

Carluke

In a charter by Robert I, dated 1315, Carluke is written "Carneluk"; at different periods it appears as Carlowck, Carlowk, Carluk, Carlook, Carlouk and Carluke. Car or Caer tells us that it is a height or strong position and Luke suggests that it may be dedicated to the saint of that name, however there is evidence that the earliest church was dedicated to St. Andrew.

It was chartered as a Royal Burgh in 1662 and by 1695 parish records report six families living in the area. In 1746 Bonnie Prince Charlie's army stopped off in Carluke during their retreat from Derby to feed and rest their horses.

By the 1800s the population had risen to 380 and the main industries were weaving and farming. The town exploded onto the map several years later with the building of the Glasgow to Carlisle trunk road and a train station.

Over the next two centuries Carluke became a prosperous town thanks to corn milling, cotton weaving, coal mining and the manufacture of bricks, glass, confectionery and jam.

Carluke is the Clyde Valley's largest town with a population of 13,300. It sits on a high plateau overlooking the River Clyde, right in the heart of Lanarkshire's fruit growing area.



It has a locally important shopping centre and it has seen a recent boom in house building thanks to its direct train link with Glasgow. The town centre was redesigned to create an attractive shopping environment and work finished in 2006.

Thanks to its proximity to the Clyde Valley's major fruit growers, one of Carluke's biggest employers is the jam company Renshaw Scott who recently added a chocolate refinery to their plant.

Memorials to two of Carluke's most famous sons were completed in 2006 as part of the town's Streetscape Project, regenerating the centre of the town. On the paving at the bottom of the High Street, a design of a compass etched with arrows pointing to places relevant to Carluke such as Tinto Hill and **Carluke, New Zealand**, has been created in honour of the noted surveyor and cartographer Major General William Roy. **Doctor Daniel Reid Rankin is remembered by a plaque in Rankin Square with etchings of fossils carved into the granite.**

Michael O'Hara and his wife Bridget (McVeigh) moved there soon after their arrival in the Gorbals from Ireland. Michael was shown as a carter in the census and they made their home in Chapel Street. They had four children that we know of, John, Mary, Patrick and Michael between 1851 and 1858 who spread the O'Hara wings between Carluke, Allanton and Buckie. Alongside them brother Peter Patrick and Wineridge also set up home here and began other lines.

John and Rose Ann stayed in the Gorbals as, it would appear, did their sister Margaret who married Thomas Regan.

Reputed to have been the oldest inhabited house in Lanarkshire, Kirkton House was demolished

about 1961. King Charles II stayed there on one occasion. Major Weir, the infamous wizard, who was burned at the stake for sorcery was born there in 1599. His ghost is said to have haunted the house.



Another icon of Carluke was The Camp. The camp was a group of long huts, like you see in war films or POW camps. Arranged in rows on the slight hill up to the right, at the end of Burn Road (now called Stormy Hill). They were on top of brick piers to level them and, during the war, housed RAF personnel based there.

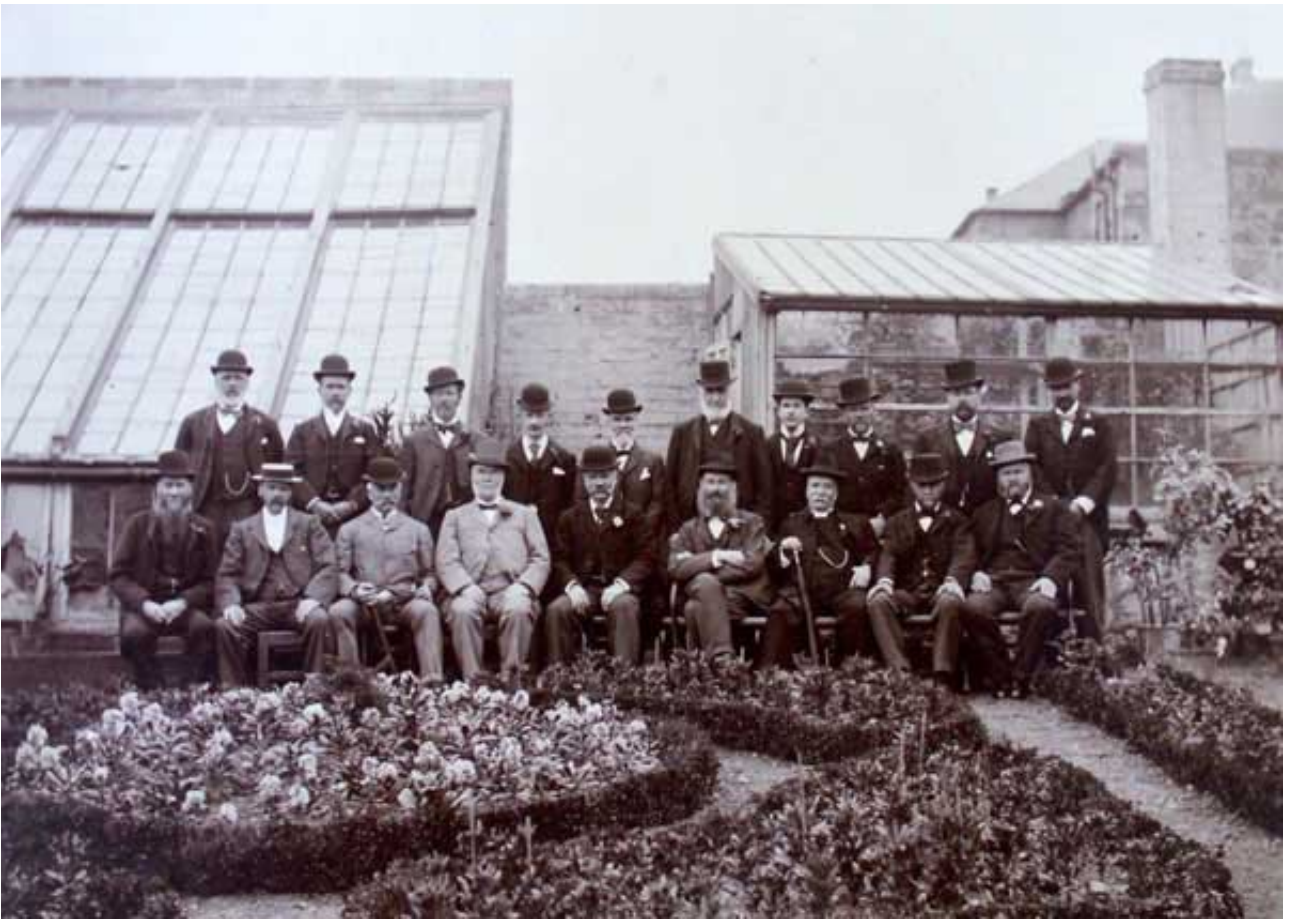
Crashed aircraft were brought into the camp via a rail line which existed at that time from the Castlehill direction and serviceable parts were removed in a hangar for recycling. The hangar was a typical wartime aircraft hanger. It did not take on its later exterior (see pics) until well after the war when its use changed. Burn Road did not extend beyond Brown Street except for the entrance to the Camp and there were no houses on the left as you drove in from Airdrie Road, only a field. The hangar was demolished in March, 2008.

After the war the 'camp' was used to provide emergency housing for families and remained so for many years before being finally demolished. Where the camp was are now the houses on Greenfield Road. Also for some time after the war the hangar was used to store tanks for the TA. It was not unusual to be woken up on a Sunday morning in Brown Street by the tanks travelling past and up Sandy Road to the Moor. It may still be possible to see some of the damage done by the tracks as they chewed into the edge of the footpaths.



Spitfire LA198, which hangs from the ceiling of the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, was repaired in the Carluke hangar on the 11th of May 1948.

The hangar also once held the plane of Rudolf Hess. On the eve of war with the Soviet Union, he flew solo to Scotland in an attempt to negotiate peace with the United Kingdom, but instead was arrested.



Carlisle Council about 1898