Some Place-names in and around the Fleet Valley

=========== B ============

Bambastie Wood

An alternative local name for Killygowan Wood in Anwoth parish, not, so far as I can ascertain, shown in any formal record. The Place-Names in the Stewartry website relates an enjoyable 'folk-etymology' for this name involving smugglers balancing their loads of contraband on their ponies. In fact, the more likely Scots origin is equally entertaining.

Bamba(i)ze is documented in the Scottish National Dictionary as a verb meaning 'to puzzle' (see also *bumbase*, where other variants are listed). The word goes back to Older Scots *baise*, earlier still *abaise*, corresponding to English 'abash', both Scots and English words being from Old French *esbaïssi* (lengthened form of *esbai*, modern French *ébahi*) 'confused, dumbfounded'.

But in front of *baise* has been added *bam*, and obsolete English word for 'a trick', still current in 'bamboozle'; both 'bam' and 'bamboozle' are recorded from the 18th century in the OED, probably emerging from thieves' slang. It is interesting that Mactaggart lists *bambouzled* (sic) 'confounded, affronted, treated rudely' as a Gallovidian word in his *Encyclopaedia*.

So Bambastie seems to be a wood where you are likely to get *bambaised* - confused, lost or even bamboozled!

Bardarroch

Bardarach is an area of woodland by Newton in Anwoth on Blaeu's map. Cardoness House has been otherwise known as Bardarroch House, it may include part of an old house of that name. There was a Bardarroch farmstead in Minnigaff parish, now in The Wood of Cree, and Bardarroch Hill and farm are in Kirkpatrick Durham parish (though shown as *Bardannoch* on Blaeu's map). For Gaelic *bàrr* see Barhill below; *darach* is 'oak'.

Barhill

The name is very common, Gaelic *bàrr* is a 'top, summit', or simply 'hill'. There are seventeen Bar Hills on OS maps covering Dumfries and Galloway region, suggesting that the word may have been taken by early Scots speakers as a term for a hill, with superfluous 'Hill' added when the Gaelic meaning had been forgotten. Bar Hill, with a house named Barhill, on the Cally estate near the Clauchan of Girthon are shown on the 1st edition OS map. Subsequently the house is marked as Cuffie or Cuffington (see also *Burneyhill* below). There is another Bar Hill not far distant, to the east of Rainton, and Bar of Barlay (see below) up the valley.

Barholm

Recorded from 1541, *Barhoom* on Blaeu's map, the name of the now impressively restored tower-house of the McCullochs combines Gaelic *bàrr* (see above) with *holm*. The latter, from Old Norse *holmr*, is a common place-name element in northern England and the Borders, especially in Dumfriesshire and Roxburghshire, and there are getting on for 50 'holms' in names on OS maps in the Stewartry. Its Scandinavian meaning is primarily 'a small island', but in English and Scottish place-names it more usually refers to a piece of flat, low-lying ground by a river or in marshland, so more or less synonymous with *haugh* and *dail*. In the case of Barholm, **Holm* was probably a pre-existent name for the lower ground below the castle, Gaelic *bàrr* being prefixed to refer to the eminence on which it stands. Barholm Hill is, in its turn, a summit on the west of Ben John, overlooking the Castle.

The name was transferred to Barholm House, the Adam mansion at Creetown built by John McCulloch in the late 18th century and burnt down in the 1950s, which coincidentally stands on what could well be called a *holm*, level land raised above the marshes on the edge of Cree Bay. Barholm Wood and Barholm Bridge are near the site of the house.

Barlay

O(ver) and *N(ether) Barley* in Blaeu's Atlas are High or Little Barlay and Low or Meikle Barlay; Miln of Barlay, Barlay Mill, was in existence around 1700; other features and locations in the vicinity are first recorded on the 1st edition OS map or the 1851 Census; they include the Bar of Barlay, Barlay Burn, and Old or Fleuchlarg Bridge and New or Loch Lee Bridge, both of Barlay (otherwise Old or Fleuchlarg Bridge, and New, Loch Lee, or Waterworks Bridge).

There are several other places in Galloway that share the name, either Barlae, Barlay or Barley (the last suggesting shift of stress from the second to the first syllable). There is another Barlay Burn near Gatehouse, in Anwoth parish. Others include: Barlae in Penninghame parish, near the northern border of Wigtownshire, Barlae, with Barlae Bridge Burn, Hill and Moss, near Kirkcowan (*Barle* in Blaeu's Atlas), Barlae with Barlae, with Little Barlae and Barlae Hill, near Wigtown, Barlae Hill near Dundeugh in Carsphairn parish, another by Lochrutton Loch, and a third near Auchencairn; Barlaes, with Barlaes Hill, near Earlstoun in Dalry parish; Barlay, with Barlay Burn and Hill in Balmaclellan parish (*Barle* in Blaeu's Atlas), Barlay Loch near Colvend, Barlay with Barlay Hill and Wood above New Abbey; Barley Hill in Kelton and another above Chapel Finnian on the Machars.

The name is pretty certainly Gaelic, the first element being *bàrr* 'top, hill', perhaps here the tautologous Bar of Barlay, the second *laogh* 'of calves': these fairly modest hills would have provided relatively accessible grazing for cows with new-born calves. *Laogh* can also mean a fawn, which might be relevant in the more remote sites in Penninghame and Carsphairn.

John Wilkinson has drawn my attention to the interesting word *birlaw*, *birla(y)* etc. from presumed Old Norse **bȳjar-lǫg* (cf. Swedish *byalag*) 'village law': a *birlaw court* was a neighbourhood court for the settlement of differences or complaints. This occurs in place-names in Scandinavian-influenced regions, especially Yorkshire, and is well-documented as a Scots word, with *barlay* one of the variants recorded by the SND; however, that is restricted to the north-east of the country (where it might have been influenced by the playground truce-word *barley*, probably from French *parlez*). The idea that the Barlae Hills in Galloway were meeting-places is an attractive one, but the dictionary evidence does not favour it.

See also Dalmalin.

Barlocco

Barlocco, with Barlocco Isle, in Kirkandrews parish (earlier Borgue), is probably Gaelic **bàrr-locha* 'summit by a small loch', wholly appropriate to the location. Barloke to the east of Borgue by Kirkcudbright Bay, and Barluka in Twynholm, both have small lochs and are probably the same.

However, the proximity of Barlocco to the early Christian site on Ardwall Isle raises the tantalising possibility of a Brittonic **barr-logōd*. The latter element (from Latin *locāta*) meant 'a place set aside', but in mediaeval and early modern Welsh *llogawd* (now obsolete) was used for 'a monastery'. The same word may be present just across the Solway in Arlecdon in Cumbria, near St Bee's, if that was formed from Cumbric **ar-logōd* 'beside the monastery'.

The possibility of such an alternative interpretation is somewhat reinforced by another Barlocco, in Rerwick (with Barlocco Bay and Barlocco Heugh; this Barlocco is shown as such on Blaeu's map): there is no loch here, being on porous calcareous sandstone, but nor is there any known early monastic site nearby, though, given the liking of the monks for such locations all around the Irish Sea, one nearby on Hestan Isle is surely a possibility.

Kinganton, closely associated with Barlocco in Kirkandrews, seems to have originated as a scribal error for Kingarton, which would probably be early Gaelic **cenn a'ghartain* 'head, end, of the small cornfield'.

Barneywater

Barnywater on the 1st edition OS map, incorrectly *Baineywater* in the 1851 Census. A deserted farm site overlooking the Black Water of Dee on the north-east edge of Girthon parish. Above it, to the west, Barneywater Flow is an extensive area of peaty mossland, all now in FCS ownership.

The name very probably incorporates Gaelic *beàrn* 'a gap', possibly with the locative suffix *-aich*, so **Beàrnaich* is 'at a place with a gap', here the channel of the Black Water of Dee that flows through a fairly narrow gorge below Shaw Hill and widens in a basin below the farmstead.

Barneywater has the appearance of a stream-name, and it might have been an alternative name for the Glengainoch Burn that flows into the Dee to the south. But such names more often have the (Gaelic influenced) form 'Water of' in our region, so Maxwell may be correct in inferring that '-water' here is a reinterpretation of Gaelic *uachdar* 'upper', in which case there would have been a now-lost 'lower' **Beàrnaich ìochdar*. Maybe this was the 'Barnfoot' that Maxwell lists in Girthon parish, but of which I can find no record.

Barnkirkie

The hill to the east of Girthon kirk, overlooking the Kirkcudbright road. Probably Gaelic **Bàrr nan coirce* 'hill of oats'. But two places in Wigtownshire, Barnkirk in Kirkcowan parish and North and South Barnkirk, with Barnkirk Hill, Loch and Point, in Penninghame parish (*Barnkerk* on Blaeu's map), are more probably **Bàrr nan cearc* 'hill of hens', referring to game-birds, and that is not impossible here, if *–ie* is a Scots diminutive suffix. The proximity of the kirk may explain the Scots form of this name, but not the origin.

Bardristan

Bardristan lies beside the old main road between Anwoth and Carsluith; the boundary between Anwoth and Kirkmabreck (earlier Kirkdale) parishes runs through Bardristan Smithy.

Maxwell compares Bardrestan, now just a hill on the west side of Milton Loch in Urr parish, but recorded as *Bardrestoune* 1601, *Bardrestane* 1607. Bartrostan in Penninghame parish should also be taken into account.

For Bardrestan (and by cross-reference Bardristan too) Maxwell suggests *bàrr* 'summit' with *dris* 'briars, brambles' plus an adjectival suffix, so 'hill of a bramble-thicket'; however, *dristen* is evidenced only once, in a Middle Irish gloss.

In Bardrostan, he sees the (Pictish) personal name *Drostan* as a possibility, and fanciful speculation has associated even Bardristan with St. Drostan, the follower of St. Columba who founded the monastery at Old Deer in Buchan.

But, as Maxwell points out, a connection with the Celtic root **trans-*, modern Welsh *traws*, is possible. Indeed, *trostán* is common in names for crossing-places on ridges in south-west Scotland and in Ulster: it is in fact probably from the Latin cognate *trans,* in *transtrum* 'a cross-beam', adopted into Gaelic. The road crosses a hill-spur at Bardriston, as well as the parish boundary at the forge, so **Bàrr-drostán*, 'crossing-summit' would be appropriate.

On the other hand, the recorded forms for Bardrestan in Urr parish suggest a Scots formation with a personal name plus *–toun* or *–stane*. A name such as *Baldri* (a Norman-French form of *Baldric*) would not be impossible there or at Bardristan, changing of 'Bal-' to the more common 'Bar-' would not be surprising.

Barwhill

The name, along with Barwhill Plantation, appears on the 1st edition OS map; Barnhill (Mill) in the 1851 census is probably an error for Barwhill.

It is primarily the name of the hill overlooking the standing stone, Roman marching-camp and modern Parish Cemetery, being early Gaelic **Bàrr-chuill* 'hazel top', which has been revived in the house-name Barchuill. The modern Gaelic form would be *choill*; in most of the Scottish Gaeltachd, *calltain* is the

commoner word for hazel, though *coll* is normal in Irish and Manx. It is not impossible that a Cumbric equivalent, **barr-coll*, preceded the Gaelic name here.

There are three places in Wigtownshire where similar names occur: Barqhill, with Barqhill Hill and Burn, to the west of Wigtown (the name here is recorded from 1499), another Barqhill Hill just south of Kirkcowan, and Barwhil further north-west in Kirkcowan parish, interestingly quite close to Barlae, as Barwhill in Gatehouse is to Barlay (see above).

Benfadyeon

Gaelic *beinn*, 'Ben', is of course, the preferred term for a high hill or mountain in the Highlands, and it is pretty common in Galloway, with some eighteen examples in the Stewartry (not including numerous 'Bennans', see below) and at least a dozen in Wigtownshire. Manx *beinn* is reasonably common on the Isle of Man, as is the cognate *beann* or *binn* in Ireland, though on both islands the word tends to be used more specifically for distinct peaks and summits (also cliffs); the highest mountains in Ireland mostly have *sliabh*, which we meet in Galloway as *slew*. The Galloway 'Bens' are typically prominent hills, though not necessarily the highest.

The hill south-west of Loch Whinyeon is *beinn* plus the personal name Phadein (Irish Phadín), a diminutive form of Patrick (Padraig). MacFadzean (with various spellings) is quite a common surname in Galloway. Barfadden is a hill east of Earlstoun, and Maxwell lists a *Barfadʒean* in Balmaghie parish, though that no longer appears on OS maps. The British-born Apostle of Ireland is, of course, the patron of Kirkpatrick Durham in the Stewartry.

Maxwell's alternative suggestion, Fadain, possessive form of Fadán, 'tall fellow', is based on an Irish nickname not, I think, known in Scotland, and unlikely to be relevant to these place-names or to the surname.

Benghie

The hill overlooking the Big Water of Fleet opposite Upper Rusko is another Gaelic *beinn*. The specific here is probably *na gaoithe* 'of the wind', an unsurprisingly common descriptive term in upland names in Galloway, Curleywee being probably the most prominent and well-known. It could alternatively be a contraction of the Stewartry surname, Mac-gAoidh, McGhie, as in the parish-name Balmaghie, **Baile-Mac-gAoidh*, 'McGhie's farm'.

Bengray

The hill south-east of Benfadyeon (see above) is another *beinn*. Maxwell here, and for Knockgray, Irongray etc. elsewhere in the Stewartry, refers somewhat perplexingly to *gréach*, 'high flat or moor', but I can find to evidence for such a word: *greach, greigh* in Scottish and Irish Gaelic means a herd, usually a stud of horses, and Bengray was probably **Beinn na greighe*, 'hill of the horse-stud', where Galloway ponies were pastured.

Benjarg

The hill north-east of Disdow Hill, with Benjarg Wood, is **Beinn dearg* 'red hill'. Strictly speaking, the 'd' of *dearg* should be 'softened' (*dhearg*) after the feminine noun *beinn*, but this is often prevented after 'n' in place-names, here 'nd' probably survived to become 'nj' in Scots or English speech. *Dearg* in lowland names can indicate that the ground was ploughed, whether or not the soil was noticeably red, and in mountain-names it can indicate ferrous minerals in the rocks, but here it is more likely to refer to the natural vegetation before the tree plantations.

Ben John

The substantial hill south-east of Cairnharrow is probably **Beinn donn*, 'brown hill'. *Donn*, 'dun', typically applies to heathery hills, with a darkish brown appearance in winter. In modern Scottish Gaelic, *donn* is pronounced 'down', but in Irish, and in earlier Scottish Gaelic, 'don'; as in Benjarg above, the slippage from '-nd-' to '-nj-' would have occurred in Scots or English speech, encouraged in this case by the English boy's name.

Benmeal

Benmeal, south of the Fell of Fleet, with Benmeal Burn and Benmeal Mote, is *Beinn maol*. Again, *mhaol* would be more correct after feminine *beinn*, but the name was evidently heard by Scots speakers as Benmeal rather than *Benveal. *Maol* is literally 'bald', but frequently used in place-names to denote a bare, rounded hill, appropriate here if it were not cloaked in forestry plantations.

Bennan, Meikle and Little

Beinnán: –*án* is generally a diminutive in modern Gaelic, but in cases like this it is a name-forming suffix of different origin: the hills above Upper Rusko are far from diminutive. Bennan is very common in Galloway, as many as twenty different hills are so named in the Stewartry alone, many with Scots qualifiers that suggest that Scots speakers might have used the word themselves to name hills; at least they had a fair idea what it meant in Gaelic.

Benowr

The summit between Ewe Hill and White Top of Culreoch, north-west of the Laurieston road, is Gaelic *Beinn odhar*, 'khaki-coloured hill'. *Odhar* indicates a drab, yellowish colour, presumably in the vegetation.

Biggins

Biggens appears in the 1841 Census as already a part of the Boreland of Girthon farm. *Biggin* or *bigging*, from Old Norse *bygging*, literally 'a building', is commonly used in Scots and northern English for relatively modest dwellings and farm-buildings, especially ones built on newly cleared parts of larger farms or estates. It occurs in place-names as early as the twelfth century, and is frequently found in legal documents from the fifteenth century onward, though it is not common in place-names in Galloway.

Black Burn

The name of this burn flowing down from Ardwall Hill to the Skyre Burn probably refers to its peaty colour. It is worth noting that present-day place-name scholars regard simple topographic names like this as (often, though not necessarily) among the earliest to be given by settlers bringing a new language to a region, so, although Black Burn seems an unremarkable name, it could go back to the arrival of Anglian settlers, probably in the late seventh century.

Blackloch

Blackloch Farm on the Old Military Road out of Gatehouse towards Anwoth kirk took its name from a pond that has since been drained. Woodend Loch, elsewhere in Anwoth parish, was also known as Black Loch, and another pond on Blackloch Farm was Blackloch Curling Pond. Suspended peaty content would have given all these waters a dark appearance.

Boat Draught and The Brothers

Boat Draught is marked on the 1st edition OS map on the shore at the outlet of the Auchenlarie Burn; it is an anglicised version of Scots *boat draucht*, a place where boats were drawn up. There is indeed a straight, narrow passage between the rocks here that would have served as a natural slipway.

The Brothers are a pair of rocks below the tide-line at the foot of the cliff here.

Boddon's Island

No longer an island, on the Kells parish side of the Black Water of Dee above Stroan Loch. It has the look of Gaelic *bothán* or even Cumbric *bodan*, either way 'a hut'. However, the apostrophe, and Boddon's Folly downstream of the loch, indicate that Boddon was a personal name, a form of Baldwin. The 'folly' is marked as a ruin on the 1st edition OS map, and subsequently a farmstead named after Mossdale Flow occupied the site, though that has given way to forestry. The OS Name book mentions a person called Boddon who tried to make a living on a small croft in the area and failed; that may have been true, though it could be a folklore explanation for the name.

Boggrie Moss

On the west side of the Little Water of Fleet above Craigie Linn, now largely hidden in forestry, this is fairly obviously *bograch*, 'boggy', the English word 'bog' being a loan from the (Irish or Scottish) Gaelic for soft ground. It is interesting, however, that **bograch* is not recorded in Dwelly or other authoritative dictionaries of Scottish Gaelic, though it is in Dinneen's *Irish-English Dictionary*. Maxwell's *bogreach* is a spelling error, breaking the 'broad to broad' rule for vowels.

Other names of similar origin in the Stewartry include Bogra House in Tongland; Bogrie Lane and Bogrie Bridge, between Luchrutton and Irongray parishes, east of Crocketford (with Bogrie in Lochrutton, and formerly Old and New Bogrie in Irongray).

Bog Hall Wood

Although there seems to be no record of a 'Bog Hall', this wood in Anwoth may preserve an ironic name for a hovel in a boggy site. It was possibly a humorous version of the Scots word *boggie* that apparently means 'an outhouse, shed, hut' in the Paisley weaver-poet Robert Tannahill's satirical lines, 'Poor modest Worth, wi' cheerless e'e, Sits hurklin' in the boggie.'

John Wilkinson has suggested to me the possibility of Scots *Bog-haugh*: a *haugh* (from Anglian Old English *halh*) is a riverside meadow, and indeed this (and related English words) frequently gets replaced by 'hall' in place-names. Bog Hall Wood itself stands on a low hill, though it overlooks the land of Blackloch (see above) towards the river which before it was drained would indeed have been a boggy *haugh*; it's not impossible that the wood was named from this.

There are (or were) dwellings named Boghall in Buittle, Kirkpatrick Durham and Parton parishes, to which similar observations probably apply. None of them stands close to a substantial river, though all are near land that could well have been boggy.

Boreland of Anwoth, Boreland of Girthon

Boreland, earlier Scots *bordland*, 'land providing supplies for the lord's table', is an important trace of the mediaeval feudal economy; essentially, the *bordland* was the 'demesne', which is the linguistic and economic ancestor of Scots *mains*, the laird's 'home farm'. Richard Oram in 'The Lordship of Galloway' considers that *bordlands* were probably developed by Anglo-Norman knights introduced by Uhtred and his heirs between the late twelfth and the end of the thirteenth centuries.

There are still Borelands in nine of the 28 parishes in the Stewartry, and others are on record, including *Boreland of Cumpstoun* in Twynholm parish, which is now Mains of Cumpstoun. Boreland of Anwoth, with Boreland Moat (motte), Cottage (now Little Boreland) and Bridge, is shown on the 1st edition OS map, as is Boreland of Girthon, with Boreland Wood. The latter is slightly untypical of the Stewartry Borelands in not being in close proximity to a motte, though the one in Cally Park is only about a mile to the north. The name Boreland Hills is also used for the group of small hills to the east of the Anwoth gap, including Trusty's Hill, Vennie's or Vinnie Hill (see below), and their neighbours.

Borgue

The mediaeval parish of Borgue extended as far west as Knockbrex and Ardwall Isle. The name is first record in the Dryburgh Cartulary as *Worgis* c1161 to 70, but from the mid thirteenth century regularly as *Borg* or similar (*Boirg* on one of Blaeu's maps, *Borg* on another). There can be no doubt that this is Norse *borg*, though it is not impossible that Old English *burh* preceded it, cf. Burgh by Sands across the Solway, at the western end of Hadrian's Wall.

The range of meanings of *borg* is similar to that of Gaelic *dùn*, usually translated as 'fort', and referring either to a fort constructed by the Norse-speakers or to a more ancient one. However, it should be noted that, by the time of significant Viking activity in the Irish Sea in the ninth century and subsequent Scandinavian settlement in the tenth, Viking strategy had largely moved away from dependence on land-based forts, even coastal, preferring safe harbours as bases from where their highly mobile galleys could efficiently control coastal regions and well up the navigable rivers. Like *dùn*, *borg* in place-names in Norway and the North Atlantic islands can refer to a natural, prominent, typically conical hill, and that

could be the case at Borgue. So the name is not decisive evidence for a Scandinavian or earlier fort, the prominent hill on which Borgue church stands could well have been a natural *borg*. Nevertheless the fact that it became the centre of a large mediaeval parish (subsequently divided between Senwick and Kirkandrews) implies that it was the high-status settlement of a powerful Norse-speaking sea-lord.

In the west of the parish, the stone fort at Castle Haven is still known locally as The Borgue. Here the name clearly does refer to a fort, albeit pre-Viking Age, and its position on a prominent seaside hill, now partly eroded, would have marked it out as an archetypal *borg*.

Branyea

This substantial hill in the north of Girthon parish, separated from Craigwhinnie to the east by the Nick of Branyea, is marked on the 1st edition OS map. The name is somewhat perplexing. Maxwell suggests *Bréan chaedh*, 'stinking bog'. Early Gaelic *brén*, modern *breun*, indeed means 'stinking, putrid, stagnant', and commonly occurs in first position in place-names (my thanks to Dr. Peter Drummond and Dr. Jake King for advice on this).

C(h)aedh (which Maxwell says is pronounced 'hay') is probably for Middle Irish *caeth*, modern *caoth*, 'a bog-hole' with the initial consonant 'softened' to 'ch' after the preceding adjective. This word may be the origin of Caw, name of a townland and district just outside Derry city, but the only evidence for it in Scottish Gaelic is an entry in Armstrong's Dictionary (1825), where the meaning is given as 'a shower'.

Alternative possibilities for the first element include Gaelic *braon* 'moisture, ooze', or the Celtic word for 'a raven, Gaelic *bran*, Welsh *brân*. These do occur in place-names, Bran Point and Bran Burn in Closeburn parish, Dumfriesshire, are probably from either *bran* or *braon*, but in typical Celtic two-part names, they are normally descriptive words, so in second position. If either were in first position, -yea would have to be a suffix, e.g. *braon-aidh* 'wet, oozy, place', or *bran-ach* 'raven place'; in terms of Gaelic toponymy, both would be rather far-fetched.

But in any case Maxwell indicates that the name should be pronounced 'Bran-yeá' (to rhyme with 'hay'), with stress on the second syllable. That implies that -yea, is unlikely to be a suffix, it should rather be the specific (the describing eiement, which is usually stressed in Celtic place-names), and it would follow that the first syllable should be a noun serving as the generic.

So a more promising approach could be to take the 'n' to be a trace of the Gaelic possessive article before a feminine noun, *na*. The second part could then be the genitive form of *eag* 'notch', *eige*, referring to the Nick of Branyea; *eag* is well-attested in Gaelic place-names, most notably in the island name Eigg. That would allow, for example, for *Bràigh na h-eige* 'upland of the notch'.

Other possibilities are opened if we assume that the vowel and 'r' in the first element have swapped round (metathesis, a very common sound-change, especially with Scots 'r'). One suggestion (from Michael Ansell) for the first element is *beàrna*, 'a gap', though it is difficult to offer a plausible interpretation for '-yea after that word, *eige* would be almost tautologous. Another would be *bàrr na* 'summit of', the…', making Barnyea *Bàrr na h-eige* 'summit with the notch'.

Burneyhole

Burneyhole Cottage appears in the 1841 Census, Burneyhole Lodge in 1851 and 1861. In 1849, Thomas Murray, author of the 'Literary History of Galloway', wrote an article about his life, where he states that his mother Margaret Grierson came from the farm of Holeburn, Girthon, 'vulgarly called Burniehole'. This was 'a small farm, now incorporated with Townhead and with the pleasure grounds of Cally'. The Place-Names in the Stewartry website identifies this with Barhill Lodge, while the Gatehouse Folk site suggests it may have been High Lodge, which is closer to Townhead; Margaret Wright tells me that a gentleman who lived in his youth at High Lodge said that, although he did not recognise the name in relation to the lodge, across the road there is a field which is known as Burniehole. Both High Lodge and Barhill Lodge first appear in the 1881 Census. None of these names appear on the 1st edition OS map (but see Barhill above for the house of that name).

The Scots name implies a wee burn in a hollow, Holeburn would have been a douce Englished version. It could be appropriate for either candidate, Barhill Lodge stands at the head of a small tributary of the Ass House Strand, High Lodge overlooks the cleuch through which the Kirk Burn flows, and the same burn flows down into the head of that cleuch in Burniehole field in a distinct hollow.

Brock Knowes

Early Celtic *broccos*, modern Welsh *broch* and Scottish Gaelic *broc*, is the common Celtic word for 'badger', in origin probably meaning 'spiky', referring either to its teeth or its fur. The word was taken at an early date into Scots and English (Old English *brocc*), and *knowe* being the Scots equivalent of 'knoll', the name of these hillocks (drumlins?) at the north end of Laughenghie Hill above Loch Skerrow is likely to be a Scots formation. Grazing has denuded the area of the woodland or shrubby vegetation favoured by badgers, but in earlier times the rocky outcrops here could well have sheltered setts.

Burnfoot

A farm named Burnfoot is shown 'in ruins' on the 1st edition OS map, where the Burnfoot Burn joins the Little Water of Fleet, though a shepherd was living there with his family in the 1881 Census, and it continues to be shown on subsequent maps. The burn rises on Ewe Hill, Rig of Burnfoot lies to the north of its course, and Craigs of Burnfoot further north, to the south-west of Loch Skerrow, so the name 'Burnfoot' seems to have extended over a wide area, although it obviously belongs primarily to the site at its foot.

In Anwoth parish, Burnfoot Cottage stands at the foot of the Skyreburn, just above the bridge. It was occupied until the late 1900s, and is currently being restored.

Bush and Bush o Bield

The name of a former farm in Girthon survives now in Bush Loch, Burn, Bridge and Park, and *Bush o Bield* was the home of the eminent pastor and theologian Samuel Rutherford in Anwoth; the existing Bush o Bield is named after it, but is not in the same location.

There are, or were, at least four more houses or farmsteads named Bush in the Stewartry, others being near Orchardton Tower in Buittle parish, Bush of Killylour in Irongray, Bush, *Buss* on Blaeu's map and now Fore Bush in FCS forest below Bennan Hill in Kells (associated with the well-known Backhill of Bush mountain bothy), and another Bush o Bield or Bushabield near Old Bridge of Urr (thanks to Alistair Livingston for information about these). Dumfriesshire has such names in Dunscore, Ewes, Hoddom and Locharbriggs, and there are two or three more just over the border in Cumbria.

Scots *bield* is 'a shelter': *Bush o Bield* could in mediaeval times have been a refuge for travellers along the road through Anwoth, perhaps marked by a prominent bush. However 'bush', Scots *buss*, was used as an uncountable noun for 'scrub, thicket', rather as it is in Australia today. While Bush on the hill above Cally is hardly the Outback, it would have been marginal land, generally rough and overgrown. These simplex 'Bush' place-names may generally refer to holdings carved out in such tough locations.