

94 Victoria Terrace
Dunfermline
Fife
KY12 0LU
E-MAIL tomminogue01491@gmail.com
TEL: 01383 729869

F.A.O. Steven Grimmond CEO
Fife Council
North Street
Glenrothes
Fife
KY7 5LY

By first class post and e-mail 24/01/22

Dear Steven,

Firstly thank you for your assistance in expediting my library requests which had dragged on for some time and following my e-mail to you, as Chief Executive of Fife Council the message was passed on to the ONFife team and the library items were promptly made available, which allowed me to complete that part of my research into the 1850 Navy Riots or Irish Evictions at Dunfermline.

Which brings me nicely to my next request, which is directly connected to the historic troubles in Dunfermline when all Irish residents were forcefully evicted from their homes and marched the 10 kilometres to North Queensferry where they were only stopped from being sent across the Forth by the intervention of the Sheriff Substitute of Dunfermline, the Provost of Inverkeithing, who had deputised a band of quarrymen from the Carlin Knowes quarry, and the arrival of a troop of Dragoons from Jock's Lodge barracks.

That this was an awful act isn't simply my opinion, but is a matter of record which was ably stated by the Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Hope a few years later when he rejected a petition for clemency for one of the mob leaders. Lord Hope stated: ***"The riot in which the Townspeople of Dunfermline were engaged was a very alarming & general riot & the Irish were treated with great barbarity and expelled out of the Town, women & infants as well as men, in a most outrageous & cruel manner..... The Riot was regularly conceived & planned – no one therefore had any excuse who joined in it: It's purpose was open & avowed: All that was done was executed deliberately & by great violence: The Individual acts of violence charged agt Black & His son & others to which He pleaded guilty prove very direct action & leading participation in the illegal objects & outrageous conduct of the Mob.***

That the Magistrates & others may have a strong feeling agt the Irish Catholics & in favour of the Townspeople is very far from recommending in my opinion any Mitigation of this lenient Sentence."

Full details of the 1850 incident can be found on my blogsite here:

<https://www.tomminogue.com/tom/>

Given that this event was a major one in Dunfermline history I would like to see a memorial to it erected at Carlin Knowes Quarry on the Fife Coastal Path. This would mark the vile and violent expulsion of the decent Irish families who were forced from their Dunfermline homes and corralled there, but also the honourable local officials who, with the help of the Queensferry quarrymen, put an end to it.

Such a memorial would make sense and would also commemorate the start point of the journey from North Queensferry back to Dunfermline taken by the evicted, beaten, weary, Irish immigrants when the Dragoons arrived.

This journey took them on the same road walked by another immigrant the Hungarian born, Saxon Princess, Margaret of Wessex (Later Queen of Scotland then Saint Margaret) in 1068.

That journey is commemorated by St. Margaret's Stone at a spot just south of Dunfermline where she was reputed to have taken a rest.

So my request to you is that we commemorate the Irish evictions at the other end of the road?

I would be willing to contribute to the cost of such a memorial.

Please consider this as a formal request?

Thanking you in anticipation of your prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Minogue.