

LESMAHAGOW FARMERS' SOCIETY.

**An historical account (in its entirety) as found in
"The Annals of Lesmahagow"**

by Mr. J.B. Greenshields of Kerse.

Published by the Caledonian Press Edinburgh. 1864.

This society was instituted in 1805; rules amended 1850, and revised 1862. It has for its object "the encouragement of farmers in rearing, breeding, and improving their stock, and other agricultural improvements". Membership is secured by payment of an entrance fee of 5s., and 2s. 6d. annually; the members usually numbering upwards of a hundred. The society holds two public meetings each year; the first on the last Friday of June, for the exhibition of farm stock of all kinds, including poultry and agricultural implements; the second on Lammas Fair day in August, for the show of dairy produce. The exhibitors pay certain rates as booking money; and there is a small sum charged to spectators for admission to the show, and applied for the benefit of the funds of the society. There is also an annual ploughing match, which takes place on the first Wednesday of February (weather permitting), and failing that day, on the first favourable Wednesday thereafter. These meetings are well supported by local donations, and by attendance of the resident gentry, farmers, and the public generally. About £100 annually is voted for prizes.

Office-bearers for 1863:

President, John G. McKirdy of Birkwood; Vice-President, J. B. Greenshields, younger of Kerse; Gavin Hamilton of Auldton, Treasurer; James Wharrie of Pathhead, Hon. Secretary; James Telfer, Clerk.

From Lesmahagow Parish Historical Association Archive.
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