

MAYBOLE PAST

CASTLE WELL / MY LORD'S WELL / THE PUMP and ST CUTHBERT'S WELL.



St Cuthbert's Road C 1890 showing The Pump.

The arrow points to the site of St Cuthbert's Well within the walls of St Cuthbert's Shoe Factory.

In 1806 the outhouses of Maybole Castle were demolished and the High Street was extended through the castle grounds to link up with the existing road to Ayr at Duncanland Toll at the north eastern end of Kirkland Street. This new stretch of road was named New Yards and by the end of the 19th century had been renamed Cassillis Road. When the new road was laid out the Castle Well became available for public use and adopted the title My Lord's Well. The overflow from the well emerged several yards downhill at what was known as St Cuthbert's Well from where it continued downhill as a small burn to Market Square (Pat's Corner).

During the early 18th century the Magistrates and Councillors of Maybole drew up several Acts and Statutes and amongst these one legislated, "No person shall presume to wash any foul clothes, fishes or entrails of beasts in the well called St Cuthbert's Well or in the current strain that runs therefrom betwixt the said well and that house called Abbot's Place, under penalty of 22 shillings Scots money". (1 shilling and 10 pence).

An ornamental metal pump surmounted by a gas lamp was fitted over My Lord's Well in 1862 and the locals named it The Pump. About six years later a rough track known as Sniddy Brae which ran from The Pump to Pat's Corner was laid out as a road which was named St Cuthbert's Road. At the same time St Cuthbert's Well was fitted with a trough and was covered over with a brick arch and the small burn which ran down from the well to Pat's Corner was piped underground. In the early 1930s The Pump was removed and St Cuthbert's was sealed and the water from both wells was diverted into the town's drains.

The Pump and St Cuthbert's Well were supplied by springs on Kirklandhill and originally ran down an open watercourse which was piped underground at some period when The Pump was contained within the castle grounds and known as Castle Well. When the Free Church was built in Barns Road in 1844 the congregation intended to have their own burial ground at the church. After the first interment took place the inhabitants in the lower part of the town claimed that their water supply at St Cuthbert's Well had to pass through the Free Church burial ground and complained to the local Magistrates who arranged with the congregation to set aside a substantial part of the town cemetery at Clachan Brae (Crosshill Road) for the exclusive burial of members of the Free Church.

The single interment that had taken place at the Free Church was that of William McFarlane, a local surgeon who died on 21st January, 1849, as the result of a poisoned cut he received whilst carrying out a post mortem examination. Dr McFarlane was allowed to rest where he was buried until June, 1979, when his remains were exhumed and he was reinterred in the former Free Church ground in the town cemetery.

ST CUTHBERT'S WELL. MAYBOLE.



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