The medieval marches of Wester Kinnear, Kilmany Parish, Fife

Simon Taylor and J Michael Henderson

Introductory remarks

The analysis of charter boundaries in Scotland is in its infancy. The existence of a large amount of detailed boundary material from the Anglo-Saxon period in England, dating back as far as the 7th century, has stimulated far greater interest in the subject in that country, and its potential as a tool for the study of medieval landscapes, road-networks and language, especially toponymy, has long been recognised, realised in such fine regional studies as Hooke 1994 (usefully reviewed by Hough 1995). The fact that in Scotland our boundary charters are generally much later, and are scattered thinly throughout large bodies of virtually unedited published charter material such as those produced by the Bannatyne and Abbotsford Clubs in the 19th century or in still unpublished manuscripts, has been partly the cause of their relative neglect. Furthermore their analysis requires a working knowledge of Latin and medieval scribal conventions, coupled with a detailed knowledge of local topography which can only be acquired by frequent site visits involving much walking (and scrambling!) through miles of Scottish countryside, extensive interviews with local people, and analysis of early estate plans. Such a combination of skills, interests and opportunities is fairly rare, and, since the rewards of such efforts have not been generally recognised in Scottish historiography, they have seldom been pursued with much conviction. Things are, however, beginning to change. In the new Atlas of Scottish History to 1707 Professor G W S Barrow published three maps which show detailed 13th- to 15th-century medieval boundary perambulations: one of Crawford in upper Clydesdale; one of Cleish KNR; and one of Kingoldrum ANG (McNeill and MacQueen 1996, 414–6). The Kingoldrum boundary charters from the Arbuthn Libr (vol i nos 294 [1253], 295 [1256] and vol ii no 121 [1458]) were explored in the 1920s as an important source for the relative state of Gaelic and Scots in north Angus from the 13th to the 15th century by Sharp (1927), and these were further discussed by Murison (1974, 75) and Barrow (1992, 125–6). I have also used medieval boundary material in a similar way relating to 13th-century Fife (Taylor 1994, 103–4). There is a detailed analysis of more recent (18th-century) boundary material in Atholl in Kerr 1990, while the legal procedure of perambulation in general is discussed in Walker (1988, 265–6).

Such boundary charters as those which form the subject of this paper shed unrivalled light on the landscape and language of medieval Scotland. Their precise details contain a unique record, for example, of the relative state of Gaelic and Scots; of the position of cross-inscribed march-stones and other monuments in the landscape, such as standing stones, crosses and burial cairns; of important medieval route-ways; and of holy wells and their dedications. An initial requirement is an inventory of all documents, from both published and unpublished medieval and early modern sources, which contain detailed descriptions of marches. It would include the key pieces of text, minimally edited, and translated. This would increase their accessibility to those best placed to do the necessary field-work, but who might not have easy access to the relevant texts. Such a work would be preliminary to a full-scale analysis of the material, which would incorporate the input from locally based research. In the course of my own work in Fife and Kinross I have compiled a list of around fifty charters, ranging in date from the mid-11th to the 17th century, which contain detailed boundary and other topographical material. A rich source which remains virtually untapped are the many boundary descriptions in the Register of the Great Seal (RMS). These have mainly been omitted from the published volumes of RMS, although their existence is indicated there by the addition in square brackets of such phrases as ‘inter limites

specificatos'. Examples of this can be found in Taylor (1995, 272) and Taylor (1997, 64–5 and note 125).

The following article has been written partly as a pioneering piece which offers a methodological model for the analysis of Scottish medieval boundary material. It attempts first of all to put the charter material in which the boundary descriptions occur into a wider historical context. It then gives a line-by-line analysis of the clauses containing the boundary descriptions, relating the features described to the modern landscape as well as to modern property and parish boundaries by means of a map. A summary of conclusions is followed by two appendices. The first gives new editions, as well as translations, of the relevant texts. In the case of the Kinnear boundaries, this involves five different charters from two different manuscript sources, one published by the Abbotsford Club in 1841, the other hitherto unpublished. For full details of both of these, see Appendix 1. The second appendix gives a full list of all the field names on the two farms involved, accompanied by a map (Illus 3) giving the exact position and extent of each. Field names play an important role in the identification of features on the boundary. They also contain much detail about earlier agricultural practices, land-holding patterns, archaeological features, including vanished farmsteads, and lost or hidden topographical features, especially relating to water supply and drainage. They have never been systematically studied in Scotland, although material for such a study is being gathered by the Scottish Place-Name Survey at the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh. The field names on Easter Kinnear, which are described in Appendix 2, give a good indication of the wide variety of types of field names, as well as their very variable dates. There are some, such as Upper and Lower Valentine, which cannot be earlier than 1905; while Marydale must date back at least to the 16th century, and the Glack is first recorded (in the boundary charters which form the subject of this paper) in the mid-13th century.

Kinnear

The large estate of Kinnear occupies the northern side of the shallow valley of the Motray Water in north-east Fife (see Illus 1 and 2). It comprises some of the best land in Scotland with rich pasture on the surrounding hills, which rise gently to no more than 135m OD, while the alluvial sands and gravels of the lower part of the valley provide easily cultivated fertile and free-draining soil. A more detailed description of its geographical and geological setting can be found in Driscoll (1997, 76–8).

Kinnear forms an eastern arm of the parish of Kilmany. The name is Gaelic, and means 'at the end', no doubt referring to its position within Kilmany parish, and testifying to the existence of a pre-parochial territorial unit coextensive with the parish. This unit would originally have been secular and had its caput at Rathillet, which was in the hands of the earls of Fife from c 1160 (see Barrow 1960, no 190). It is in fact referred to as Rathilletsheire (Rathulstychy) in the late 13th century (Stevenson 1870, 415). The pre-12th-century history of Kinnear can only be broadly reconstructed through archaeology and place-names analysis, and on the assumption that the boundaries, both parochial and territorial, go back to early medieval or even to prehistoric times (see Rogers 1997). Important archaeological excavations on the lands of Easter Kinnear, carried out in 1989 and 1990 by the Scottish Field School of Archaeology, have uncovered two separate clusters of peasant dwellings going back as far as the 6th or 7th century AD (Driscoll 1997).

The family which took its name from the estate, the Kinneirs of that ilk, was established in north-east Fife by the mid-12th century, when a direct ancestor, one Simon son of Michael, granted a carucate of land in Kedlock, Logie parish, to the hospital of St Andrews, which grant was confirmed by King Malcolm IV (1153x65) (Barrow 1960, no 138). This land was later feued to Simon's son, Alan, by Walter prior of St Andrews 1172x95, for which see Barrow (1971, no 169 and note). We can find no evidence for Ritchie's statement that William Masculus granted a confirmation charter of the land of Kedlock to Alan son of Simon (1954, 274 and note).

Space does not permit a fuller discussion of the origins of the family beyond Michael, but it is probable that he was one Michael de Hanslope (Hansele or Hansele), who is found as first witness to two charters of King David I in connection with the church of St Andrew in Northampton, England, in the 1120s (Lawrie 1905, nos 57 and 71). Certainly the non-Gaelic character of the personal names used by the family from their earliest appearance in the record until the 14th century strongly supports an Anglo-Norman origin, as does the presence of other Anglo-Norman lairds in the neighbouring lands of Leuchars to the east, where the de Quincy family were installed c 1165 (Simpson 1985, 102); of Naughton immediately to the north, held by the de Lascelles (Barrow 1980, 182); and of Balmerino to the north-west, held by the Revels (Barrow 1980, 191–2).

While one branch of the family of Simon son of Michael settled at Kinnear, it seems likely that another branch went on to become the well-known east Fife family of Kinninmonth (Barrow 1971a, 110–2 and 116). Thus Simon son of Michael was father not only of Alan, from whom the family of Kinnear are descended, but also of Matthew, Archdeacon of St Andrews, later Bishop of Aberdeen (1172–99).
Although Logie (Murdoch) parish lies in the hills immediately south of Kinneir, the estate of Kedlock, with which the family is first associated, makes up the southern part of that parish, and is therefore not contiguous with Kinneir: the estates of Cruvie and Forret, both in Logie parish, lie between them (see Illus 1). Kedlock is thus in the upland part of Logie, with most of its land lying above 100 metres. There is no extant record of how the family acquired Kedlock, although there is 18th-century evidence that they held it by a charter of Alexander II (see Scouler 1599, no 362). This is consistent with the fact that the earliest certain datable mention of this family with the surname 'de Kinneir' is from the early 1240s (Balm Lib no 39). There is an earlier mention of Kinneir as the surname of one William Kymer, who witnessed a charter of Walter de Lundin (in Fife) and his spouse Christina to Arbroath Abbey in the late 12th century (Arbroath Liber i, no 138). However, it is unclear what relationship, if any, this William had with the family who were in possession of Kinneir by the mid-13th century. It does not appear as one of the family names: from the early 12th to the early 14th century the names of the heads of family are Michael, Alan, Simon and John.

The Kinneirs retained Kedlock, partly as tenants of the priory of St Andrews. In the mid-13th century the laird of Kinneir was one Simon [III] de Kinneir. He was probably the great grandson of the Simon [I] son of Michael who had made the donation of a carucate of land in Kedlock to the hospital of St Andrews in the mid-12th century (see above). This Simon [III], who was later to grant Wester Kinneir to Balmerino Abbey, had already granted land known as Reginald's Land ('terra Reginaldi') or Torkedlock to Balmerino in the early 1240s (Balm Lib no 39). He also gave two parts of his land of Kedlock to the priory of St Andrews some time before 1251 (St A Lib 292-3 and 294).

It is scarcely surprising that on acquiring the estate of Kinneir, with its more easily worked soils on lower ground, the family made it their headquarters, adopting the name as their own. It became the caput of their barony, first mentioned in 1378 (RMS i no 653), and it was where they later built their tower house, the ruins of which still exist.
The Cistercian abbey of St Edward and St Mary at Balmerino, Fife, which lay c 3km to the north-west of Kinneart, was founded in the late 1220s by King Alexander II and his mother Queen Ermengard, as a daughter house of Melrose (Cowan and Easson 1976, 72–3). By the time of its papal confirmation charter, issued by Innocent IV before 1246 (Balm Lib. no 58), it had acquired, mainly by royal grant, various estates in north Fife, as well as Barry in Angus, and houses in Crail, St Andrews, Forfar, Dundee, Perth and Roxburgh.

Around 1250 Simon [III] de Kinneart granted the western part of his demesne holding of Kinneart to the monks of Balmerino. This was a generous gift, but if there were any other motives apart from piety, such as financial inducements or royal pressure, they are not discernible in any of the extant documentation. This consists of five separate charters. Four are contained in the early-14th-century cartulary of Balmerino Abbey, described below. These have been published in Balm Lib nos 12–15. The fifth is a hitherto unpublished original ‘inspeximus’ of Alexander III, dated 1260, from the Scottish Record Office (Scremgour Wedderburn Muniments (Dudhope), Box 5, bundle 5, no 1). More details of these charters can be found in Appendix 1 below. The numbers used in this article to refer to these charters are those assigned to them in Appendix 1.

Balmerino Abbey was not the only religious institution to benefit from Simon [III] de Kinneart’s pious generosity. His grants of land in Kedlock to St Andrews Priory have already been mentioned. Also, either before, or at the same time as, his grant of Wester Kinneart to Balmerino Abbey, he gave land in Wester Kinneart (‘in occidentali villa de Kunne’), to the Hospital of St John the Baptist of Jerusalem (perhaps in Arbroath; see Cowan and Easson 1976, 163 and 169). This grant consisted of six acres with the house which Mertham son of Mertham had held with its croft nearest ‘le Brigflat’ on the west (Balm Lib. nos 16–18). When Simon gave Wester Kinneart to Balmerino, he excepted these six acres from the grant (see nos I, II and III below).

The grant of Wester Kinneart is unusual in terms of grants of land to monastic houses at this period in that it was made in two stages. The basic grant, which is repeated thrice, in three separate charters in the Balmerino cartulary (nos I, II and III), corresponds almost exactly to the marches of the present-day farm of Wester Kinneart. However, in no II Simon, in association with his wife Amia, grants another piece of land to the abbey, which consists of a strip of varying width running down the east side of Wester Kinneart (see Illus 2 for details). It is unclear why this extra grant was made. It would appear that the field, now known as the Glack, was part of the original grant, giving access to the water supply at its north-west corner, as well as to the road between Kinneart and Balmerino via The Gauldry. Perhaps the extra strip of land was given to include this field more in the body of Wester Kinneart; or perhaps the original grant was regarded by the monastery, or by the king, as not generous enough, and pressure was brought to bear to increase it. Although the original grant is described in no II as the whole half of Simon’s land in the fief of Kinneart, it consists of only about one third of the total area of the original estate of Kinneart. Even Wester Kinneart augmented with the extra strip of land consists of little over one third of the total. It may also be that Simon’s wife Amia was behind the augmentation of the first grant. She is conspicuous by her absence from those charters granting the core of Wester Kinneart (nos I and III), but her presence in no II smacks of more than mere tokenism. Also, in the clause by which, in nos I and III, Simon undertakes to protect the land against all men, in II he undertakes this protection against all men and women. Another important addition to no II is the threat of excommunication by the bishop of St Andrews in the event of Simon, Amia or their heirs’ infringement of the grant.

It is clear from the later history of the estates of Wester Kinneart (belonging to Balmerino Abbey) and Easter Kinneart (demesne land of the Kinneart family) that the additional strip of land granted in no II did not become an integral part of Wester Kinneart, since it is today part of Easter Kinneart, although no records exist as to when it changed ownership. In 1574 Henry Kinneart, son of John Kinneart of that ilk, was appointed commendator of Balmerino Abbey, and the commendatorship remained in Kinneart hands until 1603 (see Campbell 1899, 271–8). Whilst this might have given opportunity to the Kinneirs to repossess the strip, this seems unlikely, since Campbell has recorded in great detail the alienation of the abbey lands after the Reformation and makes no mention of this land. The charter appointing John Kinneart of that ilk to the office of hereditary bailie of the abbey’s baronies of Balmerino and Pilgorno (Strathmiglo parish) in 1599 states that his family had been bailies to the abbots for many years (Campbell 1899, 221), and it is more likely that the strip of land was acquired by the Kinneirs while holding that office at some unspecified time before the Reformation.

At the same time as the strip was taken back by the Kinneirs, the field known as the Glack, which seems to have formed part of the original grant of Wester Kinneart to Balmerino Abbey, was incorporated into Easter Kinneart. The only modern clue that land now on Easter Kinneart had once belonged to Balmerino Abbey (and had therefore once been part of Wester Kinneart) is toponymic. The large field due west of the ruins of Kinneart Tower, between the present-day farmhouse of
Easter Kinnear and the marches of Wester Kinnear, is called 'Marydale', 'portion of Mary' (Scots *dail, dale* 'portion, division'). This is field EK26 on Illus 3. Since the chief patron saint of Balmerino, as with all Cistercian monasteries, was the Blessed Virgin Mary, this name indicates that it once belonged to the abbey.

Charter no IV is simply a brief royal confirmation of both the grants contained in nos I-III, while charter no V is a royal 'Inspeiximus' issued at the same time as no IV, containing a charter of Simon [III] de Kinnear, which defines the outer marches of the combined land granted as two separate units in no II. As will be seen from the analysis of these marches below, it adds some important details not contained in no II.

**Dating**

Only the royal confirmation charters are provided with dates. Both were issued at Selkirk on the same day, 21 September 1260. The other charters have to be dated from circumstantial evidence only, such as witness lists, although nos I and III must pre-date, not necessarily by much, no II, as well as the charter inspected in no V. The witnesses themselves, none of them important figures to whom definite dates can be assigned, seem mainly to have been active in the 1240s and 1250s. It would appear that the Wester Kinnear grant was made after the confirmation charter issued to the abbey by Innocent IV some time between 1243 and 1246.

**Language**

I have discussed elsewhere what this set of charters can tell us of the relative state of Scottish Gaelic and Older Scots in north-east Fife in the mid-13th century (Taylor 1994, 103–4). Although it is clear that Scots is taking root in the area by this time, it would appear that this language, recently arrived from south of the Forth, is not as widespread as it already was in south-west Fife, near the royal burgh of Inverkeithing. Burghs were bastions of Scots, and proximity to a royal (or episcopal) burgh seems to have acted as a stimulus to the spread of that language, and to the corresponding ebbing of Gaelic (see Taylor 1994, 102–4).
The classification of the place-name Glac (now the field name 'The Glack') as Gaelic rather than Scots cannot be taken as certain. It is one of the many topographical appellatives which were borrowed from Gaelic into Scots, and it is therefore unclear whether this borrowing had taken place in this area by the mid-13th century.

The marches

All the features mentioned below are followed by an Arabic or lower case Roman numeral, which are marked on Illus 2, while the fields and field names are shown on Illus 3. Translated quotes from the charters are in bold.

A. The marches of the original grant of Wester Kinnear to Balmerino Abbey are contained in Appendix 1 nos I-III, and are virtually identical.

beginning on the west side of Kinnear, that is from the Glack. (1)

Gaelic glac and Scots glack: 'hollow between hills, cleft, defile'; originally Old Irish glac, 'hand, half-opened fist'; an early loan word into Scots. The most westerly field on Easter Kinnear is still called 'The Glack' (NO 393 234), EK1 on Illus 3. Its northern march is the now defunct road from Kinnear to The Gauldry. This goes through a low but noticeable cut or defile - a typical glack - through the Long Hill here, and must be the 'glack' of the name. See also 'the road' (via) in no V below.

as far as the rock, (2)
Latin rupis, often translates Gaelic creag, Scots craig, 'rocky outcrop', rather than 'boulder' or 'stone'. The land falls away steeply exposing the bedrock in the woods near where the boundary changes direction (at NO 3910 2305), to go down hill towards the next named point. Between the Glack and this rocky outcrop, along the present march between Kinnear (Wester and Easter) and Kilmany, there are several dressed boundary stones about 50cm high, with rounded tops and the letter 'K' carved on the Kilmany side. This is the only part of the marches of either of the Kinnares where such stones have been set, and it must be assumed that Kilmany estate was responsible. This assump-
tion is strengthened by the fact that the lettering occurs only on the Kilmanny side, since it was the practice for any lettering to represent the initial of the estate on whose side the letter appears. Such march stones are not uncommon along stretches of estate boundaries in this part of Scotland, and usually date from the 18th or 19th centuries. They are often indicative of a boundary over which there has been some disagreement.

and so going down as far as the spring, (3)
Latin *fons* ‘well, spring’. This is the spring which is still visible near the south-west march of Wester Kinnear at NO 393 228. There is a marked difference in level between the Wester Kinnear fields and the contiguous Kilmanny woodland along this march: the Kilmanny land lies about one metre lower. This suggests many centuries of different use.

and from the spring as far as the Motray (4) by the ancient marches,
The march then goes down in a straight line to the Motray Water, following the present-day march between Kilmanny and Wester Kinnear. This march just north of the present main road (A914) is obviously of great antiquity, with an abrupt drop of about one metre on its west (Kilmanny) side, and lined with long-established hawthorn and other species.

and so as far as the *Keithin, (5)
This burn is only visible today in its lower course, from Kinnear Tower mound to the Motray. Before extensive drainage and re-routing took place last century, it came down the slopes above Kinnear in two branches: one (the *Wester Keithin, mentioned as such below no II) flowed down the present-day Wester-Easter Kinnear march from c NO 398 232 to the main road, draining fields EK7, WK3 and WK4. The other (the *Easter Keithin) flowed down the small depression which runs parallel to, and a few metres north-east of, the old Kinnear-Gauldry road. They met near the main road and flowed as one burn through the middle of the Marydale (EK26) to the castle mound. Along this stretch of the burn was probably the site of the old mill (for which see below, 6). These burns are clearly shown at their full extent on Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler’s 1828 map of Fife and Kinross.

The name occurs as *Kethyn* in the charters, and has not survived. It would probably have become *Keithin or similar. It contains the Pictish *coet* ‘wood(-land)’, for which see Watson (1926, 381–2), and probably refers to a burn which flowed out of a wood (cf Scots ‘Woodburn’). It is found in hydronymys such as the Keithing Burn, at whose mouth lies Inverkeithing in west Fife; also, with a different ending, in forms such as Kethock, for which see Alexander (1952, 75 note) where it is described as a ‘widely distributed stream name’.

It therefore indicates that the slopes above Kinnear Castle were wooded at some point in Pictish times. However, by the 13th century it was functioning simply as a place-name, and does not necessarily mean that the woodland still existed.

The modern march between Easter and Wester Kinnear no longer follows the *Keithin south-east of the main road, after the Easter and Wester *Keithin have joined. However, the point where the *Keithin enters the Motray still forms the march between the two farms.

go ing up as far as the site of the mill, (6) with its privilege of water for driving the mill.
The mill lay on the now conduited *Keithin Burn in the middle of the Marydale (EK26), at about 100m north-west of Kinnear Castle, where stones are still turned up by the plough, and at certain times of year a crop mark is visible. The fact that all references to the mill are combined with *site of* or *place of* (*locus de*) suggests that at the time of these charters it was not in working order. This impression is strengthened by the reference to it as ‘the site of the old mill’ in no II.

And then going up as far as the cross, (7)
The cross, described in charter no II as the ‘white cross’, probably stood somewhere along the line of the present main road (A914), which would have been at least a minor thoroughfare in the 13th century. It presumably stood at a point where the *Keithin Burn crosses the A914, and where there may have been a drinking trough for animals.

and from the cross along the *Keithin as far as the big stone;* (8)
The *muckle stane* must have lain somewhere along this march, near the source of the *Wester Keithin. It was probably at the bend in the line of the present-day Easter-Wester Kinnear march, at the north-east corner of WK4 (NO 3955 2315).

and from the stone as far as the hill, (9)
Latin *collis* ‘hill’; this is likely to mean that the march, following its present line, goes towards what, looking up from the *muckle stane, appears to be the top of the hill above (NO 393 233).

and from the hill to the Glack. (1)
This suggests that the present field called the Glack (EK1) was included in the original grant. This would allow Wester Kinnear livestock access to water at the Glack hollow at its north-east corner, as well as allowing direct access from Wester Kinnear to the road from Kinnear to Balmerino via the Gauldry.

B. The second set of marches concerns a piece of land adjacent to Wester Kinnear which is now the
southernmost edge of the present-day farm of Easter Kinnearr. Its marches are given in no II and, with slightly more detail, in no V. It is described as land lying next to the land of the first grant, as described in no I, 'on the east side of Kinnearr'. These marches, taken from no II, are detailed as follows, with those places followed by an Arabic numeral discussed in section A above:

I [Simon de Kinnearr] have also given them the land lying next to this land on the east side of Kinnearr ... by its right marches, that is from the site of the mill, (6)

go up by the syke, (i)
Sicum or sicus here almost certainly represents Scots syke, 'small, sluggish burn or ditch'; rather than the Latin sicum 'dry place', or 'dry ground', as Campbell would render it (1899, 173). It refers to the small burn, still in existence, which, flowing from the north, joins the Keithin Burn at the north-west corner of Kinnearr Castle mound. The same word is found also in C below (x).
go up round Inchelyn (ii)
Gaelic innis 'low-land by river; haugh-land' + Gaelic linne 'pool, linn, waterfall, mill-dam,'. This must be what is now the north part of Marydale (EK26). That all this field once belonged to Balmerino Abbey is confirmed by the name Marydale (see above p 236).

and Wetflat (iii)
Scots wet 'wet' + Sc flat 'level' field.

and then going up to the spring of Langside, (iv)
There was a spring above the main road, about 20 metres west of the Easter Kinnearr Farm Road end. It was conduited in the 1960s and its existence is signalled now by a round drain cover on the south side of the road (NO 402 233). Scots Langside refers to the long, even slope rising up from the valley bottom to Long Hill, the local name for the hill which appears on the Ordnance Survey maps as 'Newton Hill' (NO 398 239). The name 'Long Hill' as applied by the Ordnance Survey to the hill above Wester Kinnearr (at NO 399 232) does not in fact correspond to local usage.

and then going up to the white rock on the east side of Cragnegren, (v)
Gaelic creag na greáine 'rock of the sun; sunny, south-facing rock'. This is probably the conspicu-
Illus 5. The Glack (field) on the left of the picture, with Munbuthe (vi) in the foreground. The ditch running up the centre of the picture marks the old road to The Gauldry. It is heading for the low pass or glack, which can be clearly seen in front of the trees.

ous rock head at NO 398 234 in EK4.

and so going by the right marches as far as the spring of Munbuthe, (vi)
Gaelic mòine bhuidhe ‘yellow bog or moss’. This is the damp hollow at NO 397 405, through which runs the old track from Easter Kinnear to The Gauldry, just before it goes through the Glack. ‘Yellow’ is a common adjective describing bogs, and probably refers to various yellow marsh plants such as Yellow Flag. Cf ‘the pull of Monkboy (earlier Monebute) 1256 Arbroath Liber i no 295’ that is to say the Yallow Pulle’, in Kingoldrum parish ANG (c 1411x50 Arbroath Liber ii no 121).

and so from Munbuthe as far as the Glack, (I) and then going down to the *Wester Keithin (vii) by the right marches as far as the white cross, (7) and then by the burn going down by the site of the old mill as far as the bog. (viii)
This follows the original march between Easter and Wester Kinnear, which is also the present-day march, and which is described in detail in A above. It goes back down the hill towards the Motray Water. The old mill is presumably the same as the mill which begins this circuit. For its description as ‘old’, see above A (6).

C. This is a conflation of the grants contained in nos I-III. It is taken from V, for the full text of which see below Appendix 1. Information additional to that found in I, II or III is underlined.

beginning on the west side (of Kinnear), that is from the Glack, (1) as far as the rock, (2) and so going down to the spring, (3) and so going down as far as the Motray (4) by the ancient marches, and so to the *Keithin, (5) going up to the site of the mill (6),
These marches as far as the site of the mill are those described in A above.

then walking to the east by the syke, going round Inchelyn and Wetflat
From here the marches correspond to those described in B above.

as far as opposite the white rock on the east side of *Cragnagren (v), and in a straight line going up to the said rock, and so going up to the spring of Munbuche, (vi) and going up a little way to the road (ix) which divides my land from the land of Naughton
This road, now gone, was an important thoroughfare from Cupar to Woodhaven, one of the ferries
across the Tay to Dundee. It is marked on Roy’s military map of Scotland (1750s), but not on Ainslie’s map of 1775. Traces of it are still visible on the north side of Newton Hill (which hill is known locally as Long Hill).

**going along the said road to the west to the syke**

(x)
The syke is that ditch which runs along the north side of the old Kinnear-Gauldry road. It is strange that it is this feature which is signalled out here, rather than the road itself. There is enough surviving of this old road to show that it was a once a wide, well-constructed thoroughfare. It is c 8m wide, flanked by banks and ditches on both sides: it is to the ditch on the north side which the syke of the charter refers. Extremely old oak and beech line the banks. At the point where the Cupar-Woodhaven road crosses it, the banks have been broken through. This latter road, important as it once was, was not as carefully constructed as the old Kinnear-Gauldry road, and has left far less trace on the landscape. This may of course be partly due to the fact that it became disused much earlier.

This piece of land, excluded from B (charter no II), seems to correspond to that northerly part of Kilmarnock Woods or Black Wood which projects north of the old Kinnear-Gauldry road. It must therefore at some later date have been acquired by Kilmarnock estate.

and so to the Glack. (1)

**Summary**
The most striking feature of this material is the witness which it bears to the antiquity and stability underlying the modern estate of Wester Kinnear. From preliminary studies into other estate boundaries, such antiquity and stability would seem to be common-place in eastern Scotland. Such a conclusion is supported by the recent work done on parish and estate boundaries in south-east Perthshire in the Middle Ages (see for example Rogers 1997).

**Appendix 1**
English translations of the five 13th-century charters relating to the granting of Wester Kinnear to Balmerino Abbey; the Latin text of no V, hitherto unpublished, has also been given. In the Latin text, modern capitalisation and punctuation have been used throughout and abbreviations have usually been silently expanded, although some expansions have been put in round brackets. Letters erroneously missed out, or illegible, have been put in square brackets eg ‘circul[m]euundo’ for ‘circumeundo’. The random variation between u and v has also been standardised according to classical Latin conventions.

I-IV. These are all from the 14th-century cartulary of the abbey, NLS Adv ms 34.5.3 (fos 5r–7r), the ‘Liber de Balmerinach’, and have been printed in Balm Lib nos 12–14. The original is described thus by M Borland (Adv FR 196 a/2), ‘Latin and Scotch, Vellum eight and one eighth inches by five and three quarter inches. 27½ folios (with 48 paper leaves at the beginning, and 46 at the end, all blank).’ The binding she would ascribe to c1400, and is described as ‘smooth leather’. It is from the Balfour Collection. From the script she assumes that the book was written about the first half of the 14th century, adding that the hand is not quite uniform. It has plain capitals with touches of red and rubricated headings to the charters. The volume appears to be complete, the missing half of f20 being probably blank. It is much soiled and stained with damp, but appears to be in the same state of preservation as it was in the end of the 16th century.’ Significant variation between the originals and the published versions are noted below.

I [= Balm Lib no 12]

**Three charters anent Kinnear (Kynner) [The three charters are nos I-III].**

To all the faithful in Christ who will see or hear this writing, Simon de Kinnear (Kynner) gives eternal greeting in the Lord. May it be known by all that for the salvation of my soul and for the souls of the Illustrious King William and Queen Ermengard and King Alexander their son, and for the souls of my father and mother and of all my predecessors, I have given, granted and confirmed by this present charter of mine to God and the Blessed Mary and to the monks of Balmerino in Fife (‘Balmurynach in Fiff’) who serve God there and who will serve God there for all time coming in pure, exempt and perpetual alms certain land in the fief of Kinnear (‘in feudo de Kynner’) by its right marches beginning on the west side of Kinnear, that is from the Glack (Glac), as far as the rock, going down as far as the spring, and from the spring as far as (into) the Motray (Motrichi)2 by its ancient marches, and so as far as (into) the *Keithin (Kethyn)*, going up as far as the place of the mill, with its privilege of water for driving the mill; and then going up as far as the cross, and from the cross along the *Keithin to the big stone (‘magnum lapidem’); and from the stone to the hill (‘collem’), and from the hill to the Glack; with all liberties and privileges in meadows and pastures, muirs and
marshes, ponds, water-courses and mills and all other pertinencies, to be had and held of me and of my heirs for ever as freely, fully and honourably, exempt from aids, hostings, and tallages and from all exactions, customs and secular services as any land is held and possessed in alms more freely, exempt, fully and honourably in the kingdom of Scotland, with common pasture belonging to the same land except for six acres of land which belong to the hospital [of St John’s] and two acres of meadow which belong to the lord on its west side [presumably the lord of Kilmany, perhaps Hugh de Kilmany of Balm Lib nos 16–8]. Indeed I and my heirs will maintain and guarantee and defend for the said monks the said land against all men forever, so that no one at all may be able to demand or extort anything from the said monks except for prayers alone. And if it should happen that the said monks for any reason whatsoever or by any false litigation entered into anent the said land with all its pertinents should lose anything, or incur any loss, I and my heirs will fully restore to them the value of the said land in the tenement of Kinnear as estimated by worthy men. As witnessed by Sir William parson of Flisk (Fliske) [FIF], Sir Adam chaplain of Kilmany (Kilmany), Sir Robert called of Collessie (Collessin) [FIF], chaplain of Flisk, Sir William chaplain of Leuchars (Lokris) [FIF], Alan Surale, Henry Mare and many others.

Notes on the witness list of no 1.
Alan Surale: a de Quincy retainer; present at the fixing of a march on the border of Leuchars and Forgan parishes 1254x64 (see Balm Lib no 38 and Fraser 1867, 476–7), when Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester and Lord of Leuchars, gives part of the peat-bog in his moss of *Swansmire (Swanismire) to Balmerino Abbey.

Henry Mare: this ‘surname’ indicates that Henry held the office of ‘mair’, originally an important royal office, which lost its status after the advent of the sheriff in the 12th century, ending up as an kind of bailiff of the sheriff court (see Fife Cl Bk lxii-lxvi).

II  [= Balm Lib no 13]
All the material which is additional to nos I and III has been underlined.

Anent Kinnear (Kyner) 4

To all the faithful in Christ who will see or hear this writing Simon de Kinnear (Kinner) gives eternal greeting in the Lord. Be it known by everyone that for the salvation of my soul, with the assent of my wife Amia and for the souls of the illustrious King William and of Queen Ermengard and of King Alexander their son, and for the souls of my father and my mother and of all my predecessors, I have given and granted and by this present charter of mine confirmed to God and to the Blessed Mary and to the monks of Balmerino in Fife ("Balmurynach in Fyf") who serve God there, and will serve God there for all time coming in pure, quit and perpetual alms the whole half of the land in the fief of Kinnear (Kynner) by its right marches: beginning on the west side of Kinnear, that is from the Glack ("a Glac"), as far as the rock, going down as far as the spring, and from the spring as far as the Motray (Mot'h'ric) by its ancient marches, and so as far as the *Keithin (Kethyn), going up as far as the place of the mill, with its privilege of water for driving the mill. And then going up as far as the cross, and from the cross along the *Keithin to the big stone; and from the stone to the hill, and from the hill to the Glack.

I have also given them the land lying next to this land on the east side of Kinnear in pure and perpetual alms by its right marches, that is from the site of the mill, going up by the syke (‘sicum’), going round (‘circum[m]eundo’), Inchelyn and Wetflat, and then going up to the spring of Langside, and then going up to the white rock (‘ad album rupem’) on the east side of Cragnegren, and so going by the right marches as far as the spring of Munbuche, and so from Munbuche as far as the Glack, and then going down to the Wester *Keithin (‘ad Kethyn occident-alem’) by the right marches as far as the white cross, and then by the burn (‘rivulum’) going down by the site of the old mill as far as the bog (‘mariseum’). Which lands I and my heirs will guarantee, maintain and defend for the said monks against all men and women forever. To be had and held of me and of my heirs with all liberties and pertinentes and privileges in meadows and pastures, muirs and marshes, water-courses, ponds and mills and all other liberties and pertinencies belonging to the said lands, or which ought by right to belong to them, both unnamed and named, and as freely, and exempt from all aids, exactions, tallages and hostings, customs and secular services more fully and honourably as any land is held or possessed in alms more freely, fully and honourably in the kingdom of Scotland, with common pasture belonging to the same land except for six acres of land which
belong to the hospital, and two acres of
meadow which belong to the lord of the said
land who at the time will be on the west
side. And let it be known that I Simon and
Amia my wife, who has not been compelled
by force or fear, have fully affirmed and
sworn an oath upon sacred objects to grant
and keep the above gift, grant and
confirmation, and that we submit ourselves,
for us and our heirs, to the jurisdiction of the
lord bishop of St Andrews and of his offi-
cials, present and to come. They will have
the power ("potestatem") to excommunicate
us and our heirs and ("et") to place our
lands under an interdict, and to force us to
make restitution through all our goods,
either moveable or immoveable, in which-
ever place we might be found, or in which
our goods, either moveable or immoveable,
might be found, if I Simon de Kinnear, or
Amia my wife, or our heirs presume to
corrivate this gift, grant and confirmation,
as contained in this charter, in any point or
article. And we renounce for ourselves and
for our heirs all benefit of the civil law, and
all privileges of the forum of canon law
which have been or may be invoked. Also
we desire that no royal power or dominion
of a lord can be of benefit to ourselves or our
heirs in any article in the face of the
aforementioned things. If indeed it should
happen that the said monks for any reason
whatsoever or by any false litigation entered
into anent ("de") the said lands with all
their pertinents, or that their men who dwell
there, should lose anything, or incur any
loss, we and our heirs will fully restore to
the said monks of Balmerino the value of the
said land in the tenement of Kinnear as
estimated by worthy men within forty days,
without any delay or argument. And to give
this greater security I Simon affix my seal to
this present writing. As witnessed by Master
Eustace de Sheldford (Scelford), sir William
parson of Flisk ("Flisk"), Peter the Clerk
constable of Leuchars (Lokris), Simon
Pecipas and many others.

Simon Pecipas or Petipas also witnesses the charter
inspected by Alexander III (see below no V).

III [= Balm Lib no 14]
Almost identical to no I [= Balm Lib no 12] above;
the only differences or points to note are:

- Anent Kinnear (Kymer)\(^{13}\)
- Opens with 'Omnnibus' instead of 'Universis';
- 'ad Glac' for 'a Glac';
- 'usque ad Mothric' for 'usque in Motric';
- 'cum omni pastura' for 'cum communi
  pastura';
- Several lines omitted in III after 'preter solas
  orationes' ('except for prayers alone').
- Witnesses: 'domino Willelmino persona de
  Fisk', 'domino Ad(amo) capellano de Kil-
  manyn, domino Roberto dicto de Cullessen
capellano de Fliske, et alius.' These are the
  same as in no I, which adds another three
  names.

IV [= Balm Lib no 15]
The king's confirmation of the lands of Kinnear
(Kyne)\(^{14}\)

Alexander [III] by the grace of God King of
the Scots greet all honest men of the whole
of his land. May you know that I have
granted and have by this our charter
confirmed to God and the Blessed Mary, and
to the monks of Balmerino in Fife
("Balmuynach in Yf") who serve God there,
and who will serve God there in all time
coming, that grant which Simon de Kinnear
(Kyne) made to them of half of all the land
in the fief of Kinnear (Kyne), and of the
land of Kinnear (Kyne) lying nearest it on
the east side. To be held by the monks and
their successors forever as freely, exempt,
fully and honourably, just as the charter of
the said Simon then granted to the monks
fully and correctly testifies to, saving our
service. In witness whereof we issue these
letters patent to them regarding this grant.
Witnessed by Alexander Cumyn, Earl of
Buchan, Justiciar of Scotland north of the
Forth, Patrick Earl of Dunbar (Dunbar), and
Alexander Stewart ('Seneclallo'). At Selkirk
("Selkyrk"), 21 September in the twelfth year
of our reign (ie 1260). [In the 'Tabula' of
Balm Lib p i, this charter has been wrongly
dated 1226, under the misapprehension that
the king was Alexander II].

Note on witness list of no IV.
All three witnesses also witness no V (King
Alexander III's 'Inspeximus'), issued on the same
day.
V. Original 'inspeximus' of Alexander III, September 1260

SRO, Scrymgeour Wedderburn Muniments (Dudhope), Box 5, bundle 5, no. 1. Parchment, 7 inches wide by 7½ inches long; folded at the bottom, with a slit for the seal, it is written in a clear, upright court hand. It contains a conflation of the two sets of marches contained in no II, with additional information, which has been underlined in the translation. It is summarised in no IV, which was issued at exactly the same time.

Carta Symonis de Kynner domini eiusdem cum confirmatione Alexandri regis super eandem. 15

Alexander Dei gracia rex Scotorum omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue salutem. Noveritis nos cartam Symonis de Kynner' inspexisse et intellexisse tenorem ex sequitur continentem. Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Symon de Kynner pro salute anime mee et pro salute animarum omnium antecessorum meorum dedi, concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Deo et Beate Marie et monachis de Balmuryach’ in Fyf Deo servientibus et i(n)perpetuum servituri in puram et perpetuum elemosinam qua(m)dam terram de Kynner’ per rectas divisias: incipientes ex parte occidentali silicet a Glac usque ad rupe et sic descendendo ad fontem et sic descendendo in Mothric per antiquas divisias et sic in Kethyn ascendendo ad locum molendini cum aesiamento eiusdem aque ad molendinum faciendum, et deinde ad orientem gradiendo per sicum circu(m)lendo Inchelyn et Wetflat usque in opposto contra albam rupe ex parte orientali de Grangegreyn et Infalliier ascendendo ad predictam Rupe et sic ascendendo ad fontem de Munbuche et parumper ascendendo ad viam dividement inter me et Athnathan, et sic procedendo per eandam viam ad occidentem ad sicum et sic ad Glac in longitudine et latitudine sicut se extendit cum omnibus pertinentiis et libertatibus ad dictam terram spectantibus adeo libere et quiete, integre, pacifice sicut aliqua elemosina in regno Scoie dari poterit aut concedi exceptis duabus acris prati que pertinent ad dominum ex parte occidentali. Ego vero et heredes mei manutenebimus et warantizabimus et defendemus dictis monachis predictam terram contra omnes homines inperpetuum. Et ad malorem securitatem faciendam ego Simon presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus: Johanne de Hay vicecomite de Fyf, domino Willelmo persona de Fyske,


Translation

Charter of Simon de Kinnear lord of that ilk, with the confirmation of the same by King Alexander [III].

Alexander etc [as in no IV]. May you know that we have inspected the charter of Simon de Kinnear, and have understood the content, which is as follows. 'Be it known to all men, now and in future, that I Simon de Kinnear for the salvation of my soul and for the salvation of the souls of all my predecessors have given, granted and by this present charter confirmed to God and to the Blessed Mary and the monks of Balmerino in Fife serving God there, and who will serve God there in all time coming, in pure and perpetual alms, certain land of Kinnear by its right marches: beginning on the west, that is from the Glack as far as the rock, and so going down to the spring, and so going down as far as the Motray by the ancient marches, and so to the *Keithin, going up to the site of the mill, with its privilege of water to drive the mill, and then walking to the east by the syke, going round Inchelyn and Wetflat as far as opposite the white rock on the east side of *Cragnagren, and in a straight line going up to the said rock, and so going up to the spring of Munbuche, and going up a little way to the road which divides my land from the land of Naughton, and so going on the road to the west to the syke, and so to the Glac, as it extends both in length and in breadth, with all its pertinents and liberties belonging to the said land, as freely and quit, completely and peaceably as any alms can be given or granted in the kingdom of Scotland, except for two acres of meadow which belong to the lord on the west. And indeed I and my heirs will maintain, guarantee and defend the said land for the said monks against all men for all time to come. And to provide greater security I have placed my seal on this present writing. Witnessed by John de Hay, sheriff of Fife, sir William parson of Fisk, Simon Petipas and others.’ We ratify and by the corroboration of our present seal confirm this grant and gift to the said men of
religion. Witnessed by Alexander Comyn earl of Buchan, Patrick earl of Dunbar and Alexander Stewart. Issued at Selkirk, 21 September, in the twelfth year of our reign.

Appendix 2

List of field names and other features on the modern farms of Easter Kinnear (EK) and Wester Kinnear (WK); numbers correspond to those on Illus 3.

Easter Kinnear

EK1 The Glack
EK2 Site of Hilton of Kinnear, a group of three cottages occupied until the 1840s.
EK3 Faraway Field
EK4 The Long Hill (Field)
EK5 Twenty-Acre Field
EK6 Ten-Acre Field
EK7 Sixteen-Acre Field
EK8 Scrapnorum or Scrappitnorum. Henderson family tradition has it that this was a name brought from Cowbackie (now Vicarsford), Leuchars parish, where the Henderson family farmed from the 1870s until 1933. Note that a similar field name - Scragnorum - has been recorded on Easter Forret, Logie parish (Mr W Rollo, formerly of Easter Forret, now of Colliesie FIF, pers comm). They would appear to be humorous, pseudo-Latin names for fields of poor soil. Scrappitnorum is rough and stoney, and is the only field on Easter Kinnear which has never been ploughed.
EK9 The Camp. This was the site of a small searchlight station from World War II.
EK10 The Quarry Field. This once had a whinstone quarry, now infilled, which provided stone for walls and the construction of the Turnpike Road c. 1800.
EK11 The Dam Field. The old Dam, infilled after 1911, lay just east of the mid-19th century cottages on the main road. It was probably built around 1800, when many other improvements were being made on the estate. All the hill-side now drains to this point. Water from the dam drove the farm water-wheel until 1911.
EK12 Upper Bank
EK13 Upper Valentine
EK14 Lower Valentine. Mr Valentine of Dundee, of Picture Postcard fame, bought this plot in 1905. When the first thatched cottage burnt down, he had Sandford House (now Sandford Hotel) built.
EK15 Station Field. The station, St Fort Junction, on the main Dundee to Edinburgh line was closed in the 1960s.
EK16 Hawkhill.
EK17 Dodds. In c. 1905 a Mr Dodds became the feuar of the cottage on the other side of the main road. It was in this field that the second of the two digs was carried out by the Scottish Field School of Archaeology, in 1990 (see Driscoll 1997).
EK18 The Island Field, so-called because it was once totally surrounded by railway lines.
EK19 Bogton. This is now the site of a MOD Fuel Store for Leuchars RAF Station. The site of the three Bogton Cottages now lies under the modern road, but formerly stood in the north corner of the field. It is first found, in 1599, as Bogtown of Kynair (Commissariat Record, 276).
EK20 Site of a cottage known as Hillend, and occupied until the 1840s.
EK21 The Mid Field.
EK22 The Stackyard Field.
EK23 The Bothy Field, named after a bothy built in 1853.
EK24 The Park.
EK25 The Castle Meadow.
EK26 Marydale.
EK27 West Sandy Hill.
EK28 East Sandy Hill.
EK29 Motray Meadow.

Wester Kinnear

(Information provided by Mr J M Melville, farmer, Wester Kinnear, 1996).

WK1 Long Bank.
WK2 Long Braes.
WK3 Jock's Field (since 1979 part of WK2).
WK4 The Whinny Knowes.
WK5 The Bell Craigs.
WK6 The Upper Bank.
WK7 The Scrub (recently cleared of woodland for pasture).
WK8 The Stackyard Field (now part of WK9, but separate name retained).
WK9 The East Field.
WK10 The West Field (now part of WK9, but separate name retained).

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Professor Geoffrey Barrow for his indispensable advice on the early history of the Kinnear family, as well as for drawing our attention to the charter published here for the first time (Appendix 1 no V).

Thanks are also due to Dr Barbara Crawford, Mr Brian Dempsey, Dr Steve Driscoll, Mr J M Melville, farmer at Wester Kinnear, Professor Hector MacQueen, Dr John Rogers, and to the staff of the National Library of Scotland and the St Andrews University (Manuscripts and Munities) for help and advice; and to Ms Anna Crowe for the poem, and for her permission to publish it as an Afterword to this article.

Thanks also go to the St Andrews University Reprographic Services for the maps, and to the St
Andrews Scottish Studies Institute for footing the bill.

Simon Taylor would like acknowledge the Anderson Research Fellowship at the St Andrews Scottish Studies Institute, University of St Andrews, which enabled him to do the necessary research for this article.

Notes

1. Latin a, ‘from’; there is a scarcely discernible d written in faint brown ink after a. This would then read ad (‘to’) for a; cf III ad Glacie at the equivalent place in the text.
2. The to of Motrich, which comes at the end of a line, is completely in red. Mothric Balm Lib no 12.
5. h written above i in same hand.
6. circuendo Balm Lib no 13, p 12.
7. WetstTac Balm Lib no 13, p 12.
8. maresiam Balm Lib no 13, p 12.
10. vel Balm Lib no 13, p 13.
11. se Balm Lib no 13, p 13.
12. Or Petips; cf no V below.
15. The rubric is written in the same hand at the end of the charter.

References

Alexander, W M 1952 Place-Names of Aberdeenshire, (Aberdeen).
Arbroath Liber = Bannatyne Club 1848–56 Liber S Thome de Aberbrothoc.
Balm Lib = Abbotsford Club 1841 Liber Sancte Marie de Balmorinch.
Commissariot Record = Scottish Record Society 1901 Commissariot Record of St Andrews: Register of Testaments 1549–1800.
Fraser, W 1867 History of the Carnegie, Earls of Southeck, and of their Kindred, (Edinburgh).
Hooke, D 1994 Pre-Conquest Charter-Bounds of Devon and Cornwall, (Woodbridge).
Inchaffray Chrs = Lindsay, W A et al 1908 Charters, Bulls and other Documents relating to the Abbey of Inchaffray, Scottish History Society.
Lawrie, A C 1905 Early Scottish Charters, (Glasgow).
SRO = Scottish Record Office, East Register House, Edinburgh.
St A Lib = Bannatyne Club 1841 Liber Cartarum Prioratus Sancti Andree in Scotia.
Taylor, S 1994 ‘Babbet and Bridin Pudding or polyglot Fife in the Middle Ages’, Nomina 17, 99–118.
Taylor, S 1997 ‘Seventh-century Iona abbeys in
Simone Taylor and Michael Henderson

Scottish place-names, Innes Review 48 no 1 (spring), 45-72.
Watson, W J 1926 The History of the Celtic Place-


Afterword
On 31 August 1996 the authors of the above article led a walk for the Central and North East Fife Preservation Trust around some of the marches of Wester Kinnear. One of those present was the poet Anna Crowe of St Andrews, who commemorated the occasion with the following poem.

Leavings

‘The plough still fetches stones from that patch there.’
Noses over the wall, his pair of Clydesdales
Nod, then snort and turn, a swirl of tails.
Kinnear’s swallows graze the August air.

Stubble keeps whispering something as we pass.
Bishop and priests who would have walked this march
Hover, their tongues wagging, helping us search
For fons and alba rupes. Their magnus lapis –

Muckle stane – is gone, the white crag doubtful.
The spring’s been sealed where men would splash the sweat
Of harvest from their faces. And yet our feet
leave the same imprimatur in the soil.

The Glack is curled between hills, cupping its hand
Around our afternoon: nettles where five,
Then two, families of weavers lived.
Then just the Kinnear shepherd. Folded ground.

Our fingers feel through moss to read the K
On boundary-stones. In gateways, warmer, clearer,
The scent of trampled matricaria;
And stubble-fires, now that they’ve baled the hay,

Blowing in thin bronze drifts on Gallow Hill.
We see more clearly now we have climbed this far.
Far off, and north, Cairngorm. Below, Kinnear.
A dark patch in one field that was the mill.

Anna Crowe
Kinnear, Kilmany parish, Fife, 31 August 1996

This paper is published with the aid of a grant from the Fife Council.

Abstract
This article examines in detail the complex medieval marches of the estate of Wester Kinnear, Kilmany parish, northeast Fife, providing a local historical framework for the mid-13th-century grant of the estate to Balmerino Abbey by the de Kinnear family. It combines medieval documentation (including new editions and translations of five relevant charters, one hitherto unpublished) and place-name analysis with intimate knowledge of the local environment, and suggests that such an approach can yield much useful information about the medieval landscape.

Key words: place-names, perambulation, medieval, landscape