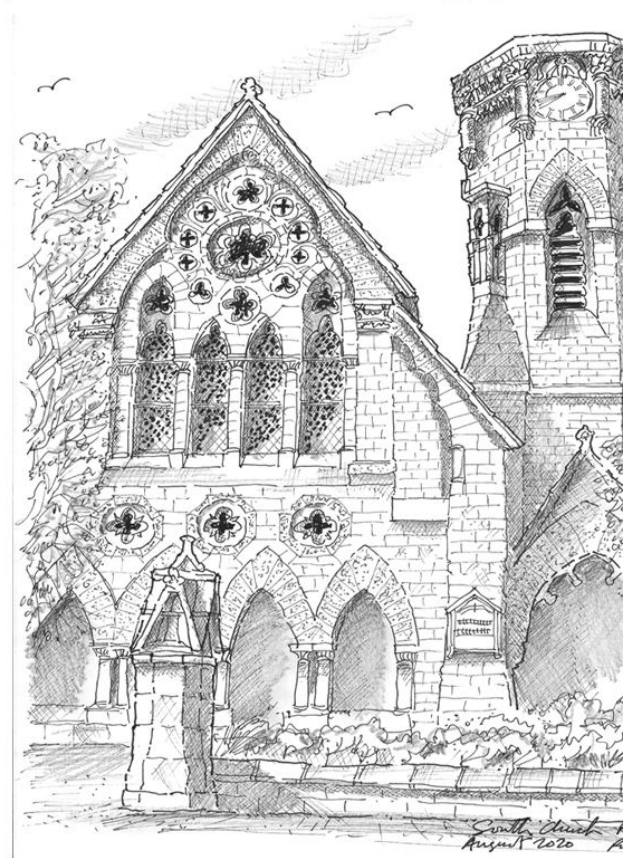
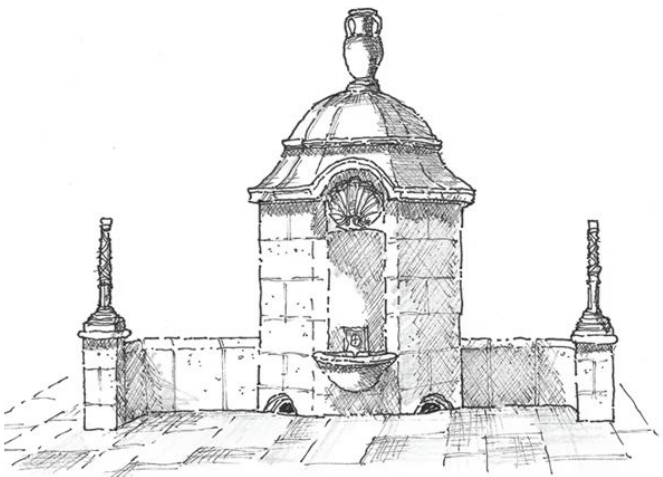




PENNY 'TOONS

VALLEYFIELD'S NAPOLEONIC
PRISONERS OF WAR



Penicuik Community Development Trust



HERITAGE FUND



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA



Midlothian



In May, 1803, War broke out between major European countries, including Great Britain and France. As a result, huge sea and land battles took place between the major powers.



These battles led to huge numbers of prisoners being taken on both sides. French prisoners in Scotland were first kept at Edinburgh castle until the numbers became so great that they were marched to new prisons in Penicuik!



Make-shift prisons were made in the existing Valleyfield Papermills. Paper had been made in Penicuik for bank notes, maps, books and paintings.

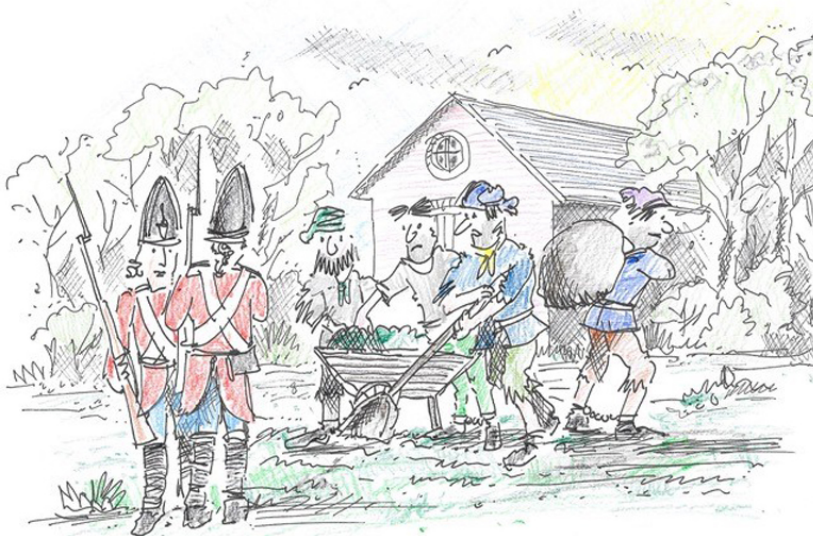
Unfortunately, over-crowding was common - the prisons were so crowded that major accidents happened such as floors collapsing due to the weight of so many men!



Cold winters and strict living conditions made life at the Penicuik prisons hard. So much so that escape attempts were common. While some prisoners escaped, many were recaptured, or sometimes shot, in the surrounding countryside



One way that prisoners kept busy, and made some money while jailed, was to craft items such as model ships out of bone and straw. More devious prisoners created fake bank notes to be spent in the local area.



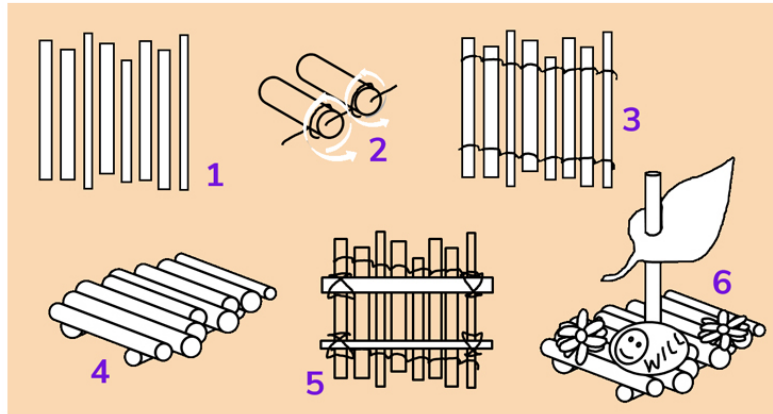
As the war continued prisoners were put to work in Penicuik and the surrounding towns. Working on farms was the most common - under guarded supervision.

This was the life of the Napoleonic Prisoners at Penicuik until the war ended in 1815 when most would return to their families, or maybe even choose to start a new life in Scotland.

Craft a Model Raft

Prisoner WordSearch

Prisoners used bone and whatever other materials to craft complex model ships and dolls in order to pass time and make money. Below is a quick guide to build your own model raft. (We'll use twigs rather than bone!)



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U Z K J K E G R A G G R O N W
W K I Q P I I D R Q Y W R P B
V Z K A F K U E F H T H P K L
D O C Q Y E A C N I A T I R B
K S F F F T B X I C T R I R G
E P D H J Q G Y U N G X N E R
H G R U B N I D E U E B S E F
V A L L E Y F I E L D P R Y O
H H Z M R D N U H K S O K K C
S I Q L E M V X Z F O T X U F
E F Q O C T O B D D M H A C Y
A K O K N J T D A N G J A M N
R G E Y A O L M E D W V T E E
X M R B R K E G A L F S G P V
B M N S F X Y S K L S B L T U
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Words: Penicuik Edinburgh Britain
Escape Sea Models
France Valleyfield

You will need: scissors
1 leaf
6 pieces of string, one metre each.
8 roughly similar length twigs, 1 thinner twig
and two slightly longer.

1. Line up the 8 similarly sized twigs.
2. Wind one piece of string round and under the end of each twig using an u and under pattern.
3. When the final twig is reached tie a knot to fix that end in place.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the other ends of the twigs.

5. Lay and tie to secure your two longer twigs to the bottom of each end as shown. They should reach each end.
6. Carefully slot the thinner twig to afix to the middle of your raft. This will act as you flagpole. Poke the leaf through your twig.

Send her on her Maiden Voyage!