

Issue Number

45

Autumn 2018

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive



CONTENTS	Page
Chairman's Notes	2
News from the Archive	3
Membership Numbers	4
Letters from the Front (Marjorie Howat)	5
The Memorial Pulpit Bible (Rae Taylor)	7
Jacobite Poem (Sarah Wilcock)	13
Moo Do You Think You Are (Dr Nicola Small)	14
Conservation of the Tailors' Incorporation archive (Ishbel MacKinnon)	18
Old Scots Money/Early Bookbinder 1662 (Editor/Thomas Brochard)	20
FPKC 2018 Outing: Visit to Hopetoun House (Sarah Wilcock)	21
"There But Not There" installation	23
Friends' Talks 2018-2019 session	24

Notes from our Chairman

The planned refurbishment work of the Archive was carried out between 26th June and 21st July. Having had the benefit of a quick tour on 6th September, I can assure everyone that it was worthwhile. It is fortunate that this new storage facility has been created now, as Perth & Kinross Archive celebrates its 40th anniversary on 2nd November this year. There will be a reception in the AK Bell Library, 6pm-8pm, to which all members of the Friends and others will be invited. As this coincides with the beginning of the national “Explore Your Archive” month, there will also be a display and historical narrative of the Archive.

That the Friends have helped in these processes is demonstrated by the fact that, for the second year running, there have been eleven of our members working as volunteers in the Archive. I am very proud of this and wish to thank all of those involved for the effort they have put in to assisting the staff in various ways.

In terms of administrative matters, there is one very serious topic which is the need for all members of the Friends, whether ordinary or life, to sign and return the General Data Protection Regulations form. Anyone who has not done this should do so as soon as possible because the new law does not allow any membership organisation to keep a member on their list if they have not signed and returned this form giving their consent. If anyone needs a copy of the form, please ask for one at a talk or ask our Assistant Archivist to send you one.

Our AGM on 24th May went very smoothly and our former Archivist, Steve Connelly, gave a fascinating talk about his own career, entitled “An Archivist’s life for me”. Our first talk of the 2018-2019 season by Mike Taylor was the concluding one of his series about First World War “annual” talks. **Please note the change in venue for the talks.** The *Curiosities of the Carse of Gowrie* booklet by Donald Abbott, one of our Honorary Presidents, is now available to purchase for £5.00 in the Archive Search Room. I would like to record the thanks of your Committee to its editor, Prue Dowie. If anyone wants to buy a copy, I suggest you do so very soon as it has been selling quickly (69 copies already sold).

Finally, I wish to appeal to all recipients of this Newsletter to fill in and return the feedback form which came with it. This will allow your Committee to assess how well we are doing and provide views on whether or not we should change the start times of our talks. Thank you all very much.

Alan Grant

News from the Archive

Since the last Newsletter, we have had our heads down and sleeves rolled-up as we embarked upon a much-needed programme of storage improvements in the Archive strong-room and search-room. Our old wooden plan chests have been replaced with modern metal chests which provide a much better storage environment for our lovely “maps and plans” collection. We also installed some new shelving which has provided much-needed expansion space for new deposits. During the project, we moved and sorted a great volume of records and were delighted to discover a lot of very interesting material in the process.



The new Storage Cabinets

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

Whilst the work was underway we temporarily moved the Archive search-room into the Local Studies area of the library, giving library customers a rare insight into life in the Archive. Before we re-opened, we took the opportunity to re-organise the search-room and have managed to create more working space for staff, volunteers and researchers which we are all enjoying. Everyone worked very hard to complete the project in four weeks and we are delighted with the results. We will be hosting an Archive Open Day on Saturday 17th November as part of “Explore Your Archive Month” so, if you are interested to see the changes, do sign up for a tour between 10am-12am (telephone 01738 477 022).

In November, the Archive celebrates its 40th anniversary. To mark the occasion, we are holding an evening reception in AK Bell Library on Friday 2nd November. This event will celebrate the Archive and bring together people who have contributed to its development in different ways over the years. As well as Archive tours, there will be a display showcasing the Archive's development and some of its treasures. Invitations will be sent to all the Friends closer to the time, so please make a note of the date and I look forward to welcoming many of you then. A packed programme of "Explore Your Archives" events will also run throughout the month (see the enclosed flyer or the "What's On" pages of the CPK website).

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations, we would like to develop a small exhibitions' programme, showcasing regular displays from the Archive collections. To fulfil this ambition, we are launching a fund-raising campaign to help raise funds to purchase museum-quality display cases; these cases have toughened glass for security, ultraviolet filters to protect records from the damaging effects of light, and airtight seals which protect them from dust and pollution. We are hoping to raise enough money to buy two cases; each case costs £3,185 so we have a target of £6,370 to meet. If you would like to help fund this campaign all donations will be greatly appreciated.



Prism Display Case

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

Please get in touch, or send a cheque made payable to "Culture Perth & Kinross" and marked 'Archive display cases' on the rear. We will also shortly set up an on-line fund-raising page, which can be accessed via our webpage: www.culturepk.org.uk/archive-local-family-history/
Ishbel MacKinnon

FPCA Membership Numbers

113 members, mix of ordinary and life

23 life members have not signed GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

14 ordinary members have not renewed membership

3 ordinary members have renewed membership but not signed GDPR

Thank you for your support

Letters from the Front

A recent addition to the Archive is a collection of letters from William C. Christie to his fiancée Mary Watson who lived in Thimble Row, written January 1915 to September 1915. In civilian life, William was a seedsman. We do not have her letters to him but going by his replies, they must have been full of local news, events and the activities of friends and family. Mention of Bridgend and Kinnoull Hill means that this is a landscape familiar to me.

As I read the letters, I recognised other aspects of his situation. Having lived abroad, I remembered how desperate one became for news from home. William mentions the PJ and I assume he meant the People's Journal; in my case, home newspapers were always read cover-to-cover, including the advertisements!

In his letters, Bill makes it clear that he is very restricted in what he can write about because all letters are censored. He was a member of the pipe band and the "boys" feature regularly in sending greetings to Mary. The band was attached to a naval unit; they were trained as stretcher bearers as well as sometimes being in the front line. One letter talks about the narrowness of the trenches which meant carrying stretchers above their heads and how tiring this was.

Bill wants to tell Mary about the strange things he is seeing but too much information would reveal where they are. Places mentioned, however, are the Peninsula, Gallipoli, Turkey and Malta. At one stage he is sharing space with a Frenchman and describes their attempts to understand each other, with limited success. He describes sleeping out in the open and how sand gets into everything. The band had played at a funeral and there was a sandstorm with locusts dropping everywhere.

Mary sends parcels to Bill for which he is very grateful but he does ask her not to send any more cake because it is green with mould by the time it reaches him. He does ask her to send writing paper and an envelope because none are available where he is.

He is very careful not to dwell on any aspect of his situation which might distress Mary and there is a recurring refrain - "Are we downhearted? NO." There is, however, one letter dated 9.5.15 (*9th May 1915*) in which he writes that the fighting could only be described as "slaughter" and I immediately think - what a barbaric way for supposedly civilised nations to settle their differences. He also describes the horror of an incident where Turkish boats are sunk and his boat picked up 91 men alive and five dead. He says how awful it is to see men in the water and not be able to reach them before they go under. The tension of wanting the war to end but relishing new situations is obvious. He writes "Altho' I long for peace, I feel that things will be dull going back to an old shop again".

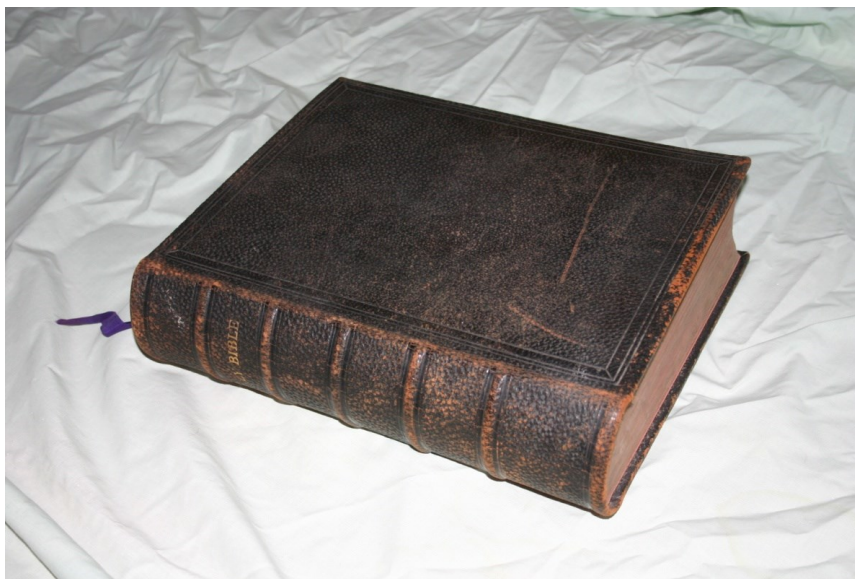
By 21.8.15 (*21st August 1915*) our letter writer is in the enteric ward of the hospital in Alexandria having lost all his belongings - "still on my back . . . no ordinary visitors allowed". When more fit, he revels in the opportunity to get out of the hospital and explore the area - "cars being free to poor wounded soldiers". He is eventually invalided home and the correspondence ends.

Supporting material tells us that William and Mary were married and eventually moved to England. His mother moved to Union Street Lane, where I lived until 1948 and remember that there was a neighbour who was referred to as "old Mrs. Christie". She was sometimes visited by a young relative who was a member of a pipe band and would occasionally appear in full uniform, an exotic creature in our quiet lane and a link (although unknown at the time) to William C. Christie.

Marjory Howat

The Rediscovery of the Memorial Pulpit Bible of the Meigle United Free Church

In July 2017, the Memorial Pulpit Bible of the Meigle United Free Church came into the possession of P&K Archive Friend, Rae Taylor. In a brief paper, Rae explains some historical background on the Free Church (mostly deferred to a future Newsletter), provides a thumbnail sketch of the six men commemorated on the frontispiece of the Bible and describes how he came to acquire the Bible.



Meigle United Free Church Pulpit Bible

Image courtesy of Rae Taylor

The Free Church

The Free Church in Scotland was created as a result of the Disruption of 1843 when about 400 of the Church of Scotland Ministers walked out of the General Assembly and left the Kirk; that was about a third of the Assembly. They wanted the Kirk to be free of interference from Parliament and from local landowners. They also wanted to be able to choose their own Minister.

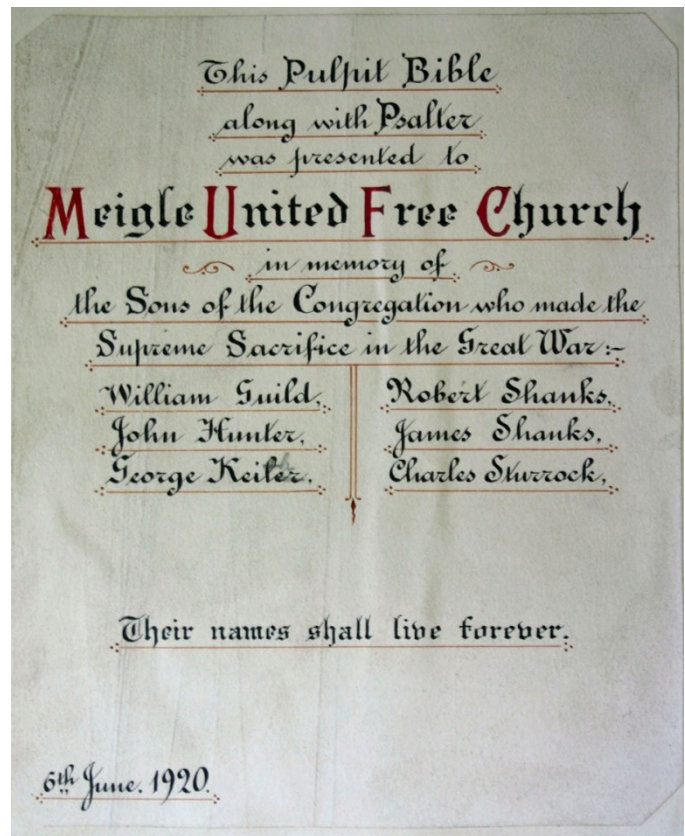
In 1900, the Free Church of Scotland opted to join with the United Presbyterian Church, formed in 1843 from an earlier amalgam of denominations from secessions from the Church of Scotland. The Meigle Free Church became part of this Union, which is when it became the Meigle United Free Church.

The Reverend Maltman, a native of Auchterarder, was the Meigle Free Church Minister throughout the Great War. During this time, 46 of the United Free Church's congregation fought in the War; six of these men were never to return. These are the men commemorated on the frontispiece of the Pulpit Bible.

Meigle United Free Church

Pulpit Bible Frontispiece

Image courtesy of Rae Taylor



The Fallen from the Great War

William Simpson Guild

William Guild was the youngest son of James and Mary Guild, who ran the Drumkilbo Tileworks at Harryhill. William emigrated to Canada in 1912 and enlisted shortly after War was declared. By 9th February 1915, he was in France with the 3rd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Two months later, his Battalion was in reserve on the Ypres Salient when, on 22nd April, the Germans launched an attack which involved the first use of gas on the Western Front, the start of the 2nd Battle of Ypres. William's battalion was pushed up to try to stem the Germans' progress towards Ypres. During this, William became "missing in action". He has no precise date or location of death and no known grave. He was aged 22 and the first of the Meigle Free Church congregation to fall. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres, on the Glamis War Memorial and also on the Meigle War Memorial. In addition, he is also commemorated on the family headstone within the Meigle Parish Churchyard.

Robert Smith Shanks

The next to fall was Robert Smith Shanks. He was born at Dron, by Bridge of Earn, on 4th October 1887 but raised at Hallyards just across the Isla from Meikle. He emigrated to New Zealand and became a butcher at Huntersville on the North Island. He enlisted on 23rd December 1914 into the 1st Battalion Canterbury Regiment of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and left New Zealand on 17th April 1915, arriving at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli peninsula on 13th November. Following the Gallipoli evacuation, he fought on the Western Front and was hospitalised by a wound received while serving in the trenches near Armentieres on 11th July 1916. Although he quickly recovered and returned to his Unit, he was wounded again just over two months later on 26th September, when he received gunshot wounds to his abdomen. He was admitted to 15th Corps Dressing Station before being transferred to 38th Casualty Clearing Station, Heilly, where he died aged 27. He was buried at the nearby Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbe and is commemorated on the Alyth War Memorial.

James Reid Shanks

Robert Smith Shank's younger brother, James Reid Shanks, was the next casualty from the UFC congregation. He was also born in Dron, four years after his brother, Robert. He was working on his father's farm at Hallyards when War was declared. He enlisted into the 8th Black Watch, one of the Kitchener's "New Army" Battalions. He was one of 56 men from his battalion who were killed in action on 9th April 1917. This was on the first day of the First Battle of the Scarpe, which was itself the opening battle on the opening day of the Arras Offensive of 1917. He was 23 years old. He has no known grave and so is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. His name also appears, together with his brother, Robert, on the Alyth War Memorial.

John Hunter

The next, John Hunter , had the same name as his father, who was a drainage contractor in charge of his own business. John Hunter (jr) was born at the family home of Melbourne House on the Dundee Road in Meigle and the Hunters were still living at this address when he enlisted into the 1/5th (Angus Battalion) Black Watch, arriving on the Western Front in December 1915. By March, 1/5th (Angus) and 1/6th (Dundee) Battalions of the Black Watch had both lost so much of their strength in battle that they were amalgamated to form the 4/5th (Dundee & Angus Battalion) Black Watch. John was killed aged 28 on 31st July 1917, the first day of the Battle of Pilckem Ridge. Pilckem Ridge was the opening battle in the Third Battle of Ypres, which is now generally known as the Battle of Passchendaele. However, this is rather confusing as there were two separate Battles of Passchendaele, which were fought during the later stages of Third Ypres. John Hunter is recorded on the Meigle War Memorial as being CQMS, Company Quartermaster Sergeant, which is an appointment within the substantive rank of Colour Sergeant. However, there is no evidence to suggest he even made the ranks of full Sergeant as he is recorded as being a Lance Sergeant on the Menin Gate, as Acting Sergeant on his medal card and in the Black Watch archives.

George Tasker Keith

George Tasker Keith was only 19 when he was killed. George and his twin brother, Fergus, were born in Meigle in November 1899. His father, a native of Airlie, had emigrated to Philadelphia in 1882 where he met George's mother, an Irish girl from Ballymoney in County Antrim. They had two children in America returning across the Atlantic to settle in Meigle. George worked for the *Courier* in Dundee before joining the 1st Bn. Cameron Highlanders, where he became a machine gunner. He was killed during the Battle of Epehy, a battle to break the German's Hindenburg Line, during an attack his battalion carried out at Maissemy on 18th September 1918. He was buried at Bellicourt Military Cemetery, not far from where he fell and is commemorated on the Meigle War Memorial. His family left Meigle to return to America following his death.

Charles Sturrock

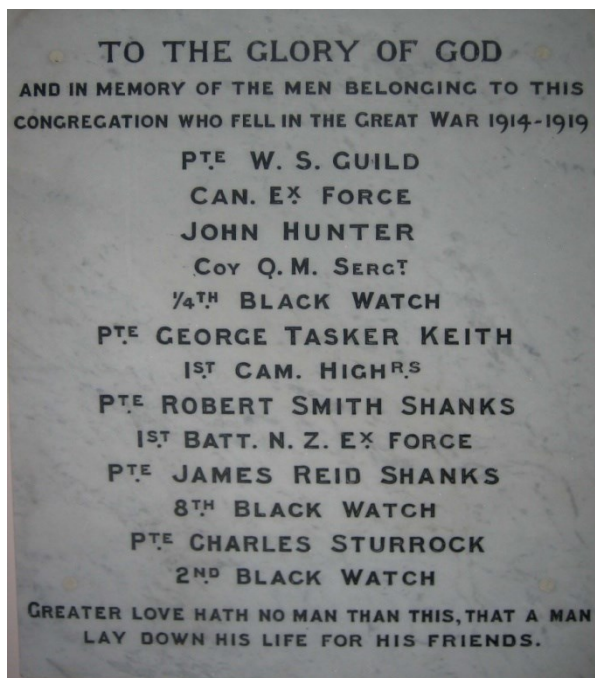
The last of the six was Charles Sturrock, who was born at Monikie and was raised at Carmyllie, where his parents had a farm. He enlisted in May 1916 and then underwent training at Nigg in Easter Ross. His Battalion, the 2nd Black Watch, was fighting in Mesopotamia. It had been temporarily amalgamated with the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders due to the number of losses, so Charles was sent out to help to restore the Battalion's numbers to a reasonable fighting strength. The Battalion fought in many actions against the Turkish forces, including the capture of Baghdad in March 1917, before moving to Palestine. The Turks sued for peace after the battle of Megiddo and an armistice came into force at noon on 31st October 1918. However, at this time the Battalion was decimated by influenza and dysentery and Charles succumbed to malaria on 7th November 1918, seven days after the War had finished in the Middle East and four days before the Armistice on the Western Front. He was buried in the Beirut War Cemetery and is commemorated on the Carmyllie War Memorial as well as on the Meikle War Memorial.

The Pulpit Bible

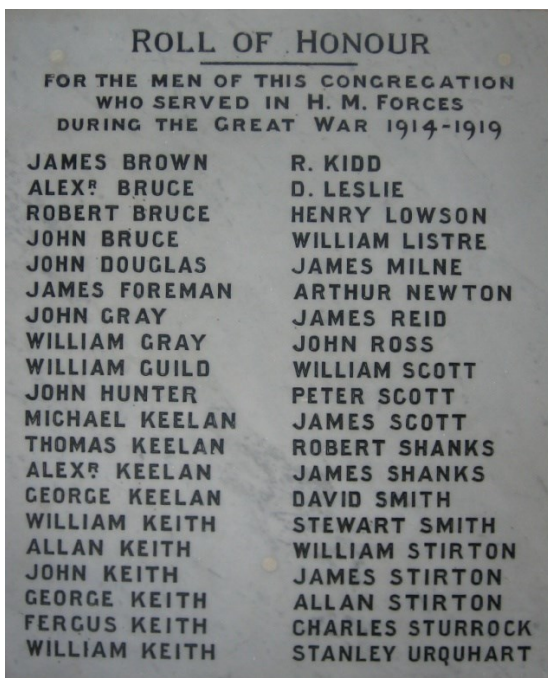
The Pulpit Bible commemorating these six men was presented to the United Free Church on 6th June 1920, together with a Psalter. Two commemorative plaques were also unveiled, one of which commemorated the six men who died. The other plaque formed a Roll of Honour to those who fought in the War but were fortunate enough to return.

At the beginning of the following year, on 23rd January 1921 the Minister, Rev. Peter Maltman died at the age of 61; he was also given a commemorative plaque. In 1929 the United Free Church, nationally, opted for Union with the Church of Scotland. As a consequence, two years later, the congregation of the United Free Church in Meikle was joined with the congregation of the Church of Scotland's Parish Kirk at Meikle.

At some point, the plaques from the United Free Church were transferred to the Parish Church and are now displayed in the entrance of the building, together with a notice explaining their origins.



Commemorative Plaques from the
Meikle United Free Church



Images courtesy of Rae Taylor

However, the Pulpit Bible and Psalter had apparently disappeared. On 19th July last year (2017), I received an e-mail from a Mrs Steel from Tayport, informing me she had the Pulpit Bible and asked if I was interested in it. She had apparently rescued it some years ago from a charity shop, somewhere in Fife (as it was about to have been thrown out), so I quickly went round and recovered it.

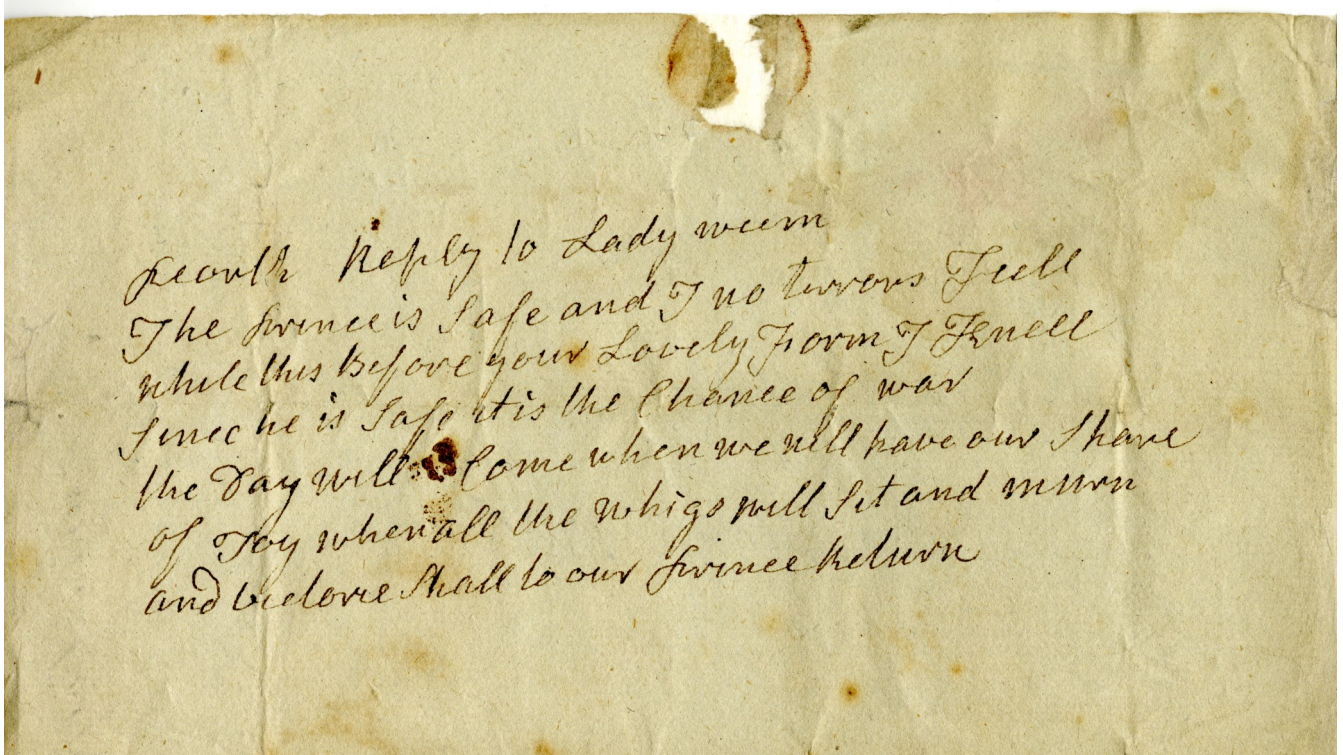
It is looking encouraging that the Meikle Parish Kirk will agree to reuniting the Bible with the brass plaques, which were presented to the United Free Church on 6th June 1920 and will be kept safely in the Meikle Parish Church. Hopefully at some stage, the Psalter will also re-appear so that the set can once again be complete!

Rae Taylor

Jacobite Poem

Parts 1 and 2 of the Jacobite poem 'After the Defeat at Culloden' were published in Newsletters 43 and 44 respectively, alongside transcriptions. This was following an article on the acquisition and origins of the poem in Newsletter 42. Part 3, below, is the final instalment of the folios.

Part 3.



Transcript:

Pearth Reply to Lady weem

The prince is safe and I no terrors feell
while this Before your Lovely form I knell
since he is safe it is the Chance of war
the day will come when we will sit and morn
and victorie Shall to our prince Return

Sarah Wilcock

The poem will form the basis of Dr Nicola Small and Sarah Wilcock's talk to the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive on 18th October 2018 titled '**Jacobite Heroines through Poetry and Song**'

Moo Do You Think You Are?

Aberdeen Angus calves, just like babies, are registered soon after birth. The place and date of birth are recorded as well as the name of the owner and breeder. The dam and sire of the calf will feature in the record just as the parents' details are found on a birth certificate. The name of the calf carries a similar significance as the name of an infant.

Aberdeen Angus has herd families which regulates the naming of calves and also provides the name of the foundation cow of that family. The official aspects of a birth certificate are emulated in a calf's record by the endorsement of the Aberdeen Angus Society, which serves as proof of pedigree. Thankfully, there is no requirement to give babies an ear tag.

Comparing family history to the registration process of the Aberdeen Angus breed of cattle might not be an obvious association to make but cow genealogy is definitely a thing.

Tracing the lineage of cows is vital to ensuring the reputation of a pedigree breed. Demonstrating through the appropriate records and papers that an animal has a particular heritage has been a crucial factor in ensuring quality stock for generations.

The Aberdeen Angus is no different in this respect from any other breed of world fame. The official history of the breed, published in 1958, gives a detailed account of polled (hornless) black cattle in Scotland and pays tribute to the founding members of what was originally "The Polled Cattle Society". This became the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society in 1879.

Working in collaboration with the Aberdeen Angus Society, our Perth & Kinross Archive and Local & Family History team were exploring the many aspects of rural life in Perthshire for our Summer 2017 exhibition (*13th June—7th October*). Themes covered everything from salmon fishing to game keeping, forestry and land management but a main feature was farming and the famous markets and bull sales, which were held in Perth until 1989.



Aberdeen Angus cattle up for auction. above and front cover

Images courtesy of the Aberdeen Angus Society

The stories and images which made up the exhibition prompted many recollections and memories from our visitors. People recalled the excitement of market days in Perth with cattle paraded in the streets while making their way to the mart in Caledonian Road. In days which lacked robust health and safety regulations people recalled a Simmental bull being taken to the Aberdeen Angus dinner in a local hotel!

The most famous Aberdeen Angus bull was sold in 1963 for a staggering 60,000 guineas. *Lindertis Evulse* was to be sent to the US but sadly proved to be infertile.

“Lindertis Evulse”

Image courtesy of the
Aberdeen Angus Society



While visiting the Aberdeen Angus Society to choose items to include in the exhibition, the main feature of their collection is the large bound volumes of cattle records, the Herd Books; these unique records date from 1862. The Society deal with over 16,000 entries to the Register every year and can still be asked to check the Herd Books for proof of pedigree.

William McCombie of Tillyfour was a founding breeder credited with establishing the family system on a basis of matriarchy in the Aberdeen Angus breed. Planned breeding means singling out special cows by identifying their good qualities and good breeding capacity and these cows would be named. McCombie was highly successful and his was the dominant herd during the early period of the breed's history. Anyone fortunate to have bought cattle from McCombie were anxious to let as many people as possible know that they had Tillyfour blood in their herds. What better way to advertise this than to utilise the original names?

The family system provides the recognition of lines and this in turn allows researchers to follow the fortunes of herd families. Great descriptions of animals and circumstances exist in the herd history and other volumes which explore the families of the breed. In some cases, this information is superior to what can be found for humans.

Through our daily work of helping people trace family history, we support researchers desperately seeking any personal information about their ancestors. This kind of information can be almost impossible to find, especially if the ancestors were from humble backgrounds, as so few left any records or pertinent material. The best we can offer is to give a generic overview of the life of a weaver or labourer and draw what we can from the census.

Not so with cows. An award-winning cow is given great descriptions and may even have had a portrait done! Take Charlotte a 'rather small heifer' born in 1857 who was dismissed by breeder McCombie as not terribly striking. The herdsman, William Joss, thought otherwise and predicted she would become the 'Pride of Aberdeen'. Charlotte won first prize in 1858 and is described in the history as a 'wonder cow' founding a great line, *Pride of Aberdeen*; her portrait 'graced the dining room at Tillyfour' farm for many years.

Not only do we find out such details amid the Herd Books and histories on cow lineage but we may also find a recipe too. The breeding of cattle for the meat market has created a greater need to provide proof of origin as supermarkets and butchers must be sure that what they are selling is top quality Aberdeen Angus meat.

A birth certificate will never lead us to a greater understanding of any of the wider interests of a family far less any knowledge about an entirely separate species. The records contained in the Aberdeen Angus Herd Books and their wider archive do exactly this. The Herd Book is an untapped cross species source of human and cow genealogy just awaiting researchers to fully exploit it.

Conservation of the Tailors' Incorporation of Perth Archive

The Tailors' Incorporation of Perth archive provides a unique and valuable record of the Incorporation's history and the wider local history of Perthshire from 1525-1957. It comprises 81 bundles, containing several thousand individual papers and 64 parchments, some with wax seals attached.

The archive was severely damaged in a fire some years prior to its deposit in Perth & Kinross Archive and, as a result, much of the collection was too fragile to use. Paper documents were burnt and flaking at the edges, whilst parchment documents were warped from the heat of the fire and some of their seals had been melted.



Assessing the collection; repairing burnt paper; cleaning mould

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

Between August 2016 and August 2018, the archive was conserved by the Scottish Conservation Studio at Hopetoun House. The project involved 830 hours of professional conservation treatment and has transformed the archive, allowing the records to be consulted by researchers for the first time.

The conservators came up with ingenious solutions to consolidate the damage and make the collection accessible. For paper documents they recommended a light touch approach, clearing away any burnt, flaking edges and only making repairs to papers which were particularly weak or fragile.

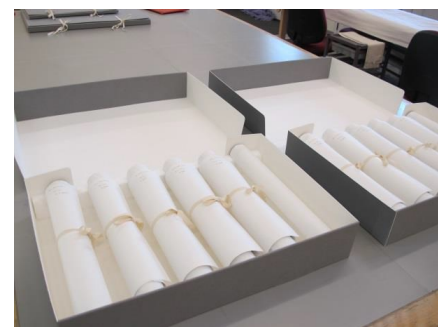


Above: Cleaning, flattening and storage of parchment documents

Below: Treatment and storage of outsized scrolls

Images courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

For the parchment documents they recommended humidifying and flattening, then mounting them individually on an archival card frame to help keep their shape and make access easier. Some of the paper documents are extremely long and they devised a clever rolled storage system which makes it easy for researchers to scroll through them and keeps them secure inside their boxes when not in use.



The work has just been completed and the collection returned to the Archive strong-room. In the future, we hope to make the archive more widely available through a cataloguing project which will open up access to the records of Perth's eight Incorporated Trades. The project was funded by generous support from the Crockhart Trust.

Ishbel MacKinnon

Old Scots Money

In Newsletter 43, our Archivist included an interesting entry in the Register of Acts of Perth Town Council, drawn to our attention by one of our regular researchers in the Archive. Another of Thomas' articles follows below. The table of Old Scots Money provides the reference for the sums changing hands.

Sterling

2 Pennies	=	1 Bodle	=	1/6d.
4 Pennies	=	1 Plack	=	1/3 d.
6 Pennies	=	1 Bawbee	=	1/2 d.
12 Pennies	=	1 Shilling	=	1 d.
13 Shillings and 4 Pennies	=	1 Merk	=	13 1/3 d.
20 Shillings	=	1 pound Scots	=	20 d.
100 pounds Scots	=	£8—6s—8d.		

Old Scots money was one twelfth the value of Sterling

In 1973, the old Sterling penny (d.) was replaced by the new penny (p.) so that

$$£1 = 100p. = 240d.$$

B59/13/4, fo. 206r, 24 May 1622

Early bookbinder, 1622

The burgh court ordered Mr William Stewart, notary in Perth, to deliver to William Paterson, 'buke binder' burgess of Perth, 'ane bybill [bible] of great volume' worth 20 marks received by Mr William from Paterson in pledge of 4 marks two years previously or else to pay the said 20 marks. This was to be done within 15 days after Mr William be charged under the penalty of seizing of his goods or warding of his person.

Thomas Brochard

Friends' Summer Outing to Hopetoun House, 2018

To call it the 'Summer' outing may be a bit of a stretch, and it certainly didn't feel like summer when we pulled up at Hopetoun House on the 12th April. Windswept and interesting is probably the best way to describe our group of thirteen by the time we reached the doors to the main entrance of the grand Georgian home. We were met by Hopetoun House Honorary Archivist, Peter Burman, who had very graciously agreed to be our host for the morning. After a brief introduction to a couple of the Hope ancestors in the entrance hall, we began our climb up the baroque William Bruce staircase to the archive on the second floor.



The baroque William Bruce staircase

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

The archives of Hopetoun House are cared for by a team of four volunteers with Peter at the helm. These volunteers are truly passionate about the records in their care and through their work have developed a deep understanding of the collection and of the family that has been creating them for generations.

Richard introduced us to some of the collection highlights, including a sectional map of the prolific Susanna lead mine at Leadhills in South Lanarkshire (*the source of the family's wealth*) and Fergus gave us an insightful look into the listing of the photographic collection held in the archive.



Display of the collection (above)
and stereoscopic viewer (below)

Images courtesy of
Perth & Kinross Archive



A member of our party enquired after the existence of stereoscopic images in the archive and it just so happened that not only were there some held in the collection but the staff had recently discovered an older stereoscopic viewer in the house.

After a delicious lunch in the Stables café, our day continued at the Scottish Conservation Studio based in the carriage house at Hopetoun. This was a rare opportunity to learn about the different processes required to preserve and conserve some truly unique items.

Tuula Pardoe, textile conservator, spoke to us about a few pieces she has been working on including the repair of a beautiful crimson-silk chaise from the Hopetoun House state bedroom. It was then over to paper conservator Helen Creasy to demonstrate some of the techniques she was currently applying to a badly damaged map and the rejuvenation of a Hockney 1972 Olympics print.

This was, in my opinion, a real treat. Both conservators took the time to explain their observations, treatment and outcomes of each individual item as well as providing some insightful background on how the Scottish Conservation Studio came to be.



Scottish Conservation Studio at
Hopetoun House

Image courtesy of
Perth & Kinross Archive

A great day was had by all and we would like to once again extend our thanks to Peter and his team in the Hopetoun archives, and to Tuula and Helen for taking the time out of their busy day to introduce us to the fascinating art and science of conservation.

Sarah Wilcock

There But Not There

Black Watch Castle and Museum, 11th August-11th November 2018

“This emotive and poignant installation marks the end of our Centenary commemorations. This installation is linked to the “There But Not There” national initiative to educate all generations about the ultimate sacrifice made during the First World War. Our display features a striking 6^{ft} outdoor Tommy sculpture with 13 transparent silhouettes placed throughout the Castle creating a remembrance trail. Each silhouette is our way of commemorating and sharing the stories of just 12 of the thousands of Black Watch soldiers who displayed courage and bravery during World War One. The installation closes with an exhibition which shares some of the belongings kept by the heartbroken families of soldiers who never returned from the war.”

Friends' Talks 2018-2019 session

The 2019 talks take place in the Sandeman Meeting Room at the A K Bell Library, Perth, except for the AGM and talk in May, which will be held in the Soutar Theatre. The 2018 talks are also 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 £5.00 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 Small 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 18 th April	6.30 pm	Sharon Kelly Before the NHS: a Snapshot of Healthcare in Perth & District
Thursday 23 rd May	6 pm 6.30 pm	AGM Dr Lucy Dean The Perth Charterhouse Project: The Story so Far

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive

A K Bell Library, York Place, Perth PH2 8EP 01738 477022 archives@culturepk.org.uk

Honorary Presidents: The Provost Sir William Macpherson Mr Donald Abbott

Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC 031537