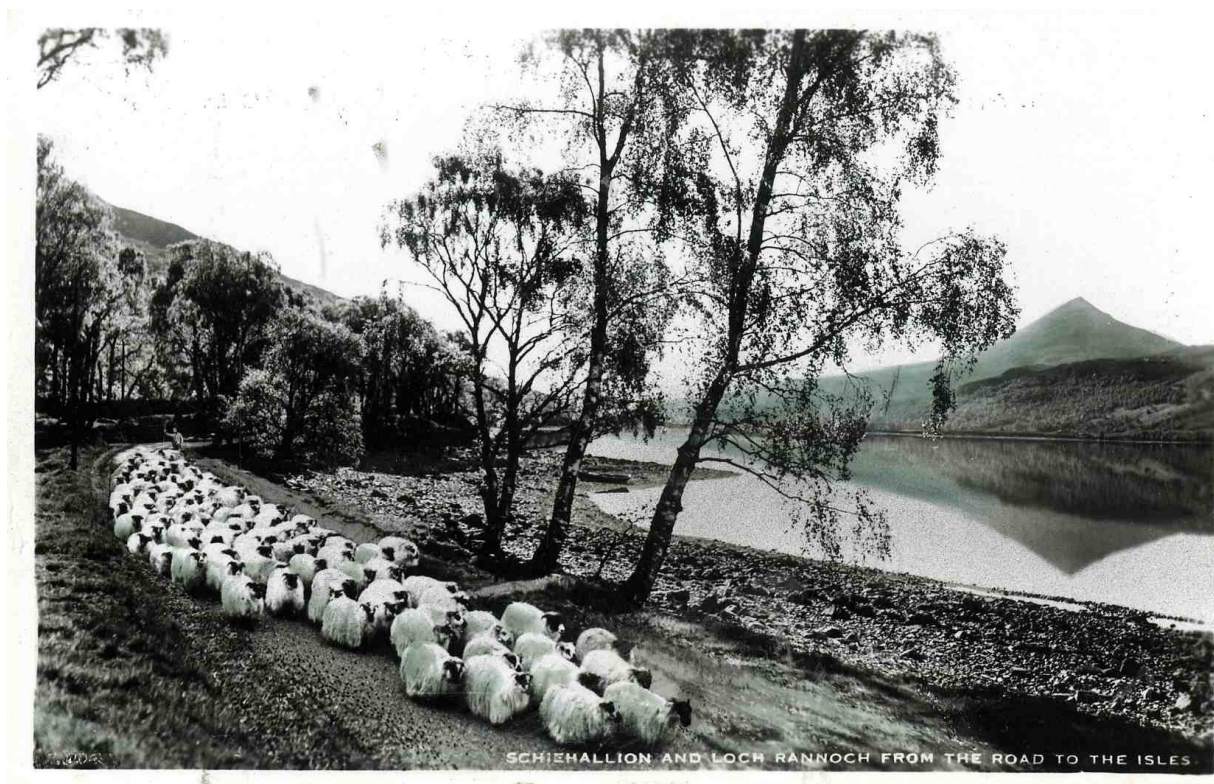


Issue Number

54

Spring 2023

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive



Schiehallion and Loch Rannoch from the Road to the Isles

Image courtesy of Local & Family History, AK Bell Library

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Notes from our Chairman

I am delighted to report that the level of Friends' activities over the past six months is almost, but not quite, as it was before events were abruptly curtailed by COVID-19 in March 2020, now more than three years ago. It is a pleasure to note the number of volunteers (ten) welcomed back into the Archive and the number of Friends attending the FPKA Talks in person, recognising all-the-while the contribution made by new technologies, such as zoom, that have made this resumption achievable.

Your Committee met in-person on five occasions over this period but perhaps most note-worthy was the return of the Rhoda Fothergill Commemoration Group (FPKA, Perth Civic Trust, Perthshire Society of Natural Science), which reconvened by zoom in December 2022 to further explore ways on how jointly to commemorate her life and work; the inaugural meeting was in February 2020. Miss Fothergill's papers are deposited in the Archive (MS347), together with the intellectual rights to her publications. The RFCG has since met three times in person in 2023 and it is planned to launch the collection in November 2023.

On your behalf, letters were sent both to the Archive to support their funding application for an Oral History Workshop in March 2023 and to PKHT (Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust) to say thank you for the interesting visit to the Lower City Mills in January 2023 (invitation issued at the 2022 AGM). The Committee also contributed a short article to the Family History Magazine "Spotlight on the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive" to be published in the June 2023 issue.

Finally, please note that there will be an increase in the annual membership fee from £10.00 to £15.00 for all members, to take effect from April 2023. As advised in the last Newsletter (page 4), an Extraordinary General Meeting was held in February 2023 where an alternative Motion was proposed: "To instead increase the annual membership fee to £15.00 for **all** members for the following year, 2023-2024." The meeting moved to a vote and that Motion was passed. I should like to thank you for your support over the past three years and hope this will continue.

Prue Dowie

News from the Archive

Our sound collections cataloguing project is going well and the first catalogues will soon be uploaded to the Archive online catalogue. Information about the collections is available on the project web pages along with some short films that give a flavour of their content [Voices from the Collections - Culture Perth and Kinross \(culturepk.org.uk\)](http://culturepk.org.uk). The films were created for “Explore Your Archive” and were displayed in libraries throughout Perth & Kinross earlier this year.

In March, we ran an oral history workshop for local groups who are interested in making their own oral history recordings. We also recruited four new volunteers to give them some support and help us with the ongoing job of transcribing our existing collections.

At the end of March, Sarah and I spent two weeks undertaking an Archive ‘stock-check’. We focussed on appraising a large volume of Council committee records dating from the late 1990s to early 2000s, checking for duplicates and putting them into proper order so they can be more easily retrieved. We also re-organised some other records’ series and as a result were able to create a little additional space in the strongroom, which will, no doubt, soon be filled with new deposits!

By the time you receive this *Newsletter* it will be mid-May and you will have already received information about our “Local History Month Programme”, which we run annually with our Local & Family History colleagues. This year there are workshops on palaeography, house history and family history, along with talks on Patrick Geddes, the archives of Historic Environment Scotland as well as on the Local & Family History’s historic newspaper collections, which are currently undergoing conservation and digitisation at the National Library of Scotland. I hope you manage to get along to some of the workshops.

Ishbel McKinnon

“Beatles to Bowie - A Musical Snapshot of Perthshire in the Sixties”

As we look forward to the opening of the new Perth Museum in 2024 with the transformation of the City Halls, it is worth being reminded of one small part of the contribution made by this building to the City of Perth in its former days. One such memento was a talk entitled “Beatles to Bowie – A Musical Snapshot of Perthshire in the Sixties” by Ian McLaren, given in March 2023 to members of the Carse Association for Continuing Education (CACE).



Images courtesy of Ian McLaren

In the talk, I drew on research I had undertaken with the help of staff in the Local Studies Department of the AK Bell Library and I also acknowledged the access I had been afforded by photo archivist Paul Adair of CulturePK to the Cowper/Flood Collection of photographs held by CulturePK at Perth Museum & Art Gallery (PMAG). This involved trawling through photo ledgers for the period in question, identifying possible music-related entries, requesting and viewing negatives in order to assess relevance and requesting digitised copies.

The talk was bookended by the Beatles' stay in the Salutation Hotel in 1963, when they played Dundee's Caird Hall, and David Bowie's appearance at the same hotel in November 1969, just as his single "Space Oddity" peaked at number 5 in the charts. Over the course of the talk, many of the big name acts to grace the City Hall stage such as The Who, The Kinks, The Yardbirds, Lulu, Cat Stevens and The Bee Gees were discussed and the diverse range of local venues and local acts was also covered in some detail.



It was particularly useful to have photographs of bands such as The Cyclones, The Emeralds, The Vikings, Pat'r 4 and others available from the Collection to illustrate the fashions of the time, and the range of instruments and musical equipment on show.

Ian McLaren

A History of the Strange Carthusian Order



King James VI Hospital, Hospital Street, Perth

Photographic Negative, Magnus Jackson 1884-1893 MJ1429

Image courtesy of Perth Museum & Art Gallery

During my research in Perth & Kinross Archive, working on the relationship between the Common Good and King James VI Hospital, I became aware of the Monastery (Charterhouse), which lay within the area formed by Victoria Street to the south, Hospital Street to the north, James Street to the east and the Pomarium flats to the west.

Note: The former King James VI Hospital was built on the former site of the Charterhouse (1429), which was burned to the ground during the 1559 Protestant Reformation. The King James VI Hospital was founded in 1569 by the Regent, Earl of Moray, and then re-founded by the king; when James came of age in 1587, he revoked all grants of crown land (including church property) during his minority and then issued his own Charter on 29th July 1587. The building was funded by royal endowment and public subscription. The building has served several functions in its early life including being an alms-house, an industrial school and an infirmary. In 1976, the building was renovated and converted into 21 residential flats by architect James Morrison, who had a one-man practice in George Street; it is said to be one of the finest pieces of his work. The original hospital boardroom remains intact. The photograph was probably taken between 1884-93, the poster on the right-hand side advertises Cassel's Saturday Journal, which was published during that period.

One must go back to the 11th century to trace the history of this unusual Order, which was founded by St Bruno of Cologne who dictated that the monks dedicated themselves to silence, solitude and fasting. We might find it difficult to understand why young men, well-off and healthy, could have secluded themselves, renouncing all the pleasures of the world, taking upon themselves a solemn vow of chastity and silence, but indeed they did.

A Charter belonging to King James Hospital from the General of the Order, William de Lamonte, dated 19th August 1426, gave power from the General Chapter to James 1 of Scotland to build a monastery in Perth to accommodate 13 monks and their servants to maintain the welfare of the Order. By 1429 the building in the “Vale of Virtue” was so far advanced as to be ready for occupation.

The Order appointed as prior, Oswald, a Bavarian Vicar of La Grande Chartreuse, who gathered some monks from France and Flanders to travel to their new residence and begin their life in Perth. The Carthusian Order in Perth became well-respected by the townspeople and their pious behaviour singled them out from the extravagant and worldly lifestyle of other “Preachers”.

The Reformation had been progressed in the 16th Century and “Protestantism” had shown its strength in Germany and was rapidly spreading to England, with the authority of the Church being destroyed with Henry VIII rewarding his favourites with the spoils from the sacked religious houses.

In time, the crisis came to Scotland with the grudges that had been growing finding vent in May 1559, after a rousing sermon by John Knox in the historic St John’s Church. The townspeople (which included criminals, looters and the mob element) set about ransacking the monasteries until only the walls were standing.

The house of Blackfriars shared the fate of other religious houses which were razed to their foundations and after the Reformation, with the elimination of “idolatry”, some protestant churches became bastions for controlling human behaviour with strict discipline and undisputable authority.

The Carthusians themselves did not escape the attention of the mob and, after some order was restored, the Prior and some monks removed to Errol; a gravestone and gateway were taken to St John’s Kirk. They eventually returned to their home in La Grande Chartreuse in the region of Isere, France, to contemplate the turnaround of their fortunes and some found refuge in the holy houses of their Order in parts of Europe.

It is interesting to recount the doctrine and beliefs of those who rejected the world of doubt and scepticism. Their rule was (no matter what their colour and no matter what their creed):

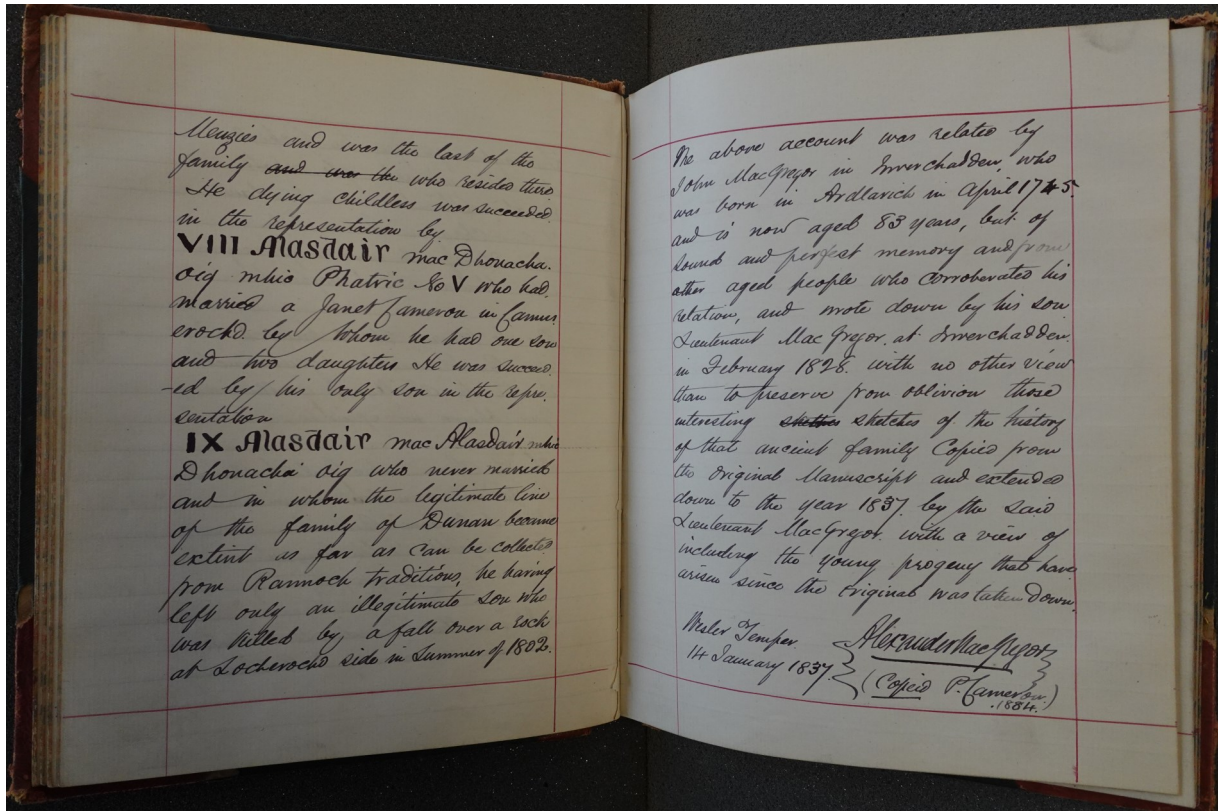
- to pray for those that never pray
- to pray for those who have done you wrong
- to pray for those who sin every hour of their lives
- to pray for all sorts of conditions of men
- to pray that God will remove doubt and scepticism from the world and open all human eyes to the way of faith and salvation.

Today (and I think in the future), some young people are excluding from their thoughts all appreciation of religion and ethics and are only be concerned about the here-and-now and nothing else.

Jim Ferguson

New Acquisition: The Macgregors of Rannoch, 1886

[Acc23/04]



Pages from the Manuscript

Images courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

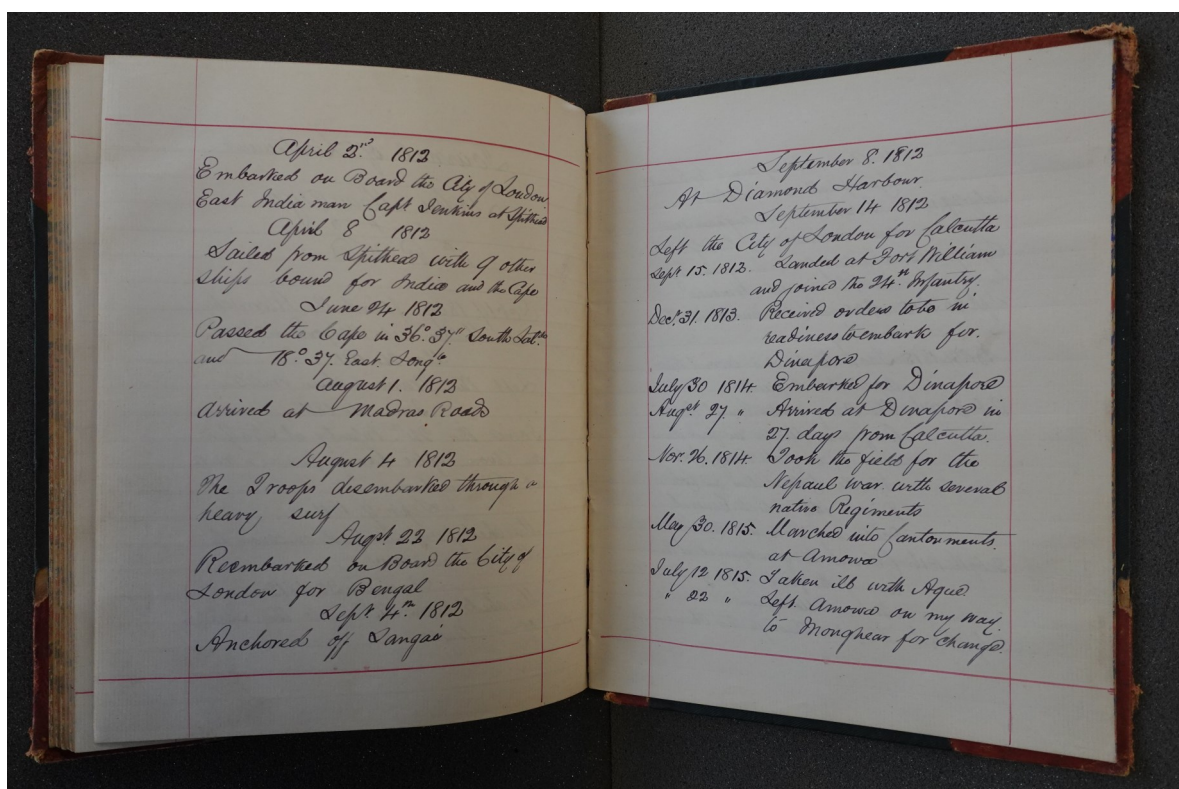
Perth & Kinross Archive recently purchased a very interesting manuscript containing a history of the Macgregor clans in Rannoch, compiled by the noted nineteenth-century Gaelic scholar, Paul Cameron of Pitlochry. The purchase was made possible by a successful grant application to the National Fund for Acquisitions.

'It is universally allowed by the oldest Macgregors in Rannoch by their traditional history, that the family of Ardlarich is no other than the identical family of Macgregor; although it is not easy at this remote period to ascertain with due certainty when or how they got possession there[...]' The area of Rannoch covers the settlements situated around the shores of Loch Rannoch in Highland Perthshire. It sits to the west of Pitlochry and north of Loch Tay.

The manuscript traces the family histories of at least two of the Scottish clans that settled in the area: the Macgregors, who first arrived on the shores of Loch Rannoch around 1440 after they were driven from their ancestral lands in Glen Orchy; and the Stewarts, who settled there in the late-15th/ early-16th centuries.

This manuscript is significant because it contains rare accounts of the historic families of a remote, rural area of the Perthshire Highlands. It will be of great value to those looking to trace family connections to the area and will provide a unique source of information for those interested in the local and social history of Rannoch. Additionally, it may help to inform a broader understanding of life in Scottish loch-side settlements.

The family histories were initially collected in the 1830s by Lieutenant Alexander Macgregor of Wester Tempar, Rannoch, who had been employed by Captain John Macgregor of the 24th Foot 'to collect from the current traditions of the district, and all authentic sources, such information as could be obtained relative to the families of Macgregor in Rannoch' (R.W.D Cameron, M.D, The Celtic Magazine, Vol. XIII, 1888, p.175, National Library of Scotland).



The manuscript also contains additional notes and corrections in pencil made by other members of the Macgregor of Macgregor family, when it came into their possession sometime after the death of Paul Cameron in 1908. It is presumed that one of the additional authors was Sir Malcolm Macgregor, 5th Baronet (1873-1958).

The manuscript was compiled by noted Gaelic scholar Paul Cameron (b. 1840) also of Wester Tempar, Rannoch, where his father farmed at Ardlarich. At some point in the 1860s, Paul moved to Kinloch Rannoch where he established a photography studio; however, business prospects in the small rural area were limited so he relocated to Bonnethill Road, Pitlochry, around 1873. As an active member of the Gaelic Society of Perth, he collected many examples of work by Perthshire Gaelic composers (particularly those from the Rannoch area) and in 1891 and 1893 he presented papers on the subject to the Gaelic Society of Inverness.

The text is divided into several chapters consisting of: 'Accounts of the Families of Ardlarich and Dunan'; 'A Genealogical Account of Sliochd Maol an Eorna in Rannoch 1838'; 'The Family of Temper'; 'Journal of Lieutenant John Macgrigor 4th R.V.B.'; 'Stewarts of Strathgarry in Athole'; and 'Stewarts of Innernaheil'.

The endpapers bear the ink stamp of '*Pol Camshron, Loriochdair, Bailechloichridh*', i.e. Paul Cameron, Loriochdair, Pitlochry, his name also being pencilled with the date 1886 on one of the pastedowns and each of the accounts are invariably initialled 'P.C.'

The manuscript is on display on the first floor of the AK Bell Library in Perth until the end of July.

Sarah Wilcock

Scottish Estate Sales Catalogues

in the Historic Environment Scotland Archive

According to the front page of the sales catalogue, the auction of up to 18,000 acres of Perthshire land was scheduled for 2pm on Tuesday 23rd October 1883. This sale included the lands covered by the Dunalastair, Lochgarry, and Kinloch Rannoch estates, the Schiehallion mountain, the village of Rannoch, and “The MacDonald Arms Hotel”.

This sales catalogue, an ephemeral piece of marketing not intended for long-term preservation, captures the atmosphere during the late-nineteenth century when many large estate-owners started selling off their land and houses. Through digitisation, Historic Environment Scotland has made this record available to a wider audience, improving our understanding of our shared histories.

Historic Environment Scotland’s archive holds 100 catalogues detailing the sale of various major estates from this time, including images, maps and descriptions of land use. Historic Environment Scotland identified these catalogues as suitable for digitisation during 2017-2021. This collection was very fragile, which limited in-person access, so digitisation was the most appropriate method of preserving and accessing these records.

The catalogues were treated by HES archive conservators, which included repairing paper, stabilising large map fold-outs and removing damaging objects such as rusted nails. Following treatment, these catalogues were digitally photographed and transferred to our digital repository, where archive metadata was assigned to each image.

MS 265/48

PERTHSHIRE.

In the far-famed Rannoch District, renowned for the Grandeur of its Scenery and Salubrious Climate, while for Sporting it is probably superior to any other part of the Highlands.
Nine Miles from STRUAN, an important Station on the Highland Railway, whence LONDON is reached in about Fourteen Hours.

Particulars, Plans and Conditions of Sale
OF THE

MAGNIFICENT FREEHOLD DOMAIN

COMPRISING THE ESTATES OF

DUNALASTAIR, LOCHGARRY, CROSSMOUNT, EASTER
TEMPAR, DALCHOSNIE & KINLOCH RANNOCH,

OCCUPYING AN AREA APPROACHING

18,000 ACRES,

All most advantageously lying in a Ring Fence. The

Princely Mansion of Dunalastair

Is a grand Specimen of the Scottish Baronial Style of Architecture,

And occupies an exceedingly favored Site, commanding the most extensive varied Mountain, Loch, and Landscape Views.

THE SEVERAL SUPERIOR RESIDENCES,

Situated on the LOCHGARRY, CROSSMOUNT & DALCHOSNIE ESTATES, are used as

FIRST-CLASS SHOOTING LODGES,

AND ARE LET WITH THE

EXTENSIVE GROUSE MOORS,

Which are acknowledged to be amongst the choicest and most productive in the County.

THE EXCELLENT FISHINGS

Extend for many Miles in the River Tummel and over the whole of Loch Rannoch, **11 MILES IN LENGTH.**

THE NOTED PEAK OF SCHIEHALLION,

3,500 FEET HIGH,

Forms part of the Estate and might be easily converted into a Deer Forest for which it is well adapted.

NEARLY

THE WHOLE OF THE PICTURESQUE VILLAGE OF RANNOCH,

Together with THE WELL-KNOWN HOSTELRY and Visitors' Resort, known as

"THE MACDONALD ARMS HOTEL,"

Several small Residences, Accommodation Lands and Cottages,

NUMEROUS FARMS WITH CAPITAL FARM HOUSES AND HOMESTEADS.

PRESENTING IN ITS ENTIRETY ONE OF

THE GRANDEST RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING POSSESSIONS,

And unquestionably one of the most important Highland Estates, ever brought into the Market.

Which will be Offered for Sale by Auction,

BY MESSRS.

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS, CLARK & CO.

At the Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, in the City of London,

On **TUESDAY, the 23rd day of OCTOBER, 1883,**

AT TWO O'CLOCK PRECISELY,—IN ONE LOT,

(UNLESS AN ACCEPTABLE OFFER BE PREVIOUSLY MADE).

Further Particulars, Plans and Conditions of Sale and Orders to View may be obtained of Messrs. J. WATSON LYALL and Co., 15, Pall Mall, London, S.W.; of JAMES MCKERCHAR, Esq., Bank of Scotland, Aberfeldy; of A. P. FURVES, Esq., W.S., 102, George Street, Edinburgh; at the Auction Mart, E.C.; and of Messrs. FAREBROTHER, ELLIS, CLARK & CO. 5 & 6, Lancaster Place, Strand, W.C., and 18, Old Broad Street, E.C.

DRYDEN PRESS, DAVY & SONS, 137, LONG ACRE.

1517

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Estate Exchange No. 1517

Front Page [SC 2151944]

© Courtesy of HES (Estates Exchange collection).

The Dunalastair Estate sales catalogue provides a fascinating glimpse into this historic period. As might be expected for a piece of sales literature, the language proclaims the virtues of the Rannoch district. In this district, where “the scenery is magnificent and not to be surpassed in Scotland,” one might travel by “winding through grandly timbered and beautifully undulating park lands” to take part in fishing or grouse hunting, both of which boast to be the finest in the Scottish Highlands. While we might roll our eyes at this type of showmanship, this is a useful resource to understand what landowners valued during the period and how they intended to sell their Scottish assets to a London audience.

In addition to portraying the land, these catalogues contain important social histories. In purchasing a Scottish estate, the new landowner would take responsibility for the tenants living there. The sales catalogues include a list of current tenants, their addresses and their annual tenancy agreement. As such we can learn that, at the time of sale, John McPherson occupied Easter Temper farm, comprising 114 acres, at a cost of £110 per annum.

Additional small details can be found, such as the agreement for Donald Crear to draw water on the Kinnoch estate at an annual fee of £1 and 10 shillings. These details, in addition to a list of taxable outgoings (such as poor rates), provide a useful dataset for examining the economic and social history of the region.

This album was digitised during Historic Environment Scotland’s archive Digital Project. This project took place from 2017-2021 and involved digitising over half-a-million items in our archive collections. Our Estates Exchange catalogues were one of the collections we digitised during this project and included 37 Scottish sales catalogues dated between 1872 and 1912. These sales catalogues give an important insight into Scottish land management at the end of the 19th century, as well as important social and economic insights of estate-owners and tenants.

As well as increasing the amount of digital archive material online, the Digital Project resulted in several improvements to how users view archive images on Canmore. Tiled images were generated to allow users to zoom into digital archive content and view images in full-screen mode. Having ‘zoomable’ images makes the archive much more accessible and significantly increases Canmore’s research value. Further developments have also allowed users to browse consecutive book pages more easily, as well as scroll to the first or last digitised page within the book.

These digitised materials, and much more, can be accessed using the Canmore web resource www.canmore.org.uk . On this website you can search and browse Historic Environment Scotland’s archive catalogues, view over a million digitised and born-digital archive material and view associated data through the National Record of the Historic Environment.

For further enquiries, and to learn more about Historic Environment Scotland’s archive collections, contact us at archives@hes.scot

Frederick Alexander

Archivist, Historic Environment Scotland

Schiehallion and
Loch Rannoch
Lantern slide, glass

Image courtesy of
Perth Museum & Art Gallery



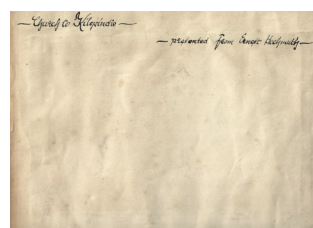
The Lychgate of Kilspindie & Rait Parish Church



Kilspindie & Rait Parish Church

Watercolour Painting, Ernest Hockmuth, circa 1943

Images courtesy of Ian McLaren



My mother, Betty Bonnar, was born in 1929 and had piano lessons from an early age. Her first musical “engagement”, so to speak, was playing the church organ each Sunday in Kilspindie Church in the Carse of Gowrie during wartime, probably around 1943. When she died in 2011, I inherited both the piano she played on a daily basis all her life and a watercolour painting of Kilspindie Church, which she regularly described as having been painted by one of the German prisoners-of-war (PoW), who used to march from the nearby camp at Pitroddie to church each Sunday. The rear of the painting has been written on by the artist with the words “Church to Kilspindie presented from Ernest Hockmuth”.

Ian McLaren

Note: This is the first colour image of Kilspindie & Rait Parish Church seen by the Editor. Church records include a photographic image dated circa 1932 of a similar view but in black and white.

.....

This view of Kilspindie & Rait Parish Church was also sketched by another PoW, A Oberhofer in 1947. The sketch, later used as a Christmas card by the Kirk's Session Clerk, is illustrated by Donald Abbott in "Pitroddie Perspectives". "The camp at Pitroddie housed both Italian and German prisoners at different stages of the war" (65 PoWs listed in 1947)...."Relics of the Italian occupation of the camp are sparse....All that remains are the concrete foundations....." Pitroddie was a small satellite camp of a much larger PoW camp at Balhary, near Meikle (see Newsletter 50).

About the lychgate itself which first caught his boyhood eye, Donald testifies: "Such a feature is unusual in a Scottish Presbyterian church context but this fine construction is enhanced by its facing side-panelling, forming the War Memorial of the dead of the parish and district from both recent World Wars".

No reference is made in any of the records consulted to date of the construction of the lychgate, the War Memorial, but it has been placed where the entrance gates shown below used to stand. In 1914 (as now), access to the Parish Church at Kilspindie was by a road leading from the public road to the churchyard, at that time through entrance gates but, in July 1916, there came a flood.

Kilspindie Church, 1903

Image courtesy of
Perth Museum & Art
Gallery



The churchyard was then owned by the Heritors (local landowners), who were responsible for its upkeep; during the war years, their Minute Book records the state of the graveyard and entrance. The Heritors met and contributed annually through Ordinary and/or Voluntary Allocation Assessment (see Valuation Rolls, Archive, AK Bell Library). The Rolls list the landowners and tenants (1855-1978) residing within the parish, providing details of Ordinary & Voluntary contributions. The major contributors during the First World War were: in no special order Evelick, Annat, Arnbathy, Oliveburn, Craigloch, Fingask, Kilspindie; the minutes record what happened to the entrance (see page 19).

The Kirk Session minutes and coverage in both local and national newspapers record that the lychgate was completed in April 1921 as a war memorial for the twelve men connected with the parish who fell in the war. Today the memorial lists 14 names, 13 (WW1) and 1 (WW2). No other reference to it has been found in the minutes of the Heritors, Kirk Session, Parish Council or School but there is mention of a War Memorial Committee, though no paperwork yet discovered.

There are many war memorials in Scotland but only a very few of those erected to commemorate the 1914-1918 war are lychgates. Limited information on the lychgate war memorial at Kilspindie is provided by the War Memorial Trust. "The War Memorial (First World War and Second World War) is in form of a wine red painted wooden Lychgate at the entrance to the Parish Church with two grey granite tablets set into stone pillars on the road side of the Lychgate - dedication to the left, names to the right", which was unveiled in early September 1921 by General Sir Francis Davis, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Scotland (*Dundee Courier*, 7 September 1921, *Perthshire Advertiser*, 17 September 1921) madeinperth.org/military-memorials-of_perthshire. The list of the thirteen soldiers, commemorated on the war memorial at Kilspindie as having died during WW1, is precisely that, a list of names; no other details about them are given. It is The Golden Book (the City of and County of Perth WW1 Roll of Honour), which provides supplementary information. A mistaken identity of the soldier listed on the war memorial would affect the date and the place of death, as well as his age at death.

**Extracts from the Heritors of Kilspindie Parish
Minute Book and Accounts, 1818-1934 (NLS HR 417)**

Committee 1914—1921

Captain Malcolm Drummond of Megginch, Colonel W Murray Threipland of Fingask (called on military duty 1915), Alexander Moody Stuart of Annat, Major (later General) Steele of Evelick, Rev J M Strachan (Minister), Clerks (various). In 1920, Fingask was represented by Sir John Henderson Stewart, Bart.

28th July 1914

It was resolved to instruct Robert Will, Blacksmith, to repair the gate

20th May 1915

Paid C Anderson & Son, joiners, repairs to the church gate £-2-1 (£0.10)

1st August 1916

The damage done to the road from the public road to the churchyard by flood on 8th July (1916) was examined, and in view of the present state of matters owing to the War, it was agreed to delay meantime instructing a permanent repair, and the meeting resolved, if an arrangement could be made with the farm tenant, for an entrance by the north gate to the churchyard, to barricade the damaged portion of the road and to erect a fence with gate therein, on the line of the fallen wall, and it was remitted to the Clerks to arrange accordingly. The meeting further instructed the Clerks to get from Mr Duff, their surveyor, a Report on the question of permanent repair of the damage and whether such could be done more appropriately by way of restoring the ground or by erection of a bridge.

The meeting instructed the wall of the Manse Garden where fallen to be repaired, and it was remitted to Mr Goodall to arrange for the ivy on the walls of the Churchyard to be cut down to an appropriate level.

11th August 1916

Paid Willsher Goodall, making temporary road to church and re-building Manse Garden Wall August 1916 £3-12-8 (£3.65)

At Kilspindie, the churchyard includes a Commonwealth War Grave and the name of another soldier is commemorated on a plaque located at the north wall of the church. Both men had a close connection to Kilspindie and died as soldiers during the first world war; yet there is no explanation so far found as to why they are not commemorated on the lychgate war memorial.

Stewart Coupar (Local & Family History) clarifies: “Few records for war memorial committees have survived, sadly. It seems that, after money had been raised, design of memorial had been agreed upon and the memorial was erected and unveiled, the committee was disbanded. It is probable that some families may have held onto the records within their own private papers and these have often been lost over time.

There was no central policy or guidance given when war memorials were being erected, each committee was free to make their own choices; some included names of the fallen, others did not. If they chose to include names, then they had to decide who to include and who not to. Some opted to include only the people living and enlisting from their parish at the time of the war; others included anyone who had lived within the parish.

Some people are missing from lists because there were no living members of their families living in the parish at the time that the lists were compiled and others can be found listed on 2 or 3 War Memorials. It was not uncommon for people to give a large donation on the understanding that a name would be included, even if that person may only have spent a short period within the parish before falling during the war.”

The only information available to date on the composition of the War Memorial committee at Kilspindie is that “The Hon. Mrs Drummond, Megginch, was one of the chief promoters” (article on War Memorials, *The Scotsman* 1921).

Every November, a service is held at the lychgate on Remembrance Sunday, commemorating the soldiers listed on the lychgate and the two memorialised in the churchyard. In November 2022, a short Commemoration was held at the lychgate, even though the Parish Church closed for worship with the last service on Easter Sunday 2022 (17th April); the congregation has since been dissolved.

The lychgate forms part of the boundary wall of the churchyard. The churchyard has been owned by the Parish Council since 1925 (now Perth & Kinross Council), who cut the grass and maintain it. PKC has recently set up a “Community Greenspace” initiative to establish the “Friends of the Old Churchyards of Perth & Kinross” in various locations to protect the environment and to record the ancient gravestones. A meeting has very recently been held to possibly establish a group at Kilspindie.

The stories of the soldiers themselves and the battles they fought were first uncovered by Nicola McInnes (Lawrence) as part of a school project and were later added to with assistance from the Family & Local History team at the AK Bell Library in Perth. Further information came from local conversations and in the minutes, newspapers and records held by the Black Watch, the AK Bell Library (Perth & Kinross Archive, Family & Local History) and the National Library of Scotland. Thank you.

We still do not know who selected the design of a lychgate to be the War Memorial for Kilspindie and Rait, who designed and who built the lychgate, who exactly are the soldiers listed on the lychgate outside the church at Kilspindie, who chose them and on what basis. This story remains incomplete.

Prue Dowie

William II of Scotland



Silver shilling piece Scots dated 1697

Images courtesy of Donald Abbott



This is a most interesting coin which I've owned since before I was 15 and is what proved to be the Five Shilling Scots after I had cleaned it with a chamois cloth. Shown above side-by-side is the reverse of the coin, dated 1697 "nemo me impune lacesset"*; the obverse side with the King's bust has a wee 5 beneath it. It's a valuable coin in fine condition probably preserved by the original dirt on it. It was left to me by a great uncle and set me off on my coin collection.

It brings back a memory of Rait when, as a lad, I helped two adult relatives displenish Braehead cottage at Rait upon the death of my great uncle, David Neave Macdonald, part-time Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the Parish of Kilspindie. This coin was totally black and indecipherable when found by me in the drawer of a Victorian clock, together with what seemed to be an American 5-dollar piece. Although it seemed to be pseudo, the adults told me to keep both items.

William of Orange became King of England and Ireland as William III on 22nd January 1689 and became King William II of Scotland on 4th April 1689. It was initially a joint monarchy with his wife, Mary Stuart, who predeceased him on 28th December 1694. After she died, he ruled as sole sovereign as William II of Scotland and III of England. He was thus sole monarch at the date of my five shilling silver Scots coin.

Donald Abbott, FSA Scot

* The Latin motto of the Order of the Thistle and of the Kingdom of Scotland; it means "no one provokes me with impunity" and in Scots is often rendered as "Wha daur meddle with me". The motto was added to the arms of the king of Scotland during the reign of Charles II and, since the Union, has appeared in Scottish versions of the arms of the monarch..... *A Dictionary of Scottish Phrase and Fable*

FPKA Dates for Your Diary

Summer Outing 2023, Cultybraggan Camp, Comrie

Monday 4th September 2023, 2pm

The Summer Outing 2023 will be a visit to Cultybraggan camp at Comrie on Monday 4th September 2023 at 1.30pm. Susan Holoran, the Visitor Experience Officer, will be our guide on the tour (lasting 1-2 hours), which would include a visit to the inside buildings (not normally open to the public). Friends will be told about their change of use and fabric, the history of both the PoW camp and the MoD training camp, current community uses and plans for the future. Afterwards, you can browse the museum in your own time. The charge is £12/person and, on Mondays, the café is open for refreshments after the tour.

An invitation will be sent to you nearer the time and a closing date set. As with the outing to Murthly Castle, we shall be asking which members are happy to car share as there is no suitable public transport; a pick-up time in the library car park will also be advised, allowing for enough travel time to Comrie.

Provisional Dates for Friends' Talks 2023-2024

At this stage, the full Programme of Talks for the 2023-2024 Session has not been finalised. Meanwhile we are pleased to notify you of the provisional dates. Due to technical reasons the Friends' talks are not recorded.

2023

September 21st 6.30pm

October 19th 2.00pm

November 23rd 6.30pm

2024

February 22nd 2.00pm

March 21st 2.00pm

April 18th 6.30pm

May 23rd 6.30pm (AGM 6.00pm)

Friends' Talks 2022-2023 Session

This session, the Talks programme will be entirely hybrid, delivered by zoom and in-person in the Soutar Theatre at the AK Bell Library, Perth.

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

All are welcome to attend the talks, which are free to members (non-members £5.00 in person or £2.00 by zoom)

Pre-booking is essential, processed by Eventbrite.

Date	Time	Talks
2022		
Thursday 22 nd September	6.30 pm	CANCELLED
Thursday 27 th October	2 pm	Gareth Pugh The Atholls' Brief Reign as the Lords of Mann
Thursday 17 th November	2 pm	POSTPONED to MAY 2023
2023		
Thursday 16 th February	2 pm	Andrew Ferguson Perth Common Good Fund
Thursday 23 rd March	2 pm	Dr Mike Taylor 1918 The Treaty of Versailles
Thursday 27 th April	6.30 pm	Professor Richard Oram Scotland and the Plague 1350-1650
Thursday 18 th May	6 pm 6.30 pm	AGM Caroline Brown The Power of Archives

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive

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Honorary Presidents: The Provost Mr Donald Abbott

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