

ABOUT

The Catrine Chronicle

HUGH WILSON POLLOCK was a Catrine man born and bred; from 1895 until his death in September 1908 he was Manager of Catrine Cotton Works. In October 1905 it occurred to him to start writing Catrine news to some of his boyhood companions in other parts of the world. His apparatus, however, barely produced three copies of each letter, so he procured a more sophisticated duplicating apparatus, and in January 1906 started *The Catrine Chronicle* in which he wrote news of the village, sending copies to as many old friends outside Catrine as possible; to overseas “members” he also sent a postcard of some local view.

The *Chronicle* came out more or less monthly, with 23 numbers totalling 82 pages, between January 1906 and August 1908 with a gap from May to December 1907. Numbers 7-8 and 10-11 were double issues covering two months each, as did No.22.

Only one complete set of *The Catrine Chronicle* is now known to exist and can be found in the rare manuscript department of the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. This collection of *The Chronicle* was gathered together by William Young, R.S.W., of Glasgow, whose first 12 years were spent in Catrine. He pasted the numbers into a volume intended for newspaper cuttings, along with copies of the postcards, letters from H.W. Pollock, obituaries of H.W. Pollock, etc. Pollock was unable to provide William Young with a copy of No.1 so he borrowed a copy and produced a pen and ink facsimile.

Pollock edited every issue except No.5 for which Alexander Goldie (of Newmilns) was responsible, with contributions from Andrew and John Goldie and William Aitken, a local poet.

Pollock also wrote almost everything which appeared in the other 22 numbers, apart from another poem by William Aitken in No.19 and a set of articles by Andrew Goldie in Nos. 2 and 23. Additionally an account of a golden wedding in New Zealand by Thos. Finlay in No.9.

The ‘Catrine, Sorn and District Local History Group’ obtained facsimiles of William Young’s “Chronicle” collection from the Mitchell Library and, due to the hand-written nature of the originals and the near-illegibility of some of them, it was proposed that *The Catrine Chronicle* be typeset and printed thus enabling it to be easily read and appreciated by all who are interested. In many of the earlier numbers the duplication was so poor that the contents are almost illegible.

Within the *The Catrine Chronicle* is a veritable wealth of fascinating information about the village, its people and its history.

CATRINE, SORN & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

