

Issue Number

49

Autumn 2020

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive



20th Anniversary Issue

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Notes from our Chairman

As many of you will recall, in the concluding paragraph of my Notes in the Spring Newsletter I mentioned how the coronavirus was adversely affecting many organisations' work, including our own. Nobody had any knowledge at that time of how bad things might become but now we know. This is, I believe, the most atypical year in living memory.

We had to cancel our March committee meeting and our talk scheduled for 19th March. Since then things have deteriorated to the extent that our entire talks' programme for 2020 has had to be cancelled as have all our committee meetings.

We have no idea when things may return to normal and just have to wait and see what happens. Hopefully the three cancelled talks can be re-scheduled but that will depend very much on the speakers' availability. Time will tell, as with so much else. Happily we are able to issue the Autumn Newsletter and I wish to thank Prue Dowie, our editor, for all her hard work at home to get this document published and issued, where possible.

Normally in these notes I would inform you of various projects being taken forward by the staff of the Archive but, there having been no meetings or opportunities to meet with them in the AK Bell building, I am not able to do that. Maybe our Ishbel or Sarah will have been able to report some things to Prue but I have no idea.

This has been one of the most frustrating times for everybody and there is still no basis for saying when it will cease. Therefore, given there is nothing definitive that I can say, I shall apologise for the boring nature of these notes and wind up at this point.

Alan Grant

News from the Archive

When I wrote our last News from the Archive we had just gone into Lockdown and were facing an uncertain future. Six months on and I am delighted to announce that the Archive re-opened to the public on 1st October and has already welcomed 11 researchers. We are delivering a joint service with our Local & Family History colleagues and are open two days a week on Thursdays and Fridays, by appointment. Further details about booking appointments and other changes to the service are published on our website www.culturepk.org.uk/archive-local-family-history/archive-and-local-family-history-service-reopening/

During Lockdown the Archive team worked from home on a variety of activities. A topic that occupied much of our attention was how to share our collections with researchers when they are not able to visit in person. Like many other archives we realised that we need to go digital and increase our on-line presence and we did this with gusto!

In May, we celebrated Local History Month with an on-line programme that included short films on Perthshire's Rural Past and a lovely selection of local history photographs from our collections. In June, we launched an on-line exhibition on berry-picking, illustrated with photographs from The Laing and Couper/Flood Collections in Perth Museum and Art Gallery. If you missed the films or the exhibition, you can view them on CPK's You Tube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYkprwEMtdbdUx1ziTwBynQ/videos>

Throughout the summer our Perth & Kinross Remembers Project Officer, Fiona Hall, also made regular contributions to our Facebook and Twitter accounts, sharing photographs and stories from the First World War memorial collections which have been deposited during the past year. The project finished at the end of September and we were sad to say good-bye to Fiona. You can read her final project update in the next issue of the Newsletter.

At the start of Lockdown we realised that it would be important to record how people in Perth & Kinross have been affected by Covid-19 and so we launched a collecting project inviting people to share their experiences, photographs, records and objects. You will find further information about the project and how to contribute on page 24.

After such a difficult year, it is lovely to be able to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive in November. During this time, Friends' volunteers have contributed thousands of hours helping to catalogue and conserve the archives, publish guides, participate in outreach activities and host the Friends' regular monthly talks' programme. The Archive has also benefitted from generous grants which have helped us purchase, conserve and catalogue several collections. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and commitment. Here's to the next 20 years!

Ishbel MacKinnon

*To celebrate the 20th Anniversary, greetings have been received from our
Honorary Presidents*

Provost Dennis Melloy My very best wishes to all the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive on this wonderful occasion. I hope you are all looking forward to the next 20 years and beyond in supporting the great work of the Perth & Kinross Archive, a rich treasure trove in terms of the history of Perth and Kinross!

Sir William MacPherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie I would like to send the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive my best wishes for their 20th Anniversary and my hopes for many more years to come.

Donald Macdonald Abbott My very best wishes to all of our wonderful members. They are continuing to meet the intentions of their counterparts of 20 years ago, "keeping the flag flying" to assist the Perth & Kinross Archive in its superb work, as first established by Steve Connelly and his colleagues. I wish too the very best to Ishbel and Sarah and their colleagues.

Archery in Perth

from the Fifteen to the early Seventeenth Centuries: Part 2

This article is published in two parts and part one on bow-making appeared in Newsletter 48. This second part relates to the archery targets, the butts (their condition and location) and is based on extracts found by the author in the “Registers of Acts of Council” 1601–1622 (B59/16/1).



Registers of Acts of Council

1st June 1601— 12th February 1622

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive
(B59/16/1)

.....But what about the location of archery targets which these archers would have needed to exploit fully their potential and hone their skills. In Perth in July 1603, the town council appointed six Councillors with the Deacon of the Hammermen and the Deacon of the Skinners to convene with six persons to be appointed by Colin Eviot of Balhousie so as to conclude matters concerning ‘ye vptaking of ye bute [mark] of balhoussie and placeing [installing] of ane new bute’. A few days later, the meeting took place and it was universally agreed that ‘ye new bute maid for ye bute of balhoussie be not alterit in lenth bot yat ye sami[n] sall stand in lenth as is p[rese]ntlie viz ane eln thre insche’.

What prompted such a review of the archery target would have been its poor condition, unfit for its intended purpose. But there was more as the parties, that is the town and the laird of Balhousie, were legally bound by an old fifteenth-century contract. As the meeting took place, the copy of that old indenture was produced in Council and recorded within the register on 22nd July 1603.

The terms set in this 1464 contract should be seen in the context of an Act of Parliament dated 1458 on wappenshaws, or military reviews, which ordered the holding of these musters by lords and barons of the land. It called for the establishment of 'a pair of butts [one at each end of the range]' at local parishes for shooting to be practised each Sunday. The main points of the 1464 contract are clear; there was an agreement between the town and Balhousie to replace the old mark, perhaps set up as a result of that 1458 legislation but as this first target was of such poor quality they decided to build another one, hence this new contract. The old target was to be replaced with a new one set in a stone wall.

The contract stipulated an annual inspection of that target for any repair or to prevent damage to it to be conducted by a joint party of townsmen and men chosen by Balhousie. Interestingly though, among these inspectors was the town's 'multrar'. The multrar was a town official with the duty or the right of collecting multure, that is a mill duty paid on corn ground at the mill. The employment of the multrar for an annual inspection of the mark is noteworthy because it meant that both parties involved relied on the transferable skills of that individual as opposed to any other craftsman, such as a mason or wright. In actual fact and rather tellingly, when a few years later the butt needed to be replaced (see below), the Council produced the relevant paper-work including the said 1464 contract concerning the butts 'and myln leid [mill lead] yrof'. This was far from being the end of the story. Within less than ten years, the site raised the concern of the town council. In early May 1610, the Council appointed commissioners to meet up with Robert Matthew, the new laird of Balhousie, and his son John Matthew 'to sicht' the butt 'p[rese]ntlie fallin doun'*. The six deputed to the task for the town were the Dean of Guild, a number of Councillors and the Deacons of the Bakers and of the Tailors with a view to take up the old butt and place a new one. To that end, the Council took out the relevant paper work from the vestry, including the said 1464 contract and two contracts concerning the 'bowiss wark [bows' work?]'. However the Matthews failed to nominate their six commissioners, preferring to show the butts to their friends first before making any nomination.

* The Author is unfamiliar with this Perthshire family but it seems from the record that John Matthew was only fear of Balhousie (owner of the fee-simple of the estate)



Archery in England

Robert Chambers, Book of Hours Vol. 1

Image courtesy of Local & Family History

The records do not mention what happened next. There was eventually an arrangement between the parties as by early September 1610 a certain Robert Cuthbert received payment for ‘making of ye bute of balhousse’. Also, the Council commissioned the Provost and three men to approach David, Lord Scone, about these archery targets ‘laitlie sett in’ by Robert Matthew with the consent of the town. In late October 1610, the two parties took steps for the actual ‘imputting’ and ‘setting’ of the butt; yet the Matthews dragged their feet and by early April 1611, the Council threatened them with legal action.

This 1464 contract was yet again produced in Perth Council about two years later in June 1612 when it was decided to send it to Edinburgh (‘owir ye water’) to the town’s advocate, to all intent to register it and force the Matthews to act. Also on that day, the Council appointed the following day (12th June) to ‘sicht [inspect] ye bute’ imposing a 20^s fine for those not turning up. On 15th June, the Council decided to close up ‘ye haille hollis [all the holes]’ except the butt itself. John Matthew was present and requested to be given a week’s time to appoint his six men to oversee the joint repair with the town’s representatives. On the appointed day, 23rd June, we learn through the Council’s order to its treasurer that the solution adopted was to secure the butt with iron band(s) both within it and on the outside.

Three weeks later for the actual repair work and the ‘setting’ and ‘in putting’ of the butt, the town delegated six local officials and magnates, namely: David, Lord Scone; Mr William Couper, the local minister; David Sibbald, the Dean of Guild; Constantine Mallace (‘malice’), a bailie; William Williamson, a councillor and Thomas Bisset, the Deacon of the Shoemakers, underlining the seriousness with which the town regarded the issue.

By then, it became evident that the parties had decided to uptake the old target and set up ‘ane new bute’ to abide by that very indenture of 1464. The parties decided to convene to decide ‘ye placing of ane new bute In ye bute of balhoussie’, with the Balhousies, father and son, appointing Mr William Malcolm, Minister of Airlie and five landlords: Peter Hay of Kirkland; Patrick Pitcairn of Pitlour; Harry Drummond of ‘Rothype’; James Drummond of Boghall and George Clerk of Newtoun of Fordie. The joint parties ultimately agreed to let the matter be decided by Lord Scone.

The whole saga of the Balhousie butt ends rather abruptly but, with this form of arbitration by Lord Scone, there was no need to have it registered in the town books as alternatives were available. On the other hand, the document may well be in the town registers but simply evaded the present author’s scrutiny.

Bound by a 1464 contract with the Laird of Balhousie, the town magistrates of the early seventeenth century were keen to have it enforced, 150 years later, to make sure archers could practise their sport in good conditions. The unlikely coalition of the Council, the Trades and the Clergy in support of the renovation of the mark is a testimony to their perception of the importance of archery for the community as a whole at a time when it had more or less become redundant within the army.

Dr Thomas Brochard

Editor’s Note: “Charles I., himself skilled in the use of the long bow, appointed two special commissions to enforce the practice of archery; but with the civil war the art died out; in that terrible struggle the weapon that had won so many fields took no part, except it might be to a small extent in the guerrilla warfare carried on against Cromwell in the Scottish Highlands”. Extract from Archery in England

The Development of Singapore

Major-General William Farquhar

A local man forgotten for 200 years but now remembered



Major-General William Farquhar circa 1830

Image courtesy of Wikipedia

In January 2018, I purchased a book “From Kilts to Sarongs” by Graham Berry. I found it a most interesting book that describes how many Scots contributed notably to the development of Singapore; this is clearly demonstrated by the fact that over 50 streets are named after the Scots (engineers, bankers and entrepreneurs) who played a significant role. In the late 18th century there were many opportunities for young men to have careers in the growing overseas trade as Britain acquired more territories, particularly competing successfully with the Dutch at that time. The possibility of making significant money which might enable them to even purchase an estate was also a factor, although at that time the death rate was substantial.

William Farquhar was born in Newhall, parish of Fetteresso, Kincardineshire in 1774 and spent the last years of his life in Perth, dying in 1839 where he is buried in Greyfriars Cemetery. He attended boarding school in London and, aged 14, became a clerk in the East India Company (EIC). The other person in the story is Stamford Raffles, who was born on a ship off Jamaica captained by his father.

William joined the Madras Engineers in 1791 as a cadet and in 1795 he became the Chief Engineer for the expedition to Malacca, Malaysia, to take it over from the Dutch. He remained there, acting as Resident from 1803 and was then appointed Resident and Commander in 1813. While he lived in Malacca he had a partner, Antoinette “Nonio” Clementi, daughter of a French father and Malaccan mother; they had several children. When he returned to Scotland he left his partner and family in Malacca, however, he made sure they were supported financially. It is interesting to note that their 5th great grandson is Justin Trudeau, the present Prime Minister of Canada.

While Farquhar was in Malacca, the EIC was aiming to take control of Java and he was offered a senior position, which he declined. This was probably because of his family in Malacca but also because he saw the future need for a new port at the southern end of the Malaysia peninsula. In fact Stamford Raffles was given the position but, because of his failure in it, was later removed. In spite of that, after Raffles returned from a period in London, he was given the senior position over Farquhar in the search and creation of a new site. Singapore was agreed and Farquhar remained as Resident, continuing in that role for over three years until he was discharged by Raffles for no other reason than ensuring that he (Raffles) would have all the credit for the very successful outcome. Farquhar made many attempts to have the decision changed with EIC but without success and had no alternative but to return to the UK.

He returned to Scotland in 1823 an angry man, living in Perth. In 1828, he built two fine houses in Early Bank situated on high ground south of the town (one was for his brother); these houses are still occupied and in fine condition. Also in 1828 at the age of 54 he married a 19-year old girl from Fochabers, Margaret Lobban, with whom he had five children. Following his sacking and while in Perth he made many attempts to get the EIC to reconsider its decision to accept the word of Stamford but with no success. He died in 1839 and a fine memorial was erected in Greyfriars cemetery. The following statement is on the memorial:

“He served in the East India Company for upwards of 33 years. During 20 years of valuable life he was appointed to offices of high responsibility under the civil government of India, having in addition to his military service served as Resident in Malacca and afterwards at Singapore, which later he founded. In all the stations which he filled he acquired honour to himself and rendered service to his country. He departed this life at Early Bank, Perth on the 11th May 1839. Highly respected and deeply regretted by all who had the happiness of his acquaintance.’

Stamford Raffles had returned to London in 1824 but died in 1826. His wife then wrote a “Memoir” of his life, including the selection of Singapore but with no mention of William Farquhar and his contribution, nor of the failure of Raffles for his time in Java. This meant that no-one believed William Farquhar’s view of his involvement in the selection and his success in Singapore. This continued right up to publication of the book by Nadia Wright entitled “William Farquhar and Singapore: Stepping out of Raffles Shadow”; her book made it clear that Farquhar played a significant role in Singapore and showed that the behaviour of Raffles was that he (Raffles) could have all the credit.

In January 2018 an article appeared in the Straits Times, Singapore, with the heading “Look back to Raffles to move forward”. I sent a reply which was published, pointing out on the evidence from Nadia Wright’s book that Raffles was certainly not the person to follow; since then I have done what I could to correct the view of Farquhar’s contribution in Singapore, in Kincardineshire and in Perth. At the British High Commission meeting to celebrate the 200th anniversary in January 2019, a book was announced confirming the view that William Farquhar was the major contributor to the establishment of Singapore.

Ian McGregor March 2019

I am happy to mention that I have donated the following books to the AK Bell Library:

“From Kilts to Sarongs”, Graham Berry

“William Farquhar and Singapore: Stepping out of Raffles Shadow”, Nadia Wright

‘Raffles and the British invasion of Java’, Tim Hannigan

“200 years of Singapore and the United Kingdom”, Tommy Koh & Scott Wightman

FPKA 20th Anniversary



The date of 2nd November 2020 marks the day that the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive (FPKA) would have celebrated their 20th Anniversary. Launched at the AK Bell Library on 2nd November 2000 as the Friends of Perth & Kinross Council Archive (FPKCA), the Friends are a group of people who have a particular interest in archives and archival work.*

Although the Friends are unable to celebrate this milestone as they would have done for previous anniversaries due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, this Autumn edition of the Newsletter never-the-less provides the opportunity to highlight some of their own and the Archive's achievements during this period. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary, the Honorary Presidents send greetings (see page 4), those elected to the Chair during the past 20 years share their reminiscences (see below) and extracts from the Archive Timeline chronicle the prominent events during the same 20-year period (see page 18).

Donald Abbott, Chairman of the then FPKCA 2000-2004

Before the Friends existed in its final form as we know it today, a lot of hard work was undertaken by the steering committee set up to achieve the formation of the FPKCA. That hardworking committee deserves every recognition and credit of their work before the Friends actually came into being is acknowledged in "Pitroddie Perspectives". The Friends were thus 'born.'

* Editor's Note: The Friends' Group was constituted as a back up to, and supportive of, the professional Archive staff. In essence, the launch represented the creation of a partnership between the staff and the Archive's users; however, expert guidance would continue to come from the Archive staff. The interim steering committee drew heavily on the experiences of the "Friends of Dundee City Archives" formed in 1989, using the Dundee model as a basis for a long-running Friends Group (see Newsletter No. 1).

The original steering committee included several members of staff from the Archive itself led by its Archivist, the superb Steve Connelly, as well as several individuals. They were: Alan R Bell, Colleen Burke, Steve Connelly (all Perth & Kinross Council Archive); John Davies, Perth; Margaret Laing of Moorfield, Coupar Angus (Hon Treasurer); Ian MacRae, Principal Librarian, Perth & Kinross Council; Norman Thompson, Auchterarder (Hon Secretary); Donald M Abbott, Invergowrie (Chairman). The inaugural meeting had the Chairman and Assistant Archivist of Dundee City Archives attending and giving pointers relating to their own setting-up experiences. Many productive meetings were held in the Archive premises and their minutes should still be available for perusal there. The Friends owe much to the embryo committee members listed above for the fine well-led structure we have today. Many fine efficient members have enhanced the committee and chairmanship since these early days and their input to success is something to be proud of.

I recall with much pleasure the Committee's decision to invite Sir William Alan Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie to become the first Honorary President and how I drove with Steve Connelly to Newton Castle, Blairgowrie informally to invite his acceptance. Sir William graciously indicated his acceptance and over the years has served with distinction as our first Honorary President. Steve and I were both impressed with the lovely historic castle and with its extensive archive relating to the 2nd Battalion of the Cameronians (The Scottish Rifles), which had been recruited locally in Blairgowrie and District. Sir William was an excellent host and later invited the Friends to visit Newton Castle to learn of its history.

I remember vividly the very first newsletter which saw the Archive's Assistant, Alan Bell, and me engrossed in its preparation. It was super for me to be able to contribute something of Kilspindie School (1819) utilising information contained in the Archive. My granny, Maggie Ann Neave Macdonald, born in Rait in 1883, had attended this then school so it was magnificent to use this archived information in what was surely a historic and satisfying document and the forerunner of many superb newsletters that have followed since.

The Archive also holds a record of this school and it was pleasing to be able to seek this out and see my father Alfred Abbott's name, his sister Meg and his cousin Neave Macdonald all enrolled at Kilspindie School by my great grandfather, Thomas Macdonald, tailor from Rait. I set a puzzle about Kilspindie School in my "Curiosities of the Carse of Gowrie" with the hope of enticing members of the public to visit the Archive and perhaps join the Friends. So a good early memory for me of the Archive and of the hard work put in by Alan Bell in the production of this early document for the Friends. Alan Bell was a big insurer of the Friends being a success.

Jim Ferguson, Chairman of the then FPKCA 2004–2007

During my period as Chair, which commenced in 2004, I was surprised and delighted at the strong support I received not only in committee meetings but personally by the Friends. I was often approached with helpful advice on management by the Archivist Steve Connolly and his Assistant Christine Wood and on projects by committee members Donald Abbott, John Howat, Jackie Hay, David Wilson, Vera Purves, Graham Watson, and my friend Gavin Lindsay and, although not on the committee, by David Robertson.

My own project Peter Duff B59/37/4, a merchant, gave me an insight into living in Perthshire in the 18th century with his diverse activities in commerce, trading with Dundee, Newcastle and London with its gateway to the far east and America. Also during my period in office I researched Perth's Common Good fund and, with help from Linda Whiteford of Legal Services, Perth and Kinross Council, realised that the structure of Perth as a City was established on the two "inches" traded for land in Burghmuir and known as a contract of excambion*.

I would recommend the position of Chair to anyone who wished to expand their knowledge and interact with people in Perth and Kinross.

* When a local landowner wished to "gift" land "for the benefit of the community", in this case the North and South Inches, which was perpetually flooding and of little use for agriculture but could be used as a playground for the citizens of Perth, the Provost and local Council enacted a "contract of excambion" which delegated three of their number to consider what land in another part of Perth would recompense the landowner for his loss. These good people targeted a piece of land in Burghmuir as a fair swop.

Margaret Borland-Stroyan, Chairman of the then FPKCA 2007-2013

Three years after first visiting the Archive and deciding that it was to be my second home in Perth, I was given the great honour in 2007 of being appointed Chairman of the then Friends of Perth & Kinross Council Archive (FPKCA). With a delightful and supportive committee I was to find this a very pleasant duty. Particular highlights during this time were the marking of Perth's Place in History in 2010, the celebration of Perth's status as a city in 2012 and the publication of the booklet *Treasures of the A K Bell*. Other highlights were some memorable talks and outings and new Archive acquisitions, in particular the *Atholl Experience*.

The weekend conference, *Perth: A Place in History*, was part of celebrations held in Perth throughout 2010 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the royal charter granted to the city by King William the Lion. Although the Archivist, Steve Connelly, had been very busy with archival research for various events, the Friends were not actually involved but I think we all felt that we were! A few years ago the Friends' newsletter reproduced the lectures which the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) published as a book in 2011. There was, however, no doubt about the Friends' involvement in research for material for the *Treasures of the AK Bell*, a publication which highlighted collections both of the Library and of the Archive. Friends' volunteers were given free access to the Archive to look for original and, if possible, visually attractive, material reflecting themes of life and work; we then researched and described the items and passed them to Assistant Archivist, Dr Jan Merchant, for selection. (I was particularly thrilled to find that family certificates donated by a cousin of mine had been included in the publication!)

The 2010 celebrations had been made with a view to stimulating support for Perth's bid for city status during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year two years later. As the bid was successful, everyone could enjoy the spectacle of seeing Her Majesty present yet another royal charter to Perth. Again, I cannot remember that the Friends as such had any involvement in preparations, but the Archivist

had certainly been kept very busy beforehand. I remember Steve summoning me one afternoon across the Reading Room to “have a look at something”. With rather a flourish he pointed to a box displaying the 1210 Charter, which he had just collected from the conservators. As for the royal visit and the ceremony, the day was sunny and dry. The ceremony took place at the bottom of the High Street. Tay Street was packed with onlookers. There was music, there were splendid uniforms and the atmosphere was very happy. These memories also remind me how the late Provost Bob Scott, a keen member of the Friends and strong proponent of Perth’s bid for City Status, used to praise the wonderful display which our city can put on for formal occasions.



Royal Charter (post conservation) granted to Perth by King William the Lion, 1210

Robert Todd lantern slide

Image courtesy of Perth Museum & Art Gallery (2012.367.213)

Many acquisitions came to the Archive but the most memorable for me, both for presentation and content, is the *Atholl Experience*. This huge and beautifully presented collection (in 35 boxes), researched over decades by the late John Kerr and co-compiled by current committee member Pat Kerr, gives a comprehensive account of the lands and people of Atholl and is a treasure trove for genealogists, folklorists and the general reader alike. One innovation, a brilliant idea of Jim Ferguson’s, was a heraldry competition for schools.

While there have been no radical changes to the Friends' programme of talks and summer outings, two innovations were introduced to the newsletter: our editor, the late David Wilson, argued that an A5 format would be much more user-friendly and modern than the A4. He also persuaded the Committee to finance illustrations in colour as well as monochrome. I believe most of us would see these changes as great improvements. My continuing affectionate wishes to the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive in this 20th anniversary year. The members and the organization itself play an important part in local culture, as well as in my own life.

Alan Grant, Chairman of the FPKA (formerly of FPKCA) 2013—

I joined the Committee in May 2012, presumably at the AGM and a year later in May 2013 at that AGM, I was elected as Chairman. What I have done below is list things which seem important to me in terms of the Friends helping the Archive. Here, in no particular order, is the list:-

- The Friends will reach their 20th anniversary in November this year and during all those years various members have assisted the Archive staff in various ways with important things like cataloguing new accessions;
- Various area booklets have been published by the Friends explaining how people can research the history of their home area in Perth & Kinross through material held by the Archive (please note that these publications have been put together primarily by Jackie Hay and Margaret Smith);
- Every year, we have had a series of extremely interesting talks by speakers from all over the country and it has been extremely frustrating that due to COVID-19 this year's programme has had to be suspended (the Archive staff have been key in arranging these talks);
- The Archive staff have been crucial in arranging our annual summer outing and again this year's has had to be cancelled;
- The Friends have managed to assist the Archive to purchase documents directly related to the history of Perth & Kinross (more recently, individual members have contributed to the new display cabinets to exhibit these and other assets);

- Over the years the Friends have published a newsletter for their members to update them on developments and provide information about local topics (currently it is being edited by one of our committee members, Prue Dowie).

Finally, I would wish to acknowledge the constant assistance we receive from the Archive staff whenever we require it. No doubt there are other topics which people would like to include or replace some of these with but these seem important to me.

Archive Timeline (2000-2020)

Background: The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 transformed local government in Scotland, abolishing the historic burgh and county councils, which had existed since 1929. It replaced them with a two-tier system of district, regional and island councils. Organisational change on such a scale presents many challenges, not least for records-keeping! To ensure service continuity and accountability, modern and historical records were transferred between the old and new authorities according to their function and geographical location. The Scottish Record Office (now National Records of Scotland) contributed to this task by undertaking record surveys of Scotland's pre-1975 local authorities. It also encouraged the newly-created authorities to establish archive services to look after their historical records.

2000: FPKCA established.

2001: General Accident, Perth, insurance brokers, deposited.

2002: Assistant Archivist post created (Jan Merchant).

2003: Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) launched.

April 2007: Ownership of Perth Burgh, pre-1700 records (B59 series) transferred from National Archives of Scotland to Perth & Kinross Council. These records, forming the largest and most important collection in the Archive, had been transferred to Perth on a charge and superintendence agreement in 1979-1980. In 2007, they were returned to the permanent ownership of the Council. Perth & Kinross Council Archive was the first archive to have retransmitted burgh records given back to local ownership, another major achievement and a high point in the Archive's history.

2007: Shaw Report “Historical Abuse Systemic Review, Residential Schools and Children's Homes in Scotland 1950 to 1995”.

2008: “Treasures of the AK Bell: A glimpse of the Archive and Local Studies Collections” published.

2008: “Keekin' for Kin: Researching your family history in Perth & Kinross” published.

2010: Perth: a Place in History Conference. This two-day conference marked the 800th anniversary of Perth's royal charter, and built momentum for Perth's campaign to regain city status which had been revoked by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The Archive was heavily involved in the conference planning and organised for the conservation of Perth's Royal Charter, c1210, which was exhibited during the conference.

2011: Public Record (Scotland) Act 2011.

2012: Perth awarded City Status in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year. Perth was one of three towns to receive this Diamond Jubilee honour. It restored the town's city status which had been revoked by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. In the Archive you will find the Perth City Charter and letters patent of HM Queen Elizabeth II granting city status to the town of Perth with the great seal appended, 31st May 2012 (Acc13/69).

2012: Perth & Kinross collections on Ancestry.

2014: “Highland Perthshire Through the Archive” published.

2014: Archives and Local & Family History department created.

2014: Perth & Kinross Remembers established.

2015: 15th Anniversary of Friends of Perth & Kinross Council Archive (FPKCA). This significant anniversary was marked by a celebration and a commemorative edition of the Newsletter which recounts the contributions made by Friends' volunteers to the Archive and some of the memorable summer outings and talks which members have enjoyed. Unfortunately, no photos of the anniversary celebration have been found; the Archive would be pleased if members and former staff were willing to share any which they may have.

2015: AK Bell Library 21st Anniversary.

March 2016: Steve Connelly retires after 38 years in post and receives the Archives and Records Association Distinguished Service Award (August 2016).

March 2016: Ishbel MacKinnon appointed as Archivist.

April 2016: Culture Perth & Kinross established. CPK, as it becomes known, is a new cultural trust set up to deliver museum, library and archive services for Perth & Kinross. CPK took over the running of the Archive on 1st April 2016 (so it became Perth & Kinross Archive). The Friends' constitution was amended by membership agreement at AGM 18th May 2017 to reflect our new title "Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive" (losing the word Council).

June 2016: Christine Wood, Assistant Archivist, moves to Highland Archive Service.

September 2016: Sarah Wilcock appointed Assistant Archivist.

2016-2018: Tailors Incorporation of Perth records conserved by Scottish Conservation Studio.

June–October 2017: Perthshire's Rural Past exhibition.

Summer 2018: Strong-room improvements.

November 2018: 40th Anniversary of Perth & Kinross Archive.

2019: New display cases first used in the Explore Your Archive Auxiliary Hospitals exhibition. Many Friends' members made individual contributions to their purchase.

March 2020: Lockdown

The Friends' group provides a focus for volunteering, delivers an annual lecture programme, publishes two newsletters a year, and generally advocates for the Archive. The Friends also give financial support which has helped to purchase archives, and more recently, contributed to the cost of an extra CALM license and a short-term intern post. Since the Friends were established an average of 10-14 weekly volunteers have worked in the Archive on a variety of cataloguing, indexing and repackaging projects. Their time amounts to between 1,500 and 2,000 hours each year, which equates to an impressive 41-55 weeks!

Ishbel MacKinnon

THE ADVANTAGES OF STAYING LOCAL

The Parish of Collace

During the Covid-19 lockdown, we were all urged to stay home and stay local. Taking this to heart, I spent much of the time wandering through a quarter century's worth of my research notes on the parish of Collace, which lies just off the main road from Perth to Coupar Angus and comprises the villages and hamlets of Kinrossie, Collace and Saucher*. Over the years, my research paths had often reached dead ends and lockdown was the ideal time to explore the mass of information that has since been digitised and made accessible online.

One such research trail was the intriguing mention of "site of Castle" on the first Ordnance Survey map of the area, c1863. The site south of Kinrossie and the Thorngreen road is on a little knoll or hillock, now agricultural land under crops. When visited by Ordnance Survey in 1969 and by RCAHMS in 1989, no evidence of a built structure could be found.



OS map 6 inch first edition,
LXXXVI, surveyed 1862-4,
published 1867 [maps.nls.uk]

Documentary evidence includes charters and sasines, the Ordnance Survey [OS] name book and maps. Early land records [c1500-c1770] include mention of a mote, moit, or moat in the area of the south town of Kinrossie maybe as a place name but the word could also mean a hillock, possibly artificial, a motte perhaps on which a castle could be erected. Cess records give details of landowners but do not list this specific site within a larger landholding.

* "Off the Main Road - a history of Collace Parish" by Hay, Miller & Watt, 2000

Timothy Pont's map of the area c1580s has a drawing of the Kirk of Coulliss [Collace] and, below the word "thorngreen", there is a drawing of a sizeable structure possibly with outbuildings. Pont often sketched significant buildings and his key to one of his maps suggests that the number of dots on his sketches could indicate the number of storeys in a building or suggest the height of a structure.

Extract William Roy's military map, c1750

Image courtesy of National Library of Scotland
[www.maps.nls.uk]



Some 170 years later, William Roy's map c1750 appears to show two kirks: Kirk of Colliss [Collace] and, south of Thorngreen, the Kirk of Rossy. Could it be that the surveyor noted two sizeable structures but did not investigate their purpose? After all, the intention of the mapmaker on this occasion was to show landmarks and large detail in the landscape, particularly hill features, settlements and roads. It was primarily intended for military interest rather than accurate notation of specific detail. Red dots were used to denote the existence of man-made structures but did not necessarily represent, for instance, the actual number of buildings. I have been unable to find reference to the site on any later maps of the area, despite many happy lockdown hours spent on the NLS website.

Where to explore next? Well, the castle site is just one of many areas of my research into Collace parish. I will continue to follow up primary and secondary source material online and look forward to the time when we can delve into the archives once again. In the meantime, if anyone has suggestions about the "castle" (or better still, any answers!) I would love to hear from you.

Jackie Hay

COVID-19 COLLECTING PROJECT

The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the most significant historical events of recent times and is impacting every aspect of our lives. With our museum colleagues, we are creating a Covid-19 Collection, which reflects how people and communities across Perth & Kinross are affected by the pandemic so that future generations can understand its impact and learn from our experience.

We would like the Collection to include information and objects from people of different ages and backgrounds from all over Perth & Kinross. Anything which reflects how the pandemic has affected you, your family or community will be of interest; this could be personal items, objects, creative responses, leaflets and more. We have already received some lovely examples of painted rainbows, stones and photo diaries, as well as contributions from schools, care homes and cultural organisations reflecting how they have adapted their activities during lockdown. We have also created a survey inviting people to tell us how the pandemic is affecting their everyday lives. Nearly 400 people have completed the survey to date and the results are fascinating, illustrating the different ways we are responding to the challenges, with new ways of working, keeping in touch with friends and family, an increased interest in the environment, health and wellbeing all being particularly important to people. If you would like to contribute to the collection or participate in the survey please go to the project webpage where you will find further details/link to the survey www.culturepk.org.uk/museums-galleries/perth-kinross-covid-19-collecting-20project/. If you would like to discuss your ideas, you can e-mail covid19collecting@culturepk.org.uk.

Ishbel MacKinnon

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