

Issue Number

50

Spring 2021

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive



AK Bell Library June 2020

Image courtesy of Culture Perth & Kinross

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Notes from our Chairman

I am honoured to be the next FPKA Chairman and this is my first time writing as such for the Newsletter. Thank you to Alan Grant for his hard work as Chairman since 2013 and for the interest he has always shown in the work of the Friends.

In February, we heard the sad news of the death of our first Honorary President, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie (see the obituary on page 20). There will be no memorial service at Sir William's own request.

Communication between the Friends has been more than difficult but with the help of the Archive staff and an AGM by zoom just before Christmas, we are finding different ways of making contact. Your Committee has resumed meetings by zoom and plans to hold the 2021 AGM by zoom in May.

Then last November, the FPKA feted its 20th Anniversary by rather subdued celebrations in the Newsletter. What should have been an occasion for a party could not even be organised and the COVID-19 restrictions in place since March 2020 have been tightened again throughout the winter. Our FPKA activities have been regulated with no talks, no events, very limited access to the Archive and the proposals to commemorate Rhoda Fothergill put on hold.

The good news for Perth is the announcement in December 2020 of the return of the Stone of Destiny. Also our Archivist has produced two applications: one is for the COVID-19 Collecting Project to canvass deeper engagement with P&K communities; the other is to further catalogue P&K Oral History Collections, building on the work of the "Perthshire Rural Past" films in 2017. On your behalf, the Committee at this stage has agreed to provide letters of support for both projects. In February, volunteers attended Scottish Records Association on-line palaeography workshops to improve skills working with documents when the Archive does re-open; we are looking forward to that.

Prue Dowie

News from the Archive

When I wrote our last *News from the Archive* we had just re-opened the Archive to researchers and were settling into a new routine of providing access on an appointment-only basis. In order to ensure everyone's safety, we followed strict hygiene procedures which included cleaning every desk and quarantining records for 72 hours after each visit. The service remained open until just before Christmas and, although researcher numbers were lower than usual, everyone was pleased to have the opportunity to resume their research, especially students working on PhDs and class assignments.

In January this year, we returned to working from home in response to new Lockdown restrictions. A significant change to this Lockdown experience is that Sarah and I have been placed on part-time furlough, working three days a week, and Claire and Lorna have been placed on full-time furlough. We have continued to work on administrative tasks, including sorting our electronic records in preparation for the upgrade of CPK's filing system to a new Sharepoint system. This has been extremely interesting as we have learned more about the history of the Archive and how it has developed over the years. We have also been planning new projects and preparing funding applications for them about which we will share more information in the next edition, if the applications are successful.

Now that Lockdown measures are beginning to ease and the Covid-19 vaccination programme is going so well, we have been able to set a date for the Archive re-opening on 12th May. As before, we will operate an appointment-only system and will deliver the service from a larger search-room area on the first floor of the library. The opening hours will be Wednesday to Friday, 10am-4pm and Saturday, 9.30am-12.30pm. 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/ or you can call CPK's telephone helpline (01738 444949 Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), who will forward enquiries to us.

Ishbel MacKinnon

PKR Final Project Report

This is the second part of Fiona Hall's project report; you can find part one in Newsletter 48. Fiona made regular contributions throughout the summer of 2020 to the Archive's Facebook and Twitter accounts, sharing photographs and stories from the First World War memorial collections which had been deposited during the year.

Hello everyone, welcome to the final project update for Perth & Kinross Remembers. I cannot believe how quickly this past year (*September 2019-September 2020*) has gone and what a year it has been! In this post, I update you all on what I've been up to in the last few months of the project and on the highlights over the twelve months as well as having a closer look at some of our collections.

First World War Legacy Collection

Over the past few months I have continued to catalogue our digital deposits, liaising with my colleague, Assistant Archivist Sarah, to create a digital cataloguing template. The template ensures that essential metadata is captured and recorded for further cataloguing by any volunteers and for future preservation. After returning to the office (after the first lockdown), I was able to sort, re-house and label the remaining physical deposits.

This reminded me of just how varied the Legacy Collection is. From creative school projects, local war memorial research and publications and ceremonies to personal items and family papers, the deposits highlight the amount and the variety of ways that communities and individuals across Perth & Kinross commemorated the First World War. So, let's take a quick look at some of these deposits...

Crieff Remembers

Organised by Festivals Crieff and with support from Crieff Arts Festival, Crieff Remembers ran a series of events to commemorate the centenary of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). Over a two-week period, the project ran 13 events and activities including a Military Parade and Drumhead Service and A First World War talks programme. One of my favourite events the project organised was a performance by Perth City Opera Group of the 'Pirates of Penzance' which replicated the performance given one hundred years previously by the Strathearn Operatic Society. It was even performed in the same venue!

CRIEFF Remembers
30TH JULY - 12TH AUGUST 2017

Military Parade & Drumhead Service
Sun 30th July Admission free, donations to Poppy Scotland
Parade marches off from Leadentower Car Park (parking suspended) at 10.30am. Participants to include 3 SCOTS, 7 SCOTS, Legion Scotland, Comrie Pipe Band, together with Cadets, Morrison's Academy and other youth groups.
Route: East High St/High St/James Square/King St. Arrival at the Market Park from 10.50am.
Drumhead Service Market Park, 11.00 - 11.45am.
Free Parking at King George V Playing Fields, Braidhaugh, Crieff PH7 4HP

Family Event
Sun 30th July 12noon to 3.00pm (Retreat Parade at 2.30).
Admission free, donations to Poppy Scotland
Sponsored by Legion Scotland, an afternoon of musical entertainment including Amy Hawthorn and the arrival of the military Passchendaele Bike Team back from their commemorative ride to Flanders, ending in a Retreat Parade by the Massed Pipes & Drums at 2.30pm.
Free Parking at King George V Playing Fields, Braidhaugh, Crieff PH7 4HP

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry
Sat 22nd July - Sat 12th August 10am - 4pm daily, The Games Hall, Morrison's Academy, Ferntower Road, Crieff PH7 3AN By donation.
The Scots have migrated all over the world and have had a profound impact on the areas where they settled. The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry is a major artistic and cultural work which brings together stories from diverse communities, documenting their Scottish heritage in more than 300 embroidered panels.
Free Parking at venue

Songs and Stories from the Diaspora
Sat 29th July 2.30-3.45pm
Games Hall, Morrison's Academy, Ferntower Rd, Crieff PH7 3AN
Admission £4.00 (£3 concessions)
A wander round the Diaspora Tapestry with the internationally renowned folklorist Dr Margaret Bennett.
Free Parking at venue

Crieff Remembers Exhibition
Mon 31st July - Sat 12th August 10am - 4pm daily Strathearn Artspace, 2 Comrie Street, Crieff PH7 4AX Admission free, donations to Festivals Crieff
A unique collection of material relating to the First World War, drawn from local family archives, and including diaries, photographs, official documents, medals, items of trench art and family stories.
Parking: On-street or King St Car Park

Shop Window Exhibition
22nd July - 12th Aug High St, Comrie St, King St, Crieff
Shops in Crieff participate in displaying WW1 poetry and art, with portraits and stories of some of our men who fought in the Great War.
Parking: On-street or King St Car Park

One Woman's War: Aunt Nell's Box
Wed 2nd August and Wed 9th August 7.30pm (doors open 7pm) Strathearn Artspace, 2 Comrie Street, Crieff PH7 4AX
Free, but ticket required, available from Strathearn Artspace and Camellan Crafts.
Crieff Drama Group present a dramatic collage drawn from the very important and hitherto unknown archive belonging to Ellen Anderson, a Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurse from 1915 to 1919. Bar.
Parking: On-street or King St Car Park

Crieff Community Campus Display
4th June - 31st August Tue-Thur 10am-8pm; Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-1pm Strathearn Community Campus Library, Pittenzie Rd, Crieff PH7 3JN Admission free
A selection of exhibits and artifacts contributed by local descendants of WW1 participants. Includes special display case supporting the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry exhibition.
Free Parking at venue

The Great Crieff Poppy Project
22nd July - 12th Aug James Square, Crieff
A glorious display of poppies in Crieff's James Square, knitted and crocheted by individuals and groups from the local community, in remembrance of those who fell at Passchendaele, 1917.
Parking: On-street or King St Car Park

The Pirates of Penzance
Sat 5th August 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)
Academy Hall, 5 Strathearn Ter, Crieff PH7 3DT £10.00, tickets available from Strathearn Artspace & Camellan Crafts.
Perth City Opera Group replicate a performance by Strathearn Operatic Society given in the same venue, in aid of the Red Cross Society and Soldiers and Sailors Families Association, in April 1915. Bar.
Parking: On-street around venue

Echoes of War
Friday 11 August 7.30pm (doors open 7pm) Strathearn Artspace, 2 Comrie Street, Crieff PH7 4AX Admission free, donations to Festivals Crieff
An evening of talks themed on WW1.
• Dr Derek Patrick: 'Andrew Sharp: A Scottish Soldier'
• Dr Ann Petrie: 'Crieff Remembers on Comrie Road: The Local War Memorial'
• Dr Billy Kenetic: 'Stanley Nairne, Conscientious Objector: "Corrupter of the Youth of the Country" c.1917-1919'
• Ed Skidmore: 'The Battle At Passchendaele: 3rd. Battle of Ypres'.
Free Parking at venue

Innerpeffray Library Exhibition
1st May - 31st Aug Wed-Sat 10am-12.45pm, 2.45pm; Sun 2-4pm Innerpeffray Library, By Crieff PH7 3RF Admission £7.50; under-16s free
Unique exhibition at Scotland's oldest public lending library, based on the Borrowers' Register and tracking the service personnel who used the Library in 1917.
Free Parking at venue

When this Bloody War is Over
Sat 12th August 7.30pm (doors open 7pm) Strathearn Artspace, 2 Comrie Street, Crieff PH7 4AX £6.00, tickets available from Strathearn Artspace and Camellan Crafts.
A concert of songs, tunes and recitations from and about WW1 featuring celebrated singers Wendy Carle Taylor, Rena Gertz and the Crieff Community Band. Bar.
Parking: On-street or King St Car Park

Programme of Events for Crieff Remembers

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

The project also curated an exhibition covering the Home Front, Life at the Front and the Aftermath of the War. It featured a range of personal items kindly deposited by individuals and families from the local community. A legacy for the project is also the publication entitled 'Crieff Remembers' which shares and recounts the personal stories of the men and women impacted by the First World War and highlights just how far reaching the project was.



Just one small section of the exhibition on display at Strathearn Artspace

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

School Remembrance Projects

In 2018 pupils and staff from Morrison's Academy, Crieff, designed an installation to commemorate the pupils from the school that fought in the First World War. Led by Paula O'Neill, Head of Art and Design, pupils from across the school contributed to the installation by making small paper houses to highlight the impact of the war at home; 76 of these were lit to remember the former pupils. Paula also wrote a poem to accompany the installation, which was read out at a commemorative assembly. I'm sure you will agree that this is such a thoughtful and creative way to commemorate the fallen.

The commemorative installation on display in the Memorial Hall of Morrison's Academy, 2018

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive



Installation by pupils at Crieff High School on display at Strathearn Community Library, November 2019

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive



In October 2019, S3 pupils at Crieff High School participated in a day of inter-departmental remembrance activities. Teachers from English, History, Craft & Design and Technology departments with support from Poppy Scotland all came together to support the pupils. The result was an installation featuring handmade wooden crosses to commemorate the names on the Crieff War Memorial, Haiku poetry reflecting the realities of war and handwritten notes by the 80 pupils on “reasons to remember”.

Perthshire’s Victoria Cross Winners

A highlight for me has been visiting war memorials across Perthshire, including Pitlochry, Fearnan, St Martin’s and Comrie. During the 2014-2018 centenary period, as part of a nationwide initiative all Victoria Cross recipients received a commemorative paving stone. Two men from Perthshire, William Davidson Bissett from St Martin’s and John Manson Craig from Comrie received the Victoria Cross for their gallantry and bravery. I was delighted to be able to visit both their stones on a lovely sunny Saturday afternoon. You can read about the commemorative ceremony held for Major William Davidson Bissett at shorturl.at/jwCKP and an account of his bravery at shorturl.at/jtAJ3



St Martin’s War Memorial with William Davidson Bissett’s Paving Stone to the Right

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

John Manson Craig and Comrie Heritage Group

On a lovely sunny day, I met with Fiona Davidson and Christian Campbell, members of Comrie Heritage Group, to collect their deposit and to learn more about John Manson Craig VC.

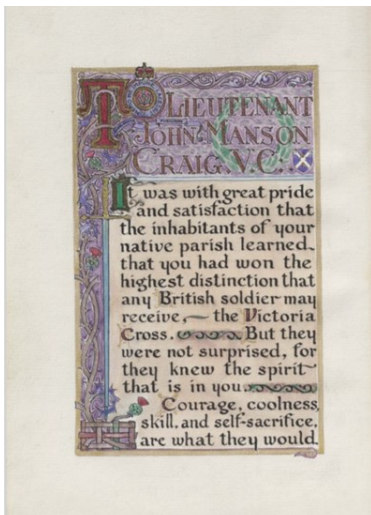
Born in 1896 at Innergeldie near Comrie, John Manson Craig served as a 2nd Lieutenant attached to the 1/5th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers. While in action on 5th June 1917, near the Suez Canal Egypt, Craig organised a rescue party following enemy attack and set his party to work removing the dead and wounded while under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. When one of his men and a medical officer were wounded, Craig acted quickly to save the two but while taking the medical officer to shelter, Craig was himself wounded.



John Manson Craig

Image courtesy of Comrie Heritage Group

He saved both their lives and as a result of his actions was awarded the Victoria Cross on 17th August 1917. The parish of Comrie presented John Manson Craig with a book commending his bravery and signed by members of the parish. The book was kindly returned to descendants of John Manson Craig, who returned it to the village of Comrie, where it lives in the White Church. On 4th June 2017, a ceremony was held for the unveiling of Craig's paving stone and was attended by residents and John Manson Craig's family.



Extracts of the book dedicated to

John Manson Craig VC

Image courtesy of

Comrie Heritage Group



Project Highlights and Achievements

In total, the project has received 48 deposits with ten additional ones still to be collected! I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has chosen to deposit their material with Perth & Kinross Remembers; your patience and contribution especially during the last six months is greatly appreciated.

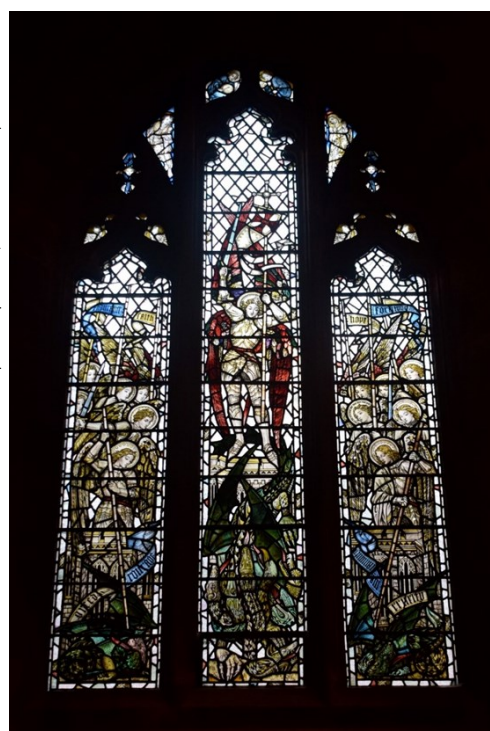
Looking back on 2018, November was a busy month for the project! I was fortunate to attend the Community Heritage Conference with Dave Dykes from Flowers of the Forest and Peter Olsen from Scone Remembers. It was a pleasure to introduce both projects and for both Dave and Peter to share the huge amount of work the projects carried out.

Like many workplaces, Perth & Kinross Remembers was impacted by COVID-19 and as a result we had to change several outcomes of the project. We were very fortunate to have three of our guest speakers deliver their talks but the remainder were cancelled, along with a Legacy Celebration that was due to take place in St John's Kirk. Instead, we turned our guest speakers into guest bloggers and we have had eleven fantastic posts on a variety of topics including the work of the Commonwealth War Graves, the Legacy of the First World War on the Scottish Landscape, and Belgian Refugees in Perthshire.

As a stained glass, sculpture and war memorial enthusiast I was pleased that we were able to share the story of Alice and Morris Meredith Williams and their work in St John's Kirk. If you haven't already, you can read about Meredith Williams at shorturl.at/bfB15

Stained Glass Window, St John's Kirk

Image courtesy of St John's Kirk



Another personal highlight has been the opportunity to meet with our various depositors and community groups. I was fortunate to meet with Jane McCartney, a descendant of the Sieber and Campsie families. The material that Jane kindly deposited provides a wealth of information relating to both families and encompasses their lives during and after the First World War, as well as giving a fabulous insight into Perth as a town during this time. I am so pleased but slightly envious of the person who gets to catalogue this collection!

After being recruited by Pullar and Sons, the Sieber family moved from Leeds to Perth shortly after the birth of John (Jack) Lonsdale and Verena Sieber, who both later went on to attend Perth Academy. As soon as war broke out in 1914, Jack enlisted with the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders posted to France and subsequently East Africa.

While her brother was at the Front, Verena participated in many fundraising activities for various charitable organisations. One of these was the Perth Patriotic Barrow, located at Perth train station. Set up and run by concerned Perth citizens the barrow first opened in August 1914 for members of the armed forces to have a cup of tea, a cigarette and a wee snack before moving through the station.

Certificate belonging to Verena Sieber for her voluntary work with the Perth Patriotic Barrow

Image courtesy of Jane McCartney



At first, volunteers stocked the barrow with food they had grown in their own gardens. However, as demand grew and with it a need for funding, the Marchioness of Tullibardine formed a patriotic committee to raise funds. Verena Sieber was a volunteer and with 249 others helped to serve in total 1,449,417 sailors and soldiers with free refreshments over a five-year period. I would love to have recreated this barrow as part of the Legacy Celebration; it would have been fantastic!

What next?

So, there we have it! I hope this update has given you an insight into the last few months of the project and of course a closer look at some of our fantastic collections.

It has been a great pleasure working as Project Officer for Perth & Kinross Remembers and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Culture Perth & Kinross. I cannot help but feel a little frustrated I was not able to meet and engage with local communities and individuals in person but it just shows you what can be achieved when working from home with help from supportive colleagues and some enthusiastic depositors.

I cannot wait for the ten remaining deposits to be added to the Legacy Collection; they are such a rich resource of information that deserves to be preserved and shared with future generations.

Fiona Hall, Perth & Kinross Remembers Project Officer

FPKA Membership Numbers

79 members, mix of ordinary and life

Thank you for your support

Arms-Length External Organisations (ALEOs)

Funding and ALEOs and What its all About

Pressures on existing budgets and demands for services challenge Perth & Kinross Council and the services provided. Theoretically this requires Councillors to constantly review services to meet the needs of service users and the public. Setting-up and funding arms-length external organisations (ALEOs) was one option to deliver a range of leisure services, including libraries and museums.

These arms-length trusts provide the Council with a degree of control and influence through a funding agreement but are "divorced" as they have a separate identity from the Council. So by their nature these ALEOs are removed from council control in areas such as governance and finance and without doubt service users have less influence over the service provided. Disputes can arise between the managerial interests of the Council and the ALEOs, which are now firmly established as part of local government in Scotland.

The initial reason for the creation of ALEOs was to qualify for business relief rates, attract grants and offer different ways of providing services and making services more accessible. But presenting ALEOs as a catch-all is perverse, as the Council is responsible for ensuring that the public funds that the Council allocates are used properly and demonstrate best value, as the taxpayers in Perth & Kinross would expect and indeed demand.

Efficient governance requires transparent roles and responsibilities both from the Council and those who manage the ALEOs, who have to maintain a balance between both. The gravest concern is the pressure on budgets and alternative ways of delivering services with the realistic threat that the Council can bring services back into council control.



AK Bell Library June 2020

Image courtesy of Culture Perth & Kinross

My concern, as a volunteer working in the Archive and as an avid reader who frequents the AK Bell Library, is that the coronavirus will have implications to the point that a casual observer would challenge whether the cost of maintaining the service was reasonable.

Any service financed from public funds must be justified and indeed as I expect there has been a period of inactivity, which has resulted in a financial deficit, the service will be adjusted to reflect this. I am truly concerned that excellent Culture Service capability will be restricted but I am at a loss to know how to adjust delivery arrangements without having a huge impact on users, staff and assets.

Jim Ferguson

A ROYAL FAREWELL

Queen Victoria fell in love with the Highlands on her first visit there in 1842. Two years later she and Prince Albert with their entourage stayed for three weeks in Blair Castle, which had been lent to them by Lord Glenlyon who managed the Atholl estates on behalf of his uncle, the 5th Duke, who had been declared insane.

This was in the nature of a convalescence for the Queen who only five weeks earlier had given birth to her fourth child in four years of marriage. This was the start of a firm friendship which continued after Lord Glenlyon succeeded to the Dukedom of Atholl in 1846 and Duchess Anne became the Queen's Mistress of the Robes in 1852 and a Lady of the Bedchamber the following year.

Fast forward to 1863 when the Queen was preparing for her annual Autumn visit to Balmoral. The normal procedure was for her to travel in the Royal Train overnight from Windsor to Aboyne (the extension to Ballater wasn't opened until 1866) with the only stops en-route being for meals and for railway operating requirements. But a few days before the journey on 14th September, the Queen learned that her old friend the Duke of Atholl was near to death suffering from throat cancer and she wished to be taken to visit him.

Luckily the railway line between Perth and Inverness had been completed only six days before her journey and so whilst she breakfasted at Perth station her Royal Saloon was uncoupled from the train and attached to a specially made-up train of the Inverness & Perth Junction Railway, which conveyed her to Blair Atholl station. Here she was met by the Duchess and a guard of honour of Atholl Highlanders who escorted them up to the castle. The Queen spent a sad hour talking with the Duke in his sickroom. It was only just over two years since her mother had died and eighteen months since her beloved husband Albert had died. Now she was about to lose another dear friend.

When she prepared to leave, the Duke insisted in getting dressed to accompany her to the station. This must have been a supreme effort because the Dundee Courier reported that he looked *“weak and tottering, scarcely able to support himself without assistance and looking as if he scarce knew what was passing before him, he nevertheless dragged his trembling limbs into his carriage and accompanied his Royal Mistress to the station”*.

George Augustus Frederick John Murray

6th Duke of Atholl

Image courtesy of Perth Museum & Art Gallery



The special train returned as far as Stanley Junction where the Royal Saloon was attached to the rest of the Royal Train which had left Perth after lunch. It now conveyed the Royal family to Aberdeen and thence to the little station at Aboyne, where a fleet of carriages was waiting to take the passengers (and their mountainous piles of luggage) on the final part of their journey to Balmoral.

Sadly, the Duke did not long survive the Queen's visit; he died only a few weeks later on 16th January 1864.

Bernard Byrom

The Fritz Eichmann Collection

POW Balhary Camp, Alyth

As a long-serving volunteer in Perth & Kinross Archive, I have always found the projects both interesting and varied. During my time I have prepared a database, listed and re-boxed various acquisitions, transcribed oral history tapes, researched life during the Second World War in Alyth for a dramatised public presentation and, as a related project, interviewed a handful of people with wartime memories to relate. But I think that my most recent, and certainly largest, project is also one of the most unusual.



Fritz Eichmann (second from left middle row), German Prisoners-of-War

D. Wilson Laing (Photographers) 1946-05-11

Image Courtesy of Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Some years ago the then Archivist, Steve Connelly, was offered copies of about 100 letters written by a German prisoner-of-war (POW) at Balhary Camp, Alyth, to his wife. Some of the letters contain just a few sentences, others are many pages long. Some are typed, some are handwritten. Some deal with life in the POW camp and others concern a whole host of other subjects.

Throughout the letters there are some common themes: Fritz Eichmann's deep love for his wife, Ille; concern about her health and well-being; and his longing to return home. Fritz had been a science teacher and a keen amateur musician but he had a lively interest in the political situation both here and in Germany. He thinks and he feels very deeply. In one prophetic letter he writes about the Union between Scotland and England and speculates on whether the countries of Europe could ever form a similar Union.

The letters contain much of local interest. Fritz is befriended by families in Blairgowrie and Coupar Angus. As an interpreter, he sometimes has to travel on business to other POW camps in Perthshire. In January 1948, just a few weeks before he is finally released to travel back to Germany, he is allowed to go to Edinburgh for a week. The report of his adventures there is delightful.

If these letters were to be made widely available, they clearly needed to be translated into English. Despite being theoretically qualified to undertake German translation work professionally, I found a lot of problems with some of the language and handwriting, problems shared by a couple of highly-educated Germans born in the post-war period. I await further discussion with them before finalising the translations for registration but I do recommend this collection (Acc14/40) to anyone with an interest in the Second World War and its aftermath from a German POW's point of view.

Margaret Borland-Stroyan, August 2019

Postscript (February 2021)

Although I am guiltily aware that the project can't be completed until my German friends have vetted my translations, the pandemic has so far held things up. As soon as the Archive is open I hope to collect the translations and photocopies of letters and to continue the task of checking and re-checking. Meanwhile, as far as this Newsletter is concerned, I feel that we can go ahead with alerting the Friends to the existence of this collection and, let's hope, interesting them in its contents.

Searching for Magnus Jackson

Magnus Jackson, Perth photographer, is known for his photographs that illustrate the visual history of Perth in the nineteenth century. Perth Museum & Art Gallery care for his glass-plate negatives that form the principal part of their early photography collection. Unfortunately, the missing element in his biography is a photograph of Magnus that would make his profile complete.

Tracking down the elusive image of Magnus has become an obsession for me. Photographs can reveal so much of a person; discovering an image of Magnus would give a face to the man who made the most important contribution to Perth's early photographic history.

Magnus was born in 1831, eight years before the invention of photography and died in 1891, just before photographs started to be featured in newspapers.

The Jackson family tree reveals few descendants. Magnus's eldest son, Thomas, emigrated to South Africa around 1893 working as a general merchant and photographer. His descendants have very few early family photographs, none of which are confirmed as Magnus. Magnus's three children were all trained by him as professional photographers; perhaps they gifted a family photograph to a relative or friend, yet to be discovered.

As a well-known public figure, Magnus maintained an active role in civic life. He was an elected member for Perth Town Council in 1878. He was also a member and at times Convener of many Committees: The Inches; Cleansing and Sanitary; Law; Finance; Slaughter House. He served a period as Police Commissioner for Perth, overseeing the police, street lighting and fire services. He was instrumental in advocating the building of Perth's first Public Swimming Baths.

Magnus also cultivated associations through his professional photography work and his membership of numerous organisations: the Guildry Incorporation; the Perthshire Society of Natural Science (PSNS); and the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He acted as an official photographer to the Scottish Arboricultural Society and was a supporter of the Literary and Antiquarian Society of Perth. With such a civic and professional profile in Perth, it is surprising that no photographs of Magnus can be found within these organisations.

My research includes the study of a few photographs with potential to be Magnus. An 1881 photograph of the opening of the Natural History Museum in Tay Street shows a group of people standing outside the newly-opened building. Magnus is listed as one of the guests in a detailed newspaper account of the event. Uncovering the identity of each person in the photograph is vital and is a work in progress. Magnus may also be featured in a photograph from 1885 showing Councillors standing on the deck of a steamship waiting to depart for Dundee. Another possible photograph shows Magnus's daughter Catherine having a picnic with three others at the Beech Hedges. Magnus may feature in these but each requires a secondary source for confirmation. The research continues. Any information related to the search of a photograph of Magnus will be gratefully received.

Roben Antoniewicz



The Lass O' Gowrie

Photograph 1885, Magnus Jackson

Image courtesy of Perth Museum & Art Gallery, MJ0770

OBITUARY

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie, TD, QC

1st April 1926 – 14th February 2021



Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie

Image courtesy of Scottish Field

The Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive are saddened to learn of the death of our first Honorary President, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie. His many published obituaries describe his long and distinguished careers in the military and in the law. Sir William, however, was probably little known to most of the general public until after his retirement, when he was appointed to lead the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

Born in London and educated in England, Sir William was very attached to his Perthshire roots and could trace his family back to the 11th century. From his father, Brigadier Alan Macpherson, he inherited the title of Chief of Clan Macpherson, a position which he took very seriously.

Our previous Archivist, Steve Connelly, and our first Chairman (now Honorary President) Donald Abbott, visited Newton Castle, seat of the Macphersons since 1789, and asked Sir William to become an Honorary President of the newly-established Friends of the Archive. In our last Newsletter (49), Donald remembers this occasion with much pleasure.

As some of our members can confirm, the first outing of the Friends was to visit the family estate of Sir William and Lady Macpherson at Newton Castle. Years later, the memory of that lovely afternoon and of the warmth of the Macphersons' welcome remains. The report of this summer outing is recorded in Newsletter 7; Newsletter 6 describes the Macpherson of Cluny and Newton Castle Blairgowrie Muniments, reference NRAS 2614.

During the next two decades, Sir William proved himself a most supportive and kindly President. Despite failing health in the past few years, he unfailingly made the effort to attend our AGMs, where he usually had some amusing and gracious words to contribute. It was always a great pleasure to meet him and Lady Burnham.

Sir William was a man of great charm with a lovely sense of humour. I remember his glee relating how he and another Perthshire friend and colleague used to make a point of wearing their kilts under their judicial robes when serving as judges on the Northern Circuit. I also remember him teasing me for, he claimed, introducing him to the word "homologate".

We offer our sincere condolences to Lady Burnham, who in recent years has accompanied Sir William to our meetings, and to his son and daughter.

Sir William will be much missed. We shall remember him with great affection, gratitude and respect.

Margaret Borland-Stroyan

Editorial Note* The image of Sir William is supplied by Scottish Field and was used in an article in Scots Heritage (page 38):

https://issuu.com/scottishfield/docs/scots_heritage_winter_2016_-_optimised

Recording the Pandemic – CPK Covid-19 Collecting Project

It is now a year since the UK went into its first national Lockdown and all of CPK's buildings and services closed. It has been a time of enormous change for us all, full of new challenges, different ways of living, working and keeping in touch with friends and families - with many ups and downs along the way.

In May 2020, the Collections Team launched a Covid-19 Collecting Project to ensure that the impact of the pandemic in Perth & Kinross will be recorded for future generations. Since then, we have gathered an amazing variety of records, photographs and objects from across the region and over 400 people have completed our Covid-19 Survey.

As this current Lockdown begins to relax and we are looking forward to life starting to return normal, I urge everyone to please consider completing the survey and adding your experience to this unique and invaluable record. If you have documented the year through photographs, diaries or in other ways, would you consider depositing them in the Collection? And if you or your local community have done something amazing, please let us know. We would love to include this too!

You can complete the survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CPK-COVID-19> and will find further information about depositing material in the Collection here <https://www.culturepk.org.uk/museums-galleries/perth-kinross-covid-19-collecting-project/>. If you have any questions, please e-mail: covid19collecting@culturepk.org.uk.

Finally, please share these links with family and friends, and encourage them to contribute too. The more people that contribute, the more valuable the Collection becomes.

Ishbel MacKinnon, Senior Officer for Archives and Local & Family History

RESPONSES to NEWSLETTER 49

COMMENT The Advantages of Staying Local

In the last Newsletter [issue 49, p21], I asked if anyone could shed light on an OS map reference to "site of castle" at Newhall, Kinrossie in the parish of Collace. I was delighted when our Treasurer, David Perry, kindly did just that, as it was one of the moated sites in Tayside researched by Russel Coleman and David Perry in the 1990s.

Their findings, 'Moated Sites in Tayside and Fife', were published in *Tayside & Fife Archaeological Journal* vol 3 (1997), available on-line by searching for the Tayside & Fife Archaeological Committee website and following the link to the Journal. The paper shows that, from the 12th century, the spread of feudal landholdings was often followed by the building of earthworks such as mottes (earth mounds with timber palisades sometimes with a lower enclosure or bailey), ringworks (ditch and palisade) or moated sites. There are only around 60 known moated sites in Scotland (compared to around 5300 in England & Wales and some 750 in Ireland), possibly because sites were abandoned or built over but also because more research is needed.

David Perry has pointed out that Newhall, Kinrossie, is one of only three sites in Scotland specifically referred to as "moat" in early documents. Moated sites comprised a wide ditch and a (sometimes dry) moat. The spoil from the ditch digging would have formed banking and an inner mound, upon which there would be a timber dwelling and associated outbuildings. There may have been some defensive purpose but the structure would be a clear indicator in the landscape of the power and status of the landowner. As the years passed, a timber dwelling might be remodelled as a hall-house, perhaps with stone walls and a timber roof. There is documentary evidence of a possible stone tower-house at the Kinrossie site. Today, the site is under crops and no trace of its built history survives.

I am very grateful to David for all his help and advice, particularly for reminding me of the importance of place-names in understanding the original function of a site (here *Newhall* should have been obvious to me) and for providing additional documentary evidence: "... the fortalice or principal place of Newhall ..." (1587); "... the manor of Kinrossy called Newhall ..." (1620) and "... the Moit Newhall of Kinrossie ..." (1633).

Jackie Hay

CORRECTION Archery in Perth from the 15th to early 17th Centuries

In Newsletter 49, the second part of Thomas Brochard's article was published. It related to the archery targets, the butts (their condition and location), based on extracts found by the author in the "Registers of Acts of Council" 1601–1622 (B59/16/1). However whereas the reference is correct (B59), members have queried the interpretation of the word "bute", so for "bute" please read "Boot".

The Boot of Balhousie is the name given to the water intake from the lade for the Eviots of Balhousie, the branch of the lade which powered Balhousie mill. It is a reference to the width of the pipe allowed (ie. the width of a boot). The Boot of Balhousie appears on the OS First Edition and it seems to have been the sluice where the Balhousie Lead left the Town Lead.

Members report that the water supply itself is a topic with some confusion about it. "I had a warm fellow feeling with Thomas over the Balhousie Boot error, having interpreted the word as "boat"! The references to it, which I saw in the Archive didn't make clear what it was and Steve (our former Archivist) had to put me right".

Prue Dowie

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