

Sources in Local History
New Series Volume 16

A FARM LEDGER FROM
GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY
1942-1947

Transcribed by
Kenneth Veitch

with an introduction by
Brian Short



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Sources in Local History
General editor: Kenneth Veitch

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FOREWORD

When sorting through various books at home, I unearthed this one, which, at a quick glance, seemed to be simply a long list of income and expenditure from my father's farm. It is the only record from the farm to have been kept, possibly because my mother felt it was a reminder of the time she spent there from her marriage to my father in 1940 to his death only eleven years later. My involvement in the Regional Ethnology of Scotland Project recording oral memories of the Dumfries and Galloway area made me think that it would be worthwhile to let others see it, especially as it contains some details which tell an interesting story about life in farming during and just after the Second World War.

Glenquicken ('glen of the rowan') was a sheep farm in the hills behind Creetown on the Solway Coast and in quite a remote situation – with land that was really only good for sheep rearing. A nearby site is the stone circle, which is highly regarded by archaeologists.

I lived at Glenquicken from 1945, the year of my birth, to 1952, just after the death of my father, George Sloan. I cannot say for sure that I remember certain events from that young age first-hand, and it may be that I am simply recalling things my mother told me about later. A number of memories stand out, though.

The accounts show payments having been made to prisoners-of-war, and I am aware that we had at least one prisoner-of-war from Germany and evidently also some from Italy. The German was called Rolf Karthe and he must, I suspect, have been treated like any other employee as he kept in touch on returning home to Leipzig and indeed sent a photograph of his wedding day. POWs were living in such a remote area, with only occasional updates on the war, so it is understandable that they were treated in a more humane way than might have been assumed. One of my cousins, who lived on a farm near Wigtown, recalled that POWs would eat with the family but, she added, were not allowed beyond the kitchen of the farmhouse. They were accommodated in part of the barn.

Also housed outside the farmhouse were the sheepdogs, and apparently after visiting some non-farming friends who had a pet dog which had access to the house, I expressed surprise as it seemed to me very unusual. Although it was normally forbidden for animals to come inside our home, there was a story of one occasion when a hen got into our farmhouse unnoticed and laid an egg on my bed. I also remember a pet lamb which had to be bottle fed. Occasionally this was required if, for whatever reason, the mother was not able to rear the lamb – this feeding process was a great thrill for a four year old.

In terms of food, it was common, as the accounts show, to pay the butcher every six months. They recognised that income from a farm came in at that sort of interval and it seemed acceptable to make a charge only then. I don't think anyone could imagine settling a butcher's bill twice yearly now. My mother used to describe sending eggs in the post to Troon, where we had distant relations who ran a grocer's shop. The box would be returned filled with sugar, a scarce commodity during the war – probably breaking the rules!

I recall helping out when the hay was being cut – taking food and drink out to the field – and have a photograph showing the subsequent rest period. I also remember milking some of the cows by hand while sitting on a small stool. Some of the milk would then be separated to generate the cream for making butter. A metal milk separator did the trick, then the cream was put in a glass container with a lid and paddle. A handle on the side was turned and eventually the cream solidified into butter.

Another memory was that when milking cows, done by hand of course, even a five year-old knew that if a cow was on 'M&B' (May & Baker), a sulphonamide used for treating infection, the milk was not for human consumption. Rather relevant today when there is great concern over the extensive use of antibiotics when rearing animals!

I spent just over a year at Creetown Primary School, which is now the Gem Museum. To get to school my brother and I walked about a mile to the road-end and were picked up there by a small bus and driven to school.

It was a simple lifestyle with no real holidays but occasional trips to the seaside which was only a few miles away.

Elizabeth (Betty) Hudson (née Sloan)
February 2021



A selection of photographs from Glenquicken farm, clockwise from top left: George and Elizabeth Sloan with their children Willie and Betty; a tea break during the hay harvest, George Sloan sits with Betty to his right; Betty hand-feeding a lamb; Elizabeth Sloan with Betty and Willie. (All photographs courtesy of Betty Hudson)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editor would like to thank Mrs Elizabeth Hudson for bringing the ledger to his attention and for granting the EERC permission to publish a transcription of it. The editor is also grateful to Mrs Hudson for writing the foreword and for providing further information about life on the farm and her family. Thanks are also due to Brian Short, Emeritus Professor of Historical Geography, University of Sussex, for contributing the introduction.

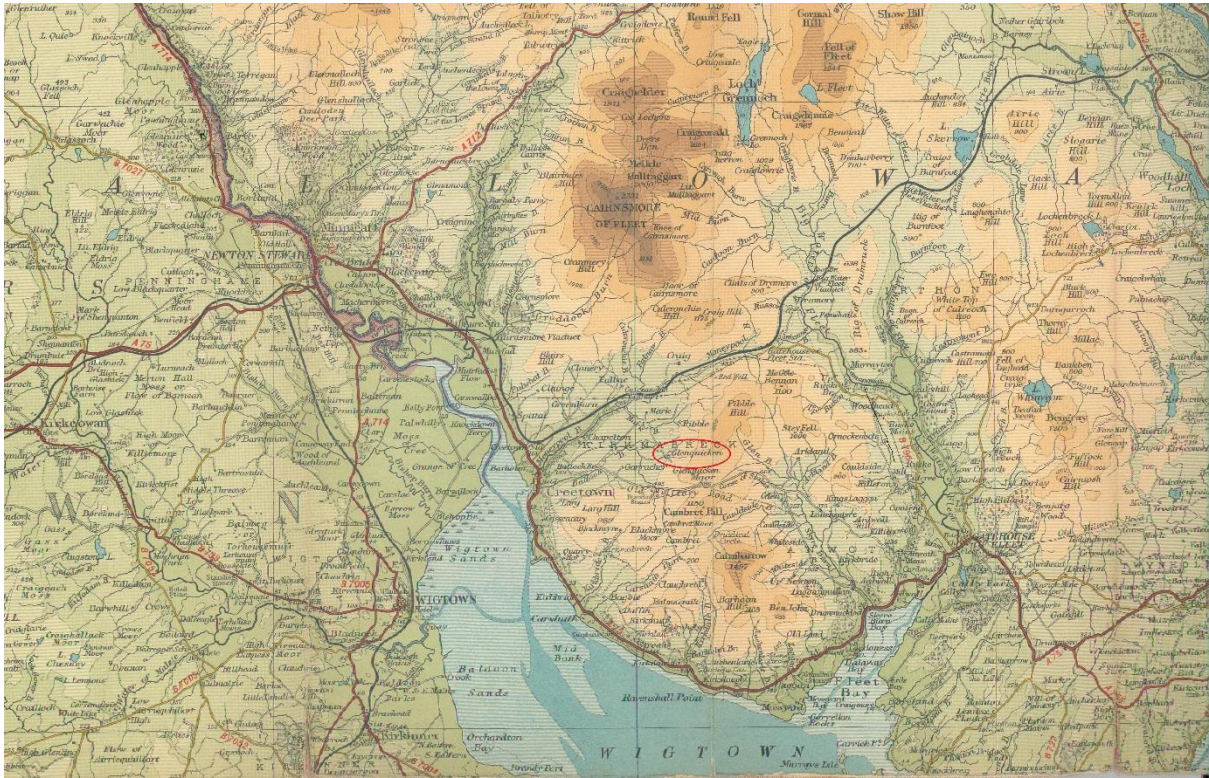
EDITING

The layout of the ledger is reproduced as closely as possible, and the content only lightly edited. Words that are unclear in the original text and have been transcribed tentatively are given as [? *word*]. *Sic* has been used sparingly, mainly to indicate misspellings or omissions in the text that might otherwise be mistaken for an error in the transcription. Other editorial comments have been inserted in []. To differentiate the entries made in pen by Elizabeth Sloan from the additions and corrections made in pencil by George Sloan, a black text has been used for the former and a grey one for the latter. A blue text has been used to represent the additions made to the page recording the stock bought from 6 April 1943 to 5 April 1944.

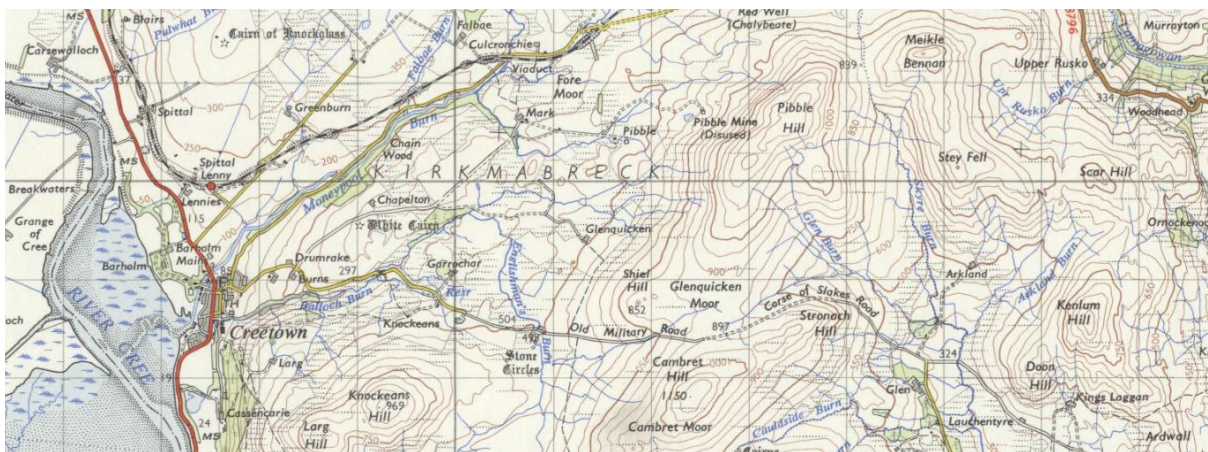
GLOSSARY

Cast	a reject animal, usually sold off as of no further service
Heifer	a young cow
Hog(g)	a young sheep from the time it is weaned till it is shorn of its first fleece
Shearling	a young sheep between its first and second shearing
Stirk	a young bullock
Store	applied to an animal that is in good condition, but not fat. Usually bought by a dealer to fatten for resale
Tup	a ram
Wedder	a castrated ram

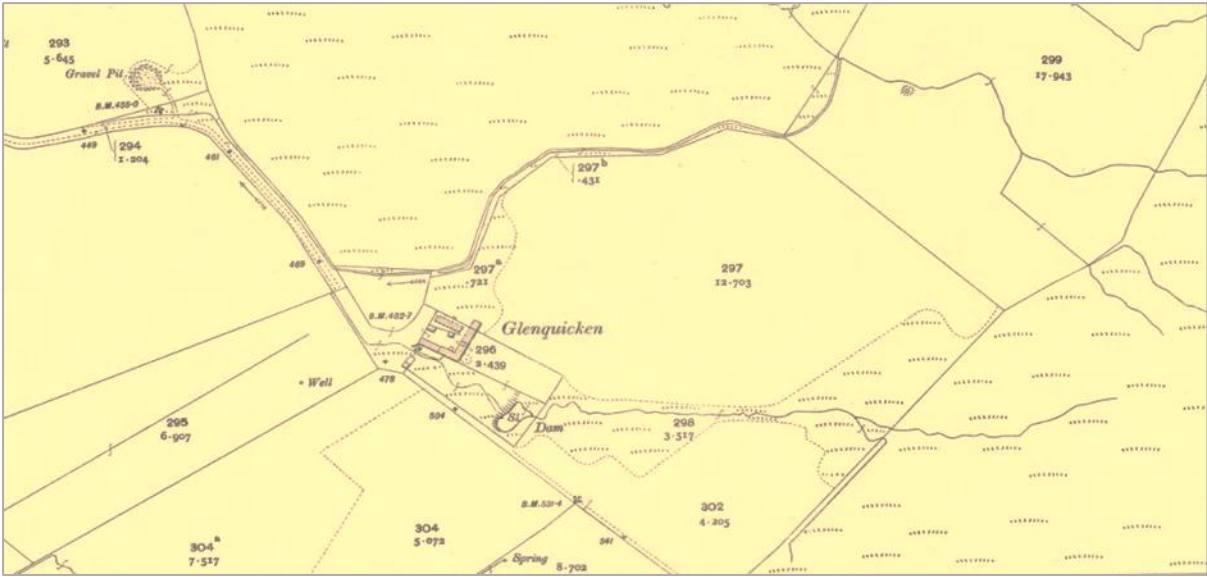
MAPS



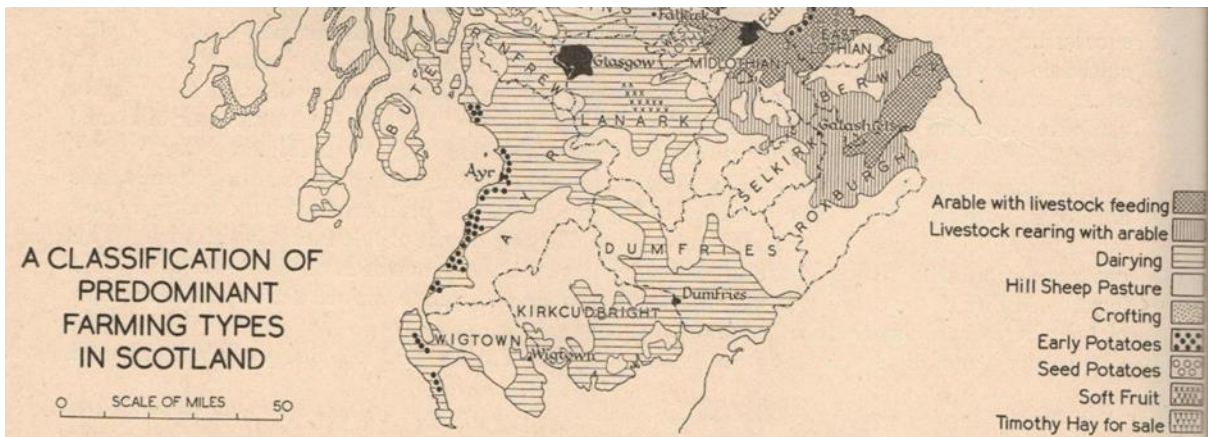
Map 1. A detail from Bartholomew's map of Galloway (1947) showing some of the places mentioned in the ledger, including Newton Stewart, Creetown and the farms of Barhoise, Mark, and Muirfad. Glenquicken farm has been circled in red. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



Map 2. A detail from an Ordnance Survey map of 1951 showing Glenquicken and its surrounding district. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

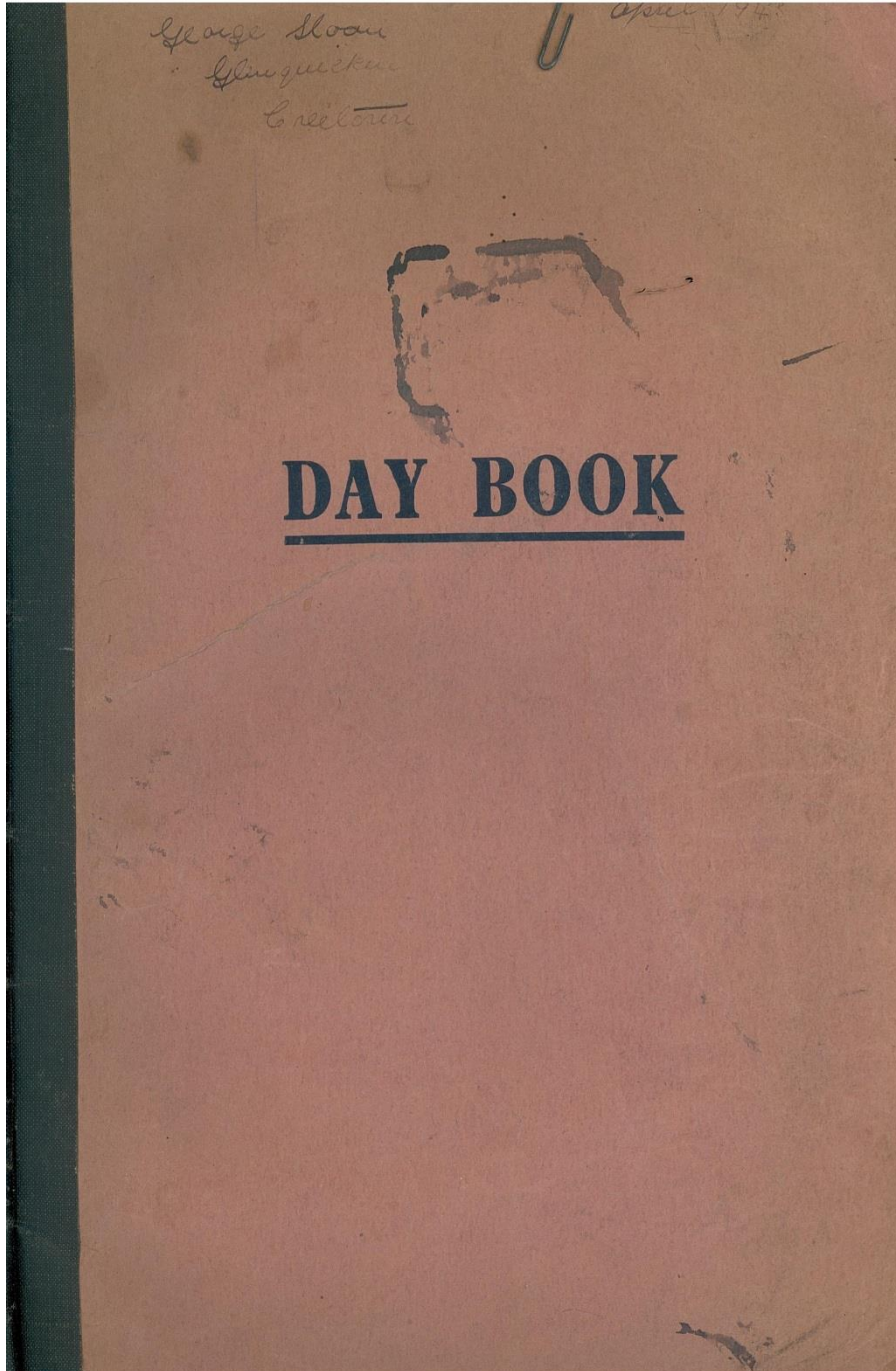


Map 3. A detail from an Ordnance Survey map of 1908 showing the farm at Glenquicken, with improved in-bye fields to the west and east, and open moorland to the north and south east. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



Map 4. The southern portion of a map of farming types in Scotland, showing that Glenquicken farm lay within the hill sheep pastures. (From Stamp, L D. *The Land of Britain: its Use and Misuse*, London, 1948, 318)

FACSIMILES



Facsimile 1. The front cover of the ledger. The paperclip held a bundle of loose pages.

Valuation of stock etc 6 th April 1943 - 6 th April 1944			
April 1943.			²⁰ / ₉
	487 ewes (B & F) @ 44/- each.	£1071	8 0
	111 Bly hogs @ 40/- each	£222	0 0
	12 Stock Rams @ 5/- each	£60	0 0
Horses.	1 Mare aged @ 35	35	0 0
	1 Gelding @ 62	62	0 0
Cattle	1 Galloway Bull £20	20	0 0
	3 Ayrshire milk cows each £25	50	0 0
	15 Galloway cows non pedigree @ 18 each	270	0 0
	11 Bullock & heifer stakes @ 11 each	121	0 0
	11 Ayrshire stirk calves @ 15 each	165	0 0
	Implements for Hill Farm	120	0 0
	Fixtures belonging to the farm		
	Tenant.		7 10 0
	5 th April 1944	£2203	18 0
	Stock sold sheep & lambs.	736	11 11
	Cattle sold.	521	7 11
	Sale of oats, wool etc.	341	7 1
	Government Subsidies	346	1 6
	Value of goods consumed in dwelling house.	130	0 0
		4179	6 5

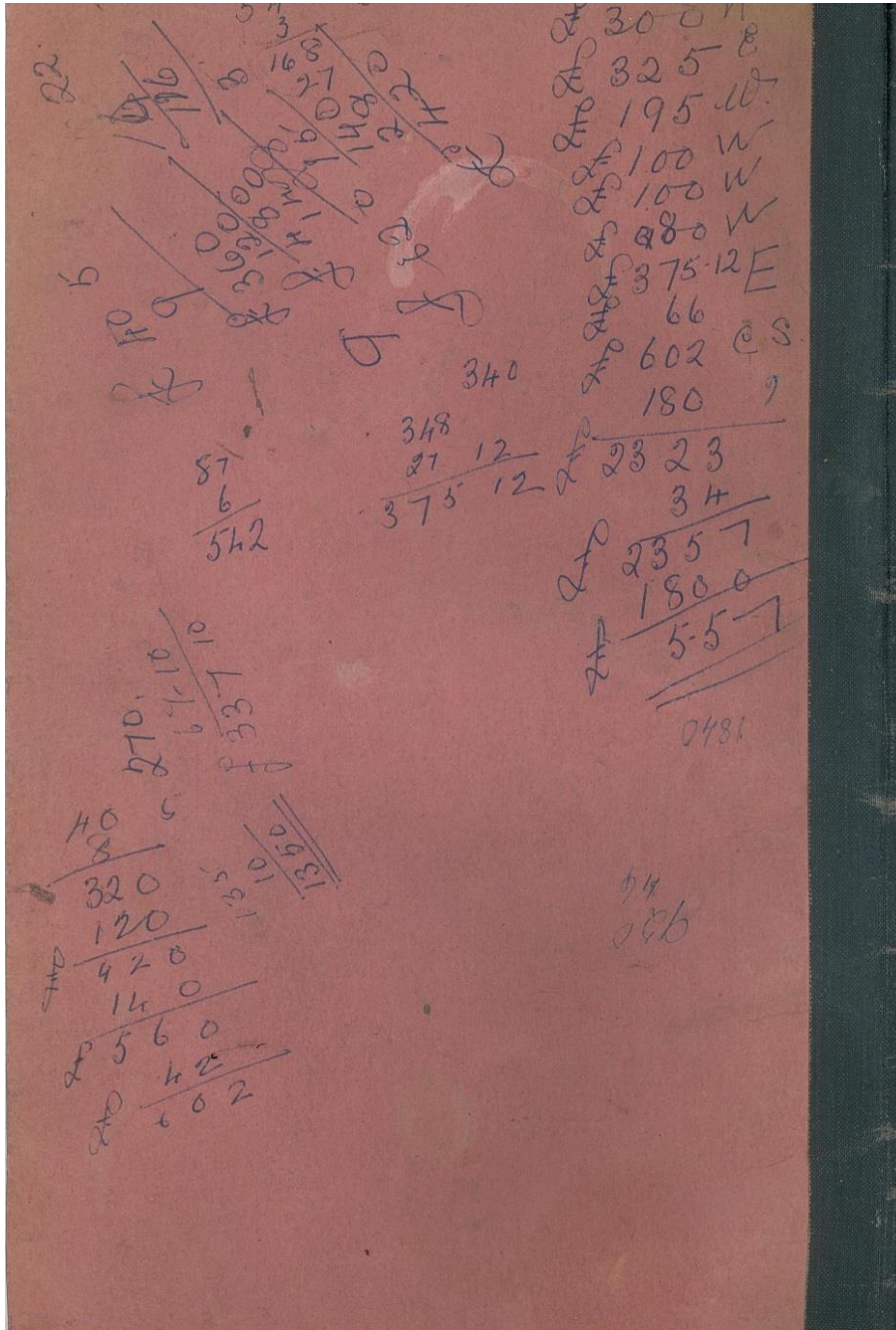
Facsimile 2. A page from the ledger showing additions made in pencil by George Sloan.

Fertilizers & Seeds bought 6 th April 1946 to 5 th April 47		
	Messrs Biggar & Sons Manure acc.	135 4 8
	Messrs Biggar & Sons Feeding acc.	75
	W Lennox Mark	11 2 6
	John Inglis & Sons.	36 14 4
	James Dick & Sons keep for Sheep.	50
	John Charlton & Sons.	
	Silcock & Sons Ltd	4 2
		<u>£ 315 3 6</u>
	Cultivation Tractor etc.	
	Haulage Contractor.	
	D + W Bowman	£ 54 18.
	William Stewart Threshing	£ 5 17 6.
	Department of Agriculture for Scotland	£ 14 6
		<u>£ 75 1 4</u>
	Stock losses throughout the year	
	40 Ewes & 44/-	88
	10 Hogs & 40/-	20
	1 Turp & £5	5
	1 Stock & £12	12
		<u>£ 125</u>

Facsimile 3. A page from the ledger that records, among other things, stock losses on Glenquicken farm for the year 6 April 1946 to 5 April 1947. The weather in the opening months of 1947 had been particularly harsh, with heavy snow and hard frosts resulting in higher than usual mortality among sheep flocks throughout Britain.

	£	S	D.
Wages Permanent Staff.			
adam mc knight	21		
Andrew Marshall	115		
POW Labour.	155	19	4
Casual Labour for Days Threshing	3		
Turnip Thinning	3		
Casual Labour for Hay Harvest.			
extra Supplies for Sheep Shearing			
Hay Harvest + Threshing	30		
A+E Ross for Book Keeping	5		
Insurance Postage Stamps etc			
upkeep of Car Taxes etc	62		
Domestic Help throughout the year	60		
Hogg Wintering	131	5	
Commission for wintering	1	10	
Two Irishmen for Hay + Work on Farm	40		
Coal + Paraffin oil Used in connection with Farm.	15		
Wifes allowance	80		
	£ 722	14	4
Rent + Taxes of Farm.	179	9	8
	£ 901	14	
Potato Lifting	12		
	£ 913	14	8

Facsimile 4. A page from the ledger showing that POWs were still employed at Glenquicken in the year 6 April 1946 to 5 April 1947.



Facsimile 5. The back cover of the ledger provided a convenient place for a member of the Sloan household to jot down some calculations.

GLENQUICKEN FARM, KIRKMABRECK
Farming in Scotland, with reference to Kirkcudbrightshire,
during the Second World War

During the Second World War Glenquicken farm, near Creetown and in the parish of Kirkmabreck, was owned by Major Alister Henryson-Caird of the neighbouring estate of Cassencarie, and tenanted by Mr George Sloan. Caird reserved the shooting rights over Glenquicken for himself.

Sir James Caird, who had died in 1892, was a well-known agricultural writer. Between 1841 and 1860 he farmed at Baldoon on the earl of Galloway's estate near Wigtown. He married Margaret Henryson in 1843, but she died in 1863, having borne four sons and four daughters. He subsequently remarried but the Henryson-Caird name stayed in the family. In 1860, now MP for Stirling, he bought the estate of Cassencarie which then became his home.¹ As a practising farmer, he introduced the system of Cheddar cheese-making into the south west of Scotland with great success. At his own expense he also furnished a water supply to Creetown. By 1884 the estate consisted of 2,036 acres.

Needing to spend much time in London, he entrusted the running of the estate to his son, James Alexander Henryson-Caird. Alexander died in 1921, leaving the estate to his son, the aforementioned Major Alister Henryson-Caird. Alister died in 1950 and was succeeded in turn by his son, Captain Murray Henryson-Caird. The castle was lived in until the 1960s but is now largely ruined and at the heart of a caravan park with a restaurant and pub in the soundest part of the remaining building.

George Sloan's family had been farming in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright since the late nineteenth century.² His father William, originally from New Cumnock in Ayrshire (b. 18 December 1856), had been the tenant of Larg, where George was born on 19 September 1902. William later bought and farmed Gribdae, near Kirkcudbright, and it was here that he died in 1933. Gribdae was sold six years later, and it was probably at this time that George took on the tenancy of Glenquicken.³ Soon after, on 4 January 1940, he married Elizabeth Lethardy (b. 1911) at her father's farm at Conrick, Sanquhar (Dumfriesshire). They had two children, William (b. 1941) and Elizabeth (b. 1945). The family lived at Glenquicken until George Sloan's death on 15 December 1951. Shortly after, Elizabeth moved with her children to Cassencarie, where she had been given employment and accommodation.

In what follows we contextualise George Sloan's ledger, in the possession of his daughter Elizabeth, now Betty Hudson, firstly by reference to the wider Scottish farming position in the Second World War crisis years. We then focus more specifically on wartime farming in Kirkcudbrightshire before finally turning to Glenquicken farm itself and George Sloan's ledger. In this way we will see the links between his farming and the wider picture during the 1940s.

THE ORGANISATION OF SCOTTISH FARMING DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The interwar years were difficult for Scottish farming. Renewed emigration from the countryside in the 1920s was severely felt on farms, where housing was too often remote, sub-standard and insanitary, and farm servants might live in appalling conditions. Meanwhile unemployment overall remained high. In Kirkcudbrightshire, for example, the population fell from 37,256 in 1921 to 30,742 by 1951, as farming families moved into England or gave up farming altogether to seek urban employment.⁴ At the same time the cropped area of just over 2 million acres attained under the straitened circumstances of First World War food controls in 1918 had shrunk to 1.52 million by 1938.⁵ Although the depression years were not felt as

severely as in parts of arable England, Scotland's mountainous and hilly topography has always made arable farming a more difficult proposition, and of its total surface area of 19 million acres no fewer than 10.7 million were classified as rough grazings or mountain and heathland in 1942. And perhaps there were as many as 500,000 acres of uncultivated grazings infested with bracken, which was particularly difficult to eradicate.⁶ All this contributed to the fact that only about 4.5 million acres were suitable for cropping by 1939. Instead, by 1936–39 livestock and livestock produce accounted for 80 per cent by value of agricultural output, and still accounted for 75 per cent in 1949–50, even after the wartime changes.⁷

By the late 1930s little could be done to stimulate arable farming in competition with foreign imports. Instead, in the Central Lowlands and the far south west, dairy farms were especially important, stimulated by the advent of the Milk Marketing Board in 1933. However, many of these dairying concerns also carried large numbers of hill sheep, and on so many marginal farms it was to their ewes and lambs that farmers looked for continuing viability.

Therefore, many Scottish farmers entered the war years with the legacy of difficult economic conditions, as well as challenging environmental issues, behind them. In any account of wartime farming Scotland's varied social and environmental conditions must be remembered. The different climates, economies and cultures of Highland and Lowland Scotland would form one broad brush differentiation while an east-west transition showed the eastern arable farming districts contrasting with pastoral farming in the west, with cattle as the chief stock and with sheepwalks at higher altitudes. In general, although much farming in Scotland was of a very high quality, the local environmental conditions limited farming choices far more than in England. High rainfall, severe winds and snowfalls and more limited lowland all combined to exert a brake on agricultural diversification.

However, where grassland had been necessitated by the interwar economic situation, the stored fertility built up during the depressed years now could be pressed into service. To some extent the obvious suitability of much of Scotland for livestock farming meant that fewer farmers faced the tough requests that their English and Welsh counterparts were to endure. The Lothians around Edinburgh were certainly well farmed, where the ley farming advocated for England by George Stapledon had for long been standard practice, as were the lands of Fife, Angus and Aberdeen. In fact during the war the area of grass leys was actually reduced to find more space for arable crops, compared with the situation south of the border where short grass leys were being adopted more widely.

But above all, human food supplies from our own soils became paramount, and much of Scottish farming had to be turned around quickly. By 1937 wheat, oats and barley were subject to subsidised payments, although the government still placed undue reliance on imported foodstuffs. But in early 1939, as the international situation rapidly deteriorated, the Agricultural Development Act introduced a grant of £2 per acre for the ploughing of permanent pasture and increased deficiency payments for barley and oats. Now manpower and machinery had to be made available; farm surveys would be required; health-giving foods needed; and rationing introduced. The potential changes could be forecast to some extent using data from the Scottish 1941 annual June Returns to ascertain the overall nature of land use in the country and to help assess the feasibility of increasing output. The conclusions to such forecasts were later published in the *Agricultural Survey of Scotland* (1946).⁸

The Agricultural Executive Committees

Almost immediately it was necessary to introduce some fundamental organisational changes. The formation of the Scottish Agricultural Executive Committees (AEC) followed a broadly similar process to that in England and Wales, and also to some extent following the precedents of the First World War. Called into being the day after the declaration of war, alongside their chairmen, secretaries and executive officers, the committees began their allotted advisory, directive and monitoring roles. An advisory role was given to the Scottish agricultural colleges, and the executive officers were largely drawn from the Scottish Department.⁹

Preparations for the establishment of these committees had been ongoing for some months, but the names of thirty-nine Scottish AEC chairmen were publicly announced on 3 May 1939 in a written statement by Minister of Agriculture Dorman-Smith in the House of Commons. The chairmen rapidly set to work to appoint their committees, which were brought into formal existence in late August. The chairmen were clearly drawn from the ranks of the Scottish elite and many such men would still have exercised an almost feudal power which gave status and political clout. Earls and military men were prominent, and the networks of association and kinship operated among these establishment families in much the same way as in England.

The composition of the AECs was similar to those in England and Wales: farmers, landowners, estate agents or businessmen of some standing, with paid officials for executive and technical work. It has been said, in an important article, that 'Never before did Scottish agriculture raise itself to greater effort in the national interest'.¹⁰ The room for expansion, however, was limited, as Walter Elliot, a former Minister of Agriculture and now Scottish MP, explained in a BBC broadcast in March 1942:

In general, land in Scotland that could be farmed was farmed – what was left alone, or what had fallen out of cultivation, was widely divorced from any chance of immediate tillage. A year or two even of war prices – even of County Committees – would not serve to yoke it again to production.¹¹

The powers given to those committees were sweeping: to enter and survey land; to issue directions to occupiers as to cultivation, management or use; in certain circumstances to manage or arrange for management of land of which possession was taken; and to requisition implements on land of which the committee were in possession. An article in the *Scottish Farmer* noted:

These were drastic powers, and put members of the agricultural executive committees, who were mostly farmers themselves, in an invidious position. It was, however, in the national interest that the land should be turned to the most productive use.¹²

The Scottish Department reserved rather more of the responsibilities for wartime operations to itself, compared with the situation in England and Wales where more functions were devolved to the county committees. The Department retained, for example, the overall operation of the government tractor scheme and machinery pools, the distribution of feeding stuffs, and also land drainage, all of which were run by the 'War Ags' in England and Wales. The Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1941 was a far-reaching stimulus to farming, similarly enabling the Secretary of State for Scotland to organise comprehensive arterial and land drainage schemes, on the basis of reports from the relevant AECs.¹³

Because of this, smaller numbers of labourers were retained by the committees themselves than in England, mainly for contract potato work, harvesting and threshing, of which much was done by the Scottish Women's Land Army (WLA). As a consequence, by 1944 there were 1,744 WLA members employed by the AECs, compared with just 314 men.¹⁴ Such a centralised system had some advantages over that employed in England and Wales: it was more accountable, more uniform. The AECs did establish machinery sub-committees to assess and prioritise requests for assistance and direct charge of the machinery.

The Scottish committees, like their counterparts in England and Wales, responded with enthusiasm, assumed responsibility for the crops and livestock programmes, and soon after their appointment they had divided their areas into districts and devised outline plans to survey all farms to assess potential cropping capabilities for 1940. A target of 260,000 extra arable acres was set for 1940, and allocated among the AECs.¹⁵

But Scotland's AECs only managed initially to produce an extra 183,000 arable acres in 1940 – 77,000 acres short of the target; to which was added the loss of 31,000 acres of crops

and grass. However, the harvest that year was relatively abundant which compensated in part for the disappointing start to the plough-up campaign. And by now the war was upon Britain with a vengeance. For 1941 an additional 260,000 acres were to be ploughed, with proportionate adjustments to be made to stocking numbers, meaning especially lessened numbers of lowland breeding ewes.

To stimulate arable production, the AECs allocated acreage payments for wheat and rye from 1943, and potatoes from 1941, with quotas for individual farms for the latter and also for sugar beet, and with some success. Indeed, potatoes remained unrationed throughout the war, despite increased consumption. The committees were also empowered to issue compulsory cropping notices, as in England and Wales, and were issued with detailed guidelines on the amounts of grassland to be ploughed, to ensure consistency from one committee to another. These amounts were to be determined by the types and grades of farms, and proportionate guidelines were therefore issued, depending on rotations, fertility of soils and types of livestock. The AECs, by such measures, pushed up the tillage and fallow area to over 2 million acres in 1942, and the peak figure of 2.1 million acres was attained in 1943, similar to the 1918 acreage, but with 300,000 fewer acres of farmland. In line with the English and Welsh figures, the tillage area then fell away to just over 2 million acres by 1945.¹⁶

The cropping of cereals and other direct human foodstuffs crept up into the Scottish hills, aided where possible by steady advances in mechanisation promoted by the Department of Agriculture's tractor service, which reached a peak of applications in 1942-43. Because of the great efforts being made by the committees and farmers the proportion of total Scottish crops and grass under tillage was increased from 33 per cent in 1938 to 48 per cent by 1943.¹⁷ The production of wheat and barley doubled between 1939 and 1943, oats increased by 40 per cent, potatoes by 70 per cent and the acreage of sugar beet nearly doubled. New varieties of barley, coupled with heavy manuring and liming, allowed almost a doubling of yields.

All this had implications for livestock producers, since numbers of commercial cattle, pedigree cattle and sheep would have to be reduced, with enormous implications for the areas of highest and barest rough grazing, where alternative enterprises were difficult. Dairy cattle would be retained (Table 1), however, and dairy farms would be required to plough up less than stock rearing or fattening enterprises. Indeed, between 1939 and July 1944 Scottish dairy cattle numbers increased by 9 per cent and this move into dairying was maintained thereafter.¹⁸

As part of their responsibilities for maintaining productivity as high as possible in their counties, the AECs were given powers to control or evict individual farms. The number of such evictions and dispossessions by the AECs was relatively small in Scotland, although, as in England and Wales, there was intense criticism of such activity. In fact, most of the land so taken over was either sheep grazings or deer forest. Overall, only seventy-three tenancies (out of a total number of Scottish farms of 78,424) were terminated under Defence Regulation 62, where eviction could be enforced if the farmer refused to comply with AEC directives, and only eighty-five farms came under the direct control of the Department of Agriculture. Undoubtedly there were mistakes made, but it was claimed that the AECs gave 'sympathetic guidance' and helped to rehabilitate poorer farms.¹⁹ The 12th earl of Stair, chairman of the Wigtownshire AEC, put it thus, in a Lords debate in December 1947:

I have been chairman of an agricultural executive committee during the whole time it has been in existence. Our committee, composed entirely of farmers, never attempted to direct in any way except to meet the actual necessity of producing more food. They never asked anybody to do anything that was not possible. They never tried to enforce any direction whatsoever.²⁰

This seems almost too benign a view and was, perhaps, a carefully worded statement. Certainly, in January 1944 his AEC had intervened to work the tillage area of Messrs P G and J J Hill, the occupiers of Baltier Farm, Whithorn, Wigtownshire. The farmers had been instructed by the

AEC to prepare 108 acres for harvesting in 1944 but had failed to do so. The work was then done instead by the AEC and the farmers were charged with a bill for £151 16s 9d; court proceedings were initiated after failure to pay, but the farmers then paid up.²¹

Intervention was perhaps most commonly seen when dealing with smaller holdings reliant on pig and poultry husbandry. The restricted supplies of feeding stuffs hit such small producers very hard at the outbreak of war, and in many cases the AECs took over the holding, or organised for a neighbour to take it on, while the holder himself found work elsewhere, retaining only the house for the duration of the war. At its maximum in 1944 about 20,000 acres of arable and mixed farms were under the control of the AECs while others were let out. The lands taken over by the AECs actually returned an overall wartime profit by 1944, a cause for some congratulation since these were inevitably the poorer farms or needing to be worked in difficult environmental conditions.

The termination of tenancies was nevertheless the single most criticised action of the AECs, and duly reported in local papers. Taken 'with caution and reluctance' the actions were nevertheless carefully watched.²² It has been said that the relations between the AECs and farmers in Scotland were relatively good, as evidenced by the fact that of the many thousands of cultivation orders issued by the committees, only 230 cases were reported to the Ministry for prosecution, and only 133 prosecutions were actually undertaken.²³

However, dispossession of a different kind also had to be faced. The AECs had to contend, as in England and Wales, with the demands of the military for land. There were compulsory rights to over 6.5 million acres of hill country for military training, which were used, but which generally interfered little with crop production. But altogether 95,750 acres were taken out of farming operations completely. Some 4,600 acres, for example, were taken from lowland stock-raising farms to the south of Kirkcudbright and along the coast, much for tank training.

Rapid changes in Scottish farming

The rapid changes in much of Scotland's farming at this time could only have been implemented by the local coordination and provision by the AECs of labour, machinery, drainage and fertilisers.

The Scottish labour problem was addressed in the same basic way as that in the rest of Britain. The AECs did whatever they could to retain skilled ploughmen, dairymen, cattle men and shepherds, but the pre-war drift from the land had already depleted numbers in many areas. Agricultural workers were classed as reserved labour or their call-up was deferred, and in June 1940 the Undertakings (restriction on engagement) Order was passed to prevent even more workers moving away from farm employment. Wages Boards then fixed wages at 48s per week for an adult male worker, rising to 60s from January 1942 and reaching 90s by October 1947.

The workforce was also enhanced by the hiring of more women and girls, especially through the WLA, whose peak numbers at 8,250 were attained during the 1943 harvest. A steady turnover of women and girls was apparent however, with about one-third of all those trained subsequently being dismissed or resigning. Unlike in England and Wales, in Scotland the WLA had a closer affinity with the Ministry, and the Secretary of State was directly responsible for the administration of the organisation. Nevertheless, about 2,500 worked in gangs or singly under the direct control of the AECs, with the rest being lodged on farms and working under the farmers' directions. A Women's Land Army Auxiliary Force, volunteers offering seasonal work for at least four weeks a year, was also more widely used in Scotland than in England and Wales.²⁴

The labour sub-committees of the AECs were also given the task of increasing casual labour, which came from many sources including prisoners-of-war (POWs), volunteer students and children, women volunteers, and Irishmen working in gangs. But the task of transporting

POWs, in particular to scattered fields in deep countryside, did present problems as the lorries were timed to pick them up so as to allow only a very limited working day.²⁵ AECs liaised with education authorities to ensure that school ‘tattie holidays’ were adjusted so that children might help with the potato harvests. Transport was organised for the children as well as for other civilian volunteers, and about 200 hostels were arranged by the AECs across Scotland. As well as undertaking their strenuous work, many farmers additionally now joined the Local Defence Volunteers (later the Home Guard), becoming key personnel in horseback patrols in the Borders, for example.²⁶

It was anticipated that mechanisation of farming would boost productivity, but this was far from straightforward, and in fact much of the Scottish productivity gain was actually achieved using horses in the traditional manner. Nevertheless, there was considerable growth in private tractor numbers: from 6,250 in 1939 to 19,000 by 1944, while those available through the AECs with cultivating and harvesting machinery accounted for about 120,000 acres of plough-up in 1942 and 1943. The work of the Tractor Service increased tenfold between 1939–40 and 1942–43. The committees provided machinery to locations where productivity was falling behind or upon application from farmers, using lend-lease tractors from the USA, Canada or Australia as part of a flying squad scheme, and liaising between government departments and local firms of agricultural engineers.²⁷ The committees also considered and recommended applications for supplementary animal feed, following the rationing schemes introduced in February 1941, which were administered centrally by the Department of Agriculture for Scotland [DOAS]. They also undertook tasks such as distributing machinery, implements, building and fencing materials etc.

In addition, the AECs had the task of maintaining, as far as possible, the ongoing fertility of soils, especially those now being subjected to arable cropping. Artificial fertilisers were used wherever they were available, but the acidic soils of much of Scotland presented a particular challenge, since liming practices had fallen away during the later nineteenth century. The Land Fertility Scheme of 1937 had helped greatly with its subsidy for lime but at the outbreak of war the AECs still graded many farms as only moderately well, or even badly, managed because of deficiencies of lime. Great strides were made by the AECs however, and the availability of lime, with total deliveries peaking in 1943–44, could not keep up with demand by 1945.

Walter Elliot spoke in 1942 with some feeling about the changes made:

Some things you will not notice, by simply travelling through, but you will not be a week in any county till you encounter them. The Agricultural Committees are now the real masters of the land – they say to a man, as did the centurion of old ‘Go here’ and he goeth. To plough, to sow, to reap, and to hoe, are operations conducted nowadays under the watchful eye of a committee-man supervising on behalf of the County Committee the work of his neighbours... In fact if you were to ask what is the chief country-side change in changing Scotland, I should say not ‘the plough’ but ‘the Committee’ ... [but] to beat Hitler we must have it so.²⁸

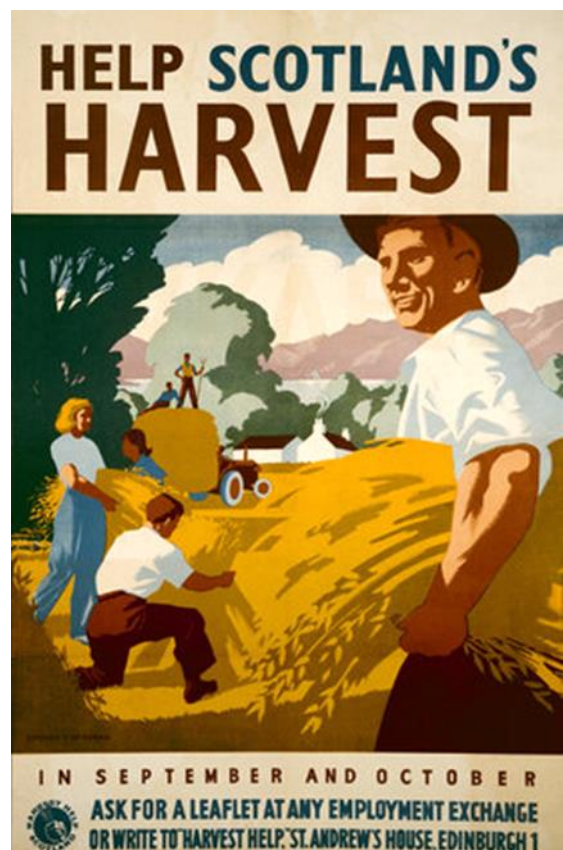


Figure 1. Calling for help with the Scottish wartime harvests (The National Archives, INF 13/140/6)

Scotland's marginal farms

Scottish AECs were also faced with many marginal farms whose chances of producing more tillage were slim. In 1942 special assistance was offered to such farms, allowing up to 50 per cent of the cost of cultivations. In Spring 1943 the Marginal Production Scheme attempted to stimulate the ploughing-up of marginal land still further, although only on those holdings which were totally located on land where the economic returns of cultivation would otherwise have been negative and where the risk of crop failure was high. AECs were asked to grade marginal land on such farms and then allocate a percentage grant on fertilisers and other items according to need, but also according to the faithfulness with which directions were complied. Cereal crops did indeed spread onto more difficult terrains, and some farmers reseeded pastures using the grants available.

Store cattle and sheep were reared in the more accessible glens, to be sent down to lowland farmers for breeding or fattening, so adequate supplies of livestock were important. But the plough-up campaign was reducing the lowland pasture area, and it became necessary to cut back on the numbers of cattle and sheep that could be taken. If the hill cattle farmers were to survive, let alone contribute effectively to wartime demands, special assistance was required. A subsidy for hill ewes (not for any lowland sheep) was announced in December 1940, with 2.27 million ewes, shearling ewes and gimmers (between their first and second shearings) receiving the subsidy, which was certified by the AECs. The subsidy was extremely important and covered as much as 68 per cent overall of Scotland's ewes.²⁹ Here, then, was another attempt to achieve maximum food production from these very difficult environments, while also maintaining a reservoir of breeding stock for lowland farmers. In May 1941 a similar hill cattle scheme, the Cattle on Hill Grazings Subsidy Scheme, was also introduced, in yet another attempt to further increase the output of hill grazings. Cattle numbers (limited to Galloway or Highland breeds or crosses with a Shorthorn bull, or Shetlands in Shetland) were to remain day and night on the hill for at least eight months over a consecutive period of three years; drainage of the land had to be sufficient; and farms were to be at least 100 acres in size. The AECs were required to inspect the holdings in connection with applications for the subsidy. The scheme was updated in 1943 with some modifications such as the inclusion of deer forests where they were deemed capable of improvement to carry stock.³⁰

In 1944 the Hill Sheep Farming Committee, appointed to deal with hill grazings productivity, called for state assistance to rehabilitate hill farms which had to shed their land use reliance on deer forests or forestry to produce more food, and also recommended more research, and minimal restrictions on heather burning, thought to be good to encourage younger shoots.³¹

The National Farm Survey in Scotland

One important role allocated to the AECs in England and Wales was the compilation of the National Farm Survey 1941-43, covering every farm above five acres, to understand more fully the farms' potentialities and deficiencies as the plough-up proceeded. Scotland mounted a similar, but only sample-based survey, since the Scottish Advisory Council felt that a more elaborate survey would soon become out of date, and would be 'an unjustifiable waste of time and labour' given the difficulties of access to Scotland's remoter regions. The relatively small number of technical staff available was also a problem here. But a survey was nevertheless thought to be valuable, although primarily for post-war planning of agricultural land use policy.³²

The survey was not, however, comparable with that carried out in England and Wales.³³ The objective in Scotland was to classify the land according to its productive capacity in 1941. In Scotland all the attention in the survey was on the land itself, whereas in England and Wales the emphasis was as much on the farmer as on the land, and with more attention to farm infrastructure. The Scottish feeling was that such factors 'only affect the productivity of the land indirectly, and have no bearing on the inherent productivity of the land'.³⁴

Field workers from the AECs were asked to estimate for each farm visited:

- i) How much was under rotation where the temporary grass would normally be left down for *not more* than four years;
- ii) How much was under a rotation grass where the temporary grass would normally be left down for *more* than four years;
- iii) How much was under permanent grass;
- iv) Then go on to assume that the land in question ‘was managed in the best possible way’ and to reclassify the land on that basis;
- v) The difference between the two classifications would then provide a rough measure of the potential productivity of the land;
- vi) Then to indicate the factors responsible for the difference between the first and second classifications;
- vii) Also to estimate the ‘carrying of livestock assuming optimal conditions’;
- viii) And also estimate the area of rough grazing that was improvable, and record the existing livestock carrying capacity of the rough grazing.

The survey forms were designed with Part A dealing with arable land and permanent grass, and Part B with mountain and heathland. Where crop production at June 1941 was less than the maximum possible, the form had to record which defects were observable:

- (a) Obvious lack of drainage – acres
- (b) Lack of fertilisers, including lime – acres

And were the following contributory factors?

- (c) Lack of adequate buildings and other owner’s equipment – yes/no³⁵
- (d) Lack of tenant’s capital – yes/no
- (e) Other reasons – yes/no

Also, what acreage of land unsuitable for rotational cropping is improvable by the following operations: superficial treatment; drainage; application of lime and/or fertilisers; renovation?

The other reasons under (e) were taken to include lack of knowledge, negligence or incapacity. Only in this more limited sense was there some information on the farmer’s own standards.³⁶ A lack of labour was also to be noted. For mountain and heathland the surveyors had to estimate what area at present could be improved either as land under rotational cropping or under permanent grass. They were also to list the numbers of different breeds of sheep and cattle carried on the rough grazings on each farm.

Detailed instructions were issued to AEC executive officers, who often performed the duties of field workers alongside other technical staff. They were enjoined to maintain comparability between different areas and at different times, although this presented practical difficulties with the large numbers of field workers involved. The reliability of the results was a cause for concern, since ultimately much relied on the subjective opinions of the field workers. However, the questions dealing with the potential capacity of the land were thought to be more reliable, and much attention was therefore directed to this aspect.

The survey was, as far as possible, to be completed by March 1942.³⁷ With limited AEC resources, it was decided that the enquiry would exclude holdings of less than five acres, and carefully random sample the rest, with the overall total sample size comprising 14 per cent of all farms over five acres as at June 1940. In Scotland overall 6,177 holdings were surveyed, covering 648,972 acres. A further 1,055,714 acres were surveyed on a parish basis only, together with 1,194,464 acres of rough grazings on farms and 1,503,465 on a parish basis.

Where a listed holding had been requisitioned by the military, for example, an adjoining farm was to be surveyed in its place, and a note inserted in the Primary Record form. And although Defence Regulations gave the power to extract information from obstructive farmers, it was thought better to substitute a neighbouring farm of similar size, type and quality, and again to note this on the form.

All completed records were sent from the AECs for vetting by the agricultural economists for their area. In addition, some holdings, especially on the Scottish islands, proved to be too remote to reach. Accordingly, the executive officers were asked to visualise a whole parish as if it were one holding and to make a return based on this. The holdings comprising only mountain and heathland were also dealt with differently, as were common grazings, because the required sample sizes were unattainable because of the remoteness of these holdings.

In order to analyse the survey, AEC areas were arranged into six groups of contiguous districts, in descending order broadly according to the proportion of tillage in each (Table 1).

Table 1 The Farm Survey district groupings 1941

<i>Group</i>	<i>Districts</i>
1	East Fife, West Fife and Kinross, West Lothian, Midlothian, East Lothian, Berwick
2	Orkney, Moray, Nairn, Banff, Deer and Turiff, Aberdeen and Ellon, Huntly and Garioch, Alford and Deeside, Kincardine, Angus
3	East Perth, West Perth, Stirling and Clackmannan, Dunbarton and Renfrew, Lanark
4	North Ayr, South Ayr, Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigtown
5	Peebles, Selkirk, Roxburgh
6	Zetland, Caithness, Sutherland, Lewis and Harris, Ross mainland, Inverness mainland, Skye, Outer Islands, Bute, North and South Argyll, Bute, Arran

Source: DOAS, *Agricultural Survey of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1946.

The findings of the survey for these district groupings are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 Land use in the Scottish districts 1941

<i>Group</i>	<i>% Tillage</i>	<i>% Rotation Grass</i>	<i>% Permanent Grass</i>	<i>% Total Crops & Grass</i>	<i>% Rough Grazing</i>	<i>Total agricultural land</i>
1	37	17	19	73	27	100
2	33	24	4	61	39	100
3	13	8	13	34	66	100
4	12	10	18	40	60	100
5	11	9	11	31	69	100
6	3	2	3	8	92	100
Scotland	13	9	8	30	70	100

Source: DOAS, *Agricultural Survey of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1946, 9.

One outcome of the survey was that 370,000 more acres could be cropped on a rotation, with temporary grass not being left down for more than four years, especially in Groups IV (where dairying was important) and III. The survey revealed that there existed considerable scope for increasing the yields of arable crops, including grass seeds and timothy grass. But of the mountain and heathland it was estimated that a mere 0.5 per cent could be converted to arable and 2.5 per cent to permanent grass.³⁸

When analysing the potential yields from arable and grassland in the different groups, the factors retarding increased production were also listed: the lack of adequate drainage was one key factor, especially in Lewis and Harris in Group VI; and the lack of fertilisers, including lime, was felt in Groups V and VI. Other factors, such as adequate buildings, equipment or capital were noted again for Group VI and III. In Scotland as a whole it was estimated that 37 per cent of the holdings lacked adequate buildings. And of the 9 million acres of mountain and heathland surveyed, a mere 57,537 acres might be converted to rotational cropping, and a further 243,842 acres to permanent grass. With livestock it was found that the potential carrying capacity for livestock units for Scotland could be raised by 7.5 per cent, although this varied widely from county to county. Executive officers were acutely aware of the difficulties in increasing livestock numbers, especially dairy cows, that would be raised by the assumed conversion of grassland to arable. In some areas this would actually imply a reduced carrying capacity between 1939 and 1941 because of the conversion of land to arable.³⁹

Agricultural change 1933-53

The general trends in Scottish wartime land use are clear, with the proportion of total crops and grass devoted to arable increasing steadily until 1944, after which there is a slight decline, and with permanent grassland showing the inverse relationship (Table 3). Rotation grassland declined since much was surrendered for cereals and roots.

Table 3 Changes in Scottish land use 1939-46 (all areas in millions of acres; cattle and sheep in millions; % figures in brackets for total acreage of arable and permanent grass)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Crops & Grass</i>	<i>Arable Land</i>	<i>Permanent Grass</i>	<i>Rotation Grass¹</i>	<i>Rough Grazing</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
1939	4.558	2.935 (64.4)	1.623 (35.6)	1.455	10.465	1.349	8.007
1940	4.527	3.063 (67.7)	1.463 (32.3)	1.399	10.468	1.360	7.783
1941	4.470	3.133 (70.0)	1.238 (30.0)	1.307	10.710	1.312	6.759
1942	4.433	3.324 (75.0)	1.109 (25.0)	1.226	10.697	1.335	6.831
1943	4.427	3.371 (76.1)	1.057 (23.9)	1.250	10.825	1.377	6.766
1944	4.424	3.371 (76.2)	1.053 (23.8)	1.257	10.760	1.418	6.833
1945	4.425	3.343 (75.5)	1.082 (24.5)	1.232	10.973	1.460	6.899
1946	4.420	3.305 (74.8)	1.115 (25.2)	1.368	10.956	1.472	6.954

¹ Rotation grass is also included within the arable acreage.

Source: Stamp, L D. *The Land of Britain: its Use and Misuse*, London, 1948, 480.

The more detailed position of land use at the peak of Scottish wartime production, compared with the position at the peak of the depression in 1933, and then with the situation in 1953, is summarised in Table 4. The loss of the total area of crops and grass 1933–53 mirrors a similar picture in England and Wales, as urban development, military use and afforestation took over farmland.

Table 4 Scottish agricultural change 1933–53

	1933	1943	1953
Total area (acres)	19,068,728	19,068,728	19,068,728
Total acreage crops and grass	4,613,708	4,427,000	4,387,525
Wheat	78,386	170,623	72,053
Barley	59,808	213,619	194,562
Oats	855,857	1,010,895	887,930
Turnips	351,653	326,043	278,910
Potatoes	152,513	236,271	174,245
Sugar Beet	1,706	13,421	10,697
Rotation Grass	1,447,507	1,250,102	1,485,752
Permanent Grass	1,583,628	1,056,661	1,165,320
Grain and root crops	1,552,573	2,120,659	1,736,443
Fruit and small fruit	8,582	6,911	10,697
Cattle	1,293,637	1,377,474	1,646,536
Sheep	7,811,144	6,766,415	7,465,866
Pigs	167,028	190,249	470,876
Poultry	8,094,000	6,177,932	9,885,551

Source: Symon, J A. *Scottish Farming, Past and Present*, Edinburgh, 1959, 459.

The £2 per acre subsidy from the government for the ploughing of old pastures was well received in Scotland, and by the end of 1945 no fewer than 1 million acres of old grass had been ploughed up, at a cost in subsidies of just over £2 million. But the artificiality of the wheat acreage, for example, is clearly portrayed, with its area shrinking back to even lower in 1953 than it had been in 1933. Barley was more buoyant after the wartime peak but other arable crops fell back, including the wartime success crop of sugar beet. However, rotation grassland did emerge with some vigour from its wartime sowing, so that the area of permanent grass in 1953 was only slightly higher than it had been in the plough-up years of the war. Wartime yields of all crops were well maintained and were higher in 1953 than they had been at any previous time. Large tonnages of potatoes also came from Scotland's allotments, which more than tripled in number from 25,503 in 1939 to 83,746 four years later.⁴⁰

Between 1941 and 1944 the amount of best quality beef being produced increased; the amount of TT (tuberculin tested) milk increased by 25 per cent compared with England's 3 per cent; and yields of wheat, barley and potatoes were higher.⁴¹ By 1957 the increase in agricultural output over pre-war years in Scotland stood at about 60 per cent, achieved with reduced land and labour supplies and rationed feeding stuffs on what was often very unpromising soil. Furthermore, there was increased fertility and drainage on many marginal soils, and reclamation schemes had increased the possibility of more land for cultivation.

The war was, on balance, good for Scotland's farmers, certainly up until 1943–44, depending on the type of farming, as can be seen in the changes in earned net farm incomes (Table 5). But fortunes were fluctuating, and in the later stages of the war soil exhaustion, always a potential problem on the more marginal farms, together with ongoing feeding stuffs difficulties, led to some curtailment of the rise in incomes.

Table 5 Changes in Scottish earned net farm incomes 1940-45 (£ per farm)

	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
Dairy	1,441	1,358	1,421	1,546	1,298
Stock rearing	931	1,397	1,432	956	617
Stock rearing & feeding	1,304	1,817	2,182	1,290	972
Arable with livestock feeding	1,770	1,878	2,063	1,743	1,133
Hill sheep	65	439	649	760	787
All types	1,221	1,424	1,599	1,355	1,063

Source: Murray, K A H. *Agriculture*, London, 1955, Appendix XIII, 383.

FARMING IN THE STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Given the events narrated above, how did the Stewartry fare during the war?

The north-western part of the historic county is rugged and desolate, based on Ordovician shales and grits, with granite intruded to form the highest ground, and being quarried extensively in the parish of Kirkmabreck (see below) in the nineteenth century. More level or undulating topography is found to the south on Silurian greywackes and shales, as around Creetown and Castle Douglas. The area was completely covered by thick ice in the most intense period of glacial activity, and much is mantled by fluvio-glacial deposits of sand and gravel, including drumlins around Newton Stewart, overlying the sedimentary ground rocks. Rivers such as the Cree run approximately north-south, meeting the Solway Firth in shallow bays, such as Wigton Bay.

In 1846 it was said of the farming in Kirkmabreck that:

... the lands are inclosed with stone dykes. Much attention is paid to the improvement of live stock: the cattle, of which large numbers are pastured, are of the pure Galloway breed, with some cows of the Ayrshire on the dairy-farms. The sheep are mostly the black-faced, and of small size, with some of the Cheviot and Leicestershire breeds.⁴²

A century later, little had changed in this respect.

It had been standard practice in the Stewartry to farm the improved land in a long-ley system, which could allow grassland to stay for as much as eight years before ploughing for oats or animal feed and then sown again with clover, cocksfoot, timothy or rye-grass seeds.⁴³

The importance of milk production wherever possible in the Stewartry accounted for 60 per cent of the farms, with most having switched away from the traditional cheese-making because of improved transport over the past fifty years or so. For many more remote farms, however, a small number of Ayrshire cows would fulfil domestic requirements.

The *Agricultural Survey of Scotland* (1946) used data from the 1941 annual June Returns to ascertain the overall nature of farming in the county and to help assess the feasibility of increasing output. The data for Kirkcudbrightshire shows little wheat being grown in 1941, but rather more meadow hay. Furthermore, very few farms were thought even suitable for wheat or barley, but it was felt that rather more oats, potatoes and feeding stuffs might be grown.

As in so much of Britain at this time, the AEC was of vital importance. (Sir) James Boyd Douglas (1894-1964) of Barstibly, Castle Douglas, was appointed to head the Kirkcudbrightshire AEC. A successful and prominent farmer himself, Boyd Douglas was someone 'whose personal views on all agricultural problems command high respect and are well known'.⁴⁴ He was assisted by the early appointments of Mr H M Young, executive officer, and Patrick Gifford, solicitor, Castle Douglas, as secretary. On occasion, Sir Patrick Laird, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, also attended meetings. In January 1939 James Boyd Douglas had also been elected vice-chairman of the Scottish Milk Marketing Board and continued in this capacity throughout the war years, and the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard* assiduously reported on his meetings,

speeches and general exhortation. He had been writing a column for the paper for about twenty-five years, and by late 1945, in line with many other AEC chairmen, he had been awarded a CBE for his wartime efforts.

One early problem for him, in what could be very remote countryside, was the shortage of labour. By June 1940 Douglas was fully engaged in preparations to bring schoolboys into farm work. By 1942 he was exhorting farmers to grow more wheat in that year's ploughing programme, followed by a call for more barley the subsequent year, or failing that, more peas with the oat crop as feeding stuffs were expected to be in short supply during the winter of 1943-44. So even more labour was needed, and in August 1943 he formally opened a hostel on Market Hill, Castle Douglas, for members of the WLA.

The work by some farmers pre-war to reclaim land for productive use in this difficult area was applauded. In 1934 Muirfad farm, Kirkmabreck, had been bought by Alexander Allan who was awarded the MBE for the work he did in devising a method of reclaiming Galloway rough grazings and peat bog to achieve productive grassland. His hill land at Auchinleck and Minnigaff was also tackled, so that stocking rates of cattle and sheep were improved by changing the floral associations, with bog myrtle, rushes etc. being replaced by ryegrass, white clover and cocksfoot mixtures, aided by plentiful applications of phosphates. It was then apparent that grazing was the best way to harvest a grass crop on a quaking bog.⁴⁵ Outside his farmhouse there is now a monument to his work:

To the enduring memory of Alexander Allan MBE, 1878-1965
Farmer of Muirfad
Pioneer in surface seeding.
Through his work many acres of peatland have been reclaimed.
Erected by the Scottish Peat and Land Development Association

The farm survey in Kirkcudbrightshire sampled 238 farms (17 per cent), out of a total of 1,414, covering 38,775 acres of crops and grass and 58,177 acres of rough grazings. A large percentage (44.5 per cent) of the farmland was under a rotation grass which, as noted above, would normally be left down for more than four years, and a similar amount (43 per cent) was permanent grass, as distinct from mountain and heathland. These were relatively high percentages compared with Scotland as a whole, and clearly reflected the climatic and economic factors affecting the importance of stock farming and dairying here. Kirkcudbrightshire's sample showed 5,973 acres requiring drainage, although of this land only 4.5 per cent would anyway then have supported arable crops. There were also 37,565 acres requiring liming and other fertilisers, of which 28 per cent might potentially be converted to arable.

However, again the potential (as estimated by the AEC surveyors) for producing more direct human food from arable farming improvements was shown to be very limited, and the results would have been far below Scotland's overall average. On the other hand, the actual number of sheep kept on farmland in the sample was in fact even greater than the surveyors' estimated potential, something only approached in the counties of Wigtown, Kirkcudbright and Dumfries. The survey also revealed that sheep here would normally be expected to spend forty-one weeks of the year out on the rough grazings, and cattle twenty-six weeks. The importance of hill sheep to Kirkcudbrightshire was demonstrated in the Report of the Hill Sheep Committee to parliament in 1944. There were 165,797 breeding ewes, shearling ewes and gimmers in 1940, 75 per cent receiving the hill sheep subsidy. The number of sheep was the seventh highest in Scotland, and the subsidy take-up the sixth highest, from the then thirty-three counties.⁴⁶

The mountain and heathland, however, was found to be only minimally productive if resources were applied: less than 1 per cent would be fit for arable, and only 1.5 per cent for permanent grassland, surely not worth using up precious resources which could be better deployed elsewhere.



Figure 2. Glenquicken farm, showing the improved in-bye land, unimproved rough grazings and the forestry plantation on higher land. (www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3708795. Copyright Anthony O'Neil. Creative Commons)

GLENQUICKEN FARM, KIRKMABRECK

The farm whose ledger is the subject of this text is in the parish of Kirkmabreck, overlooking the valley of the River Cree and bordering Wigtown Bay. It was in a mixed farming area, with sheep grazing and rearing becoming more important as one ventured towards higher land further east into the Southern Uplands. The Types of Farming map published shortly after the war (Map 4) showed the farm location as being within the hill sheep pastures, and indeed it was to sheep that the farm looked for its main income.

The farm therefore comprised mostly hill pasture with patches of arable land, the latter confined to the improved in-bye nearer to the farm buildings (see Map 3 and Figure 2). The rearing and fattening of hardy livestock, particularly the small horned Blackface sheep, and possibly of the local Newton Stewart type, was its main concern. However, the local and historic breed of polled Galloway cattle were also of some importance, although its former almost complete dominance in this area was greatly diminished by the advent of Ayrshire cattle for milking purposes.

The climate and soil in this area was certainly more suited to grass and cattle feed than grain, being generally wet and mild, with a relatively long growing season, although this shortens with distance from the coast. The annual rainfall averages about 1,500 millimetres (60 inches) on the higher slopes. The winters of 1939-40 and 1946-47 were exceptionally snowy here, making farming conditions truly difficult, with greater losses of ewes and reduced ewe flocks and lambing rates resulting in financial losses.

The area does have some moderately good soils derived from the drift cover noted above, especially in the Cree valley: some acidic brown soils and some, where the in-bye land stretches, capable of producing good pasture. But gritty and stony soils with granite derivation, peaty gleys and podsols, together with the persistent wetness, severely limit agricultural improvement on

the higher lands to south and east. Generally pH values are above 5.0, indicating acidic soils. Around Glenquicken itself the drift soils often occur as mounds amongst gravels, shallower drifts and peats, giving rise to complex mixtures of rather too-freely but also poorly drained soils. These localised variations would have required careful attention for farming purposes.⁴⁷ Careful management of the improved grassland is essential and all around are wet heather moors and blanket bog.

THE GLENQUICKEN LEDGER

The foregoing account of Scotland's increased wartime agricultural output has been set alongside the more specific case of Kirkcudbrightshire and even more pointedly to the farming environment around Glenquicken. And we can see George Sloan's wartime situation on the farm through his ledger.

It is not a day-to-day record of the farm's income and expenditure, but rather a list giving the year's totals. For many farmers the keeping of more detailed accounts was an innovation, but like so many elsewhere, the ledger would have been used by George Sloan, seemingly via his accountant, to compile the year end accounts, so vital for obtaining government grants and help from the AEC and government agencies. Covering the period 1942 to 1947, the ledger is a valuable source for assessing the impact that the war had upon farming in the south west of Scotland. The text was compiled by Elizabeth Sloan, between dealing with their young family, with additions by George, so it is somewhat unusual because it includes more than one writing style: a large, rounded hand predominates but a smaller text can also be seen.

So what does the ledger reveal about operations on Glenquicken farm during the war years and just beyond? Of course some things appear to have changed little: Newton Stewart market remained vital for the sale of George Sloan's livestock as well as the purchase of rams and ram lambs. The vital importance of the Blackface hill ewes and lambs also remained, with August sales bringing in the majority of the farm's income. Hoggs (9-18 month-old sheep, probably unshorn and destined for breeding) were still wintered on grass off the farm, for example to Mr Young by the River Bladnock at Barhoise, Kirkcowan, to the west of Newton Stewart, or later to W Lennox at Mark farm. Regular payments also continued for vets' services, including materials for dips, oils and serums against dysentery. Payments were also being made for seeds for the rotation grassland.

An overall assessment of farm income is presented for the year 1943-44, as we learn that the sales of sheep and lambs bring in far more than other considerations at £736.11s.11d, compared with cattle at £521.7.11d and oats and wool at £341.7.1d. But also important, and alongside these, was the new income from government wartime subsidies at £346.1s.6d, and we can now turn to examine these in more detail. A variety of grants and schemes were in operation.

The Civil Appropriation Accounts from the House of Commons show that the Scottish bracken destruction scheme was operating from 1941-42 and more was paid out as the war progressed. In 1942 George Sloan was refunded for bracken cutting on Glenquicken and this continued through to 1943. Acreage payments for potatoes were introduced for the United Kingdom in 1941-42 and from 1943 Glenquicken claimed for a few acres: £12 in 1943 and £13.11.9d in 1946. There is a somewhat enigmatic entry in 1942-43 'Making a record of farm' followed by 'Half of expenses of J. F. Sproat'.⁴⁸ No monetary sums are included. Was the record in connection with government payments to George Sloan; was it part of the National Farm Survey, with Glenquicken being selected in the sample of farms?

Threats to hill sheep production were a particular cause for Scottish concern since the demand for store sheep from lowland farmers was eroding fast in the face of decreasing amounts of lowland grass because of increased arable production. In December 1940 a subsidy for breeding ewes from hill sheep flocks was initiated, coming into effect in 1941 to maintain incomes, especially since the price of wool had been set at a relatively low level by the Ministry of Supply.⁴⁹ The rates of sheep subsidy varied across the war years with the initial 2s 6d per ewe

being increased, for example, to 8s in 1943. Prices for Blackface sheep were especially favourable and no doubt helped Glenquicken considerably, with sales of 400–500 sheep annually in August at Newton Stewart market. A hill cattle subsidy scheme was introduced in May 1941, initially for breeding cows but extended in 1943 to cover heifers and bullocks. Although cattle were less important at Glenquicken, George Sloan did bring in some money from his Ayrshire cows and Galloway cattle.

The farm also benefitted from the Marginal Lands Scheme, which had introduced special grants for attempts to turn scarcely profitable land into some economic benefit. Individual farmers were invited to apply for such assistance and the scheme was more widely used in Scotland than in England and Wales. George Sloan's earnings from this source increased from the beginning of 1943, with £58.0.6d coming in 1943–44, and £69.9s the following year, and the still greater amount of £103.13.1d in 1945–46, the final year such sums were allocated. The AEC for Kirkcudbrightshire had been given the discretion to make such grants where it was thought that assistance over and above that already available for hill sheep and cattle might help to bring more land into greater productivity. Drainage work was also being undertaken throughout the war years, and in the year ending accounts for 1945–46 we find that the cost (£149.2.6d) was offset by the government subsidy, bringing the actual outlay down to £74.11.3d. Finally, towards the end of the war the government molecatchers were also being paid for work in 1944–45.

The end of the war brought little immediate relief from the pressing need for home food production. The subsidies and grants continued and we therefore find at Glenquicken considerable sums being entered into the ledger for ewes, cattle and marginal land (1945–46). In 1946–47 a potato subsidy was also entered, and potato lifting had to be paid for. DOAS haulage, ploughing, cultivating and harvesting contractors also continued, as did molecatchers.

The Glenquicken figures also allow a glimpse into other aspects of wartime farming. Although so much emphasis was placed in the British lowlands on the production of arable crops for direct human food supplies, at Glenquicken the crops other than sown grasses were primarily for consumption by the farm's own livestock. We have the recording of oats grown regularly, with quantities being sent off the farm to Biggar Grain and Manure Merchant at Port Mills and to J Carswell & Sons, grain and manure merchant at Barrbridge Mills, both among the many mills operating in Dalbeattie, where milling for animal feed was undertaken. Carswell's also had an extra oatmeal plant built in the 1930s.⁵⁰ Haulage costs for transporting the oats and meal were a regular feature of the accounts, with payment to DOAS for the services of Bowman haulage contractors, for example, in 1943. Seed corn for sowing in the in-bye land came from, among other sources, Alexander Allan at Muirfad, mentioned above in connection with his reclamation work on peat bogs.

Contract work was overseen by the AECs through machinery sub-committees to allocate and supervise work. At Glenquicken we find such work as discing and ploughing, harvesting, as well as haulage, being paid for, to supplement the efforts of the ploughman James Gillespie in 1942–43. Casual labour had almost certainly been a regular feature here at pinch times but the war emphasised the need for even more workers than normal. So we find casual labour being deployed for a variety of tasks: harvesting, draining, threshing, sheep shearing, lambing, turnip thinning and potato lifting. Mill work was mentioned regularly, for which cash was paid. The modern Mill Cottage, now a holiday let on the farm, was once the corn-grinding mill for the farm and the original horse driven drive-shaft is still a feature nearby. The horses that were so employed are also mentioned regularly, and their stable has also been converted to a holiday property. In her foreword, we read that George's daughter Betty remembered helping with the hay harvest and almost certainly Elizabeth Sloan would have helped too, in so many ways.

But it was the unusual help that catches the eye in the ledger: two soldiers were billeted on the farm for ten days in 1942. And by April 1943, following allied successes in North Africa in 1941, Italian prisoners-of-war were billeted on the farm and received wages. It may be that the 'POW billeted on farm £86.2s' in April 1943 referred to this. Betty refers to a German

POW, and these prisoners generally arrived from 1944, and were shipped in during 1945 (when she was born) and 1946. So it may be that the entries for 1945-46 and 1946-47 related to that same German who Betty remembers as Rolf Karthe from Leipzig, who became a family friend. There were also Irish casual workers, some of whom worked in gangs, but although WLA members were based in the area, as we have seen, there is no mention in the Glenquicken accounts of the use of WLA personnel.

This latter point does lead on to thoughts about what is missing from the ledger that might allow us a better insight into George Sloan's farm. There were facts that were simply unnecessary to include in the ledger, one of which was the acreage of Glenquicken farm at that time. The ewe and lamb flock was a little under the average size for Kirkcudbrightshire but we do not know the stocking rate or lambing rate from the ledger. But the present owner of Glenquicken thought that the farm once ran to about 1,000 acres, and allowing for perhaps 200 acres of improved grassland and a small amount of oats etc, we have about 800 acres of rough grazings. The stocking rate for hill sheep during the war was two ewes per acre, and allowing for localised environmental conditions, given George Sloan's 400-500 sheep that would be about right.⁵¹ By the 1950s the farm consisted of mostly rough hill grazing, rough pasture and about 120 acres of improved land where hay and oats were grown.

The average rent per farm in south-west Scotland at the end of the war was just over £221 but George Sloan paid £179.9.8d in rent and taxes for 1946-47, again a little on the low side. Of course, once again there are very many local factors which will affect rent levels, but again it may be that Glenquicken was a little on the smaller side than its neighbours.⁵²

The only mention of a tractor is in connection with work by the DOAS; there is no mention of tractor repairs, fuel or insurance. On the other hand, there are regular entries about the horses on the farm – vets' services, insurance, smithing – and it may be that George Sloan relied on horses in the general running of Glenquicken. As we have seen, the corn mill was certainly horse powered. The absence of a tractor should be no surprise, however, given that at this time fewer than one-third of farms had tractors, and those mostly on larger lowland holdings.

Today Glenquicken remains a working farm with horses, hens, pedigree Galloway cattle, with fifteen cows, a bull, calves and followers, and a flock of seventy-five Scotch Mule sheep (a cross between Blackface ewes and a Leicester tup). The farm grows its own hay and silage with a few acres of kale/turnips on rotation for sheep and cattle grazing in the winter. There are three farm cottages to let, converted from the old stables, the bothy and grain store, and the corn mill. There are working dogs, a trout fishery and the farm advertises an abundance of wildlife with deer, hares, pheasants, ducks, buzzards, hawks and numerous garden birds, together with a resident white barn owl. The farm is fully registered to sell venison, game and trout.⁵³

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NOTES

¹ Mingay, G E. 'Caird, Sir James (1816-1892)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford, 2004.

² In 1975 the county was absorbed into the new larger region of Dumfries and Galloway.

³ The newspaper notice of his marriage in January 1940 gave his residence as Glenquicken. See also the National Records of Scotland [NRS], Valuation Rolls, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright for the year 1940-41, parish of Kirkmabreck, which records him as the occupier and tenant of Glenquicken.

- ⁴ Wright, V. The prevention of rural depopulation: housing and the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes, c.1917-39, *Twentieth Century British History*, 23 (2012), 336-58.
- ⁵ Coppock, J T. *An Agricultural Atlas of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1976, 216.
- ⁶ Symon, J A. *Scottish Farming, Past and Present*, Edinburgh, 1959, 362; Parliamentary Papers [PP], 1944, Cmd 6494, *Report of the Committee on Hill Sheep Farming in Scotland 1943-44*, 10.
- ⁷ Department of Agriculture for Scotland [DOAS]. *Types of Farming in Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1952, 8.
- ⁸ DOAS. *Agricultural Survey of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1946.
- ⁹ Murray, K A H. *Agriculture*, London, 1955, 60. The DOAS was merged with other departments into the Scottish Office in 1939 to be the Scottish Home Department. Ultimate responsibility for wartime farming in Scotland therefore rested with the Secretary of State.
- ¹⁰ Marshall, D. Scottish agriculture during the war, *Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*, 58 (1946), 1-77, at 1.
- ¹¹ Elliot, W. *Long Distance*, London, 1943, 183. Walter Elliot (1888-1958) was Minister of Agriculture 1932-36. He was finally dropped from government when Churchill assumed leadership in 1940 and appointed Robert Hudson as Minister.
- ¹² *Scottish Farmer* website: <http://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/services/history/100-years-of-farming>.
- ¹³ Land Drainage (Scotland) Bill, House of Commons Debate, 20 February 1941, vol. 369, cc. 319-29.
- ¹⁴ Murray, 1955, 322, 332-36.
- ¹⁵ DOAS. *Agriculture in Scotland 1939-48*, Edinburgh, 1949, 3.
- ¹⁶ Symon, 1959, 246-7; Marshall, 1946, 58.
- ¹⁷ DOAS, 1946, 5.
- ¹⁸ Denman, D R. 'The practical application of wartime agricultural policy: with special reference to highland regions', unpub. PhD thesis, University of London, 1945, 17; Catto, G A. 'Agriculture'. In Jones, S J, ed. *Dundee and District*, Dundee, 1968, 195-96.
- ¹⁹ Symon, 1959, 259.
- ²⁰ House of Lords Debate, 10 December 1947, vol. 153 cc. 153-85. The Stair estate in Wigtownshire amounted to 79,200 acres in 1874 and 105,000 acres by 1970. The 12th earl (1879-1961) had also been a Conservative MP for the county (1906-14) and Lord Lieutenant (1935-61).
- ²¹ Secretary of State for Scotland, Joseph Westwood, House of Commons Debate, 5 April 1946, c. 246, in reply to a question put by Tom McKie, at that time Independent Unionist MP for Galloway.
- ²² Marshall, 1946, 10-11.
- ²³ Marshall, 1946, 14. For reports in the *Ross-shire Journal*, see Calder, A. *The People's War: Britain 1939-1945*, London, 1969, 417-18.

- ²⁴ Marshall, 1946, 41; Denman, 1945, 266-8. A memorial to the WLA members in Scotland was unveiled in October 2012 by the Prince of Wales, in his capacity as duke of Rothesay.
- ²⁵ The earl of Stair in debate of the harvesting of sugar beet (House of Lords Debate, 15 November 1944, vol. 133 cc. 1223-33).
- ²⁶ Osborne, B D. *The People's Army: the Home Guard in Scotland 1940-44*, Edinburgh, 2009.
- ²⁷ Sprott, G. Lowland country life. In Devine, T and Finlay, R, eds. *Scotland in the Twentieth Century*, Edinburgh, 1996, 181.
- ²⁸ Elliot, 1943, 186-7.
- ²⁹ PP, 1944, Cmd 6494, *Report of the Committee on Hill Sheep Farming in Scotland 1943-44*, Appendix III, 93.
- ³⁰ Denman, 1945, 427-30.
- ³¹ PP, 1944, Cmd 6494, *Report of the Committee on Hill Sheep Farming in Scotland 1943-44*, 11, 74.
- ³² The National Archives [TNA], MAF 38/217, The National Farm Survey in Scotland: an abridged report (1941-43), 1.
- ³³ Short, B, Watkins, C, Foot, W and Kinsman, P. *The National Farm Survey 1941-1943: State Surveillance and the Countryside in England and Wales in the Second World War*, Wallingford, 2000.
- ³⁴ TNA, MAF 38/217, 2. An almost verbatim published account is in DOAS, 1946.
- ³⁵ This might include, for example, the handicap of the lack of cottages in south-west Scotland for married men (DOAS, 1946, 8).
- ³⁶ DOAS, 1946, 8.
- ³⁷ The instructions to the Scottish AECs for the survey are at TNA, MAF 48/474, and reproduced in DOAS, 1946, 7-8. For further details on the sampling procedures see Short, B. *The Battle of the Fields: Rural Community and Authority in Britain during the Second World War*, Woodbridge, 2014, 315-21.
- ³⁸ DOAS, 1946, 22-25.
- ³⁹ TNA, MAF 38/217, 14-44. The appendices to the report contain comments by the AEC executive officers on the results for their districts, as well as statistical tables (53-86). The officers' comments are not reproduced in the published version, *Agricultural Survey of Scotland*.
- ⁴⁰ Symon, 1959, 258.
- ⁴¹ Johnston, T. *Memories*, London, 1952, 161-2. This autobiography by the wartime Secretary of State for Scotland is otherwise surprisingly light on agricultural matters.
- ⁴² Lewis, S. *A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland*, 2 vols, London, 1846, II, 111.
- ⁴³ Hare, F K. Kirkcudbright and Wigtown. In Stamp, L D, ed. *The Land of Britain: Scotland Vol I (Highlands and West)*, Parts 7 and 8, London, 1942, 378-79.
- ⁴⁴ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 20 January 1945.

- ⁴⁵ Hare, 1942, 403-4.
- ⁴⁶ PP, 1944, Cmd 6494, *Report of the Committee on Hill Sheep Farming in Scotland 1943-44*, Appendix III, 587.
- ⁴⁷ Bown, C J and Heslop, R E F. *The Soils of the Country round Stranraer and Wigtown*, Aberdeen, 1979, 70, 118-19.
- ⁴⁸ John Faed McDonald Sproat, of Borness, Borgue, died 16 October 1978, aged 77 years, and was from a longstanding farming family in that area. See Stewartry Monumental Inscriptions website: <http://www.kirkyards.co.uk/borgue-churchyard/>.
- ⁴⁹ Murray, 1955, 117.
- ⁵⁰ Dalbeattie Town website: <http://www.dalbeattie.com/history/dbtmill.htm>.
- ⁵¹ For the stocking rate see DOAS, 1946, 24. For a summary of the Scottish survey, with statistical tables, see Finnegan, O and Glover, C, eds. *British Farm Surveys 1941 to 1943: the National Farm Survey of England and Wales and the Agricultural Survey in Scotland*, London, 2014.
- ⁵² The average figures are from DOAS, 1952, 25-31.
- ⁵³ I am grateful to the present owner of Glenquicken, Mr Mike McCart, for help with several details concerning the past and present of the farm.

A FARM LEDGER FROM
GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY
1942-1947

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Sheep & Lambs, oats, wool, etc. Stock Sales from 6 April 1942 to 5 April 1943 ^[1]				
1942						
August		Lambs sold (cross) 100 @ £2-1-0 Each ^[2]	£	200	5	0
following	week	90 Lambs @ 29/9 each (Bf) [<i>i.e.</i> Blackface]		133	17	6
September		80 Lambs @ 26/6 Each (B.F.)		106	0	0
October		42 Ewes @ 32/- Each (B.F.)		67	4	0
October		60 Lambs @ 34/- [each] (B.F.)		102	0	0
Oct.		11 Ewes @ 35/- [each] (B.F.)		19	5	0
November		32 Lambs @ 35/- [each] B.F.		56	0	0
				784	11	6
		Cows Sold during years (6)		108	0	0
November		Bullocks 7 (store) @ £15 Each		105	0	0
November		Heifers 7 (Black) @ [£]15 Each		105	0	0
			£	1202	11	6
October		1 Tip ^[3] Lamb @ £4-10-0		4	10	0
		Refund for Bracken cutting		11	5	0
		Sale of oats & other Produce				
August		wool		168	0	0
		oats		[blank]		
		oats		[blank]		

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Purchases & Repair of Implements making up of Stock etc. 5 th April 1942 to April 43 ^{l4}				
		Stock Ewes, losses for year (death 20 @ 44/- each)	£	44	0	0
		1 cow valued @ £18		18	0	0
		2 Stock Rams @ £5 each		10	0	0
		3 calves @ £5 each		15	0	0
June		Implement Repairs		9	11	9
		Shoeing		30	0	0
		Mather Dairy Utensils Oil Tank		2	0	0
		Davidson Ironmonger		13	5	8½
		Veterinary [<i>sic</i>] Surgeons accounts				
		oils, medicine and vaccines:				
		Roxburgh Morgan & Co. Sheep Dip		1	17	6
		Cooper McDougall & Robertson Dip		1	7	8
		Dunn Chemist Veterinary oils		1	11	1½
		Lamb serums for dysentery [<i>sic</i>] etc.		30	0	0
1942		Fertilisers & Seeds				
Feb.	28	John Blaen Miller		7	11	9
May	28	John Blaen Miller		9	8	4
May		Carswell Grain Merchant		54	5	6
July		Austin & M ^c Aslan Seeds		5	1	8
Aug.		John Blaen Miller		5	0	6
May		Andrew Muir		2	4	10
		Andrew Muir		1	0	9
Sept.		Biggar Grain & Manure Merchant		29	12	2
		Biggar Grain & Manure Merchant		84	5	1
		Seed corn from Allan Muirfad		32	0	0
				230	10	4

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		carried Forward	£	439	18	10
yearly		Wages permanent staff				
yearly		James Gillespie ploughman		184	0	0
		John Pollock		86	0	0
		Casual workers				
Oct.		2 men for harvest work				
Oct.		10 days @ 10/- per day		10	0	0
Oct.		soldiers 10 days		8	0	0
Oct.		2 soldiers billeted Farm		4	9	10
Nov.		2 days threshing casual labour		8	0	0
		Cultivation Tractor etc.				
		Haulage accounts				
		Department of Agriculture for Scotland				
Oct.		Discing & ploughing	£	8	0	0
Dec.		Harvesting	£	18	8	0
Sept.		LMS Co.			1	3
March		W & D Bowman Haulage Contractor	£	13	15	6
Dec.		W & D Bowman Haulage Contractor	£	6	10	0
		Upkeep of Car, Insurance, Tax etc.	£	40	0	0
		Rent & Taxes	£	179	9	11
		Making Record of Farm				
		Half of Expenses of J. F. Sproat	£	5	0	0
			£	1011	13	4

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		carried forward	£	1011	13	4
		Domestic Help throughout year	£	50	0	0
		Life Insurances & all other insurances pertaining to the Farm				
		Life Assurance Prudential sum assured £500 premium		28	16	3
		Life Assurance Prudential sum assured £250 premium		13	12	4
		Royal Assurance Co. Ltd sum assured £250 premium		12	2	6
		Scottish Life Assurance sum assured £250 premium		10	16	3
		Childs deferred assurance premium		10	0	0
		Personal Accident including War risks		4	9	6
		Fire Stock & crop		3	16	11
		Horses		8	5	0
		Workmans Compensation		3	3	0
			£	1156	15	1
April	1943	Hogg wintering to Mr Young, Barhoise, Kirkcowan		88	4	0
				1244	19	1
		80		293	15	
		1244.19.1	£	1538	4	1
		Income £1550				
		Outlay £1538 4 1				
		£12 4 11				

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Stock bought etc. from 6 th April 1943 – 5 th April 1944			
June		2 Ayrshire cows from W. Johnstone	27	0	0
June		4 Ayrshire H[eifer] calves Cradock	36	0	0
June		1 pig from Meikle carse	2	0	0
July		2 calves Cradock	18	0	0
July		2 calves Cradock	18	0	0
July		2 calves S. B. Muir	21	0	0
Oct.		4 Ayrshire heifer stirks Hutchison	90	10	0
		Sheep Bought			
Oct.		Newton Stewart Ram Sale			
		4 Ram lambs	24	0	0
		4 Rams from Col. Hannah, Drumore	10	0	0
			306	0	0
		6 th April 1943	2166	10	0
		Losses during the year. Ewes, lambs and calves ^[5]	60	0	0
		Wages. Permanent staff	196	16	0
		Domestic Help throughout the year	56	0	0
		Wife's wage	78	0	0
		Casual Labour. Harvesting & Draining £27-15-0 [sic]	28	15	0
		Thrashing £10-0-0 Travelling Expenses £10	20	0	0
		Mill work, meals & sheep shearing	26	0	0
		Italian P.O.W. Billeting on farm & Daily Work	101	6	0
		Board & Lodgings for P.O.W.	51	10	0
		Insurance Stamps etc. £10 Stock with compensation etc. £15-4-11	25	4	11
		Rent & Taxes	179	9	8
		Upkeep of car throughout the year	45	0	0
		Wintering of Hoggs £85-0-0 Saddlers a/c £12	97	0	0
		Implement repairs £32 Shoeing 29-14-0 Ironmongery £21-14-0	83	8	0
		Cultivation, Tractor Etc & Road Haulage	65	0	8
		Veterinary Surgeons, medicines etc.	73	14	2
		Seeds, manures and feeding materials	281	11	8
			3793	6	1
		Net Profit £298.0.4 Amended to read £3881.6.1			

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Stock sold etc. from 6 th April 1943 – 5 th April 1944				
April	1943	Cast Tup Border Leicester [<i>sic</i>] graded		3	0	0
July		Blf ewes graded		16	7	6
Aug.		103 x lambs sold N. Stewart Mart		187	17	4
Aug.		110 Blw lambs sold N. Stewart Mart		169	12	4
Sept.		40 Bf Ewe lambs sold N. Stewart Mart		51	2	8
Sept.		62 Blf caste ewes (crossed)		103	2	8
Oct.		78 ewes & lambs graded		121	17	11
Oct.		4 Stock Ram Lambs		6	11	6
Oct.		4 Stock Rams 2 Ram lambs		5	0	0
Feb.	1944	45 ewes and lambs graded ^[6]		75	4	11
Feb.	1944	9 lambs sold out of them		72	0	0
				736	11	11
		Cattle Sold				
June	1943	Ayrshire Cow		39	1	8
Oct.		15 Galloway & Ayrshire Bullocks & Stirks		393	4	2
Nov.		1 Bull & 3 cows graded		89	2	1
				521	7	11
		Sale of oats & other produce				
Sept.		Sale of wool		174	18	2
Dec.		Sale of oats Carswell		57	8	3
		Sale of Oats Biggar		109	0	8
				341	7	1
		Government Subsidies				
		Potatoes		12	0	0
Nov.		Sheep Subsidy		194	16	0
Feb.	1944	Cattle Subsidy		75	0	0
		Bracken cutting Scheme		6	5	0
		Marginal Land Scheme		58	0	6
				346	1	6

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

	Purchase & Repair of Implements making up of Stock etc. 5 th April 1943 – 5 th April 44				
	Stock ewes (losses for year death)				
	15 ewes @ 44/- each	£	33	0	0
	1 Stock Ram value £5		5	0	0
	2 Heifer calves @ £9 each		18	0	0
	1 Bull calf @ £4		4	0	0
			60	0	0
	Implement Repairs & Housekeeping etc.				
	Shoeing		32	0	0
	Ironmonger Forsythe		29	14	0
	Ironmonger Davidson		21	14	0
			83	8	0
	Veterinary Surgeons oils vaccines & dips				
	MacEwan & Miller Vet. surgeons		3	19	0
	Roxburgh & Morgan (chemist)		2	0	0
	Dunn Chemist oils etc		2	14	6
	Boots chemist serum				
	for dysentery [<i>sic</i>] & trembling ^[7] in lambs		24	17	9
	Young Sheep Dip		15	8	10
	Bell & Sons vaccines salt licks ^[8]		24	14	1
		£	73	14	2
	Cultivation Tractor etc. Haulage				
	D.O.A.S. Threshing & cultivating		21	17	10
	Palmer Haulage of corn		4	0	9
	Stewart Threshing		11	2	6
	Bowman floating cattle & sheep		27	19	7
			65	0	8

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		5 th April 1944				
		Life insurances & all other insurances pertaining to the Farm				
		Life Assurance Prudential assurance £500 premium	£	28	16	3
		Life Assurance Prudential assurance £250 premium		13	12	4
		Royal Assurance Co. assurance £250 premium		12	2	6
		Scottish Life assurance £250 premium		10	16	3
		Childs deferred assurance		10	0	0
		Personal accident including war risks		4	9	6
		Fire Stock & Crops		3	16	11
		Horses		8	5	0
		Workmans Compensation		3	3	0
				[blank]		

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		6 th April 1943 to 5 April 1944				
		Wages Permanent Staff				
yearly		James Gillespie ^[9]	£	170	16	0
		John Pollock		26	0	0
		Casual Workers				
		3 men hay & harvest for 10 days @ 10/- day		15	0	0
		Peter McGlynn draining & harvesting		8	15	0
		board & lodging		4	0	0
wages		Italian Pow Daily Work		15	4	0
		P.O.W. Billeted on Farm		86	2	0
		Board & Lodgings for same		51	10	0
		2 days threshing casual labour		10	0	0
		Sheep Shearing meals etc. Mill work		27	0	0
		Travelling Expenses Train fares etc.		10	0	0
		Upkeep of car taxes etc.		45	0	0
		Rent & Taxes		179	9	8
		Domestic Help throughout the year		56	0	0
		Saddler including new horses collar		12	0	0
		Hoggs wintering		85	0	0
				[blank]		

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Valuation of Stock etc. from 6 th April 1944 – 6 th April 45				
April	1944	484 Blf Ewes @ 44/- each	£	1064	16	
		115 Blf Hoggs @ 40/- each	£	230	0	
		12 stock Rams @ £5 each	£	60	0	
		1 mare aged @ £35 each	£	35	0	
		1 Gelding @ £62 each	£	62	0	
		1 Galloway Bull @ £30 each	£	30	0	
		2 Ayrshire Milk Cows @ £25 each		50	0	
		12 Galloway Cows non pedigree @ £19		228	0	
		11 Bullocks & heifer stirks @ £14 12 each		132	0	
		13 Ayrshire & x Bred Stirks @ £14 each		182	0	
		2 x calves @ £7 each		14	0	
		Implements for hill farm	£	120		
		Fixtures belonging to the tenent	£	7	10	
				2215	6	

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Stock etc. sold from 6 th April 1944 – 6 th April 1945				
1944						
May		2 hoggs graded	£	4	8	8
July		9 sheep graded	£	18	1	11
Aug.		145 Blf wedder lambs sold	£	230	10	8
Aug.		47 Blf ewe lambs sold	£	77	8	2
Sept.		65 Blf ewes sold cast crossed	£	79	17	8
Sept.		4 Blf Ram lambs	£	13	8	0
Nov.		102 sheep graded	£	215	14	2
March		48 Blf Lambs	£	83	4	1
March		4 Blf Ewes	£	6	16	8
				729	10	0
		Cattle Sold				
July		1 cow graded	£	17	18	9
Oct.		18 stirks sold	£	323	15	0
				341	13	9
		Sale of oats and other produce				
Sept.		sale of wool		164	11	8
		sale of oats Biggar		59	3	0
		sale of oats Carswell		27	8	6
				251	3	2
		Government Subsidies				
		Subsidy for ewes		147	0	0
		Marginal land		69	9	0
		Cattle		153	0	0
				1463	15	2

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

	Purchase & Repair of Implements making up of stock etc. 6 th April 1944 – 6 th April 1945				
	Stock ewes (losses for year death)				
	15 ewes @ 44/- each	£	33	0	0
	11 hoggs @ 40/- each	£	22	0	0
	1 calf @ £7		7	0	0
	1 shearling Ram £5		5	0	0
	Loss of grain crop through weather conditions & cost of labour	£	60	0	0
	1 cow in calf £27		27	0	0
	Implement repairs Horses hoeing etc. shoeing		33	0	0
	J. L. Davidson Ironmongery	£	24	0	0
	Outstanding Creditors	£	300		
	Veterinary surgeons oils vaccines and dips				
	MacEwan & Miller Vets	£	2	5	0
	Roxburgh & Morgan		2	0	0
	Dunn Chemist for oils etc.		16	2	3
	Boots Chemist for serum for		3	0	0
	Braxy, trembling & scour in lambs ^[10]		25	0	0
	Young for sheep dip		13	10	0
	Bell & Sons vaccines Salt licks		7	4	3
	Charleton Salt Licks		1	7	0
	Arnold for repairs to Castrator		1	7	0
			255	15	6

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Wages Permanent Staff 1945				
		James Gillespie April – July		73	8	2
		1 POW billeted		38	8	0
		2 POW billeted up to 5 th April		27	0	0
		till 25 th November		60	8	0
		S. Cowan & up to 5 th April £68		68	0	0
		till 25 th November		33	14	0
				300	18	2
		Casual labour for 2½ day threshing		9	0	0
		Turnips thinning		1	15	0
				311	13	2
		Casual labour for hay and harvest		16	0	0
			£	327	13	2
		extra meals supplied for sheep shearing hay & harvest and threshing				
		Ray Paterson		8	0	0
		Drew Marshall helping at lambing etc.		12	0	0
		A. E. Ross for Bookkeeping		5	0	0
		Insurance & Postage Stamps etc.		5	0	0
		Upkeep of Car taxes etc.		47	0	0
		Rent and Taxes		179	9	8
		Domestic Help throughout the year		56	0	0
		Hogg wintering Paid 8 th April 1944		(84	12	0)
		Commission for wintering		1	10	0
				631	4	10
		Hogg wintering paid 2 nd April 1945		109	4	0
		Hogg wintering paid to Mark 3 rd April 1945		12	0	0
		Exp.				

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Stock etc. Sold from 5 th April 1945 to April 6 th 1946				
Aug.		6 Sheep graded NS [<i>i.e.</i> Newton Stewart] Market	£	14	8	0
		3 Sheep graded NS Market	£	5	13	4
Aug.		161 Lambs sold NS Market	£	245	12	5
Aug.		46 BF Lambs sold NS Market	£	87	8	0
Aug.		3 BF Lambs graded NS Market	£	7	3	0
Oct.		84 BF Ewes graded NS Market	£	149	4	8
Jan.		103 BF L[ambs] & Ewes graded NS Market	£	199	1	11
Jan.		6 Tups Sold NS Market	£	32	0	0
			£	730	10	8
		Cattle Sold				
Oct.		20 Stirks sold	£	422	14	2
?		2 Stirks	£	49	0	0
			£	471	14	2
		Sale of Oats & Other Produce				
Sept.		Sale of Wool	£	176	8	3
		Sale of Oats	£	95	0	0
			£	271	8	3
		Government Subsidies				
		Subsidy for Ewes	£	185	12	6
		Marginal Land	£	103	15	1
		Cattle	£	147	0	0
			£	436	7	7

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

	Purchase & repair of Implements making up of Stock etc. 6 th April 1945 to 5/5/46				
Stock	ewes (Losses for year death)	£	39	12	0
	18 ewes @ 44/- each	£	39	12	0
	10 Hoggs @ 40/- each	£	20	0	0
	1 Cow @ £19 each	£	19	0	0
	2 Calves @ £6 each £12	£	12	0	0
	1 Stirk at £12	£	12	0	0
	2 Tups @ £5	£	10	0	0
		£	152	4	0
	Implements repair Horses Shoeing etc.				
	J. L. Davidson ironmonger	£	6	2	0
	Veterinary surgeons oils vaccines & Dips				
	MacEwan & Miller Vets.	£	1	5	0
	Roxburgh & Morgan	£	2	2	0
	Dunn Chemist for oils etc.	£	5	14	0
	Boots Chemist for serum for Lambs	£	28	2	0
	Young for Sheep Dip	£	12	10	0
	Bell & Sons Salt Licks	£	3	0	0
	Charleton Salt Licks	£	1	7	0
	David Ross & Sons New Hen House	£	7	12	0
	Crown Chemicals Company Ltd	£	1	19	5
	J. & D. Hilston	£		17	4
	Walter Gregory Chemist	£	3	1	2
	Puritas Disinfectant Ltd	£	3	2	2
	Saddler	£	3	12	4
			80	6	5

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Wages Permanent Staff				
		Samuel Cowan	£	100	0	0
?		Andrew Marshall ^[12]	£	<u>804</u>	0	0
		1 Pow Billeted & daily POW	£	112	12	0
		Casual Labour for 1 Days Threshing	£	3	0	0
		Turnip Thinning	£	4	0	0
		Casual Labour for Hay & Harvest	£	20	0	0
?[13]		extra supplies for Sheep shearing		----	----	---
		Hay Harvest & Threshing	£	10	0	0
		A E Ross for Bookkeeping	£	5	0	0
		Insurance & Postage Stamps etc.	£	5	0	0
		Upkeep of car Taxes etc.	£	58	0	0
?		Sum of £100 paid to Alexander Sloan	£	100	0	0
		Rent & Taxes	£	179	9	8
?[14]		Sum of £196.17/6d paid to Samuel Brown	£	196	17	6
		Domestic Help throughout the year	£	56	0	0
?		Outstanding Debts	£	200	0	0
?		Hogg wintering Paid 8 th April 1945	£	109	4	0
		Commission for wintering	£	1	10	0
		Hogg wintering	£	12	0	0
			£	<u>1059</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

		Stock etc. sold from 6 th April 1946 to 5 th April 1947				
August	28/46	14 Sheep graded N.S. Market	£	36	10	5
August	21/46	140 Lambs graded N.S. Market	£	287	8	9
August		[blank]		99	11	0
Sept	27/46	6 Rams Lambs Sold N.S. Market	£	21	9	0
Oct	2	35 Sheep graded N.S. Market	£	79	16	4
Oct	2	2 Cattle graded NS Market	£	43	15	11
Oct	23	89 Sheep graded	£	160	12	9
Oct	25	16 Cattle sold NS Market	£	284	3	8
			£	1013	7	10
				£	S	D
		Sale of Produce off Farm				
		Sale of Wool		187	11	10
		Sale of Potatoes		17	5	0
			£	204	16	10
		Sale of Odd Wool		1	17	11
			£	206	14	9
		Stock Bought from 6 th April 1946 to 6 th April 1947				
April		3 Cattle Bought	£	30	0	0
April		1 Calve	£	2	0	0
April		2 Calves Bought	£	18	0	0
April		1 Calve Bought	£	9	0	0
Oct		3 Rams	£	50	0	0
Jan		1 Cow & 1 Stirk	£	32	0	0
March		2 Calves Bought	£	2	0	0
June		1 Pig		3		
			£	146	0	0
		Government Subsidies	£			
		Subsidy for Ewes		187	10	0
		Marginal Land		54	2	0
		Cattle		120	0	0
		Potato Subsidy		13	11	9
			£	364	3	9

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

Wages Permanent Staff						
			£	S	D	
		Adam McKnight	21	0	0	
		Andrew Marshall	115	0	0	
		POW Labour	155	19	4	
		Casual Labour for 1 Days Threshing	3	0	0	
		Turnip Thinning	3	0	0	
		Casual Labour for Hay & Harvest				
		extra Supplies for Sheep Shearing				
		Hay Harvest & Threshing	30	0	0	
		A & E Ross for Book Keeping	5	0	0	
		Insurance Postage Stamps etc	[blank]			
		upkeep of Car Taxes etc	62	0	0	
		Domestic Help throughout the Year	60	0	0	
		Hogg Wintering	131	5	0	
		Commission for wintering ^[16]	1	10		
		Two Irishmen for Hay & Work on Farm	40	0	0	
		Coal & Parrafin [<i>sic</i>] oil used in connection with Farm	15	0	0	
		Wifes Allowance	80	0	0	
			£	722	4	4
		Rent & Taxes of Farm		179	9	8
			£	901	14	0
		Potato Lifting		12	0	0
			£	913	14	8

APPENDIX A

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDING 5TH APRIL 1946

A FARM LEDGER FROM GLENQUICKEN, GALLOWAY 1942-1947

Profit and loss a/c for year ending 5 th April 1946 Mr George Sloan, Glenquicken farm, Creetown				
		£	S	D
Stock @ Beginning of the year		2156	0	0
Stock purchased during the year		152	4	0
wages permanent staff		184	0	0
Domestic help during the year		104	0	0
wife's wage during the year		80	0	0
Casual labour, Harvesting, millwork, thrashing, sheep shearing, meals etc.		77	0	0
P.O.W.		112	0	0
Upkeep of Car, Tax, Insurance, running costs		58	0	0
Insurance Stamps, Fire, Stock and workmen's compensation, Insurance		25	4	11
Rent and Taxes [<i>interlined</i>]		179	9	8
wintering Hoggs		122	14	0
Blacksmith's a/c, Horseshoeing etc.		6	2	0
Cultivation a/cs , Tractor etc. Threshing		37	12	0
Road Haulage		29	3	0
Veteriny Surgeon's a/c, medicine, oils etc.		74	4	5
Seeds, Fertilisers, Feeding Materials etc.		341	12	2
Drainage £149-2-6 less Government Subsidy		74	11	3
		3814	9	5
	Net Profit	351	12	4
		4416	1	9
Life assurance's [<i>sic</i>] wife and self				
Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd sum assured £750		42	8	7
Royal Assurance Co. Ltd sum assured £250		12	2	6
Scottish Life Assurance Co. Ltd sum assured £250		10	16	3
Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd sum assured £200		10	14	0
	1200	76	1	4
Return despatched 31/3/47				
[<i>signed</i>] AER				

APPENDIX B

The ledger contains the names of a number of individuals and businesses. Those that can be identified are listed here with their occupation and location. Where there is a degree of uncertainty, the entry has been placed in square brackets.

INDIVIDUALS

Alexander Allan, farmer, Muirfad, Kirkmabreck.

J. Barr, chemist, 187 King Street, Castle Douglas.

John Blaen, miller, Creetown Mill, Creetown.

Alexander Campbell, farmer, Carsewilloch, Kirkmabreck.

William Crawford, farmer, Meikle Carse, Kirkmabreck.

[**James Dick**, farmer, Culter, Lanarkshire.]

Alexander Forsyth, ironmonger, 1 Queen Street, Newton Stewart.

Colonel F. Rainsford-Hannay, farmer, Dromore, Kirkmabreck.

W. & J. Hutcheson, farmers, Barholm Mains, Kirkmabreck.

W. Lennox, farmer, Mark, Kirkmabreck.

S. B. Muir, farmer, Old Hall, Penninghame.

A. E. Ross, bookkeeper and county councillor, Creetown.

J. Skimming, ironmonger, St John Street, Creetown.

John Faed Sproat, farmer, Borness, Borgue.

William Stewart, threshing mill owner, Kingsholm Quay, Dumfries.

John Vernon, joiner, Park Crescent, Creetown.

[**John Wood**, farmer, Currie, Midlothian.]

BUSINESSES

Austin & McAslan, vegetable seed merchant, 91-95 Mitchell Street, Glasgow.

Bell & Sons, veterinary chemist, Liverpool.

Biggar Grain and Manure Merchant, Port Mills, Dalbeattie.

Boots, chemist, 97 King Street, Castle Douglas, and 115 High Street, Dumfries.

D. & W. Bowman, haulage contractors, Monaville, Creetown.

J. Carswell & Sons, grain and manure merchant, Barrbridge Mills, Dalbeattie.

John Charlton & Sons, grain and fertiliser merchant, 43 Whitesands, Kingholm Mills, Dumfries.

Crown Chemical Company Ltd, veterinary preparations, Lamerhurst, Kent.

J. L. Davidson, ironmongers, 67 Victoria Street, Newton Stewart.

Dunn's, chemist, 46 Victoria Street, Newton Stewart.

Walter Gregory & Co. Ltd, cattle medicine manufacturers, Crawley, Sussex.

Messrs J. & D. Hilston, veterinary and agricultural preparations, Lanark.

John J. Inglis & Sons, seed merchants, Ayr.

MacEwan & Miller, veterinary surgeons, 13 North Main Street, Wigtown.

The Mather Dairy Utensils Co., Dumfries, with branches in Annan and Castle Douglas.

John Milligan, seed, wool and fertiliser merchant, Whitesands, Dumfries.

Andrew Muir & Co. Ltd, agricultural seed, feeding stuff and manure merchants, Church Street, Newton Stewart.

Messrs A. A. Palmer & Sons, haulage contractors, Borgue.

Puritas Disinfectants Co. Ltd, Leicester.

Andrew Rankin, ironmonger, 174 High Street, Dumfries.

Roxburgh, Morgan & Co., chemical manufacturers, Antifect Works, 41-43 Cavendish Street, Glasgow.

R. Silcock & Sons Ltd, animal feed merchant, Liverpool.

NOTES

- ¹ This page, written in pencil, was among a number of separate pages bundled together at the back of the ledger. Like them, it appears to have been a draft, an edited and, where necessary, corrected version of which would have been copied into the ledger proper. Unlike the other pages, however, its copy does not appear in the extant ledger and so has been added here so at least the draft details are preserved. The original text has been scored through a number of times – for legibility, these lines have not been reproduced here.
- ² The total should read £205.0.0, rather than £200.5.0.
- ³ Scots for ‘tup’.
- ⁴ Written above the heading, in pencil: ‘Enter in Book all transactions. Sales and Expenses from 6th april 1947 to date and keep Book entered up until 5th april 1948’.
- ⁵ Written above, ‘made good in stock Bought’.
- ⁶ Brackets written in pencil have been placed around this and the following entry, and an arrow inserted pointing to the figure for £72.
- ⁷ Trembling is another name for louping-ill, an acute viral disease that was responsible for serious losses in sheep stock.
- ⁸ *i.e.* blocks of salt placed in the field for sheep to lick.
- ⁹ The corresponding sum was written above £186.15.0, which was scored out.
- ¹⁰ Three common ailments in sheep. Braxy is a fatal bacterial infection. Scour is diarrhoea, which can have a number of causes including bacterial infection, parasites or a virus. For trembling, see endnote 7.
- ¹¹ *i.e.* the Department of Agriculture for Scotland.
- ¹² In the corresponding figure, the 4 was written slightly above the 0, and may have been intended to replace it, making a more realistic figure of £84. It has been underlined in pencil and a question mark has been inserted before the entry, showing that whoever reviewed the ledger queried it.
- ¹³ The question mark is accompanied by a bracket that links this entry to the following one. This and the pencil score through the £ S D boxes suggest that the £10 relates to them both.
- ¹⁴ The figure ‘104’ has been written in pencil between the £196.7.6 and £56. It is not clear which of the two figures it replaces.
- ¹⁵ Blue Grey is a type of beef cattle produced by crossing a Whitebred Shorthorn bull with a Galloway cow. They are well suited for rough grazing land and will utilise coarse grasses other breeds shun. They are able to maintain good condition on less than ideal pasture and do not graze so intensively as sheep. They were especially popular in south-west Scotland and north-west England.
- ¹⁶ The corresponding shilling figure has been scored out in pencil and replaced with ‘14’.

FURTHER READING

For the history of farming in Britain during the Second World War see Short, B, Watkins, C and Martin, J, eds. *The Front Line of Freedom: Farming in Britain in the Second World War*, 2006. For contemporary assessments, see *Land at War: the Official Story of British Farming 1939-1944*, which was published by the Ministry of Information in 1945, and Stamp, L D. Wartime changes in British agriculture, *The Geographical Journal*, 109:1/3 (1947), 39-54. Two other works written in the immediate aftermath of the war provide detailed surveys of the Scottish experience: Marshall, D. Scottish agriculture during the war, *Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*, 58 (1946), 1-77; and Department of Agricultural for Scotland. *Agriculture in Scotland 1939-48*, Edinburgh, 1949.

Symon, J A. *Scottish Farming, Past and Present*, Edinburgh, 1959, has a chapter on wartime farming. It also provides the wider context for the period, as does Fenton, A and Veitch, K, eds. *Scottish Life and Society. A Compendium of Scottish Ethnology, volume 2: Farming and the Land*, Edinburgh, 2011. For the troubled period before the war, see Perren, R. *Agriculture in Depression, 1870-1940*, Cambridge, 1995.

The role that the County War Agricultural Executive Committees played in shaping British agriculture and its workforce is explored in detail in Short, B. *The Battle of the Fields. Rural Community and Authority in Britain during the Second World War*, Woodbridge, 2014. Chapter 10, 'Wartime farming and state control in Scotland and Northern Ireland', is of particular relevance to the current study.

Articles published during the war in the *Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland* and the reports and literature produced by Government committees and departments provide a good contemporary picture of the impact that the war was having on farming in Scotland. For its effect on the wider rural community in the south west of Scotland, local newspapers, such as the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard and Advertiser* and the *Galloway Gazette*, are a useful source of information.

Other relevant works can be found in the notes to the Introduction.

SOURCES IN LOCAL HISTORY

GENERAL EDITOR: KENNETH VEITCH

The *Sources in Local History* series was established by the EERC in 1994. Its aim is to provide edited transcriptions of diaries, letters and other personal documents that can be used to study everyday life in Scotland over the past three centuries. Six volumes were published between 1994 and 1997, making available a range of original sources, from the diary of an eighteenth-century Orkney farmer to that of a nineteenth-century Dundee millwright. The series was re-launched in 2015 as a free-to-access digital resource and forms part of the EERC's Regional Ethnology of Scotland Project.

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