

# Bill Kennedy – Recollections about Glass Magic Lantern Slides

Aug / Sept 2014

## ***Background***

There are about 150 slides stored in two wooden boxes. They are 2 ¼ inch square glass positives.

The photographs were collected by Bob Semple, a fishmonger who had a shop on the south side of Cambuslang Main Street, near the foot of Greenlees Road. The fishmongers was later taken over by Richie Clark, a fishmonger wholesaler from Burnside. Bob Semple was an authority on old Cambuslang (older than 1895) and gave lectures about its history.

Bill Kennedy's father, John Kennedy (born in 1895) operated a Magic Lantern for the Cambuslang Parish Church and ended up with both the Magic Lantern and the two boxes of glass slides after the Magic lantern slide shows stopped being a regular event, when other forms of entertainment, such as the cinema, became more popular. John Kennedy lived at 26 Grenville Drive then at 23 Brownside Road. He was a keen amateur photographer, a member of a Cambuslang photography club and had his own photography darkroom at 26 Brownside Road. *(Note: most of the Magic Lantern Slides are older than photographs taken by John Kennedy).*

Bill was born in 1931 and inherited the Magic Lantern and glass slides from his father. Although the views in several photographs have changed over the years Bill remembers many of the original scenes.

The slides were borrowed by Ian L Cormack, who published several photo booklets about Cambuslang. Ian Cormack photographed the slides to 35mm film and many were used in the booklets. Bill Kennedy was given 35mm copies at the time. These were later scanned to digital by Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) [www.vaslan.org.uk/](http://www.vaslan.org.uk/) .

In 2014, the Cambuslang Heritage Group was collecting information about the history of Cambuslang for an Exhibition in the Institute, in 2015, and to form a permanent record for future generations. Norman Rae, the Chairman of the Heritage Group obtained a digital copy of the photographs and Colin Findlay and Gordon Ridley, from the Heritage Group visited Bill Kennedy to learn more about the photographs and borrowed the original glass slides to digitally re-photograph them and make better quality copies.

John Kennedy also ran the Cambuslang Orphan's Fund (after a Mr Brown retired c1934). Trips were arranged for the orphans, usually once a year to Troon and Bill Kennedy has a 16mm film, of the Orphans parading through Cambuslang, boarding a special train at Cambuslang station and playing games at Troon.

Mark Melville converted the film to video and a DVD copy was made from the video. The original 16mm film was donated to Janet McBain at the Scottish Screen Archive. Bill has a banner from the parade that is shown in the film. Norman Rae arranged with his next door neighbour (who works at the Scottish Screen Archive) for a better quality digital copy of the film to be made in Sept 2014. Bill Kennedy gave 2 other cine films to Colin Findlay in September 2014 for passing on to the Scottish Screen Archive (they were of cartoons shown to the orphans).

John Kennedy also organised film shows for the orphans at the Kirkhill Church Hall at Christmas and Bill had (at one time) a Felix the Cat film that was shown to them. The orphans trips petered out about 1960, as the number of orphans had reduced after WWII.

## ***Profile of Ian L Cormack***

Obituary from the Glasgow Herald by Gordon Casely

Friday 20 September 2013

Tram author and historian;

Born: October 7, 1922; Died: September 17, 2013.

Ian Cormack, who has died aged 90, was the Glasgow tram scholar whose lifelong enthusiasm for the tramways of his native city helped keep photographs, records, transport lore and trams preserved for later generations to enjoy.

A founding member and stalwart of the Scottish Tramway Museum Society (now the Scottish Tramway and Transport Society), Mr Cormack's commitment and leadership kept the group alive when in the dark days of the late 1960s tram buffs were regarded as oddities. The society came about originally with the aim of preserving Glasgow But-And-Ben single-deck tramcar No 672 - now preserved in Glasgow Museum of Transport.

Ever one for direct action, Mr Cormack's love for a little single-decker ex-Paisley tram that became Glasgow's driver-school car was such that when the Glasgow tram system was finally closed in September 1962, he and his wife Margaret bought the tram body for £50 and sited it in their back garden in Cambuslang. It became a meeting room for the nascent STMS, and on busy evenings, the cry of "Move up ra caur!" would ring out.

A generation later when the Cormacks moved house, tram no 1017 appeared inextricable, but tram engineer Bob Docherty devised a lifting system, with the result that 1017 was moved to Summerlee tram museum at Coatbridge, rebuilt, and now runs there fully restored.

There was never a time when Mr Cormack wasn't interested in what he called transports of delight. He was interested in trams from the time he first saw them run past his boyhood home in Giffnock. He photographed them, noted their numbers, and filled notebooks with jottings of their idiosyncrasies.

While most Glaswegians treated their caurs as useful but unremarkable items of cityscape, Mr Cormack saw them as individuals, with characteristics worth recording. When in 1953, Glasgow bought 46 trams second-hand from Liverpool, he and a friend went to the summit of Shap, cameras at the ready for what they regarded as scoop shots of the handsome ex-Merseyside Green Goddesses trundling across isolated moorland on lowloaders.

When Glasgow Corporation Transport Department began nocturnal testing of the first Goddess along a deserted Argyle Street, Mr Cormack and his ubiquitous folding camera were already on site. When he published his successful *Green Goddesses Go East*, illustrations of Goddesses at work in Glasgow colours between Broomhouse and Maryhill were complemented by pictures of Goddesses under trial conditions in the city sporting Liverpool livery and a Mersey destination screen that read "Pier Head".

By the time the last Glasgow Goddess was scrapped in 1960, Mr Cormack had helped secure No 1055 for restoration into original condition as Liverpool 869 - in which form it now runs at the National Tramway Museum, at Crich, in Derbyshire.

His other seven books dealt with tramways in places as far apart as Rothesay and Barrow-in-Furness, and all developed anecdote and human interest rather than mere nuts-and-bolts accounts of trams.

Ian Lorimer Cormack was born in Giffnock and saw army service in Java in the Second World War. He went into education, becoming headmaster of Spittal Primary School in Rutherglen. Tall, bespectacled and always approachable, he walked in slightly magisterial fashion with hands clasped behind his back.

When the Scottish Tramway Museum Society was founded in 1951, Mr Cormack was the 15th member, and really swung the society into action when in 1954 he took over as secretary, with Margaret as treasurer. This was a decade before Glasgow had any transport museum, and a period when the city tramway system still reached out into Renfrewshire, Dunbartonshire and Lanarkshire - yet Mr Cormack had the vision that a series of trams representing city transport history ought to be preserved. Along with STMS member Graham Ewing, he tried to buy one from Glasgow Corporation Transport Department, but the £35 price was beyond their means.

The fact that the issue of tram purchase arose at all gave rise to a public realisation that attention ought to be paid to saving something of the city's transport heritage. It spurred Mr Cormack and fellow enthusiasts further: they aimed to preserve a selection of trams to be used in a future working museum. They were inspired by the fact that Glasgow tramways had been the largest single system in the UK. Mr Cormack's vision played its part, and a dozen trams from Scotland are now based at the National Tramway Museum.

In later years, Mr Cormack was honoured with presidency of the Scottish Tramway and Transport Society, taking over from Dr Tony Browning when the latter retired as keeper of Glasgow Museum of Transport. He robustly stepped forward when in the 1980s, the society started campaigning for the introduction of modern tram systems in Scotland. The new system in Edinburgh marks the achievement of one of the society's major ambitions.

Mr Cormack and his wife Margaret, née Roberts, celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 2009. He is survived by her, and son Duncan. Their elder son Hamish predeceased him, killed at age 14 in a fall on The Cobbler in 1970. A memorial window to him was put in by the couple in Giffnock South Church.

## ***Glass Slides***

*Some of the glass magic lantern slides had text on the edge binding identifying what the photograph was off. Some others were well enough known. Colin Findlay reviewed the copied slides with Bill Kennedy in 2014 and made the notes below.*

1	Albert Square (Station Square) Cambuslang.jpg	Shows Railway Tavern see slide 21
2	Albert Square Cambuslang 2nd version.jpg	
3	Baptist Church.jpg	
4	Baptist Sunday School Trip.jpg	
5	Borgie Glen in Winter.jpg	
6	Borgie Glen with Borgie Stone.jpg	Bob Robertson in Wellshot Drive rescued the stone when it broke and may know what happened to it.
7	Borgie Stone Version 2.jpg	
8	Borgie Stone.jpg	
9	Cadoc Street Cambuslang c1890s.jpg	
10	Cairns Cambuslang with c20 people.jpg	
11	Cairns Estate Entrance Tanzielknowe.jpg	
12	Cairns House 2.jpg	
13	Cairns House.jpg	
14	Cambuslang Baptist Church Evangelist Band.jpg	
15	Cambuslang Bowling Green.jpg	
16	Cambuslang Bridge During Erection begun 1902.jpg	
17	Cambuslang Institute from NE.jpg	
18	Cambuslang Institute Ver 2.jpg	
19	Cambuslang Institute Ver 3.jpg	
20	Cambuslang Parish Church 3 Men.jpg	This was taken by John Kennedy and is from the 1950s. It shows the Church Officer James Sargent (in robes) with the younger man Willy Cleland, a lecturer at Jordanhill, and the older man Willy Lang a councillor before and after WWII.
21	Cambuslang Station c1900.jpg	Shows the Railway Tavern as in No 1
22	Cambuslang Temperance Band.jpg	
23	Capetown Perhaps 2.jpg	
24	Capetown Perhaps.jpg	
25	Carmyle from Clydesmill.jpg	
26	Carmyle Village.jpg	

27	Cathkin House.jpg	What happened to Cathkin House?
28	Church Door Colour.jpg	
29	Church Interior.jpg	
30	Church organ.jpg	
31	Clyde - Boys Swimming.jpg	
32	Clyde at Cambuslang opposite Carmyle 2.jpg	
33	Clyde at Cambuslang opposite Carmyle.jpg	
34	Clyde at Carmyle.jpg	
35	Clyde at Newton.jpg	
36	Clyde Iron Co Orion Bridge Cambuslang Version 2.jpg	
37	Clyde Iron Co Orion Bridge Cambuslang.jpg	
38	Clyde Near Bothwell.jpg	
39	Clyde Near Carmyle.jpg	
40	Clyde opp Dovecote above Kenmuir by Jas F King.jpg	Is the dovecote still there? Near Dog Trust home Mt Vernon?
41	Clydeford Road Cambuslang.jpg	
42	Cottage at Old Greenlees.jpg	
43	Cottages at The Cairns Stables Tanzie Knowe by Jas F King.jpg	
44	Cottages Cathkin Road.jpg	There was a cottage there with a plaque on it for a Victorian explorer medical missionary – check old Rutherglen records.
45	Dechmont.jpg	
46	Dovecote Daldowie.jpg	See No 40
47	East Greenlees Roof Collapse.jpg	
48	East Greenlees with People and Horse.jpg	
49	Entrance to Cairns Stables Tanzieknowe.jpg	
50	F iening.jpg	
51	Fountain Square.jpg	Station Square
52	Free Church Main St Cambuslang.jpg	
53	Friendly Society March Cambuslang 1.jpg	
54	Friendly Society March Cambuslang 2.jpg	
55	Friendly Society March Cambuslang 3.jpg	
56	Gilbertfield Castle Cambuslang 1.jpg	
57	Gilbertfield Castle Cambuslang 2.jpg	

58	Gilbertfield Castle Cambuslang 3.jpg	
59	Gilbertfield Castle Cambuslang 4.jpg	
60	Glasgow Cathedral Interior.jpg	
61	Glasgow Cathedral.jpg	
62	Golf House Cathkin 2.jpg	
63	Golfing at Westburn 1.jpg	Golfers are J Patrick & A Anderson (from framed copy at Cambuslang Golf Club)
64	Golfing at Westburn 2.jpg	
65	Golfing at Westburn 3.jpg	Golfers are J Patrick & A Anderson (from framed copy at Cambuslang Golf Club)
66	Hamilton Mausoleum.jpg	
67	Hamilton Parish Church.jpg	
68	Hamilton Rd The Hole c1895 before levelled for trams.jpg	
69	Hoeing Cabbages.jpg	
70	Horses Harvesting.jpg	
71	Howies Hill.jpg	
72	Howieshill 2.jpg	
73	In the Borgie Glen.jpg	
74	In the Glen Borgie.jpg	
75	Iona Interior.jpg	
76	James Murchison - Match Jimmy Version 2.jpg	When Dr Johnstone did evangelical preaching out in the street Match Jimmy was always there to hold his jacket and do whatever was necessary – as well as selling matches.
77	James Murchison - Match Jimmy.jpg	
78	Kirkhill 1.jpg	
79	Kirkhill 2.jpg	Railway goods and coal yard off to right where block of flats now is.
80	Kirkhill 3.jpg	Photograph taken before chancellery built.
81	Kirkhill 4.jpg	
82	Kirkhill 5.jpg	
83	Kirkhill 6.jpg	Manse was on right behind the wall – since demolished.
84	Kirkhill 7.jpg	
85	Kirkhill 8.jpg	
86	Kirkhill 9.jpg	
87	Kirkhill CR 19 locomotive.jpg	
88	Kirkhill Golf House.jpg	
89	Kirkhill Old Brae Painting.jpg	
90	Kirkhill Railway Construction - opened 1904.jpg	
91	Kirkhill School Croft Road Version 2.jpg	The white building was a dairy.
92	Kirkhill School Croft Road.jpg	

93	Kirkhill The Rookery.jpg	
94	Laying Foundation Stone Nas Bridge by Bairns Graham.jpg	Barns Graham was a local landlord holding a lot of fue duties.
95	Lodge at Ardoch Grove for Wellshot House V1.jpg	
96	Lodge at Ardoch Grove for Wellshot House V2.jpg	
97	Magic Lantern Show closeup.jpg	
98	Magic Lantern Show.jpg	
99	Main Street Cambuslang 2.jpg	Rona Wilson's book of photos of Cambuslang has a copy of this photo from 1920s.
100	Main Street Cambuslang.jpg	
101	Mains Castle East Kilbride.jpg	
102	Morrison House Cambuslang.jpg	
103	Old Bridge Borgie Glen.jpg	
104	Old Cottages Corner Brownside and Greenlees Rd.jpg	
105	Old Ford near Carmyle.jpg	
106	Old Free Church Cambuslang.jpg	
107	Old House Sauchie Bog.jpg	
108	Old House Sauchiebog Tenement was at foot of Clydeford Rd.jpg	
109	Old House Sauchiebog.jpg	
110	Old lane East Coats.jpg	
111	Old Mill and Water Lade.jpg	
112	Old Parish Church Hall Kirkhill.jpg	In 1898 a new church hall was built, so this photograph is before then. The new church hall was larger and after it was built it was discovered that some of the land was not owned by the church so deeds had to be obtained.
113	Opening of Kirkhill Bowling Green 1905.jpg	
114	Preaching Braes.jpg	
115	Precentor Old Parish Church.jpg	Have seen his name somewhere. An organ was built in the church in 1898 – didn't need the precentor after that.
116	Rev J Houston Parish Minister 1900 -1910.jpg	
117	Rev Mr Johnston.jpg	Dr Johnstone –
118	Rosebank Coachman's House.jpg	
119	Rosebank Dyeworks.jpg	
120	Rosebank House Former Home of David Dale Version 1.jpg	



121	Rosebank House Former Home of David Dale Version 2.jpg	
122	Ruin with 3 Women.jpg	
123	Ruin with trees.jpg	
124	Rutherglen Old Tower.jpg	
125	SB Elections c1900 2.jpg	
126	SB Elections c1900 3.jpg	
127	SB Elections c1900.jpg	
128	Small Cottage Clyde Road.jpg	
129	Smithy Anderson's Dalton Blantyre.jpg	
130	Smithy at Dalton Blantyre.jpg	
131	St Pauls Church Cambuslang.jpg	
132	Stationmaster.jpg	
133	Stationmaster's House kirkhill Stn.jpg	
134	Tabernacle Lane c1895.jpg	
135	Tabernacle Street.jpg	
	The 3 Neuk NW Corner of Golf Course Clyde Road.jpg	
136	The Brae & Rookery Kirkhill stairs to Borgie.jpg	
137	The Deans.jpg	
138	The Preaching Braes.jpg	
139	Toll Pit Cambuslang.jpg	
140	Toll Pit version 2.jpg	
141	Tree People at Westburn Green.jpg	
142	Wellshot House Garden.jpg	
143	Wellshot House now in Milton Avenue.jpg	
144	West Parish Church Cambuslang.jpg	
145	Westburn Cows and Tree.jpg	
146	Westburn Farm Cambuslang 1.jpg	
147	Westburn Farm Cambuslang 2.jpg	
148	Westburn House 1895.jpg	
149	Women Planting in Field.jpg	

Post Card of Kirkhill – writing on back – Dr Calderwood’s wife died in 1910. He was the minister until 1935.

Post Card of inside of church from 1907. In the 1930s the central pulpit was removed and the communion table was moved to the back of the church. The organ loft was changed in the 1930s.



Cambuslang Parish Church 3 Men.jpg

This was taken by John Kennedy and is from the 1950s. It shows the Church Officer James Sargent (in robes) with the younger man Willy Cleland, a lecturer at Jordanhill, and the older man Willy Lang a councillor before and after WWII.

***J F King – photographer***