

## THE DOUGLAS ARMS

A KEY LOCATION in the #GoCrocketteering literary tourism trails.

See [www.gallowayraiders.co.uk](http://www.gallowayraiders.co.uk) for more information.



2019 sees the 120th anniversary of the publication of *Kit Kennedy*, which features the Cairn Edward Arms – immediately recognisable as the Douglas Arms notably in Chapter Thirty Three. It is here that Crockett's alter ego, Kit Kennedy, the hero of the story, sits and wins the Bursary exam which takes him to Edinburgh University. We can assume that Crockett writes from his own memory of doing so in 1876.

*'Now the Union of Galloway Associations held its annual meeting in Cairn Edward at the time of the examinations. And the unfortunates who had their papers to write indited them in the assembly rooms of the leading hotel, the Cairn Edward Arms, amid a distant fusilade of popping corks, intermittent sounds of revelry, and the constant trampling of innumerable feet in the passages without.*

*Cairn Edward itself was new to Kit. That is, he had been in the little town on Sabbaths when all the shops wore their shutters—except the Apothecaries' Hall, which, had two down, and looked in its staid responsibility like a sportive parson who has lost a couple of teeth, and who knows he ought not to be smiling under the garish light of day. But Kit had never seen Cairn Edward on a Monday. And that not a common Monday either, but the red-letter day when the Union of Galloway Societies met in the town and held its great dinner in the evening... It was in the big barren room where, during election times, meetings of the general Conservative Committee are mostly held that Kit first revealed himself as a rival to his mistress's son.'*

In his non fiction work *Raiderland* (1904) Crockett writes of The Douglas Arms:

*'The Douglas Arms, where the most kindly thoughtfulness has long been traditional. Here the traveller will find the best of horses to carry him on a score of interesting excursions, and the best of good cheer to return to at his day's ending.'*

You can buy all Crockett's Galloway based novels in paperback or ebook and if you take part in #GoCrocketteering you can get free ebooks, in exchange for taking #SlateSelfies.