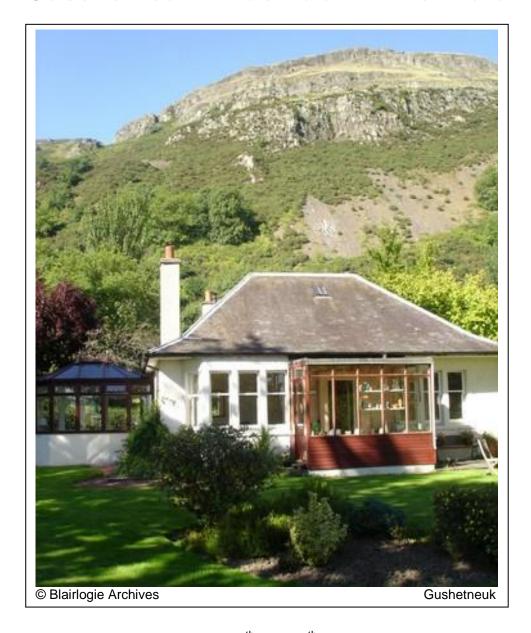
People in Logie Guschetneuk ~ Auchtubh ~ Invermore



Guschetneuk stands on land that, in the 18th and 19th centuries, was part of a larger property known as **The Orchard**. For the first half of the 19th century, **The Orchard** was owned firstly by **John McLeish**, and then disponed by him in 1845 to **James Ferguson** and his new bride **Ann Meek Davison**, in a wedding contract settlement.

The Orchard had been split into two sections by the new turnpike road (now the A91) built around 1806; and when **The Fergusons** sold this estate to **James Kippen** a cattle dealer in 1858, it still consisted of lands on both the North and South of the new road. Shortly after his purchase of the estate, **James Kippen** built the house/houses to be called **Blairlogie Park** on the land to the North of the turnpike road, but the lands of **Blairlogie Park** continued to

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include the section that was to become the home of **Guschetneuk**, through a number of owners until the end of the 1939/45 war.

At that time, **Blairlogie Park** was owned by two ladies called **Mrs. Jennie Finlayson Miller** or **Mitchell** and **Mrs. Margaret Ann Bayne Easson**, who let the front section of the house to **Henry Kirk Maltby –** initially recorded as a NAAFI Clerk, but later (obviously after promotion) to NAAFI Manager.

However, in 1946, the two ladies sold **Blairlogie Park** with all of its grounds to **John Roberts Alec McDonald**, recorded as both a poultry farmer and a music teacher, and **Henry Kirk Maltby** took this opportunity to negotiate the purchase of a section of the **Blairlogie Park** land across the A91 that was to become the home of **Guschetneuk**. The contract document that records this sale dated November 1946 contains a number of fascinating conditions; the key ones being as follows:

- a) Harry Maltby was to pay an annual feu duty to **John McRoberts** as his feu superior, of £7.10.0.
- b) He was to erect one bungalow dwelling house costing not less than £1200 before 12th December 1946.
- c) The Feuer (**Harry Maltby**) would also have the right to build and maintain a stable and coach house or garage and greenhouses but all of these, including the bungalow itself, would need the prior approval of building plans and be insured and maintained to the entire satisfaction of Feu Superior **John McDonald.**
- d) No business was to be carried out at the premises, nor should there be any activity undertaken that was obnoxious or injurious.
- e) The bungalow should be for occupation by one family only.
- f) The entire site was to be enclosed by a five strand wire and stob fence.

How many of these covenants were passed on and observed by subsequent owners and occupiers can only be speculated upon.

However, **Harry Maltby** called his house **Auchtubh**, and he lived there until 1955, when he sold it to **Peter** and **Helen Gray**, who, in their turn, lived there until 1965. **Peter Gray** is described in the Stirling Council Valuation Roll as a Commercial Traveller. **The Grays** renamed the house **Invermore**.

In 1965, **The Grays** sold **Invermore** to **Mr.** and **Mrs**. **Duncan Stewart**, who lived there until 1970, when ownership passed to **Frank Dix Matthews** and his wife **Kate**. They kept the name **Invermore**, and their daughter **Phillipa** was born while they lived there.

In 1973, Frank and Kate Matthews sold Invermore to Captain Stuart Davidson and his wife Anne, and moved on to the courtyard buildings at Powis House, where their son Ben was born during their first year. Kate Matthews is still living there now, although, sadly, her husband Frank died in 1985. Captain Davidson, as with most owners of the house, renamed it on moving in. He called it Guschetneuk. He is believed to be a nephew of Majel Davidson — one of the Powis House Ladies — and they jointly had ties in the Aberdeen area, from where the name Guschetneuk originates. It is rumoured that Captain Davidson moved frequently to various parts of Scotland, and always renamed his houses as Guschetneuk on his arrival. During his time in Blairlogie, he was director of the Tartan Museum in Comrie.

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In 1976, he moved on, and he sold the house to **Alan** and **Catherine Stewart**, who are still in residence today. They had three children when they moved in to **Guschetneuk – Neil**, who was 9; **Malcolm**, who was 7; and **Morven**, who was 6. The children grew up in Blairlogie before "fleeing the nest". **Alan** and **Catherine** have so far resisted the urge to once again rename the house, but they have, in 2008, built a garden room extension that also now acts as the front entrance to the house.

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