

BARSKIMMING MILL

BARSKIMMING NEW MILL

LAYING OF MEMORIAL STONE

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Retyped by Nancy Moffat

Our readers will recollect the unfortunate fire at Barskimming Mill last autumn, whereby the Mill buildings and contents were totally destroyed. The mill was on the estate of Barskimming, belonging to Sir W.F. Miller, Bart., and cosily situated a little below the confluence of the rivers Ayr and Lugar. Some time after the fire the estate agents instructed plans to be prepared, with a view to rebuilding, there being thirteen years of the tenant's lease to run, but this intention on the proprietor's part fell through. It may interest our readers to know that according to our law, a fire such as the one referred to, terminates a lease, if either of the parties to it so desire, unless the lease itself otherwise provides.

Further negotiations between the tenant and agents resulted in Mr Alexander getting a feu of the ground where the old mill stood, and he resolved to rebuild at his own cost. Plans were at once prepared for him by Mr McCrone, Haugh, Mauchline, and no time was lost in having the work let, which has now been in progress for some time.

The memorial stone was laid on the afternoon of Saturday last by Miss Marianne Anderson, Barskimming House, in the presence of a large and interested audience. Amongst those on and around the platform we observed;

Mrs Anderson, Barskimming;
Mr & Mrs Mounsey of Auchinleck;
Colonel Jackson;
Misses Anderson;
Mrs & Misses Dangerfield & party from Barskimming;
Mr & Mrs Alexander,
Mr McCrone,
Mr & Mrs Harvey, Dunloy;
Mr & Mrs Hutchison,
Mr & Mrs Young, Mains;
Mr & Mrs Kay Millerstone;
Miss Roxburgh,
Miss Muir,
Miss Reid,
Mr Murdoch,
Mr Davidson;
Mr Roxburgh, merchant etc., etc.

The weather was perfect, and a large and sympathetic crowd gathered to watch the proceedings, while on every point flags were displayed. On the building itself there was one on which was a capital likeness of the poet Burns - a few yards distant being situated the holm on the Mill lands where he composed "Man was made to Mourn".

The proceedings began by Mr McCrone giving a brief explanatory statement on what had taken place since the disastrous fire. Mr Hutchison, one of the contractors then presented Miss Anderson with a silver trowel, suitably inscribed, and after the usual steps (including the signing of a document by most of those present, which was enclosed with other things in the jar and sealed up), the stone was laid, tapped by a mallet presented by the architect, the plumb applied and a few graceful and appropriate words, and amidst cheers, Miss Anderson declared the stone properly laid.

On the motion of Mr Alexander, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Anderson for so kindly consenting to lay the stone, and for so gracefully performing the duty. Colonel Jackson, in a neat, appropriate, and pretty speech replied on her behalf, and the outside proceedings terminated with hearty cheers.

On the invitation of Mr Alexander, a number of the ladies and gentlemen adjourned to an entertainment. Mr Alexander occupied the chair, while Mr McCrone discharged the duties of croupier. After the disposal of the loyal toasts - duly proposed and honoured - the health of the architect was given by Mr Harvey and responded to by Mr McCrone in an interesting speech, and in concluding, he proposed the health of the host who suitably replied. The other toasts were: "The Contractors" by the chairman, responded to by Mr Hutchison; "Miss M Anderson & the other ladies who had graced the proceedings" by Mr Kay, acknowledged by the chairman; and the concluding one of "The farmers in the district" was ably given by Mr Roxburgh, to which Mr Murdoch, Davidson, and Mr Young, Mains replied - Mr Murdoch wittily remarking that "he trusted the time would never come when the miller's wheel would "Wo" but he hoped his wheel would always be his best weal and never his woe". (Loud Cheers)

The workmen were entertained in the evening at Poesie Nansie's Hostelry, Mauchline.

The contractors for the new mill are:

Mason and Brickwork - Mr Hutchison, Ayr;
Joiner work - Messrs Allan and Cowan, Glasgow;
Granolithic work - Messrs James Struthers and Sons, Glasgow;
Girder Work - Messrs P & W McClellan, Glasgow;
Engineering work - Messrs J & A Taylor, Ayr;
Slater Work - Messrs Miller & Son, Catrine;
Plumbing work - Mr Sproul, Glasgow.

The new mill is expected to be completed and in full working order by the end of October first and it is stated that as a model of completeness in every respect there will be nothing to equal it as a grain mill in Scotland.

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Mauchline fire tender by the old Barskimming Mill, 1892



The new mill at Barskimming, built 1893/4
