and Craigneuk village. Wishaw, standing 420 feet above sea-level, within two miles of the Clyde's right bank, and half-a-mile south of South Calder water, has a station on a section (1880) of the Caledonian, constructed at a cost of £150,000 and extending six miles north-westward from Law Junction to Carfin.

It is 3 3/4 miles ESE of Motherwell, 5E of Hamilton, 15 ESE of Glasgow, and 32 WSW of Edinburgh. Laid out in 1794 and pleasantly situated on the south-west face of a hill, it was so late as 1840 merely a large village, but since has grown rapidly to the dimensions of a considerable though straggling town, and is the centre of a vast Mineral trade. It has a Post Office, with money order, savings bank, and telegraph department, branches of the British Linen Company, Clydesdale, Commercial, and Royal Banks, 24 Insurance agencies, 3 hotels, gas works, a town hall, a public library, public park, Saturday liberal newspaper, the Wishaw Press (1876), fairs on the second Thursday of May and the fourth Thursday of October etc.

The established Church has four places of worship, the Free Church two, the United Presbyterian two, and there are also Reformed Presbyterian, Primitive Methodist, Evangelical Union, Baptist and

Roman Catholic churches. Of schools there are nine, six of them under the school board. Few Scottish towns have grown rapidly than Wishaw such growth been due to the great expansion of its Mineral Industries. These, at the census of 1881, employed 2294 of the 3670 persons here of the 'industrial class' - 1687 in coal mining, 332 in iron manufacture. The burgh is governed by a chief and two junior magistrates and by nine police commissioners.



### **Overtown**

A large village in Cambusnethan parish, Lanarkshire, near a station of its own name on the Caledonian railway, 1 1/2 mile SE of Wishaw, and 3 1/2 miles NW of Carlisle. Lying amid a rich mineral country, and inhabited chiefly by workers in the mineral field, it has a post office under Wishaw, a school of the Coltness Iron Co., a Roman Catholic school, St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church (1873; 200 sittings), and an Established church. The last, built in 1874 - 75 at a cost of over £2000, is an early English edifice, with a bold square tower 80 feet high, and 600 sittings. Pop. (1861) 364, (1871) 1517, (1881) 1293.



Overtown Main Street

## **Allanton**

A mansion and estate in Cambusnethan parish, Lanarkshire, 2 miles NE of Newmains station. Having passed to his ancestors from Arbroath Abbey, it is a seat of Sir H. J. Seton-Steuart, seventeenth in descent from Alexander Stewart, fourth Lord High Steward of Scotland: third Baronet since 1814: and owner of 2673 acres, of £4076 (£2197 minerals) annual value, in the shire. The original castellated building, said to have been visited by Cromwell in 1650, was greatly enlarged by Gillespie Graham in the latter half of last century. A fine large park, with a picturesque lake, surrounds it: and the estate is rich in coal and ironstone.

## **Cambusnethan**

A village and a parish in the Middle Ward of Lanarkshire. The village, now incorporated in Wishaw police burgh, stands 1 mile WSW of Newmains station, and 1 mile NE of Wishaw station; contains a masonic hall, the parish church, a Free church, and a public school; and has fairs on the second Thursday of May and the fourth Thursday of October. The parish church, with 1082 sittings, is a plain Gothic structure, built in 1839 and enlarged in 1875; the public school, with accommodation for 389 children, had (1880) an average attendance of 370, and a grant of £371,15s.

The parish contains also the towns and villages of Wishaw, Newmains, Overtown, Coltness Ironworks, Clydesdale-Rows, Chapel, Stane, Morningside, Waterloo, Bonkle, and part of Shotts Ironworks. It is bounded N by Shotts, E by Whitburn in Linlithgowshire and West Calder in Edinburghshire, SE by Carstairs, S by Carluke, SW by Dalserf and Hamilton, and W by Dalziel. Its greatest length, from E to W, is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  miles; its breadth, from N to S, varies between  $1\frac{3}{4}$  and 4 miles; and its area is 16,708 acres, of which  $100\frac{1}{2}$  are water. The Clyde traces all the south-western boundary; the South Calder most of the northern, and the Garrion traces part of the southern, boundary; whilst four burns running eastward to Breich Water drain the north-eastern end.

The tract along the Clyde is low and level, consisting of beautiful fertile haughs, and sinking to less than 100 feet above sea-level; the surface thence has a general eastward rise, attaining 386 feet near West Netherton, 458 at Wemysshill, 570 near Newmains, 680 at Gallowhill, 844 near Springhill, and 950 on Auchterhead Muir. From the church at the village, one can see no fewer than 15 other parish churches; the line of the Caledonian railway, along the brow of the acclivities above the haughs upon the Clyde, looks over great part of Clydesdale; and the heights in the NE command views so extensive as to include the castles of Edinburgh and Dumbarton, Tinto and Loudoun Hills,

and the Argyllshire mountains.

The tracts near the Clyde and South Calder, and parts of the interior are finely embellished with wood; the central parts, though naturally rich in aspect, are disfigured by mining operations, mineral works, and coal traffic; the eastern and north-eastern district is bleak and moorish. The rocks of great part of the parish belong to the Carboniferous formation, and are rich in good coal, valuable blackband ironstone, and excellent sandstone.

Coal, worked in many places and to a vast amount, is exported E and W by all the railways.

Blackband ironstone is found on the estates of Coltness and Allanton, and in the neighbourhood of Headlesscross; and supplies blast-furnaces of the Shotts Iron Company at Stane. Clay of excellent quality, in deposits generally 10 feet thick, abounds, and is used for very extensive tile-works at Wishaw and at Coltness.

Cambusnethan House stands near the Clyde. amid charming grounds, at the ravine of Hall Gill, 1 1/4 mile SW of Wishaw station. Built in 1819, after designs by Gillespie Graham, it is an elegant Gothic edifice in imitation of a priory, and is the seat of MajorGen. Graeme Alex. Lockhart (b. 1820; suc. 1873). Other chief mansions are Wishaw House, Coltness, Allanton, and Muirhouse.

Twelve proprietors hold each an annual value of £500 and upwards, 43 of between £100 and £500, 66 of from £50 to £100, and 121 of from £20 to £50. The entire parish was anciently one barony belonging to the Bairds, from whom it passed to successively the Stewarts and the Somervilles. The ancient parish church stood in a very romantic spot, in the near vicinity of the Clyde, at the SW point of the parish; seems to have been built at a very remote period for the accommodation of the family occupying the original mansion of Cambusnethan; and is now represented by a mere fragment, showing some remains of architectural magnificence. Another old place of worship, which has left no vestiges, stood towards the centre of the parish, at a place still called Chapel; and a third, where the famous Covenanted ministers Cameron and Renwick preached, stood at Darnead Linn, in the extreme NE. Cambusnethan is now in the presbytery of Hamilton and synod of Glasgow and Ayr; and is divided among the quoad sacra parishes of Cambusnethan, Calderhead, Wishaw, and Overtown, the first being a living worth £464.

Under a schoolboard for the entire parish there are 13 schools, viz. 5 at Wishaw, and others of Berryhill, Cambusnethan, Morningside, Waterloo, Coltness Iron Company (Overtown), Coltness Iron-works (Newmains), Overtown, and Newmains. With total accommodation for 4234 children, these had (1880) an average attendance of 3621, and grants amounting to £3331, 1s. 10d. Valuation

(1860) £69,222, (1881) £91,036,16s. Pop. (1801) 1972, (1831) 3824, (1841) 5796, (1861) 14,601, (1871) 20,326, (1881) 20,824; of registration district (1871) 18,709, (1881) 19,287.—Ord. Sur., sh. 23. 1865. See the Rev. P. Brown's Historical Sketches of the Parish of Cambusnethan (Wishaw, 1859).

## **Law**

Law is a former mining village, now mainly a low density residential area. For a village so small, Law has a wide range of services, which include Law Community Centre, [Scotmid](#), [Post Office](#), The Auld Store village bar, [Boots Pharmacy](#), Maggies Takeaway, two hair salons, Law Bowling Club, the Room and Kitchen (coffee shop) and various other services, the majority of which can be found on Station Road, the village's main street.

Law Parish Church can be found on Station Road. The church is part of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) and seeks to provide spiritual and pastoral care to anyone in the parish, church member or not, who requires it. A variety of organisations take place in the church for people of all ages including a very large and well run Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade.

Law Primary School has about 300 pupils and with older pupils going on to attend Carluke High School 4 miles (6 km) away.

Irvine's Coaches was a bus company based in the village that ran services throughout Lanarkshire and surrounding areas, but have now ceased trading.

The West Coast Main Line runs through the Village but the station was closed down several years ago. However there has been much speculation that it may be reopened in the near future, due to the building of many new homes on the old site of Law Hospital. If re-opened, cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh could be accessible from Law by train.

The hospital on the outskirts of Law Village has since been closed, with all patients to visit Wishaw General Hospital, located in the Craigneuk area of Wishaw. There was an ambulance station on the site of the hospital but since 2001, the Scottish Ambulance Service opened a new one next door to Davie Buildbase on Wildman Road, which is the entrance road to the village from Wishaw.

Law Parish Church AFC, formed in 2011, is the village's local amateur football team. Their home games are played at Law Football Parks. The team are currently in the Premier Division. Their Home Kit is Red and away kit is Blue.

Next is a letter received regarding Law Colliery where many of our Carluke based O'Haras worked,

# SCOTTISH MINING MUSEUM

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OH-7-1  
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March 18, 1998  
REF: GA/MEH/E3

Dear Mr. O'Hara

I refer to your letter which was received on 3rd March concerning your family mining history. I enclose a little pamphlet I prepared on ancestor research from which you will see how limited our records are in respect of named mine employees.

In respect of Law Colliery itself, there is a reference to the 8th Duke of Hamilton by 1792 having a shaft sunk at Law Colliery by what was apparently a local syndicate. However, a complication arises in that subsequently a number of other sinkings were made all under the general title of Law Colliery but with different numbers or sub-titles

We know that in 1888 for example Law Colliery is listed as being owned by a John Wilson and that sometime before the end of the century ownership had passed to the Wilsons' and Clyde Coal Co.

In 1902 Law Colliery is recorded as employing 218 men underground and 29 on the surface. In 1914 there is a reference to No. 3 and 4 mines employing 133 and 28. In 1925, No. 6 and 7 operated but No. 8 and 9 which employed 83 and 13 closed down. The last reference we have is to No. 6 & 7 which was abandoned in June 1934 when it employed 53 and 20. It worked the Virtuewell, Smithy, Kiltongue and Lower Drumgray seams.

As well as the numbered mines other names associated with Law Colliery were Shawfield, Wilsons No. 2, Gillhead, Mauldslie, Loudon and Millers, and Duck.

Details of the workings of all these mines are contained in the Abandonment Plans which are now held by the Coal Authority in Staffordshire. Microfilm copies can be viewed by arrangement at the British Geological Survey office at Murchison House in Edinburgh.

I'm afraid we have nothing in our library on miners' housing in the Carlisle area, but I trust that the above colliery information is of some interest.

Yours sincerely

George Archibald  
Library Volunteer.

