

CARTY

TIRE

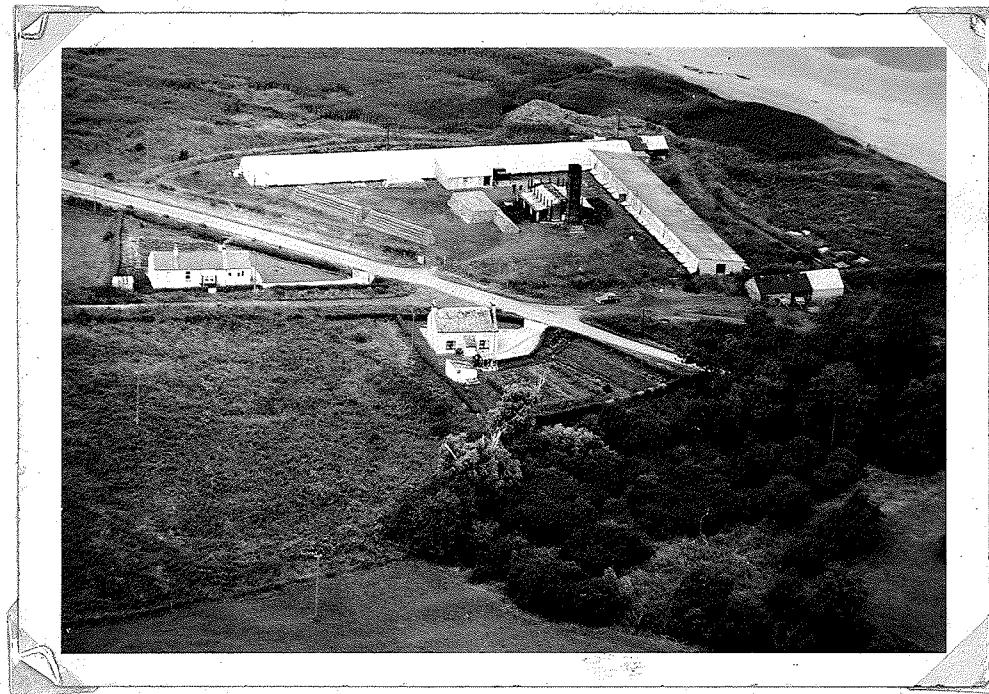
WORKS.

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Aerial View

Carty c. 1970



Craig Gordon

The following information may be of interest to you and your Father.

It would appear that Carty Tile Works was built around 1840/s

Baldoon, Terally, and Auchneel and possibly Penkiln, and Monreith Estates at the same time Made Tiles for draining the estates farms .

It is also reported that in the beginning the Carty Tile works was fired by peat?
Until the ships brought in coal from Mary Port to Carty Port.

The many breakwaters down the river Cree were built around the same time.

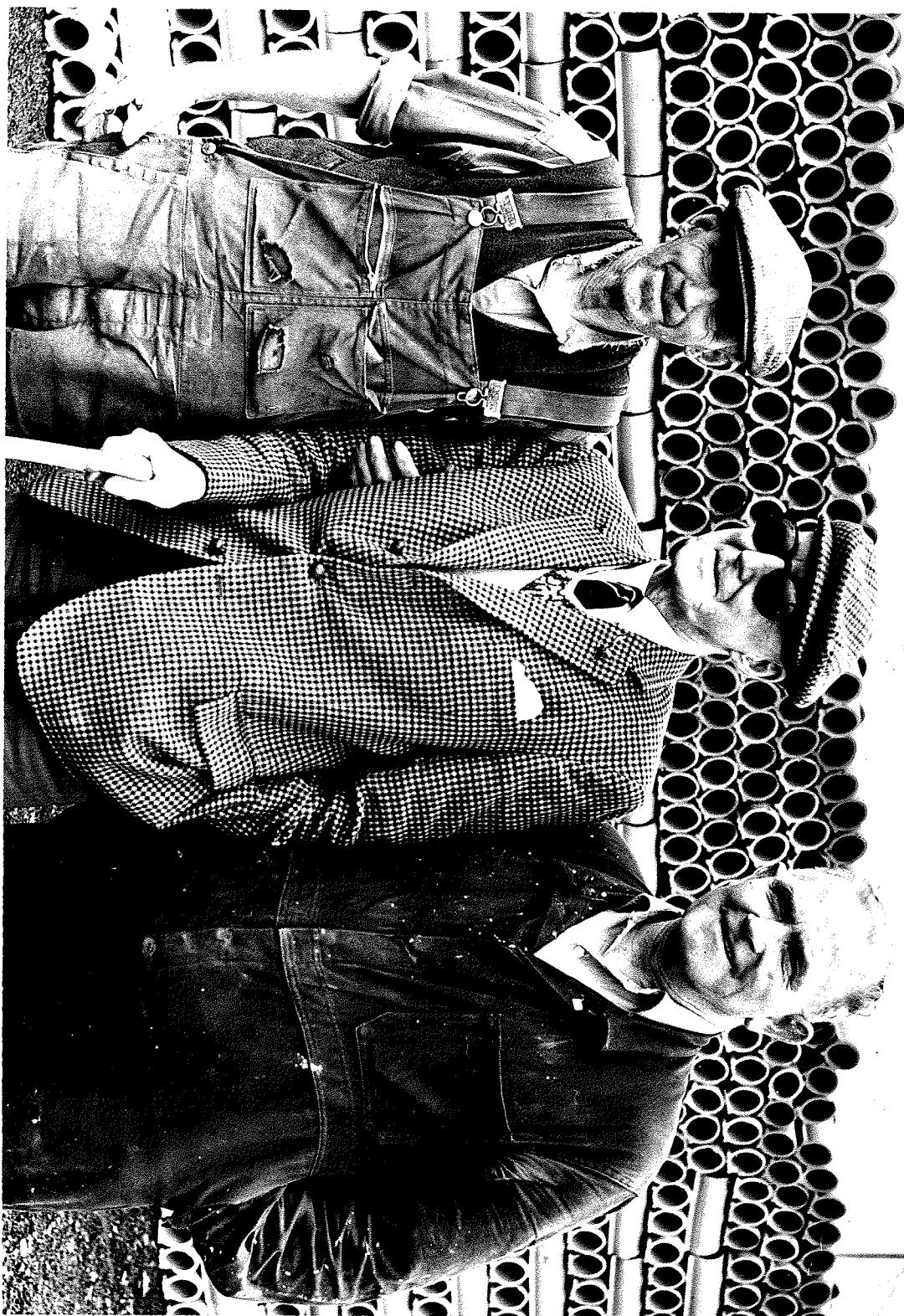
Hope this information is of some use to you Craig

Many thanks for the loan of your Carty Project

Roy McNe

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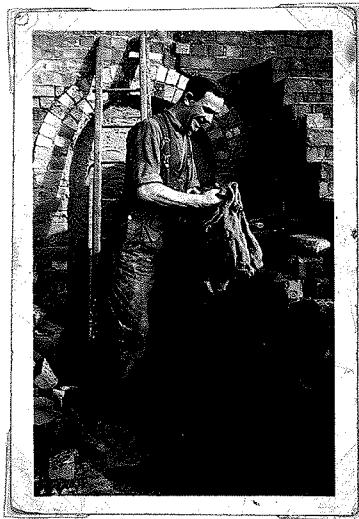
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In this photo there is my grandfather he was the manager of the works, Mr Howie the owner and Mr Mc Keand the longest serving worker at the times.



The old kiln had 50 chimneys. The chimneys were in rows of - 5 - fives.



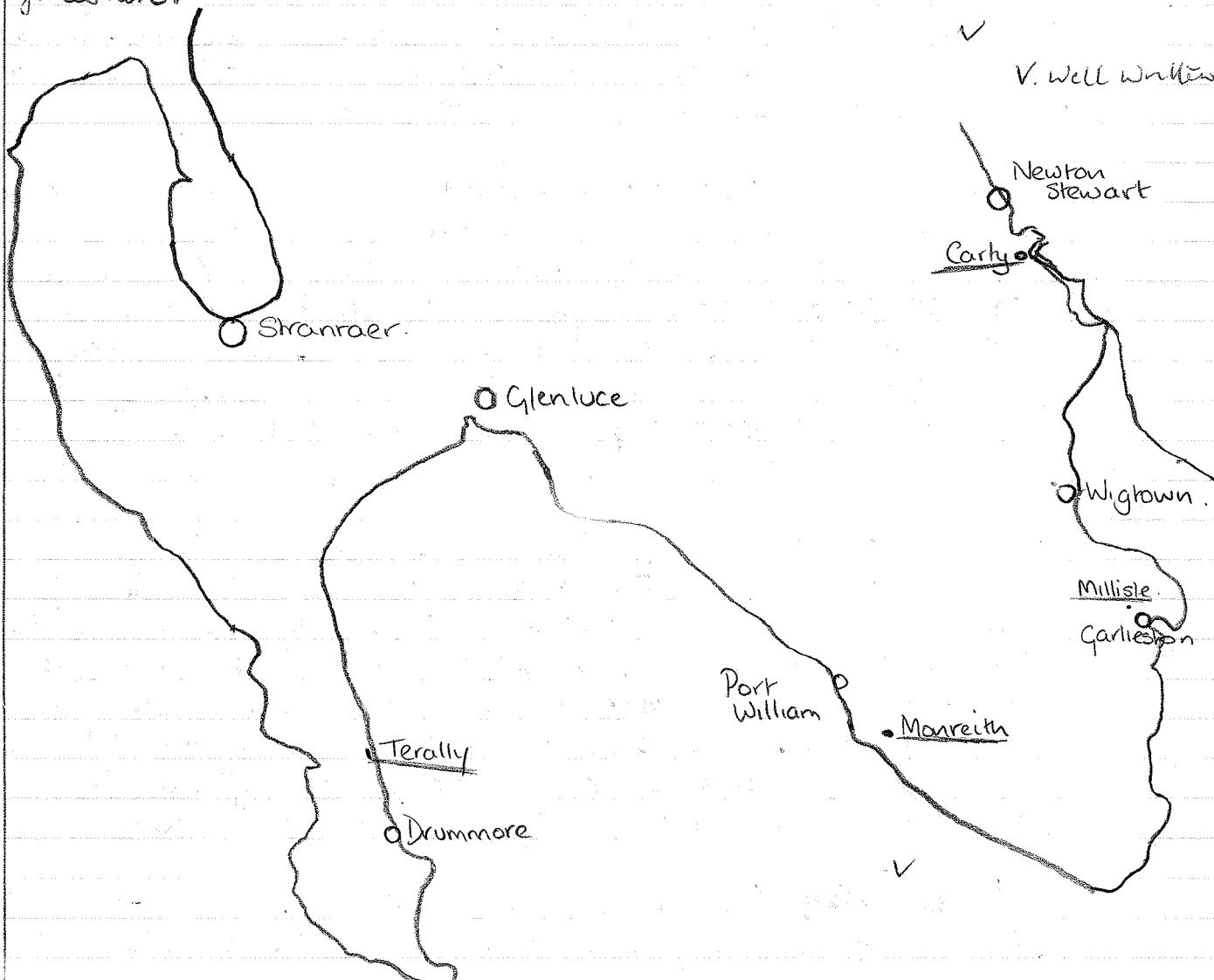
This is my grandfather sealing the door of the old kiln (the one above) just before firing the kiln.

Project - Cartly Tile Works

I'm doing my project on Cartly Tile Work. It is situated about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles out of Newton Stewart, heading towards Wigton. I chose to do this subject because my father and my grandfather worked at it. My father for 16 years and my grandfather for 54 years. My research was helped by my grandfather who supplied all of the photographs; my father helped also, with the way the tiles were made. My mother helped me with the setting out the writing and the photos. Although the Tile Works ceased production in 1978 and finally closed down in 1980, I understand there has been a Tile Works situated at Cartly for over a 100 years.

There used to be at least four works in this area producing agricultural drainage tiles and sometimes bricks. These works were usually connected to estates or groups of farms.

Monreith estate had a tile works; Millisle near Garlieston for Galloway House; and Stair estates had its own works at Terally near Drummore. These Tile Works gradually closed down and the nearest to Cartly would be Ochiltree in Aryshire and Annandale in Dumfrieshire.



V. Well written

The Tile Works is situated beside the River Cree. The land around is composed of clay which is the raw material for making the tiles. The Tile Works used to be situated about 200 metres from where it is now. I can still see some of its remains.

The digging of the clay used to be done by hand with spades. Three men used to dig on three different levels. Altogether the three levels went down 11 ft. The men would fill one cart between them while another cart was taking the clay to the Tile Works. Horses and carts were used to transport the clay. When the clay was extracted from the land directly next to the Tile Works, where the reed beds are now, there was a railway track. On this track would run one barrow. When it was filled a pulley-system would pull it up from where the clay was extracted from. When the barrow was emptied a man would push it back down to be refilled. Later on the Tile Works got a digger which it would be quicker and easier to get the clay to the Tile Works.

After the clay got to the Works it was milled down so it was malleable. The mill was driven by a steam engine which was used up till about 1926. Then it was changed for a paraffin engine called a Tyne. In the 1950's the engine was changed again this time to diesel and again in the late 1950's this time to electrically powered machinery. The diesel engine was called a Ruston. When it was replaced it was sold, transported to London docks and then shipped out to India.

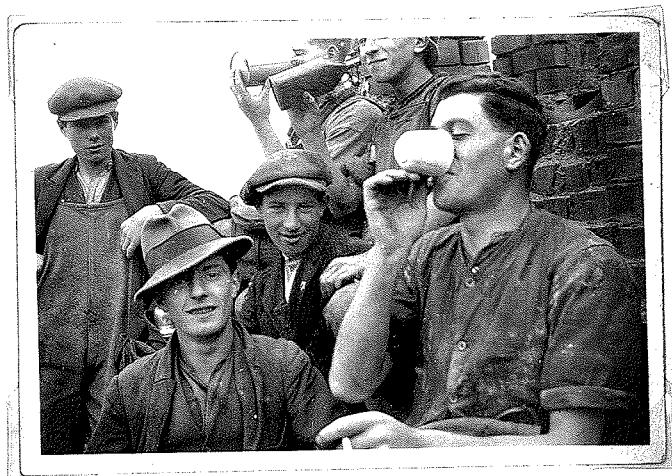
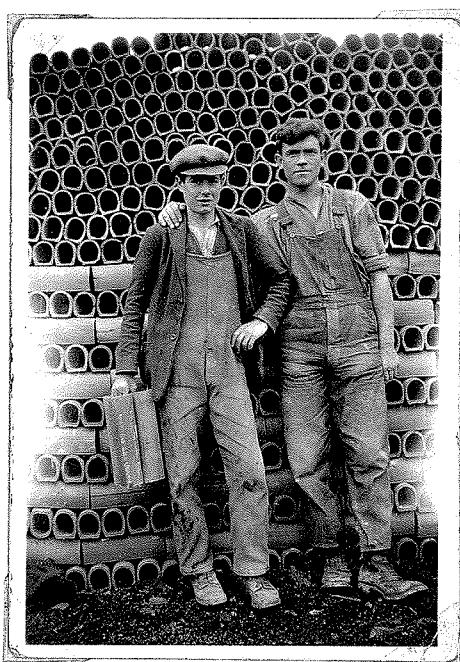
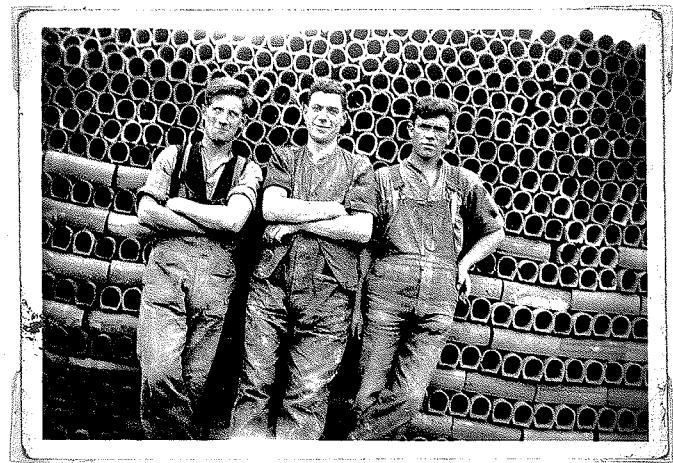
Before the electric machinery the tiles would be shaped by hand one day they would make the tile which was in the shape of a horse shoe, then the next day they would make a flat bottom to fit on the tile. When it was electric it was all done inside the machine. First it would be squeezed through a mould which gave the shape of the tile then it would be chopped off. You could get four tiles out of one mould. The tiles would be cut with a wire gilotine.

Tiles then went through the drying process. In the early days this was all done naturally. The tiles were stacked on pallets in the drying sheds which had side screens which could be lifted during the day to allow circulation of air. The photograph of the works when the new kiln and stack were completed shows the screens clearly in the upright position. Later electric heaters were installed to assist drying in poor weather and latterly the hot air from the kiln was recirculated through ducting back to the drying sheds.

When dried tiles were fired in the kiln. Coal the original fuel and there were 5 fires down each side of the kiln. These had to be

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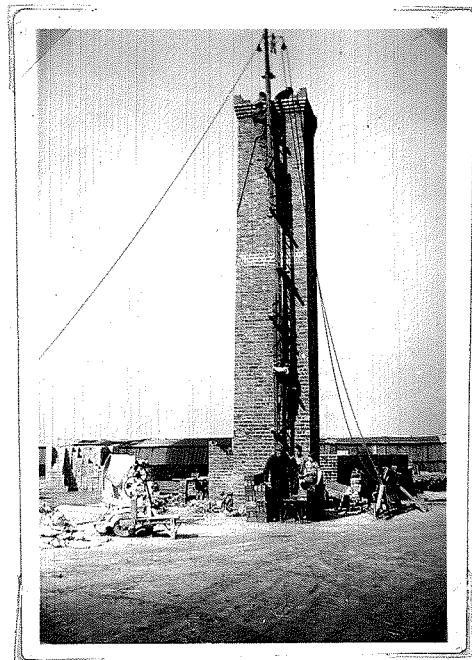
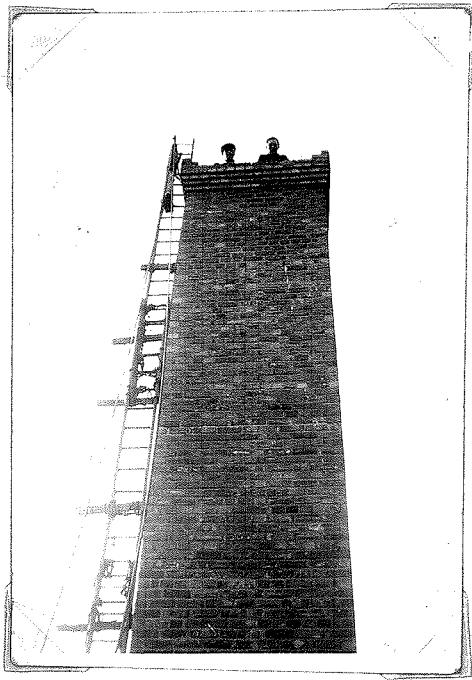


The workers standing
in front of the stacked
tiles

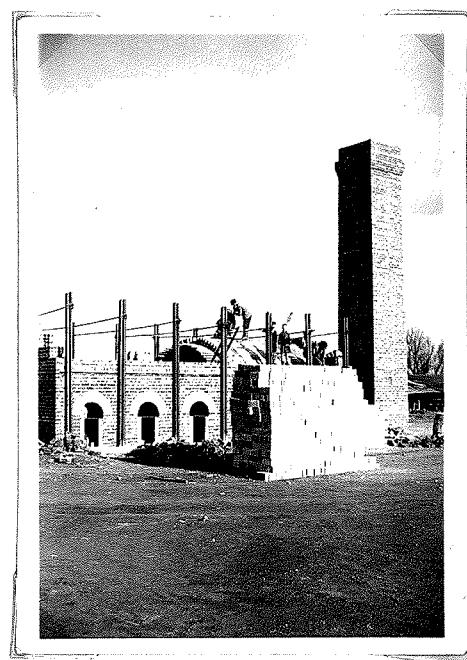
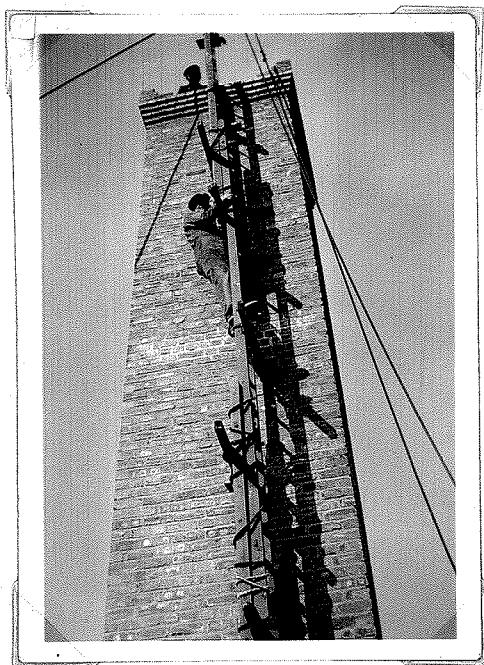


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The chimney stack under construction

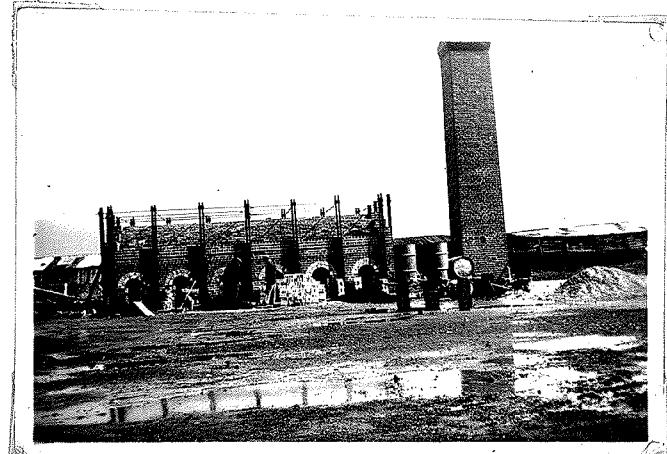
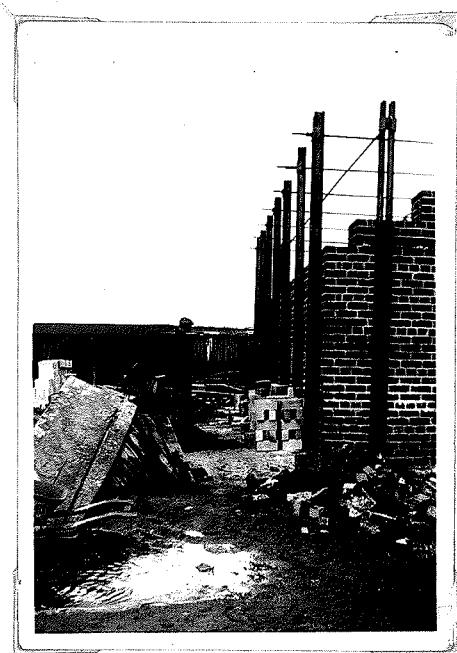


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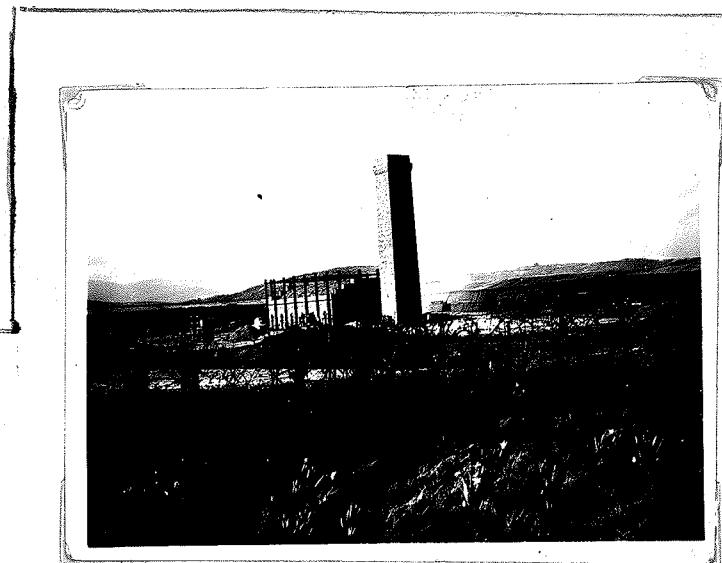
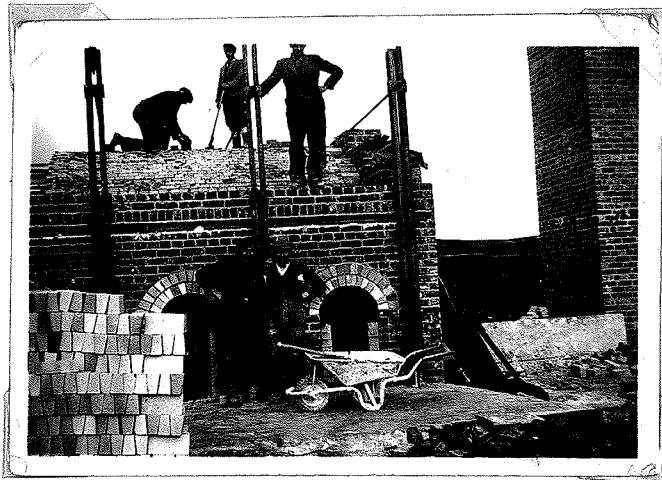
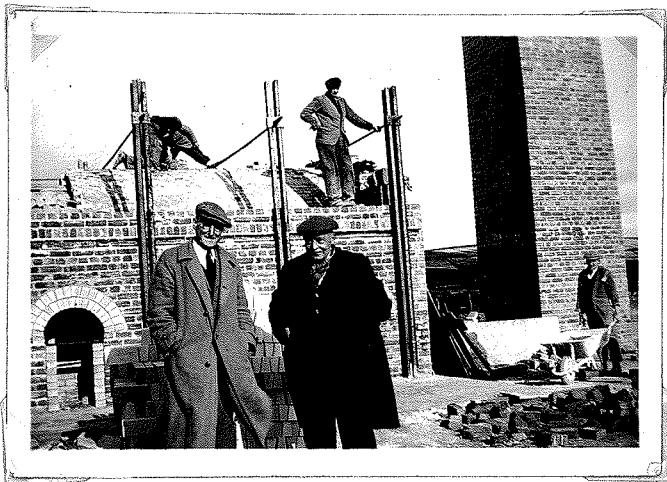
fascinating!

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The kiln under
construction



The completion of
the kiln and chimney
stack.

v

stoked at 1-2 hour intervals over a period of 36-48 hours. The man who stoked the fires was given the cottage rent free in lieu of this work. The door of the kiln was sealed with bricks and a layer of wet clay and the progress of the firing could be watched from inspection holes in the roof of the kiln. The fuel used to fire the kiln in the last few years of production has been diesel oil.

When the firing was completed the tiles were allowed to cool down then the kiln would be emptied and the tiles stacked in the yard ready for delivery all over Scotland and Northern England. In the days of the railway tiles were transported by train. A special siding was constructed at the Nether Barr bridge for the sole use of the tile works.

The tiles produced ranged in size starting at $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and going up to 10". There was no 7" or 9" tiles. In the new kiln the number produced was about 15,000 tiles a week, in the old kiln the number produced was about 12-13,000 a fortnight.

When my grandfather started the work force was on average about 10-12 workers most of which were young men. Their pay would be about 22 shillings a week. Their day would last from 7am till 5pm with a half hour lunch break. When they had finished at the works, in the evening they would then go to help at Cartys farm with the harvest and the hay collecting.

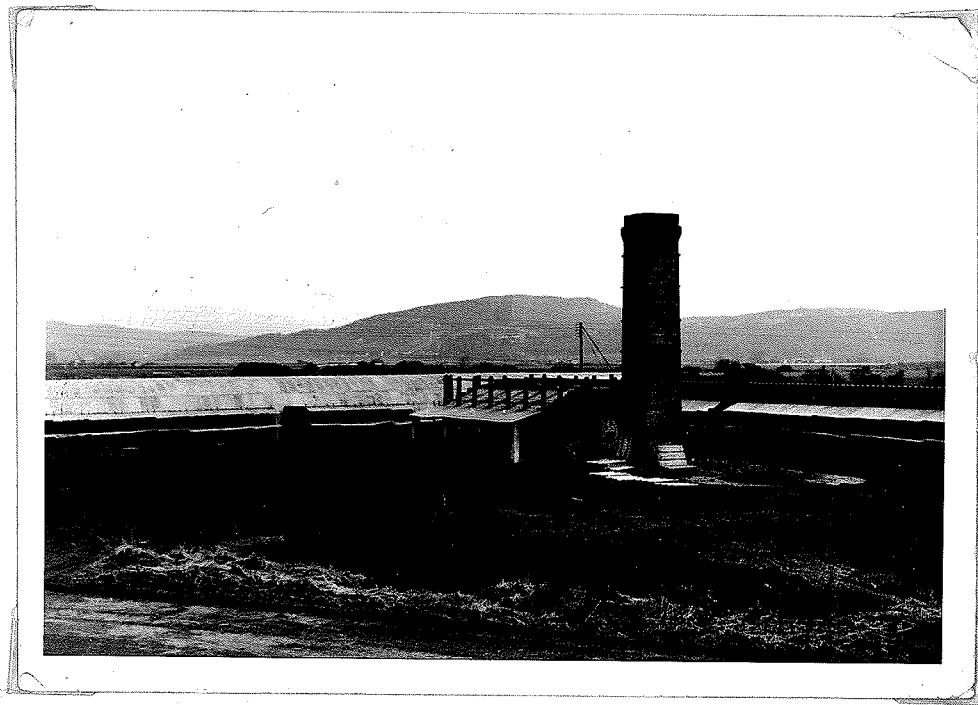
Cartys Tile Works also produced bricks at one time. These were a distinctive reddish brown and can be seen in several buildings in this area. The cinema, Newton Stewart houses in York road and Queen Street, Newton Stewart, Bladnoch Creamery and the Creamery managers house at Bladnoch are made of these bricks. My own house was also built of Cartys bricks and was known at one time as Brick Cottage.

There has been several owners of Cartys Tile Works; David Crawford in the 1940's, A Howie in the late 40's and Wemyss Brick Company of Fife in the 70's till closure. This closure was brought about by increased production cost due to oil prices and the swing of farmers away from traditional drainage tiles to plastic drains.

v Excellent.

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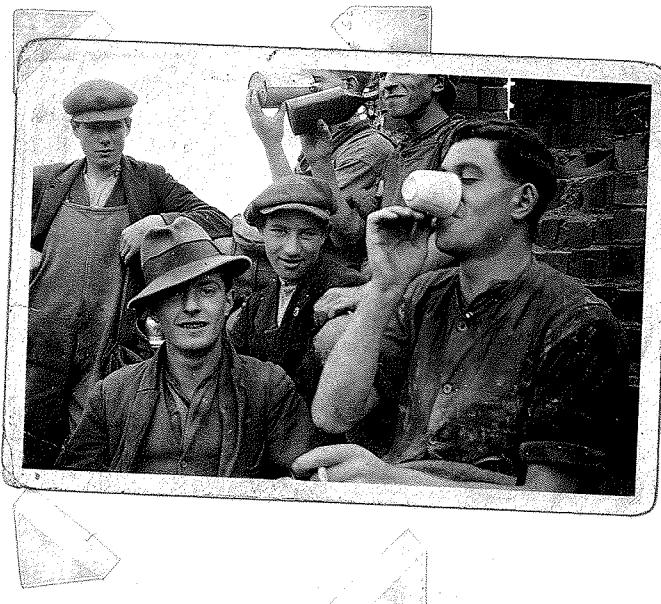
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New Kiln At Carty

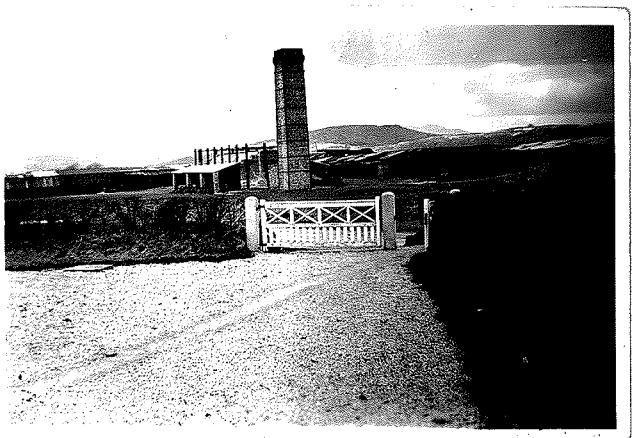
By the time the new kiln and chimney had been completed at Carty Tile Works, Newton-Stewart, between 55,000 and 60,000 bricks were utilised in their construction. By this week the kiln was ready for work, having taken about four weeks to construct. By using this kiln the firm will save coal and burn more tiles in the month. It will in fact step-up production considerably. The new kiln is an up-to-date erection of the down-draft type known as a Ratcliffe. It was built by Mr F. E. Hedges and his son, Mr D. Hedges, who come from Bournemouth, with the assistance of the local workmen at the Tile Works. Mr John Gordon, the manager of the Works, supervised the construction.

The last brick was laid on the new kiln by Mr E. McKeand, Newton-Stewart, who has worked for thirty years at Carty Tile

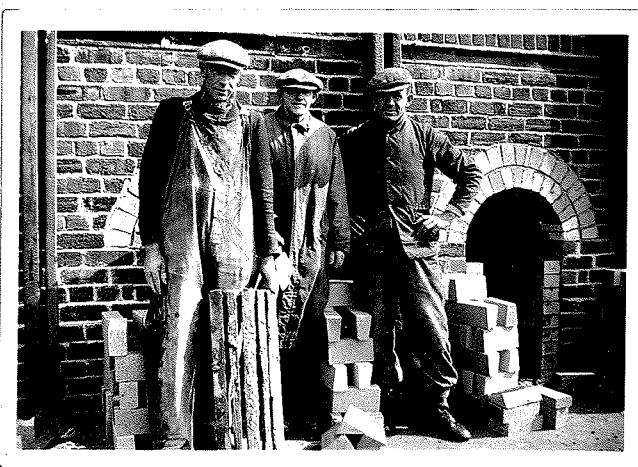
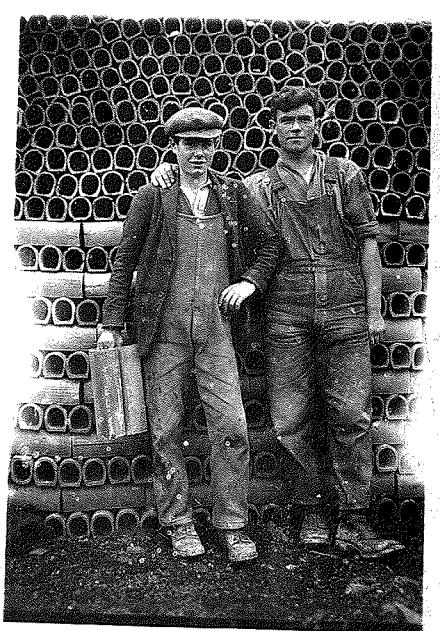




1960



↑
23 March 1952



Sept 1961.



Presentation to John Gordon



Ted McKeand.

