

FULLARTON [FOWLERTOUNE] Motto- Lux in Tenebris-Light into Darkness

The Fullarton crest is a hawk over three otters, with a foliage background, it symbolises their role on the land .

In 1240 a troop of soldiers, accompanied by an order of monks, set out from Irvine heading south along the Ayrshire coastline from their barracks back in Irvine. Their task was to prepare the planting of large swaths of virgin land, at a place later to be known as Troon. Their purpose was to produce food for the large number of troops back at Irvine. The expedition were not just Norman Knights, trained fighting men, but they were also specialist in their field, skilled agriculturist, horticulturist, farmers, beekeepers and poultry men, as well as other skilled workforce needed to cultivate the fields.

Leading the group was an expert fowler and landowner, Alanus de Fowlerton, not his French surname, but his job description, 'Alan, fowler of the town'. Being religious, Norman Knights always travelled with their loyal group of monks, who were from the order of the white monks from Fowlertoune, Alanus de Fowlertoune's estate at Irvine. They were the same order of monks already residing at Crosby , which would appear not to be a coincidence , but more of a planned land grab by the troops.

Records show Fowlertoune took over the land at Crosby, establishing a right of ownership after being granted Crosbie estate from Robert 11, King of Scotland in 1344. In the same year they built Crosbie Castle, known to have had a number of extensions, over the centuries, as well as being rebuilt at least three times. The design of the castle followed the same shape and style as at Dundonald, positioned facing south to withstand any attacks from the sea. In 1673 the castle was partially dismantled to build the first Fullarton House, a grand mansion to celebrate William Fullarton's marriage to his third wife, Anne Brisbane from Largs.

When the original Castle was built, it was deliberately erected over a small river that flowed under the castle through the dungeons, it was not only a fresh water source for the occupants, but it also was an ideal cold dark place to hold criminals awaiting sentencing. As prominent land owners the Fullartons had been given the legal right of justice to administer the laws of the land, called Pit and Gallows. A Justice pillar was placed at Lawhill, where sentencing was carried out. Criminals were then hung from the trees, to act as a deterrent for travellers passing by on the main road from Ayr to Irvine. In the 50's the Council relocated the Justice Pillar from Lawhill, to protect from the elements and can be seen today at the edge of a private residence, adjacent to the cottages on the Isle of Pins Road .

All that was left of the castle was the dungeon, used by the Fullartons as a sort of fridge, or better known locally as 'the ice-house', where freshly slaughtered meat, dairy, vegetables milk and fruit were stored. Unfortunately Troon Town Council demolished Fullarton House in 1969, removing the upper structure of the Castle as well. The dungeon was filled in with soil, in the interest of public safety. This ruin still remains in the woodland, beneath overgrown foliage.

For nearly 600 years the Fullarton family owned the lands of Troon , the last custodian was Colonel William Fullarton, distinguished soldier and politician, who at an early age was elected to Westminster to represent Ayrshire . He was appointed secretary to Lord Stormont at the very young age of 21. Like his ancestors, he had a vast knowledge of horticulture and farming from running his estate, which resulting in the government asking him to write a select paper as part of the

Agriculture Bill going through parliament. Fullarton stepped down from Parliament to go to India, to fight in the war that had broken out. On his return he entered parliament once more, only to lose his seat in a general election in 1790. He returned to Troon with a determination to gather an army on his estate as he was convinced France was preparing to invade Scotland. He reached this conclusion after a visit from Louis XIV to Fullarton. The financial outlay for this private army was crippling Fullarton's finances, which were rapidly depleting and by 1804 he was declared bankrupt. Col. Fullarton had never married and with no heirs to take over his debt, he was left with no other option, but to put his vast estate on the market for sale.

The Duke of Portland [Then the Marquis of Titchfield] bought Fullarton's estate in 1805. Col. Fullarton moved to London to stay with friends, where he died in 1807. His closest friends believed he died of a broken heart.

The establishment of Alanus de Fowlertoune at Crosbie was to be the origins of name Fullarton in Scotland. In regular use in Irvine as it is in Troon led to the registration of the name and formation of the Clan F