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Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive

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PERTH THEATRE
GRAND ANNUAL PANTOMIME



LUCKY PROGRAMME 5263

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Notes from our Chairman

On 12th September 2017 the new Provost of Perth and Kinross, Cllr Dennis Melloy, visited the Archive at our invitation. He was conducted round by our Archivist, Ishbel MacKinnon, and accompanied by myself and our Treasurer, David Perry. He enjoyed his visit and having accepted the position of one of our Honorary Presidents, intends to come to our AGM on 24th May 2018.

Given recent changes in the rules governing gift aid we recently asked all members to sign a gift aid form. If anyone has not signed and returned their form I would ask you to do so whenever you can. This is very important because of the financial boost gift aid can deliver to charities. In our case, since the new rules came in our income from this source has risen from just under £200 in financial year 2016-17 to over £1,000 in 2017-18.

As members will recall in the Autumn 2017 edition of the newsletter, I said that your committee had hoped to be able to publish Donald Abbott's latest booklet about the Carse of Gowrie before Christmas 2017. Unfortunately the problems referred to then proved difficult to overcome but we have now managed to do that. The main difficulties related to copyright and to the number and size of the illustrations as well as to the bibliography, which this old librarian felt needed to be fully standardised. So, our new target is to get the booklet into print later this Spring. I cannot give a precise date but what I can tell you is that its title will be *Curiosities of the Carse of Gowrie* and that we are very much looking forward to its release.

Our summer outing this year was to Hopetoun House archive and the Scottish Conservation Studio near South Queensferry on 12th April. We will report back on this fascinating visit in the next newsletter.

Finally I would like to thank our intern, Curstaidh Reid, for all her work cataloguing the Perth Theatre papers and for writing an article about it for this issue of our newsletter. I hope this experience will stand her in good stead as her career progresses.

Alan Grant

News from the Archive

During the past six months our archive outreach activities have continued apace, as we delivered talks, visits, exhibitions and workshops for a wide variety of audiences across Perth and Kinross. A highlight was “Explore Your Archive” week in November when 32 visitors joined us for behind-the-scenes tours of the Archive and enjoyed looking at a small display of our treasures. As part of the event, we held mini “Perthshire’s Rural Past” exhibitions in our community libraries and delivered a talk on the same subject in A K Bell Library. We also participated in a ‘Twitter War’ with Dundee University and Glamis Castle Archives, a morning of archival one-upmanship where we showcased some of the most interesting and unusual documents from our collections. “Explore Your Archives” is an important event in the national archive calendar, which encourages archives all over the UK to promote their collections and inspire people to discover the joy of historical research; this year we plan to deliver an even bigger programme and will provide further details in the Autumn Newsletter.

Between November and February we hosted visits from 93 pupils from five schools who were undertaking local history projects. We also welcomed members of the Carse of Gowrie Sustainability Group to an exhibition on Patrick Matthew of Gourdiehill, the Scottish horticulturalist and thinker, who is credited with discovering the principles of “Natural Selection” several years before Darwin published his *Theory*. Matthew corresponded with landlords and philosophers of his day and we are fortunate to hold several of his letters to Lord Kinnaird amongst The Kinnaird Papers (MS 100).

This year we are re-running our successful ‘Charterhouse Workshops’, which introduce participants to palaeography and historical research and are delivered in partnership with Dr Lucy Dean of the University of the Highlands and Islands. The first two classes have already been delivered but there is still space to join the last two on 28th April and 12th May.

During the winter we were also working hard writing an Archive Strategy which will form the basis of the Archive’s development over the next five years. The strategy covers all the important areas of archive management: collections care; cataloguing; access; volunteering and digital development. We will begin to implement it during the Spring by revising our Collecting Policy and updating our search-room guidance and we will consult with the Friends, researchers and depositors to ensure it reflects the expectations and needs of all our users.

In December we prepared our 2017 “Annual Return of New Accessions” for The National Archives which amounted to 76 deposits covering a wide variety of subjects. Highlights include records of McEwens of Perth, United Auctions Ltd., Errol Reed-beds and Perth Methodist Church. There were also many smaller deposits such as the personal papers of William Cuthbert Christie (c1891-c1977), who was pipe-major with the Perth and District Pipe Band during the First World War, and a commemorative photograph album of George VI and General Sikorski’s visit to the Polish army in Blairgowrie in March 1941. It looks like 2018 will be just as busy, as we have already accessioned 35 new deposits since January!

Ishbel MacKinnon

Perth Theatre Archive Intern

Hello everyone, my name is Curstaidh and from July – October 2017 I worked in the Archive as the Perth Theatre Archive Intern. Many of you were very interested in the work I was doing, so I thought I would memorialise the experience in an article for the newsletter.

The Perth Theatre collection (ref. no. MS8) is a very sizeable chunk of the Perth and Kinross Archive (currently it measures around seven linear metres across seven bays on the upstairs level of the repository) and we are expecting even more items to arrive in the future. There are over 4,000 items in the collection, ranging from minute books, salary books and administrative files to correspondence, photos, programmes and posters. Having researched other theatre archive collections in the UK, I can assure you that Perth Theatre boasts one of the richest and most varied archive collections out there!



Mother Goose (MS8/9/1)

Images from Perth Theatre programmes courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

Due to time restrictions, the archive had originally been catalogued and organised into the order in which the items had been received. This meant that the catalogue followed an illogical structure and the descriptions of items were fairly basic, both factors making it difficult for users wishing to search the collection.

It was my job to look through all the items and compile more accurate and detailed descriptions, highlighting important content and taking note of any mistakes along the way. With a better idea of what was actually in the collection, I could then make a more logical structure which grouped similar files and items together and prioritised the most important types of records.

The last task was to update all the old reference numbers to the new ones, both on CALM (the archive cataloguing system) and on the physical items. This activity would also give me the opportunity to repackage any items which were damaged or where the packaging was not up to archival standards.

I cannot emphasize enough what a joy it was to go through all of the items in the archive, but I have chosen a few of my favourites to highlight for you.

The first is David Steuart's audition notebook (MS8/3/4/15), in which you can read the notes made by the Artistic Director of Perth Theatre for auditions he presided over between 1961 and 1962. With lots of papers attached, this notebook shows us the process that actors went through from sending in their application to auditioning to receiving an offer of the part.

My second treasure would be the papers relating to the organisation of tours 1956-1973 (MS8/4/3), which offer a fascinating insight into the organisation of the many tours that the Perth Theatre group went on in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

The distances they travelled and the length of time they spent on tour is incredible, especially considering the road conditions in certain parts of Scotland at the time!



Selection of memorabilia from the Perth Theatre archive (MS8/4/3)

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

Finally, the papers of the Perth Playgoers Club 1967-1968 (MS8/11/2/1) provide the chance to look at how the local community supported the theatre and would be particularly apt for the Friends to peruse given the similar role that your good selves play for the Archive. You can also check out the minute book of the theatre's Committee of Management (MS8/1/1/1) in which they make frequent mention of the support of the Playgoers Club.

To end this article, I would like to offer my sincere thanks for welcoming me to the Archive, sharing your enthusiasm for the Perth Theatre collection and for helping to make such an invaluable experience as interning at the Archive a possibility.

Curstaidh Reid

Dr Margaret Stewart, Perthshire's Archaeologist



Dr Margaret Stewart

Image courtesy of Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Seventy years ago, Dr Margaret Stewart established the Archaeological Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science (hereafter PSNS). In 2012, I suggested an annual lecture to celebrate her contribution to Scottish archaeology and the Society; many Section members knew her name but few had met her.

Dr Alison Sheridan of The National Museums of Scotland accepted our invitation to deliver the first lecture; I would provide a suitable introduction. I unearthed obituaries and spoke to people who had known her, starting with my mother who had been President of the Section throughout the 1980s. I approached people who had attended her archaeology seminars, people she had trained in practical archaeology skills and people who had dug with her.

Margaret Crichton Mitchell was born in Kerala in 1907 and died in Perth in 1986. Educated in Edinburgh she was a student of Professor Gordon Childe, one of the most respected archaeologists of the 20th century. Her PhD was on Bronze Age pottery typologies.

In 1937 she married John Stewart, a Perth solicitor and member of PSNS; she duly joined the Society. During World War II she worked at Bletchley Park; after the war she returned to archaeology and PSNS. Such was her contribution to Scottish archaeology that she was appointed MBE, awarded an honorary doctorate of St Andrews University and elected the first female honorary fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

So far so good but what about her involvement in PSNS? Help came from Friend of the Archive, the late Graham Watson, a past president of the Section. Graham handed me a slip of paper and I set off on my first visit to the Archive with my “password”. “MS 214” is the PSNS archive, which holds the Society’s minute books from its foundation in 1867. I consulted the relevant minute book and completed the story from primary sources.

In 1947, Dr Stewart gave a talk “Recent Developments in Scottish Archaeology”. The minutes read: “The talk stimulated many questions... It was evident that the subject had aroused great interest in those present.”

In January 1948, “Mrs Margaret Stewart and Mr R Gloag Thomson, the Society’s representatives on the Council for British Archaeology, reported that Abertay Historical Society had raised the question of archaeological work in Perthshire... the Council resolved to form an Archaeological Section. Mrs Stewart was unanimously appointed Convener”.

The 1949 AGM minute reads: “There had been excursions to places of prehistoric interest in Perthshire; 15 sites were visited. The Section had started a research survey of the archaeological remains in the county and also a detailed index of the “Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries” for all references to Perthshire. The continued success of this Section is in large measure due to the enthusiasm and energy of Mrs Stewart and acknowledgement is made of the Society’s appreciation of her work”.

Over the next thirty years Dr Stewart excavated extensively across Perthshire, emphatically putting Perthshire archaeology on the map. Dr Stewart was truly a legend in her own lifetime and is fondly remembered by those who knew her.

Jennifer McKay

Alistair Dingwall and the Hunger March of 1934

Hunger marches were a form of social protest against unemployment and poverty which arose in Britain during the early 20th century and became prominent during the Great Depression of the 1920s and the 1930s.

A recently acquired set of papers about Alistair Dingwall contained a small red ‘penny’ notebook, which turned out to be a diary kept by Dingwall when he was on the Hunger March from Glasgow to London in 1934. He was local Councillor and Member of the Trades Council and it was in these capacities that he was invited to join the March. This March unlike its predecessors was an “invitation only” event. Initial research suggests that few, if any, such accounts of any of the Marches which took place between the two World Wars are still in existence and so this may be a very significant find.

Research is on-going so please watch this space.

Hilary Wright

The article below is from MARGARET LAING, who was a member of the Steering Committee which formed The Friends of the Archive but due to her husband's ill-health could not take an active part when the group was formed. Now aged 88, Margaret intends to carry on with the research she loves, for as long as she is able.

Margaret only discovered her flair for research and writing when in her sixties. She has spent very many hours in the Perth & Kinross Archive and has produced several books on local history: "Close Up on Coupar Angus" published by the A K Bell Library and "Social History of Blairgowrie" published by Blairgowrie and Rattray History Trust.

Due to lack of funds and little interest in printing 'short runs', Margaret has published her more recent books herself: "History of the Cistercian Abbey of Coupar Angus and Its Place in Scottish History"; "Peep Through the Beech Hedge and Find Meikleour"; and the present book on "The Muirton".

MUIRTON OF ARDBLAIR THE LOST VILLAGE AND THE ARTISTS WHO KEEP THE MEMORY ALIVE

The Muirton as it is known locally was at one time a community of weavers who, when industrialisation arrived in the form of the mills on the Ericht, suffered greatly and young people left for work elsewhere. Nothing now remains of the little village and had it not been for artists and photographers finding it and its olde worlde charms around 1870, it would have been entirely forgotten like so many similar communities in Scotland have been.

The Geddes family of artists lived and had their studio in Blairgowrie and Ewan, his father and their friends painted fine pictures of the thatched cottages and the folk who lived in them while the photographers captured them at work and play in an era long gone. Many of the photographs are quite remarkable.

The area of The Muirton is rich in history with the ancient Ardblair Castle, the Darroch (Bluebell Wood), Fingask Loch (the scene of a tragedy in the 1930s) and the only stone circle in Scotland with a road running through it. The Muirton House was once the home of Adam Rennie, the Scottish violinist, as well as the scene of a gruesome unsolved murder.

The book on “*The Muirton*” contains a wealth of paintings and photographs; descendants of the villagers contributed interesting facts and a few family secrets.

Margaret Laing



The Muirton Of Ardblair, Ewan Geddes (1866 -1935) artist
Painting

© Image courtesy of Perth Museum & Art Gallery (1988.426)

Jacobite Poem

Newsletter 42 included an article on an interesting Jacobite poem called 'After the Defeat at Culloden' that had been purchased by the Archive in August 2016 with financial support from the National Fund for Acquisitions. The poem folios will be published in the Friends' newsletters in three parts with transcriptions. Part 1 appeared in Newsletter 43.

Part 2.

Madge's Lockert
with Joy I did obey your Just Command
and 28 were Lushed by my hand
(Comblam) well Done my Lockert were they of they Self -
thou Leights for Glory and Disposts Self -
Lockert wan thing I beg your Highness woud kember
to gwe some orders for the young frelander
Comblam I that is good and that is my Begre
Go Seantle him out and Bring his head to me
tea a broad passage open to his heart
and that discovers Eath plotted heart
when this is Done Come and hearse your praise
will have no victory while that wretched Surves
these 30000 pounds Toffel for his head
a good Reward for such a Glorious Deed
Go for your Reward I gwe you this Command
Go burn and plunder all the northern Land
Lockert your Line's Command I'll willingly obey
I'll take your orders on this Glorious Day
thy in Rebellion shall arise no more the Highell Skies
I'll not be moved by wretched nemes Cries although they shall shake the earth
I'll see your King's Hals shall be in blood and Gove
the France alone where I shall go or whether I shall I turn
But still for my distressed Friends I'll mourn
O England England false was your League with me
you did no stand to what you did agree
I thought to get some distance from France
but I think they have mad but I'll advance
where I shall go or whether I shall I turn -
But still for my distressed Friends I'll mourn
So I'll go off resolved to take my chance
If possible I may arrive in France
Don Balfour
Poem on
The Defeat at Culloden
by Duncan
Balfour
(c. 1746)

The third part will
be published in the
next newsletter

Transcript: Madger Lockert

with Joy I did obey your Just Command
and 28 were finished by my hand
Combrlands well done my Lockert were they of they self—
thou Feights for Glory and disposts[?] self—
Lockert won thing I beg your Highness wourd Rember
to give some orders for the yung pretender
Combrland I that is good and that is me degree
Go seartch him out and Bring his head to me
tear a Broad passage open to his heart
and that discovers Eatch plotted part
when this is done Come and Recive your praise
wll have no victory while that wretch Survies
these £30000 pounds I offer for his head
a good reward for sulch a Glorious deed
Co[?] for your Reward I give you this Command
Go burn and plunder all the northern Land
Lockert you Hiness Comand Ill willingly obey
Ill take your orders on this Glorious day
thy in Rebellion shall arise no more the Rightfell skies[?]
Ill not be moved by wretchd wimens[?] cries although ther shrieks would Reatch
Their soucking Babs shall die in Blood and Gore
the prince / alone where shall I go or whether shall I turn
But still for my disstressed Frinds Ill mourn
o England England flase was your League with me
you did no stand to what you did agree
I thought to get some assistance from France
But o I think They have mad but slow advance
where shall I go or whether shall I turn—
But still for my disstressed Friends ill mourn
so Il go of Resolved to take my Chance
If possible I may arrive in France

D n Balfour

In March 2017, Fraser Brown gave a very interesting talk to the Friends about the Scots of the BVLA (British Volunteers from Latin America), with particular reference to the archives in the University of St Andrew's in Buenos Aires. The following articles continue to illustrate how the Friends use archives, the Perth & Kinross Archive in particular.

EXPANDING THE ARCHIVE: A NOTE FROM BUENOS AIRES

In this article, Fraser explains a bit more about the archive and its development.

The programme of annual meetings between donors, archivists and users of the archives, held in *Biblioteca Max von Buch* at the University of St Andrews in Buenos Aires offers an excellent example of effective collaboration in developing a community archive. The programme, now in its 9th year and properly known as *Encuentro de Donantes y Colaboradores*, is led by Silvana Lucia Piga, archivist of the University.



Lo invitamos cordialmente al
6° Encuentro de Donantes y Colaboradores de Colecciones Especiales y Archivos. Como cada año presentaremos las novedades del sector y los proyectos en curso, mientras compartimos el tradicional desayuno.

Queremos así agradecer la confianza en nosotros para preservar sus valiosos documentos.

Esperamos, como siempre, contar con su importante presencia.

Fecha:
Miércoles 27 de mayo 2015, 9:30 h
 Lugar: **Biblioteca Max von Buch, Vito Dumas 284, Victoria.**
 Teléfono: 4725-7043
 Email: spiga@udesa.edu.ar
 R.S.V.P.

Briefly stated, the *Encuentro* programme has three main aims:

- first, it seeks to reassure both actual and potential donors that their precious papers are both safe and properly conserved;
- second, it updates those involved on the progress of current work and forthcoming developments within the archive; and
- finally, it offers an opportunity for donors, archivists and researchers to get to know each other as they meet over a traditional Argentine breakfast.

The donors are almost all from either the Anglo-Argentine or the distinct Irish-Argentine communities of Argentina and are mainly from either the second or later generations of their families who settled in the Republic. The existing archive holdings in St Andrews concerning these communities are almost always their gift.

But what sort of donations are made? At the level of the extended family unit, significant collections of personal and business papers are often received, catalogued and placed within family genealogical webs so that researchers can see at a glance the relationship, familial or business, between the author and the recipient.

Another very valuable type of donation which appears occasionally are the records of British-owned commercial companies or the papers of British or Irish clubs or institutions. One such donation was the records of the British Women's Patriotic Committee of the Argentine Republic 1941–1942. The holdings also include gems like the material on Cecilia Grierson, the Scots-Argentine who was the first woman doctor in Argentina, and the records of the British Engineering Association of the River Plate 1920–1996.

Other donations are as might be expected: books from Britain as well as local publications in English, which taken together reveal so much about day-to-day lives of the Anglo-Argentine and Irish-Argentine community; examples of the day-to-day ephemera generated by an expatriate community based in a non-English speaking country; and photographs spanning the years and covering a great variety of themes, while recording the lives of a community in black and white images.



"Scottish War Memorial Hall". 1921.



Entrada al Hall.

War Memorial Building, St Andrews Scotch College, 1921

© Image courtesy of Fraser Brown

Because St Andrews University is the ‘daughter’ institution of the St Andrews Scots School of Buenos Aires founded in 1838, anyone seeking to study the Scots of Argentina (as I did) an extended visit to the archive is vital. But what does a former St Andrews’ archive user who did the research for his M.Litt. on the Scottish-Argentines during the Great War there tell the donors in a talk that has to be read out and translated for the Spanish speakers by Natalia Westberg for him because he had left that morning? How about ‘Thank you!’

Fraser Brown

My Archives Research

David tells us that his research interests include his maternal and paternal ancestors. As he lives outwith Scotland, the bulk of activity has been online. This has been supplemented by him with visits to GROS (General Register Office for Scotland) and local council archives throughout Scotland.

My maternal interest concentrates on the Perth surname Norwell. I have traced this fascinating family from David Norrel (1667-1731), a boatman from Kinnoull. The surname is found in every possible variation until it stabilised as Norwell. The family can be divided into “travellers” who left Perth and “shoemakers” who lived in Skinnergate during mid-1800s.

My paternal research is based on the McColl clan who inhabited Duror and Kentallen in Appin, centred on Duncan McColl (c1793-1861) and Catherine Buchanan (c1792-1872). Many other McColls are distant cousins who would have been known to Gaelic-speaking Duncan and Catherine.

My research has resulted in a number of articles published by Family History Societies in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Tayside.

The major activities in archives are listed below:

Archives -Lochgilphead

© Image courtesy of David McColl

Argyll and Bute Council - Lochgilphead

Lochgilphead was visited to search for information about ancestors admitted to the Lorn Combination Poorhouse, Oban. The register of admissions and discharges covering the correct period for one was found and information obtained.



British Library - London

Visits to the British Library concentrated on books by and about distant Norwells. Those written by the sons of John Norwell (1829-1901) covered subjects such as Applied Mechanics (1908), Mechanical Drawing (1908) and Zoology (1889). Also accessed were MacColl Society journals (1932-1940).

Chapel Hill – University of North Carolina

Visit to investigate *The McColl Family Papers 1834-1995*. No direct relationship was established. Within the archive is genealogical work carried out by the late HG MacColl, whose papers themselves are lodged in Fort William.

Dundee City Archives

Looked up valuation records for the McColl family.

Fort William – Highland Archives

Visit to investigate the MacColl papers relating to the research of Hugh Geoffrey McColl (1902-1947) and the MacColl Society. Used as background to “Seville’s Hugh MacColl”, published by GWSFHS (Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society) during 2017. Also for parish Lismore & Appin, poor house record of husband of 2nd great-aunt (c.f. Lochgilphead).

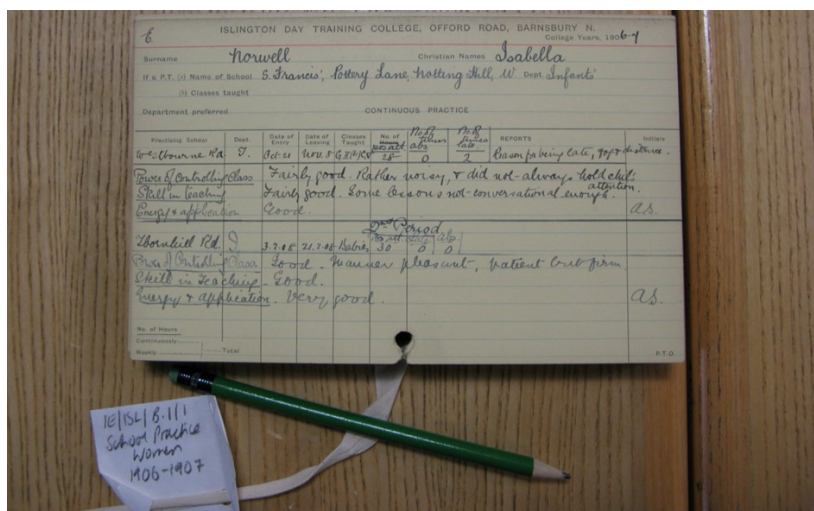
London Institute of Education

Accessed record cards relating
to the training of a distant
cousin, Isabella Scott Norwell
(1885-1956)

Isabella Norwell

Islington Day Training College

© Image courtesy of David McColl



London Metropolitan Archive

Research into the schools in which Isabella Scott Norwell taught: St Francis, Pottery Lane; Notting Hill School; and Barlby Road School. School report, staff absences (including leave of absence to Canada), deviations from timetable, school log for 1927-1939.

National Archives at Kew

Accessed military files associated with J.K. Norwell, pilot during WW2. Specifically war diaries: Operations Record Book October 1940, 41 squadron and 54 squadron; and compiled reports on Operation White October, November 1940.

National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh

Searched for details of mental health record of distant cousin within General Register of Lunatics in Asylums 1889 to 1893. Index entry plus notice of admission found.

A K Bell Library, Perth

Visited several times for research into Norwell family for articles for family history societies, specifically “shoemaker” stem of family. Access to local newspapers, minutes of Shoemakers’ Incorporation, registers of sasines, confirmations and inventories and important related material.

David McColl

*In March 2017, Dr McWhannell updated an extensive article on his family history “**Twixt Caimbeulaich and Griogairaich, the Mac Gille Chonaill kindred under Campbell Lordship; together with the kindred’s later history**”.*

This article was donated to the Archive some years ago and an excerpt, John McGillieconell and the notorious 'Gilderoy', was published in Newsletter 34. The following two excerpts from this article are shown below, together with an article from Culture Perth & Kinross on activities at Killiecrankie in 2017.

John Roy McGilliechonnell, Captain for east Glenalmond

Following on the “Glorious Revolution” of 1688, a Jacobite Rising orchestrated by John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, took place. Campaigning in Scotland led to the Battle of Killiecrankie, 27th July 1689, during which Claverhouse was killed and later to the Battle of Dunkeld on 21st August 1689.

Lord Murray, son of the Duke of Atholl and a supporter of William of Orange, had cause to provide protection for his property and tenantry. So it came about that on 29th June, Lord Murray ordered “John Roy (MacGillieChonnell) in Milne Rodgie be one of our Captains in Glen Almond and William Roy (McGillieChonnell) in Downie his Lieutenant for the east end of the cuntrie”.

The Captains were instructed to “convene the cuntrie and make choice of fourtie of the ablest men in the cuntrie, every captain and his Levetenant is to command 20 for preserving our cuntrie from Roberts, theft and depredations and to obey whatever orders ye receive from us. Every man to have 48 hours provisions with their arms to be always ready when required by their Captains under pain of fourtie shillings for ilk time they are absent, and we ordain the officer to go upon the Captain’s order to poynd therefore and ordains those that are not listed by the Captains to goe out, that they pay in their proportions of the fourtie eight hours provisions at ye rate of 2 pecks of meal in the week for ye fourtie men” (“Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine families”, Vol. 1, 283-284).

That William Roy (McGilleChonnell) was a trusted Tullibardine retainer may also be inferred from the fact that in 1706 he handled private letters between the Duchess and the Duke of Atholl (“Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine families”, Vol.2, 65).

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MacGilleChonails and the MacGregor of Kilmannan incident

Circa 1694 John Roy McGilliechonnell and his father, William Roy McGilliechonnell (as given above), were living at Miln of Rodgie near Buchanty, Glenalmond. On the 1st October 1694 MacGregor of Kilmannan, at that time the Chief of the Clan Gregor, came to William Roy’s at the Bridge End of Haly Milne and sent for Alexander Menzies at Buchanty, John Roy at Milnerodgie and William Roy who was in his fields. The assembled party consumed six pints of ale and three gills and then Kilmannan took to his horse to ride to Milnerodgie.

On arriving there he met with Milnerogie's wife and Milnerodgie who had come on foot. It appears that Kilmannan on leaving and having slipped in the "leed" chased after his servant Malcolm McCurrich brandishing his sword.

Kilmannan already had a reputation for hot-headedness and hard drinking; character traits which had seemingly manifested themselves most strongly after the death of his wife. So it was that somewhat later, at a point somewhere between Milnerodgie and Little Dounie and probably under the influence of drink, Kilmannan most regrettably shot dead his servant Malcolm McCurrich.

Life did not go well for Kilmannan after this most tragic incident as he was forced to go into exile in Ireland where he later died ("Chronicles of the Atholl & Tullibardine families", Vol. 2, 351-354).

Dr Donald McWhannell

Soldiers of Killiecrankie, 2017

On a damp July morning in 2017 Nicola Cowmeadow and I parked up in a field at Killiecrankie armed with a few laminated hand-outs, our trusty leaflets and a determination not to get kidnapped by any invading Sassenachs. We had arrived at the 'Soldiers of Killiecrankie', an annual memorial event marking the fierce battle fought on that hill in 1689. It was to be a weekend of re-enactment, story and song, making it the perfect opportunity for us to celebrate the recent acquisition of the Jacobite Poem as well as a chance to look at some of the other songs and stories inspired by the Jacobite uprisings.

Passing through the living-history camp full of men and women in full period dress preparing for a day of battle, we made our way to the 'Big Tent'. To the sound of cannon fire, pipes and a cavalry charge we set the scene of our poem.

The battle at Culloden is over and the staunch Jacobite supporter Lady Weem begs the Duke of Perth for news of her Prince *'Say where is the prince that dismall teal I Ill hear'*. The Duke must sorrowfully tell her of their defeat *'I'll tell the dismal Storie of the day, when our Brave Clans so fast did fall, by their destroying Cannon Bale'*. This is contrasted against the gleeful Major Lockhart informing 'The Butcher' Cumberland of the Hanovarian victory *'with Joy I did obey your Just Command, and 28 were finished by my hand'* (see pages 12, 13).

Fortunately for the Scots forces at Killiecrankie they were the victors that day and it would be another 56 years before the events of our poem sealed the fate of the Jacobite forces for good. With a round of applause from our audience of 26 (not bad numbers considering we were competing with a cavalry re-enactment outside the tent!) we closed the day quite literally dodging canon balls made of hay and cheering on the Jacobite forces in the battle arena.

Talk by Nicola Cowmeadow



Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

This was the first opportunity that Nicola and I had had to perform excerpts of the Jacobite poem and we could have found no better atmosphere for it.

Sarah Wilcock

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive

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Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC 031537

Friends' Talks 2018-2019 session

All talks take place in the Sandeman Meeting Room at the AK Bell Library, Perth, except for the AGM and talk in May, which will be held in the Soutar Theatre.

Please note the varied times. **Evening talks are at 6.30pm**

All are welcome to attend the talks, which are free to members and £5 for non-members.

Places are limited so, to avoid disappointment on the day, please contact 01738 477022 or archives@culturepk.org.uk to reserve your seat.

Date	Time	Talks
2018		
Thursday 20 th September	6.30 pm	Mike Taylor 1918 - End Game
Thursday 18 th October	2 pm	Sarah Wilcock and Dr Nicola Cowmeadow Jacobite Heroines through poetry and song
Thursday 22 nd November	2 pm	Dr David Robertson Lost Country Houses of Perthshire
2019		
Thursday 21 st February	2 pm	Christopher Dingwall Old Maps of Strathmore and the Northern Glens
Thursday 21 st March	2 pm	Dr Roger Collins Killiecrankie (1689) to Glen Sheil (1719): Thirty Years of Jacobite Plots and Risings
Thursday 19 th April	6.30 pm	Sharon Kelly Before the NHS: A snapshot of healthcare in Perth & District
Thursday 23 th May	6 pm 6.30 pm	AGM Dr Lucy Dean The Perth Charterhouse Project: The story so far

Honorary Presidents: The Provost Sir William Macpherson Mr Donald Abbott