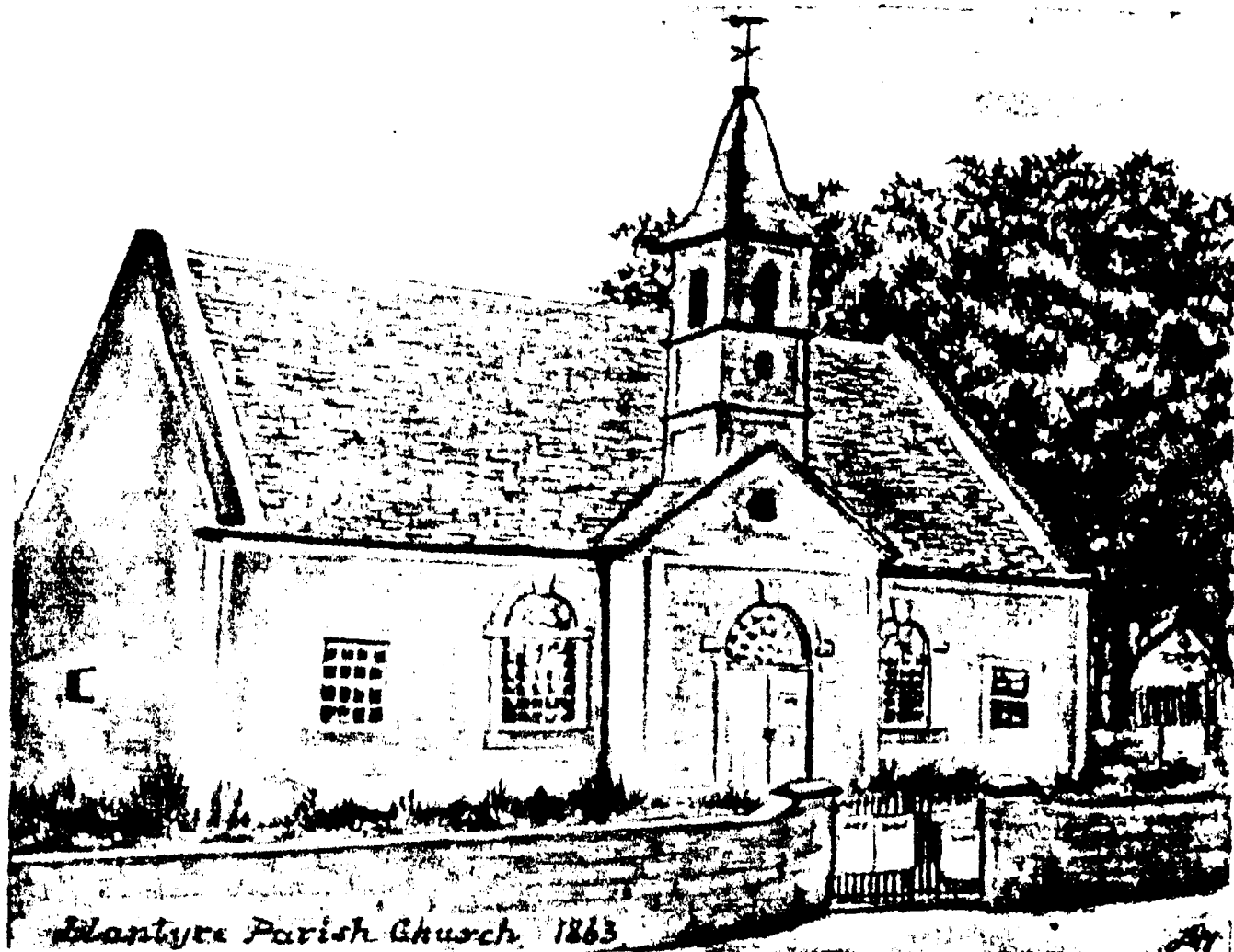


The Kirkyard is shown in old maps from the seventeen hundreds. The Old Parish Church of High Blantyre (shown) stood on the site of a previous Church. The previous Church was quote "both a beautiful and substantial structure, its style of architecture being somewhat akin to that of the neighbouring Parish Church of Bothwell", unquote. It was certainly here in 1567 when Chirnsyde took charge, and where there was a Church there was a graveyard. The oldest gravestone we have discovered so far is dated 1665 and is Rev. John Herriot, 90, born 1575, when Mary, Queen of Scots, was on the Throne.

Rev. Stevenson writes of it in 1785:- there is no record of the time when the Church was built. It bears evident marks of great antiquity and is in a most deplorable condition. Seven years afterwards the Presbytery of Hamilton condemned the building as unsafe and unfit for worship owing to decay and rottenness, and so it was pulled down and another one, shown, was built in its place. This building itself was demolished in the 1860s.

Historical note:- 7th. May, 1587, motion is made of a Smith in Blantyre, that must be agreed with about mending the HIE KIRK KNOCK. (Glasgow Ancient & Modern. page 117.)



Dated 1773 this map shows the Church which existed previous to the one shown overleaf. The position of the Barons tomb suggests it was within the South Transept of this Church. When the Church was demolished in 1795 the Transept was left intact and



bricked off to protect the grave. When the new Church was built in the post Reformation style (without Transepts) the tomb was then close to the Church wall, as shown in the map below dated 1860s. When the Rev. S. Wright penned the "Annals of Blantyre" he described the building as an ugly edifice. This was eventually removed, and in the 1940s was concreted over. What we see to-day is where the original floor lay.



This is the Church where David Livingstone was baptized and, using the tomb as a ref. Point, and knowing that all Altars were in the east side of the Church, it is easy to work out where the Altar stood.