



# The Cochrane Heritage



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Winter 2009-10

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## From the Pipes of the Commissioner of Clan Cochrane USA:

Merry Christmas and an Exciting New Year.

Holiday Greetings to all the Clan from the new Commissioner to the Chief for the USA. I was recently appointed to this position by our Chief, Douglas Dundonald. I consider this quite an honor and another amazing occurrence in an amazing year. We started this year with our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Burn's Night celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Scottish Bard Robert Burns. We are ending with St. Andrews Day, Christmas, and Hogmanay (New Years). In between was an incredible visit to Scotland climaxed by The Gathering in Edinburgh and returning to do festivals in Highlands Ranch and Estes Park, CO. This all has been tempered by declining health and loss of friends and family members. And lightened by news I will soon be a grandfather and the addition of an uncertain future life continues to be exciting and awe inspiring.

I am also excited about the future of Clan Cochrane. There will be a new clan structure in the coming year with the establishment of Clan Cochrane International and the change of Clan Cochrane in North America to Clan Cochrane USA and Clan Cochrane Canada. We also have Clan organizations in Australia and New Zealand. We hope to establish one or more soon for Scotland, England, and Europe. The Gathering proved a great boost for getting all these things going. We also have more State Clan Commissioners than we've had for a long while and hope this leads to further membership growth. To all of you who work to spread the word about Clan Cochrane, Thank You! I especially want to thank Cynthia and Carl for their on going dedication and hard work and Guy for all he has put into the wonderful web page. And let me say thanks to Michael for all his years of service to Clan Cochrane in North America. He will still be involved in Clan Cochrane but in a new role as Honorary Secretary to Clan Cochrane International.

This coming year will be one of many changes for Clan Cochrane and will present many new challenges and opportunities. We hope to keep this organization one that will bring us closer to our roots and our heritage and bring us pride in our name and ancestry. Let me ask you now to plan to attend the Stone Mountain Georgia Games Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for our first ever AGM/Annual General Meeting in many years. Some activities will occur on the 15<sup>th</sup>, keep checking their website for information <http://www.smhg.org>. How great it would be to have 30 or 40 Clan Cochrane members there to parade the Cochrane Colors in the Parade of Tartans on Sunday. We are even trying to get our Chief to come over from Scotland to join us. We will put out more information after the New Year but mark your Clan Cochrane Calendar (see ad in this newsletter) now.

Again, to all: Have a Merry Christmas and a Joyous Holiday Season.  
Slainte!

Thomas Cochran

Clan Cochrane Wins “Best Clan Tent” 2009  
Stone Mountain, Georgia Scottish Highland Games  
October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 by Cynthia Cochran Jones

Clan Cochrane was once again represented at the 27<sup>th</sup> Stone Mountain Scottish Highland Games in beautiful Stone Mountain Park in Georgia. This year was a great year for Clan Cochrane as we had several Cochran’s helping us with the tent.



Clan Cochrane Tent



Lillian (Wilder) and Tom Cochran with Cynthia

We again had several visitors to the tent and not all were Cochran(e)’s but were interested in our displays.



Cynthia with visiting Cochran(e)’s learning about our history.



We had numerous people who were amazed at the history of our ancestors. They really like the story about Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane on whose ship Francis Scott Key had dined just before the bombardment of Fort McHenry. While Alexander and his son, Thomas and his nephew, Thomas (later 10<sup>th</sup> Earl) were busy bombarding the Fort what they didn’t know there is reported to have been a John Cochran on the inside of the Fort helping hold the flag up! This Admiral Alexander is also the one that supposedly ordered the march and burning of Washington D.C. And of course learning more about Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dundonald.



Lining up for Parade of Tartans



Standing on the field waiting!

The “Best Clan Tent” is presented every year by Clan MacLaine of Lochbuie and this year was a hard year for them to determine the winner as there were so many Clan Tents to choose from. Clan MacLaine of Lochbuie bases their decision each year on Clan participation and best representation of the Scottish Clans and cooperation with other Clans and sharing information, etc.



Receiving the Award for Best Clan Tent

This was my 10<sup>th</sup> year at Stone Mountain Games and after coming so close a couple of times to winning “Best Clan Tent” we just waited on the field awaiting the announcement of the winners of the various awards while chatting with other Clans and not really aware their name was about to be called. When it came to announcing the winner of the “Best Clan Tent” as Clan Cochrane our response was a very excited “What?” “No Way!” Several of the other Clans laughed at our response while one supposedly was upset because we won and they couldn’t share in our joy, but that’s another story. BTW! It was Clan Donald! I must admit that there are a lot of Clans that have fun each year with Clan Donald and they in turn keep us laughing and guessing what they will do next year.

After returning to the tent after the presentation of the award, the representative of Clan MacLaine stopped by and told us that one thing that helped us was the fact that on Saturday we didn’t give up with strong cold winds and occasional showers. When our easels blew over we just picked them back up and straightened the display and when the rains came we just grabbed the paper towels and wiped everything down (all laminated) and went on about what we were

doing. Several Clans had packed up and left, not a good thing to do at these games. They also had trouble following us around as we were always sharing information and materials with other clans who had married a Cochran(e) as well as someone was always at our tent that was willing to share information on Clan Cochrane and our heritage and history of some of our most famous members. We were the only Clan that had a display of our Clan being represented at “The Gathering” that was held in July in Edinburgh and we were the only Clan that had a picture of all the Clan Chiefs who had attended the Convention that was also held during “The Gathering” and giving them information on how they could get a copy.



Best Clan Tent Trophy



Best Clan Tent Plaque



Tom Cochran & Carl Jones

We kept the trophy only for the rest of Sunday afternoon and the plaque is ours to keep and display every year. We were also told that this trophy is given to those who show the “True Scottish Spirit”. We wish to thank Clan MacLaine of Lochbuie for the honor of “Best Clan Tent” 2009.

Another big hit this year was also the USS Cochrane display that also honored all veterans of all wars. We had a visitor from one of the Veterans groups that thanked us for having the POW/MIA flag as part of our display. I think they were called “Rolling Thunder”.

**NOTICE!!**

If you have any bio's, news, or other articles you would like to contribute to the newsletter please send to Cynthia at [cmsj27ga@bellsouth.net](mailto:cmsj27ga@bellsouth.net) or 6260 Keith Bridge Rd., Gainesville, GA 30506-3960.

## Announcement New Tartan!!

The Earl of Dundonald, Chief of Clan Cochrane has announced the registration of a New Cochrane Tartan! It will be called "Muted Cochrane". The Tartan was designed by Douglas Dundonald in 2006 and Walker Slater Tailors of Edinburgh is now in charge of seeing it woven. For further details contact Cynthia at [cmsj27ga@bellsouth.net](mailto:cmsj27ga@bellsouth.net)



# Clan Cochrane Calendar 2010



Auchans House, Ayrshire, Scotland



Archie Dundonald, The Gathering 2009

**Pictures of Places and Events that involve the  
Cochrane Clan worldwide!**

**This is a quality printed calendar  
11" X 8 ½" (opened 11" x 17")  
Has US & British holidays listed**

**Buy direct from LULU**

**[http://www.lulu.com/content/lulustudio-  
calendar/clancochrane-calendar-2010](http://www.lulu.com/content/lulustudio-calendar/clancochrane-calendar-2010)**

**\$18.74**

**Or Contact**

**Tom Cochran ([tkcochran@sopris.net](mailto:tkcochran@sopris.net))**

**297 Fieldstone Ct.**

**Silt, CO 81652**

**Quantities at discount**

**\$5.00 of each sale goes to Clan Cochrane**

This is taken from Clan Cochrane New Zealand's December Newsletter called "Cochranalia" written by Nancy Gibb.

### The Cochrane-Kerr Bible

In 2002 I tracked down some Johnston family relatives and arranged to visit them while in Australia. When Dave and I arrived at their home, after the usual preliminaries we were ushered into a room where a large cardboard box sat in the middle of a table. It had been stored at a bank by my second cousin's grandfather and had not been opened for many years. What a fabulous treasure trove it contained!

My great grandfather, Alexander Johnston and his wife, Margaret, immigrated to Tasmania in 1855. Margaret was the daughter of Dr. Thomas Lyle of "Kelvin Grove" fame who in 1815 had married Margaret COCHRANE in Paisley. That much I already knew (Later I was to make contact with a descendant of Margaret's sister, Mary Anne, who also immigrated to Tasmania).

The box contained many Lyle and Johnston family items, but the piece de resistance was surely an old Bible, the cover coming off, pages stuck together....I'll let the photos tell the story. The earliest date is 1733.

Mary (Mercy) was the fifth child, born in 1765. She married Robert Lyle.

A new handwriting recorded the death of the Patriarch...That of his grandson Thomas, son of Robert Lyle and Mary Cochrane.

Thomas recorded that his father died in 1793 when he was aged 30, and his mother in 1797 when she was 32. Besides Thomas there were two other children, John born 1789 and Anne born 1793. They would have been aged 9, 6, and 4 when their mother died. Perhaps they went to live with one of the Cochranes?

John went on to become a Colour Sergeant in the 91<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot, and fought at Waterloo. He survived, only to die of yellow fever in Jamaica in 1822. In 1821 there was a cousin marriage, which was not so unusual in those days when people seldom traveled far from their home village...then followed a list of eight children, including the fourth Margaret who married Alexander Johnston.

Margaret (Cochrane Lyle) Johnston was 98 years old when she died in Sydney.

There are two miniatures which are in the possession of descendants of Margaret's sister Mary Ann, who immigrated to Tasmania. They only knew that the man was "a doctor in Glasgow who was connected with the family". It was a very exciting moment for me when I first saw them.

Note: Nancy had photos of some of the Bible pages and the two miniatures in the New Zealand newsletter.

## Dues are now due on January 1, 2010

Dues are now prorated to be Due January 1 of every year.

So depending on when you paid your dues in 2009 your dues will be: If your not sure when you paid your dues in 2009 contact Carl Jones at [cjones28@bellsouth.net](mailto:cjones28@bellsouth.net)

January 1, 2009 Due Jan. 1, 2010 - \$20.00

April 1, 2009 Due Jan. 1, 2010 - \$15.00

July 1, 2009 Due Jan. 1, 2010 - \$10.00

October 1, 2009 Due Jan. 1, 2010 - \$5.00

If you would like to be included as member of Clan Cochrane International add \$5.00.

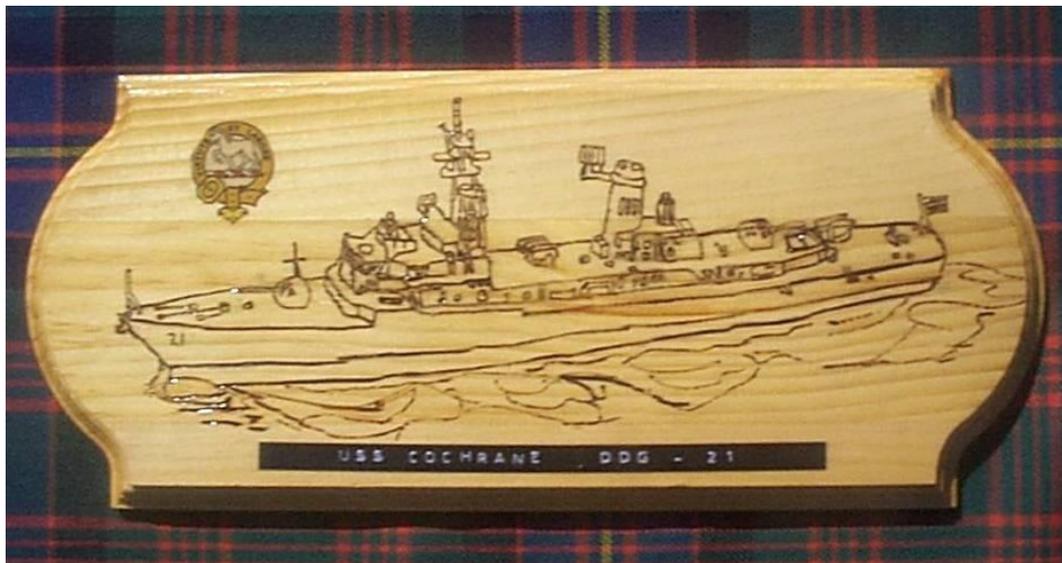
If you would like to keep current payment due date then contact Carl to find out when they are due.

# HANDCARVED CLAN COCHRANE CREST

By Thomas Keith Cochran



Burned and Sealed – Small (L) \$35.00 Large (R) - \$85.00 Hand Painted detail of Crest - \$99.00 (large only). Mr. Cochran will also do other Clan Crests upon request, contact us for details.



USS Cochrane

Burned and Sealed - \$95.00

Order from Clan Cochrane, 6260 Keith Bridge Rd., Gainesville, GA 30506-3906

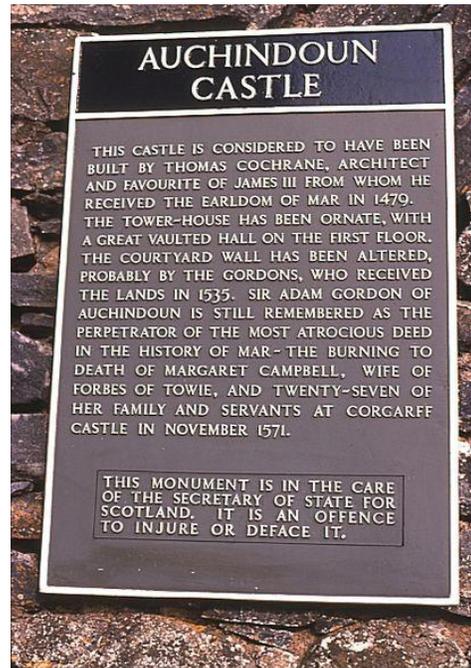
Payment required with order.

Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Add \$20.00 for 3 days Priority Delivery.

We all know about Dundonald Castle, Auchans House and Culross as being homes of the early Cochrans but here are a few we didn't know about. They also give us an idea of where the Barony of Cochrane was originally located.

## AUCHINDOUN CASTLE

**Built by and home of Robert Cochrane d. 1482**



This massive ruin is situated on the top of a conical hill which rises in the centre of an amphitheatre of bare and barren mountains in Mortlach parish, Banffshire. It is about three miles from Dufftown, and lies on the way from Elgin into Aberdeenshire. A more desolate and lonely site for a dwelling can scarcely be imagined; but it seems from the earliest times to have been selected as suitable for a place of strength. The hill on which the present castle stands is surrounded with the remains of several wide and deep ditches, which have evidently been the defenses of an early hill fortress. The steep banks sloping on three sides to the glen of the Fiddich, about 200 feet below, formed a good position for these primitive fortifications, and the hill was cut off from the adjoining ground on the fourth side by a wide fosse.

The castle is said to date from the eleventh century, but the present building does not appear to be older than the fifteenth century. It is reputed to have been rebuilt by (Robert) COCHRANE, the favourite of King James III and so far as its style goes, it might belong to that period. The castle came into the possession of the Gordons from the Ogilvie's in 1535, and it is possible that it may have undergone alterations and the additions round the walls of the courtyard may then have been made. (More can be read in "The Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland from the Twelfth to the Eighteenth Century" pgs 314-317 at [books.google.com](https://books.google.com).)

Note the name THOMAS COCHRANE in the plaque but it should be ROBERT COCHRANE.

Note: The castle is thought to have been built in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century by John Stuart, Earl of Mar. After his murder the castle passed on to ROBERT COCHRANE, court mason and favorite of King James III. After he was hanged (at Lauder Bridge 1482) the castle passed to the Ogilvie and Gordon Clans. Ownership of the castle passed swiftly through the hands of many people. In 1571 it was the home of Adam Gordon, a staunch supporter of the ousted Mary Queen of Scots. This earned it the epithet Fortress of Clan Chief "Edom O Gordon".

Auchindoun Castle was sacked and burnt in 1591 by the Mackintoshes in an act of revenge for the murder of the Bonnie Earl of Moray by the Marquis of Huntly and Sir Patrick Gordon of Auchindoun. The castle subsequently restored but by 1725 it had been abandoned and partly demolished to provide building material. Its corner-stones were taken for use in Balvenie Castle nearby.

The ruins of the Auchindoun Castle, an L-plan tower house, stand on a hilltop within the earthworks of an Iron Age hill fort. The original structure was three stories high with cellars on the ground level. The hall was on the first floor with the living quarters on the second. Auchindoun Castle is scheduled for restoration. The inner rampart of the fort, formed by ditch and outer bank, is mutilated by approach ramps to the castle on the west and by quarrying on the south. The outer defenses are formed by natural rocky slopes in the east and ditch and outer bank to the north and south. The original rampart was destroyed by cultivation in the west. It is now in the care of Historic Scotland.

[www.scotland.com/castles/aberdeen-gramplan/auchindoun/](http://www.scotland.com/castles/aberdeen-gramplan/auchindoun/)

## **Kildrummie (Kildrummy) Castle Aberdeenshire Home of Robert Cochrane, d. 1482**



Kildrummie, in Aberdeenshire, one of the largest castles in Scotland, was built by Gilbert de Moravia, Bishop of Caithness, in the reign of Alexander II. This castle is situated near the river

Don, and occupies a very strong position on the top of a high bank which slopes steeply down to a rivulet on the north and west sides, while on the east and south the castle was protected by a deep fosse, the eastern portion of which still remains. It resembles Bothwell Castle in general design.

The castle measures 200 feet in length along the north front, by 175 feet in breadth, exclusive of the towers. The entrance-gate was on the south, and appears to have been flanked by two towers, now entirely demolished. Immediately opposite the gateway there is a great hall, 73 feet by 41 feet built against the south wall, with four windows overlooking the valley to the north. Unfortunately the buildings within the enceinte are almost entirely demolished. The walls block containing the hall are the best-preserved portion, and they are for the most part only about 3 feet high. The south wall shows remains of four loops with lighted the basement, the hall being on the first floor.

Kildrummie was bestowed by James III, on his favourite, ROBERT COCHRANE, the architect, who was hanged at Lauder Bridge.

Same book as Auchindoun Castle pgs 108-113.

## Johnstone Castle/Cochrane Castle/Lyncliff Castle

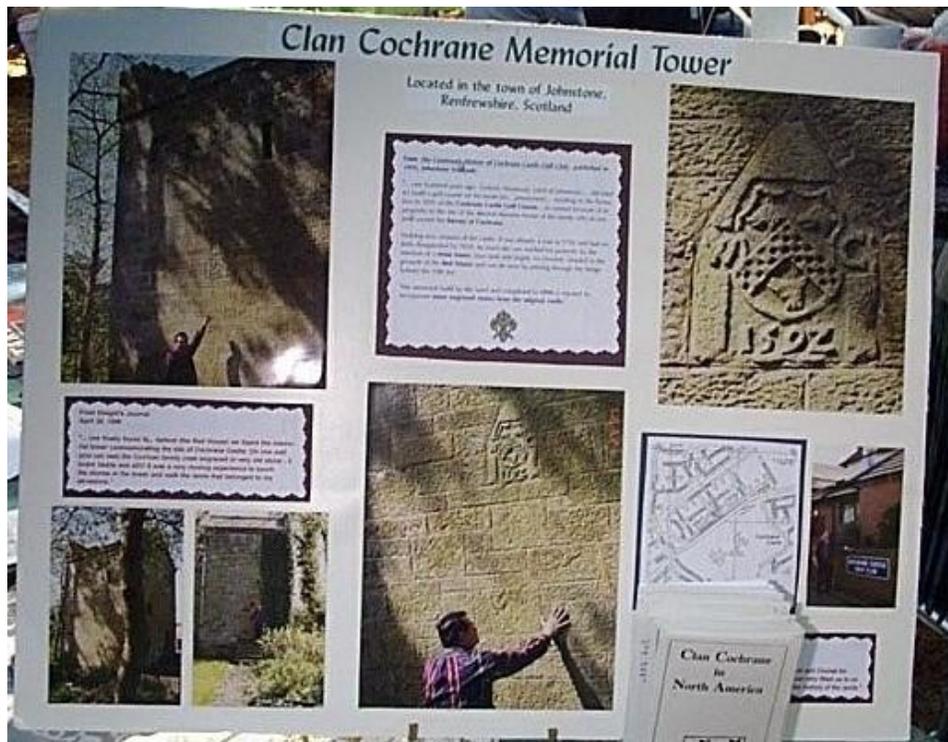


## Barony of Cochrane and Easter Cochrane (Quarrelton)

The original owners of the area known today as Renfrewshire were the Earls of Dundonald (Cochrane). Passing down in time to Sir Ludovic Houstoun moved from his home in Houstoun to land known as Johnstone, which previously belonged to William Wallace, at the time acquiring Easter Cochrane. This took place around 1645. That part known as Easter Cochrane was later acquired by George Houstoun, grandson of Sir Ludovic Houstoun, with the understanding that it would be known as Johnstone. This is where Johnstone Castle stands today.

In 1771 and 1812 George Houston, the fourth laird of Johnstone Castle had it extended in castellated design. James Gillespie Graham, born 1776, was the architect involved with the second part of this building alteration. This laird was most enterprising. He was responsible for feuing off land, developing coal mining in the area and making Johnstone a prosperous community to belong to. Johnstone, in fact, became a Burgh in 1857.

Note: The nucleus of the present castle was the former 16<sup>th</sup> century Easter Cochrane Castle, which was greatly added to and altered in 1771 and again in 1812. "The original building i.e. fortalice dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century. This came about sometime after the Battle of Flodden 1513 when Scotland was defeated. King James IV, together with many nobles and subjects were slaughtered. This meant that many homes in Scotland became derelict for sometime. Later in the reign of James VI, which was during the Reformation, it was decided to distribute the land among more people, as large territories owned by one family, or by the Church, could prove a threat to the monarchy. A condition of distribution was that a "fortalice" be erected by the owners as a safeguard against feuds, etc."



## Cochrane Memorial Tower

Note: Opposite the House of Johnstone, on the right bank of the river near (where the town now stands) lay the lands and Barony of Cochran, owned by the Cochran family (some time Earls of Dundonald) for centuries. The crumbling ruins of their ancient castle were just visible about 1817 and to mark the site, the laird of Johnstone erected a tower in 1896. The tower still stands, in a good state of repair, just off Auchengreoch Road and a little to the west of the new High School at Beith Road. To the east of Cochran Castle (originally Lyncliff Castle) lay the lands of Easter Cochran (which included Quarrelton, Greenend, Hag and Nether Cartside). The lands were also possessed by the Cochran family and after passing through several hands, were finally acquired by the Houstoun family.

The transaction made history for Johnstone; indeed it made the history of Johnstone as we know it. In 1733 the Houstouns sold their estate (Johnstone) on the left bank of the river and moved to Easter Cochrane. One momentous condition of the sale, however, was that the name Johnstone should be transferred across the river as it were and applied to their new abode, the name Easter Cochran was dropped.

The crow-stepped, quadrangular Cochrane Tower is close to the site of the Benston Coal-pit disaster. A mile away is the site of the Battle of Muirdykes, which took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1685. The family of Sir John Cochrane, the Covenanters' leader, lived at Cochrane Castle on the site of Cochrane Tower. Sir John and his army were looking for refuge in the medieval stronghold when they were intercepted and forced to fight against the dragoons within sight of their destination. The Cochranes were related to the Earls of Dundonald at Ayrshire who owned the historic Renfrewshire Castle (Dundonald Castle), which bears their name. The powerful Earls were involved in the fierce family feuds and political intrigues which ravaged Scotland for hundreds of years. The original Cochrane Castle was demolished during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1896, George Ludovic Houstoun, the last laird of Johnstone, erected Cochrane Tower where it once stood. The site is now a private garden.

## Clippens House, Linwood Kilbarchan, Renfrew, Scotland



Clippens House lies in Linwood, to the west of Paisley. The current house was built in 1817 by the Cochrane family, which owned much of the land around Linwood during the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The Clippens name was formerly Clippings, and is thought to be derived from the time when the monks of Paisley Abbey allowed the local people to cut or clip the surrounding fields.

From the 1960's until the early 1980's the house was used as the Civil Defense Emergency Planning Centre for Renfrewshire, after which the local council used the building for offices. Having lain abandoned for a time, the house was redeveloped as flats. Local stories tell of the house being

haunted, with the sound of horses clip-clapping about the empty courtyard to be heard.  
[www.secretsofscotland.org.uk/index.php/Secrets/C...](http://www.secretsofscotland.org.uk/index.php/Secrets/C...)

Note: Linwood Village

When Britain was part of the Roman empire, it is said that the Roman soldiers cut down the forest at Linwood to prevent the natives hiding in the trees and attacking Roman camps. The treeless area became Linwood Moss, which today is a haven for wildlife. The Linwood area belonged to the monks of Paisley Abbey, who farmed the land and caught salmon in the Black Cart; later the land was owned by the Abercorn family. For a long time Linwood Village was a very small community. Until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were only two streets: Bridge Street and Napier Street. In this small area were the church, the shops, the school and the mills. Bridge Street took its name from the bridge across the Black Cart which was built by the COCHRANE family of Clippens House, in 1776. Napier Street was named after a local landowner. [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Kilbarchan, Scotland

Kilbarchan is a village to the west of Johnstone in Renfrewshire, Scotland. The village means "Cell (chapel) of St. Barchan".

Memorial Stones:

Peter Cochrane of Clippens

Peter died in France on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1831, aged 77. His widow and children are also buried here. He was a noted surgeon. He was Head of a medical board in Bengal. Peter is mentioned in the Trade directory of 1831.

His father was John Cochran, owner of the Clippens estate in 1782. His mother was Mary Wilson of Bowfield. He was the great grandson of Hugh Cochran, portioner, Clippens and his wife, Margaret. They are noted in the 1695 Poll Tax Roll.

George McFarlane at Clippens

George died on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 1816 aged 67, thus born in 1749. There are no McFarlane's listed in the 1691 Hearth Tax Records. At what was known as the Town-foot, at the bottom of Church Street was the Poor-House. This was also known as McFarlane's Hospital. It was built by the Kirk Session in 1830. Money for this building had been left by George.

Joanna Cochrane

Joanna Cochrane, wife of George McFarlane, is also buried here. Joanna Cochrane may be Joan Cochrane, daughter of John Cochran of Clippens estate.

Clippens House no longer exists. It was demolished in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. A private housing development now covers the site of the house and grounds, which are mentioned in Kilbarchan Poll Tax Records of 1695. The layout of the original entrance remains. During the building of the estate, the lintel of the 1724 building, now badly eroded, was inserted into the entrance wall.

[www.kilbarchanwest.org.uk](http://www.kilbarchanwest.org.uk)