

People in Logie Ivydene



The earliest record that we have for the property later called **Ivydene** is a Feu Diposition from **Capt. James Spittal** of **Blairlogie Castle** to **John Cowie**, shoemaker of **Blairlogie** in August 1772. The land feued consisted of thirteen falls and six ells (the same area of land feued by **Spittal** to **Robert Reid** also in August 1772, and which was later to become **Rowanbank** immediately to the North). The **Ivydene** property was described as bounded to the East by the **Kirk Green Road**; to the South by the school ground and **Alexander Williamson's** feu; to the West by the **Stoney Croft Dyke**; and to the North by the feu of **Robert Reid**. The annual feu duty was the same as that for **Robert Reid** i.e. 4 shillings and 5 pence.

After the death of **James Spittal** in July 1773, his daughter **Elizabeth Spittal** and her husband **Robert Bruce Dundas**, feued an additional piece of land to **John Cowie** in 1803 lying to the South of his original feu. This piece of land was described as "consisting partly of ground taken from the North side of **Alexander Williamson's** yards and partly from the **Stoney Croft** on the West" – but it had a covenant to the effect that no building should be erected on it. The feu duty on this "extra" piece of land was "Two good fat hens yearly at the term of Martinmas"

In 1814, after the death of his father **John, William Cowie**, a teacher in **Blairlogie**, inherited the **Ivydene** property, and his ownership is recorded in the New Particular Register of Sasines in Perthshire in February 1815.

In November 1825, the property was transferred by Disposition and Settlement from **William Cowie** to his sister **Helen Cowie**, but, in July 1838, **Helen Cowie**, with the consent of her brother **John Cowie**, sold “**Ivydene**” to **James Bain** and **Janet Reid or Bain**, for the sum of £149. The Census Records of 1841 expand on the **Bain Family** at this time, and **James Bain** (50) is listed with his wife **Janet** (48) with their three children, **Janet** (13), **William** (13) and **Catherine** (9). **Janet Reid or Bain** was the daughter of **Robert Reid**, the feu holder of the property to the North – later to become **Rowanbank** – and **Janet** had married **James Bain**, a labourer in **Blairlogie**. However, **Janet** died shortly after the acquisition of the property, and, in 1851, it was **James Bain** whose feu was recognised by **Robert Bruce Dundas of Kennet and Blairlogie**.

The 1851 Census Records also record the loss of **James’** wife **Janet**, listing only **James Bain** as a widower, with his daughter (now 23). However, the 1861 Census Records provide the good news (for **James**) that, at age 69, he now has a new wife – **Mary Barrie Bain**, aged 45.

The histories of **Ivydene** and **Rowanbank** continued to be intertwined for the next 100 years, because, in 1857, **James Bain** settled **Ivydene** in Liferent on his second wife **Mary Barrie** and their lawful children. These “lawful children” – **Janet Bain or Dawson of Wellpark, Bridge of Allan**, and **Catherine Bain or Hogg of Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh** – inherited the property in September 1887.

Prior to this, the 1871 Census Records show **Mary Barrie Bain** still in occupation at **Ivydean** – but now designated as a “lodging house keeper” and her sister, 75 years old **Agnes Hay**, also living in the house.

However, by the time of the 1881 Census, the occupant of **Ivydean**, listed simply as “Cottage, Blairlogie”, is given as **Elizabeth Bain**, 72 years old, and living alone apart from two visitors at the time of the Census: **David G. White** (22), with his wife **Grace** (21). No one was at home at the time of the 1891 Census, but it is interesting to note that the house was entered under the name “**Rose Cottage**”

Janet Bain or Dawson, with her sister **Catherine** also owned, by inheritance, the **Rowanbank** property at this time. Although **Catherine** died in March 1894, her half of the **Ivydene** property had passed to her son **William Hogg** (a potato merchant); and it was not long before the impressive and determined **Janet Bain** (whose husband **John Dawson**, a Glasgow drysalter, eventually owned **Manor** in addition to **Wellpark, Bridge of Allan**) bought back **William’s** half share in **Ivydene** for £150 in 1895. As with other property owners in **Blairlogie** at this time, **Janet Dawson** held **Rose Cottage** as a means of income from tenants, and these are listed in the 1901 Census Records as **Robert Paterson**, a 32 year old “farmer’s son”, with his wife **Isabel** (32) with their two daughters **Agnes** (2) and **Christina** (2 months).

In 1905, **Janet Dawson** set up a Trust for her **Ivydene** property, and the Trustees were: her daughter **Catherine Dawson of Wellpark, Bridge of Allan**; **Helen Miller Dawson or**

Paterson of Glasgow; Janet Dawson or Munro of Bridge of Allan; Margaret Bryce Dawson of Wellpark, Bridge of Allan; and her solicitor, **Alexander Jenkins**. These Trustees safeguarded the property until 1906, when **Ivydene** was sold to **John McIntyre** of **Rose House, Blairlogie** for the sum of £350. Although the name “**Rose House**” probably confirms that **John McIntyre** was the occupying tenant at **Rose Cottage** (Ivydene) when he purchased it in 1906, the 1911 Census Records are unhelpful in showing the house as “uninhabited”. It is therefore not clear whether he remained in residence or became an absentee landlord during his eight years of ownership. In 1914, on his death, the title passed from **John McIntyre** to his cousin **Duncan McIntyre**, who lived in **New South Wales, Australia**, and this resulted in an onward sale in the same year to **George Ashwood**, an Engineer from **Glasgow**. N.B. This was the same **George Ashwood** who had purchased **Rowanbank** in 1898 for the sum of £105. He paid £225 for **Ivydene**. The remarkable **Janet Bain or Dawson** died in 1906 at **Manor**, and the **Trustees of the Late James Dawson** were still “owners” of **Manor** when **William Peat** was the tenant in the 1920's and 1930's.

In 1920, **George Ashwood** sold both **Ivydene** and **Rowanbank** to the **Manor Powis Coal Company** who, in turn, placed formal ownership with Trustees on their behalf, and used **Ivydene** as a tied residence for their employee/tenants for the next 50 years. The Coal Company split **Ivydene** into two homes – a top floor flat and a bottom floor flat – a division that remains today.

The first Coal Company tenant moved into the bottom flat in 1921. He was **Stewart McIntyre** – clerk, but, by 1923, he was replaced by **Robert S. Brown**, a Coal Company cashier, who occupied the same bottom floor flat until 1934 with his **Wife** and daughter **Annie**. When the **Browns** left in 1934, they were replaced by **William Clark**, a pitheadman, who stayed until the end of the war in 1945, after which **James Langer**, a mine engineer, occupied the bottom floor flat until 1951, when he gave way to the **Steele** family. **Alexander Steele** was also an engineer who, with his wife **Mary**, and their children **David** and **Alexander** lived there until 1958.

After the **Steele** family left, they were replaced by **John Barrie**, and he occupied the flat until 1964, when **Ian McNab** moved in with his family. They were still in occupation in 1969/70, when **Ian McNab**, in parallel with his neighbour **James Loudon** upstairs, purchased his flat from the **National Coal Board**, when the Board gave up its tenure of both **Ivydene** and **Rowanbank**.

It is worth noting that the **National Coal Board** was in receipt of a grant of £571 – 10s – 0d for the two flats in 1959, in order to install a kitchenette and bathroom in each. At the time of this work, the outside stair and the outside walkway across the back of the building were taken down and the stairs were replaced internally.

Back in 1920, in the top floor flat, there had been a rapid turnover of tenants at the start of the **Coal Company's** ownership. The first tenant was **Alex Stevenson**, the Colliery Manager, and he lived there only for the first year in 1921/22. Thereafter, he was replaced by **James Taylor**, a shaftsman, who also stayed for only one year in 1923, and then by **John Donaldson**, a labourer, who lived there from 1924 until 1929. He was replaced by **Robert Hunter**, a miner, and his wife, from 1930 to 1933, after which **Samuel Marshall**, a contractor, with his family, was the tenant until he, in turn, gave way to **John Russell**, a mine engineer, in 1938. **John Russell** stayed until 1942.

However, from that time, a longer residency story unfolded, when **James Loudon**, an electrician, who eventually became Chief Electrician, moved into the top floor flat – firstly as a tenant of the **Manor Powis Coal Company**, then a tenant of the **National Coal Board**, and, finally, as an owner/occupier when he purchased the flat and lived there until 1999. He eventually left to go into a nursing home in **Airth**, but before that, in November 1998, as **Blairlogie's** oldest inhabitant, he formally re-opened the **Reading Room** after its refurbishment.

Ian Peter Fletcher McNab and his wife **Jessie Kelly or McNab** purchased the bottom flat in **Ivydene**, in 1969/70, for £1650, with the help of the **Dunfermline Building Society**, and lived there until 1984, when they sold it to the **Allans**. **John Robertson Allan** and **Jean Mackie or Allan** paid £26,000 for it and lived in **Ivydene** until 1987. They had lived, briefly, in the early 40's, in **Croft House**, before **Capt. and Mrs. Bampton**. **John Allan** was a journalist, and **Jessie** was a sister of **Lord Mackie of Glenshee**. **John Allan** died while living at **Ivydean** in October 1986.



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Ivydene 1994

Following this sad event, in 1987, **Jessie Allan** sold the property to **Jennifer Phyllis Tod** for £30,000, who stayed until 1995, before selling the bottom floor flat to **Esther Mary Maxwell-Irving** (who now lives at **Telford House**). **Mary** had bought the flat for £70,000, as a retirement home for her parents **James** and **Mary Winifred Hamilton**, and they lived there until 1999, when they moved to a nursing home in **Stirling**. **James Hamilton** was a Minister in the **Church of Scotland**, and his last Ministry was at **Auchterhouse**, near **Dundee**.