

## DROVE ROADS

### DID YOU KNOW?

Cattle droving in Scotland was an established profession from the 16th century, and many migrants to North America in the 18th and 19th centuries who had droving skills took cowboy jobs in the American West.

A drove would consist of 200 or more cattle, with one man for every 50 or 60 cattle. They went at a steady pace averaging 12-15 miles per day.

The cattle were shod for the journey and accounts vary as to whether the shoes were fitted at the outset of the drive or when rough roads were reached. The 'cues' were made of thin, crescent-shaped metal plates and, to be fully shod, a beast needed two to a hoof, but often only the outer hoof was covered. To accomplish the operation, its front and back legs were tied together and the animal thrown on its back. An experienced man could shoe seventy beasts a day.

It is a little known fact that Rob Roy was a drover. On his visits to the area he stayed in the "Rob Roy" room in Ashintully Castle as a guest of the Spaldings. The Rob Roy room exists in Ashintully Castle to this day.

In the middle of the 18th century, Kirkmichael was the site of one of the principal cattle markets in Scotland