

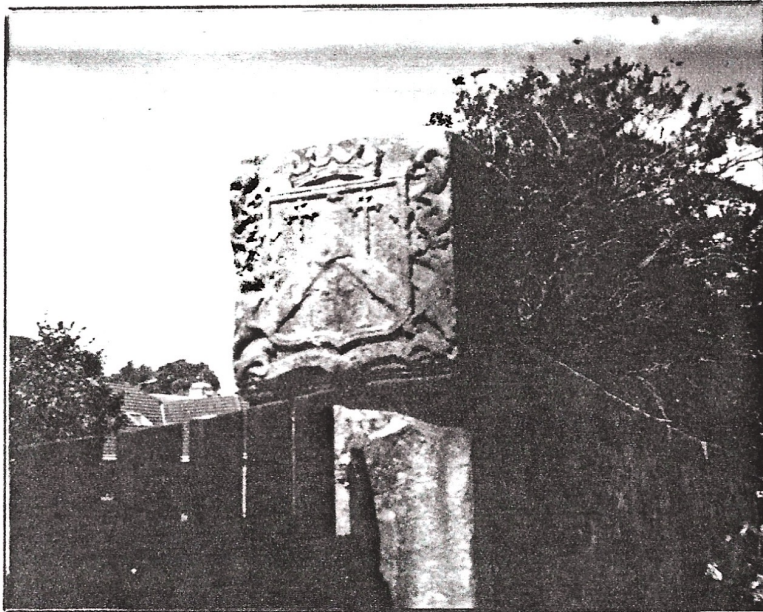
MAYBOLE PAST

THE MARKET CROSS

Maybole became a Burgh of Barony with the granting of a Charter dated 14th November 1516 to the Lord of Cassillis, Gilbert Kennedy the 2nd Earl and to the Provost and Prebendaries of the Collegiate Church. The Town Charter was granted by James V and as he was at that time still a child, was given on his behalf by his guardian, John, Duke of Albany. The Charter notes the fact that the young James V was a cousin of Gilbert Earl of Cassillis.

In addition to the many privileges granted to Maybole, the Charter gave the townspeople the right to have a Market Cross and this was erected in the centre of and midway up the High Street and from it's steps all legal proclamations were made.

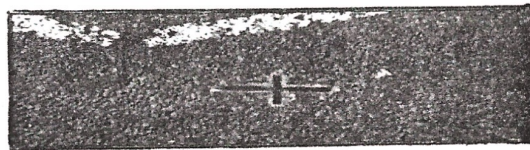
Over the next 250 years traffic in the High Street had increased and Town Council minutes dated 6 October 1773 record that; "The Cross of Mayboill is ane obstruction and hinderance to coaches and carridges" and the Magistrates and Councillors agreed that it should be removed. The steps and shaft of the Cross were then broken up and the two stones forming the head of the Cross were built into a gate within the Castle Gardens.



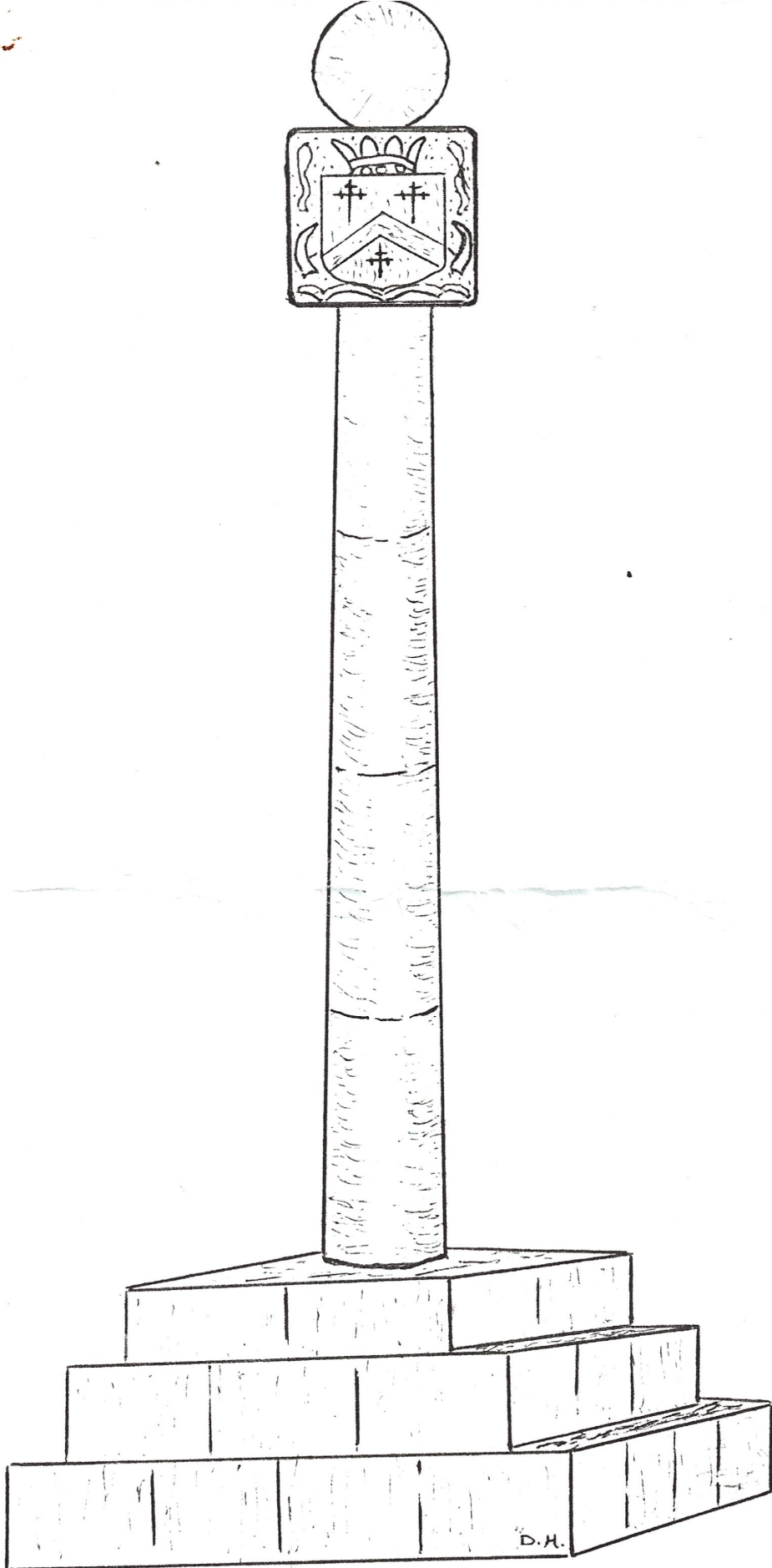
The 'Head' stone of the Cross has the Arms of Cassillis on one side - a lion rampant and the date 1707 on another. The third side has a moondial and the fourth a sundial. This stone must have been placed on top of the Cross many years after it was erected, either to enhance a simple shaft or to replace a damaged top stone.

When the Cross was removed from the High Street it was replaced by a Cross of freestone level with the street and within a circle paved with small whinstone pebbles which the Magistrates; "affirm and ordain to be The Cross of the Burgh of Mayboill in all time hereafter".

By the 1890s the circle of Maybole Cross had been replaced by a square of cobble stones and in more recent times the site is marked by a small metal cross set in the roadway but it is still known by many of the town's older inhabitants as "Maybole Cross".



METAL MARKER SHOWING SITE OF MAYBOLE CROSS



D.H.

MAYBOLE CROSS