

Issue Number

55

Autumn 2023

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive



Summer Outing 2023, the Friends are welcomed to Cultybraggan Camp

Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

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Notes from our Chairman

The publication of Newsletter no. 55 in November 2023 coincides with a planned launch of the Rhoda Fothergill collection (MS347). Rhoda died in 2019 (please see Newsletter 47) and left her personal papers to the Archive; COVID-19 in March 2020 interrupted any plans to commemorate her life. Backed by the Archive, the Friends' committee have been working with PSNS (Perthshire Society of Natural Science) and PCT (Perth Civic Trust) and have jointly selected four actions to be taken forward as the first phase: the Launch and Annual Lecture (on 23rd November 2023); the Reissuing (PSNS website) of her Local History books and the Rebranding of a Room (Fothergill Room). Meanwhile, PSNS and PCT have been working on "An Historical Map of PERTH" (Medieval and Regional Town), scheduled to be available in Spring 2024.

Your committee has met only twice since the last newsletter was issued. At the AGM in May 2023, Friends learnt of the raise in the annual subscription, the de-restriction of the Atholl Fund and the appointment of Ron Johansen as Honorary Secretary; we thank Catherine Stephen, the previous Honorary Secretary, for her contribution to the work of the Friends. "Spotlight on the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive" was published in the June 2023 issue of the Family History Magazine. In July 2023, the £988 from the de-restricted Atholl Fund together with £1,512 from the Un-restricted Fund was put towards the Archive's editing of the "Your Scottish Archive" portal and the cataloguing of the John McEwen archive.

Assistant Archivist, Sarah Wilcock, and the FPKA Events Officers, Pat Kerr and Margaret Borland Stroyan, organised for us the Friends' Summer Outing (on 4th September 2023 to Cultybraggan Camp) and the 2023-2024 programme of Friends' Talks (please see pages 4 and 24). Also in September 2023, the latest area booklet was published; "West Perthshire through the Archive" was skilfully compiled by volunteers Jackie Hay and Margaret Smith and was kindly funded by David Robertson, thank you. Welcome to the 2023-2024 season and thank you for your support to the Friends.

Prue Dowie

News from the Archive

Since the last Newsletter the Archive team has been working on several projects that will come to fruition over the next few weeks and months. Most imminent, are preparations to celebrate the life of Rhoda Fothergill BEM (1929-2019). A day of events has been planned for 23rd November beginning with an afternoon exhibition of her research papers, followed by an evening reception for her friends and former pupils, and the first Rhoda Fothergill Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr Paul Philippou, 'Rhoda Fothergill and William Soutar: A Shared Landscape'. Proceedings have been jointly planned with Perth Civic Trust, PSNS and the Friends of the Archive. Archive volunteers have helped enormously with research for the exhibition and volunteering their time to help out on the day – thank you to everyone who has been involved. The lecture will become an annual event in Miss Fothergill's memory which will be hosted in subsequent years by each partner in turn.

During the summer, with support from the Friends, our long-term Archive volunteer Euan McIntyre was employed for eight weeks to work on two important cataloguing projects. The first was preparing a detailed catalogue of the papers of John McEwen, a local forester, who in retirement became a leading figure in the Scottish land reform movement. The second was upgrading some of our existing catalogues for inclusion in an exciting new Scottish Archive catalogue portal called 'Your Scottish Archives' which will be launched this winter.

Late summer saw the much-anticipated publication of *West Perthshire Through the Archive*. This is the fourth publication in the series which is researched, written and beautifully illustrated by volunteers, Jackie Hay and Margaret Smith. It has been distributed to local libraries and been very well received. We hope to do an 'official' launch in spring 2024 to coincide with the development of 'Local History Hubs' in Strathearn, Breadalbane, Loch Leven and Blairgowrie libraries – more about this in the Spring *Newsletter*!

We have also been able to extend the sound archive cataloguing project by three months and Hannah and our oral history volunteers are working harder than ever to complete as many transcriptions as possible before the end of the year.

On behalf of all the Archive staff, I hope you have a Happy Christmas and send good wishes for 2024.

Ishbel Mackinnon

Summer Outing to Cultybraggan Camp

Monday 4th September 2023



Prisoners of War at Cultybraggan Camp

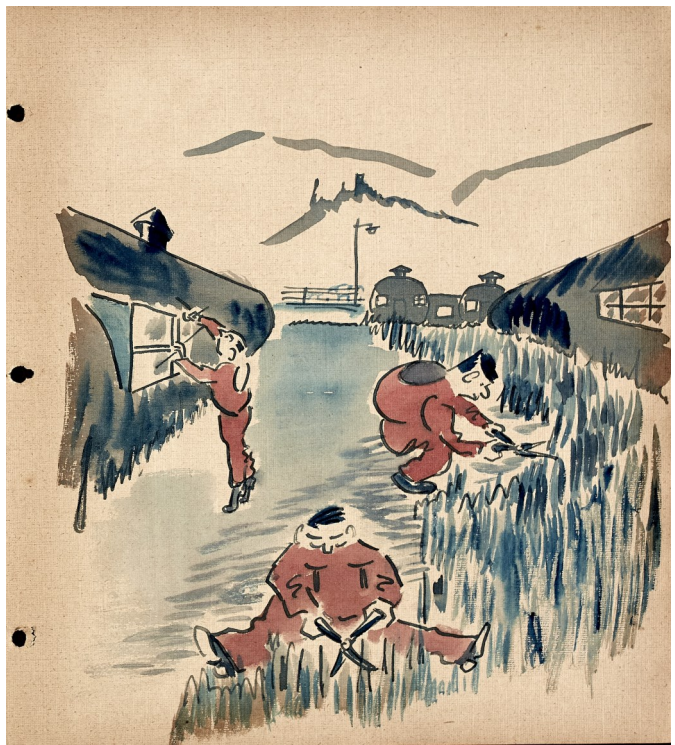
Image courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archive

The 2023 Friends' Summer Outing was to Cultybraggan near Comrie, where there is a well-preserved former prisoner-of-war camp. Bob Roseweir, a volunteer from the Comrie Development Trust, ably guided us round the site on a very hot and sunny afternoon.

In 1941, when it was initially set up, Cultybraggan was a work camp for Italian prisoners but by 1944 and then named Camp 21, it became a maximum security camp and was capable of housing up to 4,000 prisoners. It was divided into four compounds with the most hard-core Nazis, many of them Waffen SS, being identified by black patches. These graduated down in colour through grey to the least dangerous prisoners, who wore white ones. No interaction was permitted between the different compounds, which were mostly guarded by British soldiers but also by some Polish. Prisoners were transported by train to Comrie Station, then marched through the village to the camp, loudly singing patriotic German songs, according to the recollections of local bystanders.

Image from the
Cultybraggan Cartoon Collection

Image courtesy of
Perth & Kinross Archive



In every compound, the 100-foot-long Nissen huts could each house up to 90 men in basic conditions. We were shown into one with an evocative reconstructed interior, where the men had slept on wooden bunks with webbing mesh as support. Straw-filled mattresses were placed on these, with each prisoner having a sleeping bag and a blanket for warmth. A shelf ran along the length of the hut walls, allowing a small space for each prisoner to hold personal items. Heating was provided by two simple stoves and lighting was supplied by a string of hanging bulbs. The prisoners ate in mess huts with the same level of rations as British soldiers. They could also participate in various types of activities and received an element of medical care as a 40-bed infirmary was provided. Prisoners were allowed to work, both inside and outside the camp, with many working on local farms and becoming well-known to local residents.

The most serious incident in the camp took place in 1944, when a group of SS prisoners accompanied by an interpreter, Wolfgang Rosterg, were moved from Wiltshire to Cultybraggan after a thwarted breakout attempt. They accused him of betraying the breakout to the authorities, so they proceeded to torture and hang him. The perpetrators were taken to London, where they were tried for murder and five of them were found guilty and hanged. Although there were rumours of attempted breakouts from Cultybraggan, none was successful.

Repatriation began in 1946 and by 1948 it became a Ministry of Defence training camp with improved, but still fairly basic, facilities. Thousands of personnel in the regular, territorial and cadet forces passed through its doors until its closure in 2004. During the period of the Cold War, a monitoring post for the Royal Observer Corps was built at the north-east end of the camp. In 1990, this was fortified by the addition of an underground bunker so that, in the event of a nuclear attack, Government and other important organisations could operate safely from it. Not long afterwards, when the Cold War threat diminished, it was sold back to the army but has since been sold to a private buyer and closed to public access.

In 2004, when the Ministry of Defence gave up their use of the camp, the opportunity to buy the site was taken up the local community who formed the Comrie Development Trust for the benefit of local residents. Since then, a community woodland, orchard and around 40 allotments have been created, along with some of the former huts housing small businesses. There are also several updated huts available as holiday lets, whilst the on-site cafe offers refreshments to guests and visitors.



The Notice-board at
Cultybraggan Camp

Image courtesy of
Perth & Kinross Archive

Our tour ended at the refurbished former jail block which displays a collection of unique wartime cartoons, drawn by a German prisoner. These give an insight into many aspects of contemporary prison life from the viewpoint of the inmates. Another storyboard tells of a former prisoner, Heinrich Steinmeyer, who kept in contact with Comrie and its people long after the war ended. One time, when he was a prisoner, he was disguised and smuggled out of the camp by local youngsters so that he could attend a film show. As a testament to the kindness and generous treatment which had been shown to him by the local community when he was a prisoner, he left a legacy of just under £400,000 for its benefit and it is the hope of the local community that Cultybraggan will continue to prosper.

Pat Kerr

The Nissen Huts,
Cultybraggan Camp

Image courtesy of
Perth & Kinross Archive



FPKA Membership

Numbers: 70 ordinary members, 23 life members and two Honorary Members

Thank you for your continued support

The Main Road that was never built

The villagers of Ardeonaig, on the south side of Loch Tay, had suffered for centuries from there being no road over the hills to Comrie to shorten the distance their goods had to travel instead of going by way of Kenmore or Killin. Eventually their pleas were heard, as the following extract in the National Archives under GD253/176/7 reveals:

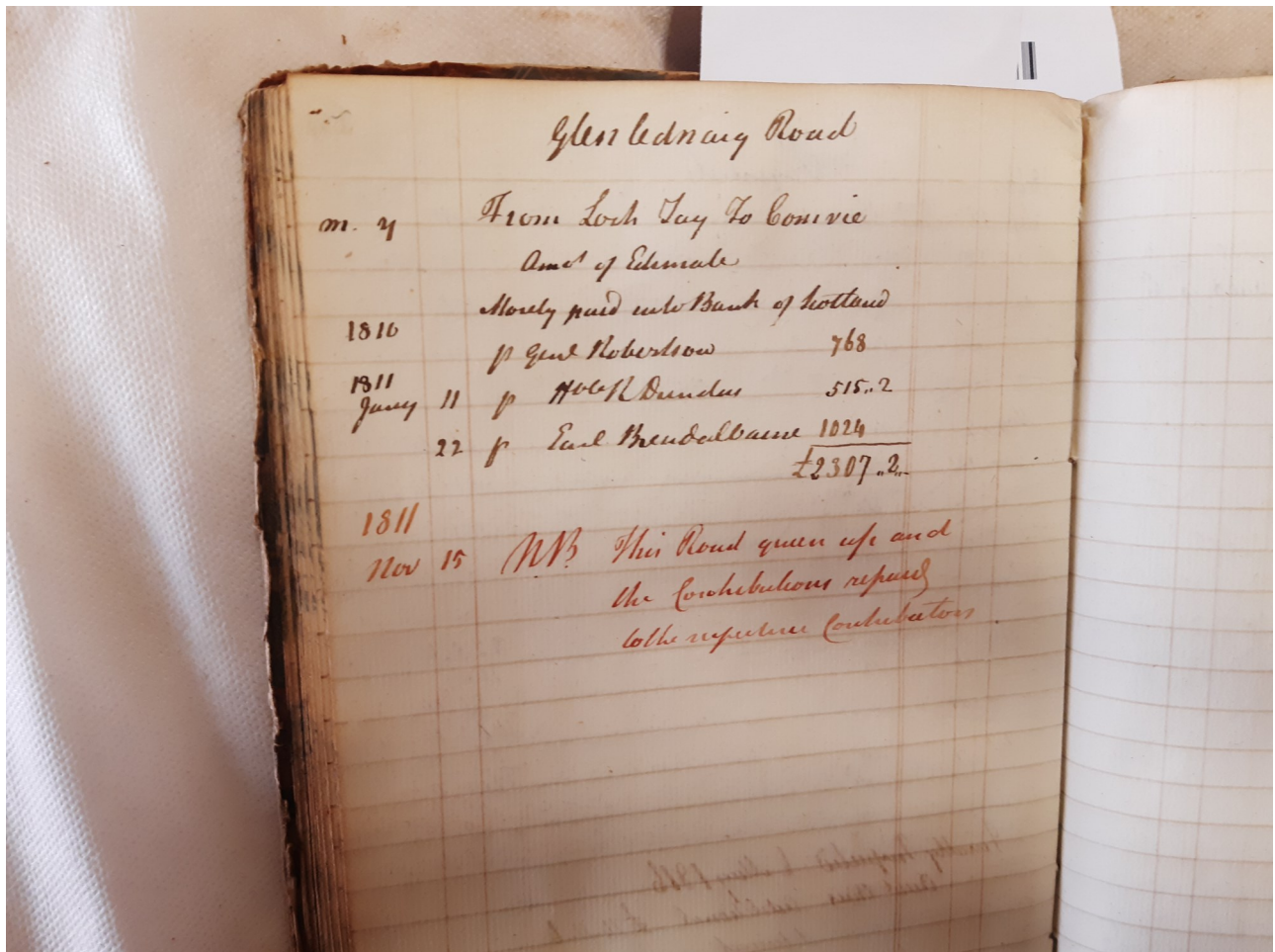
Estimates and offers for making the Glenlednaig road and bridges from Comrie to Loch Tay

By a Memorial which was presented to The Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges by the Great Landowners in the month of July 1807, it appears "That much inconvenience is experienced by the inhabitants of the country which is situate along the sides of Loch Tay, from the want of a more direct communication with the Lowlands, than is afforded by the roads which proceed from the extremities of that district, at Kenmore and Killin.

These places are 16 miles (the length of Loch Tay) distant from each other; and, although they are connected by good roads on each side of the loch, yet the inhabitants of the intermediate district in using these roads as a communication with Comrie, Crieff or Stirling, make a very circuitous journey, compared with that which they would have to perform were a good road made from about the middle of the District, on the south side of the loch through Glen Lednaig to Comrie.....

To remove the inconvenience thus experienced by the country situate along Loch Tay, and by that around Comrie, it has been long and frequently proposed to open a road from the south side of Loch Tay, near the village of Ardeonaig through Glen Lednaig to Comrie, and to continue this line of road from Comrie, through Glen Lichorn by Ardock and Kinbuck towards Dunblane and Stirling.

Whatever happened next isn't recorded in the Commissioners' minutes; maybe the estimated costs were too great to countenance or maybe they decided the whole project was too difficult to undertake. Whatever the cause, they pulled the plug on the project in November of that same year (1811) and returned their subscriptions to the three contributors without any work being carried out.

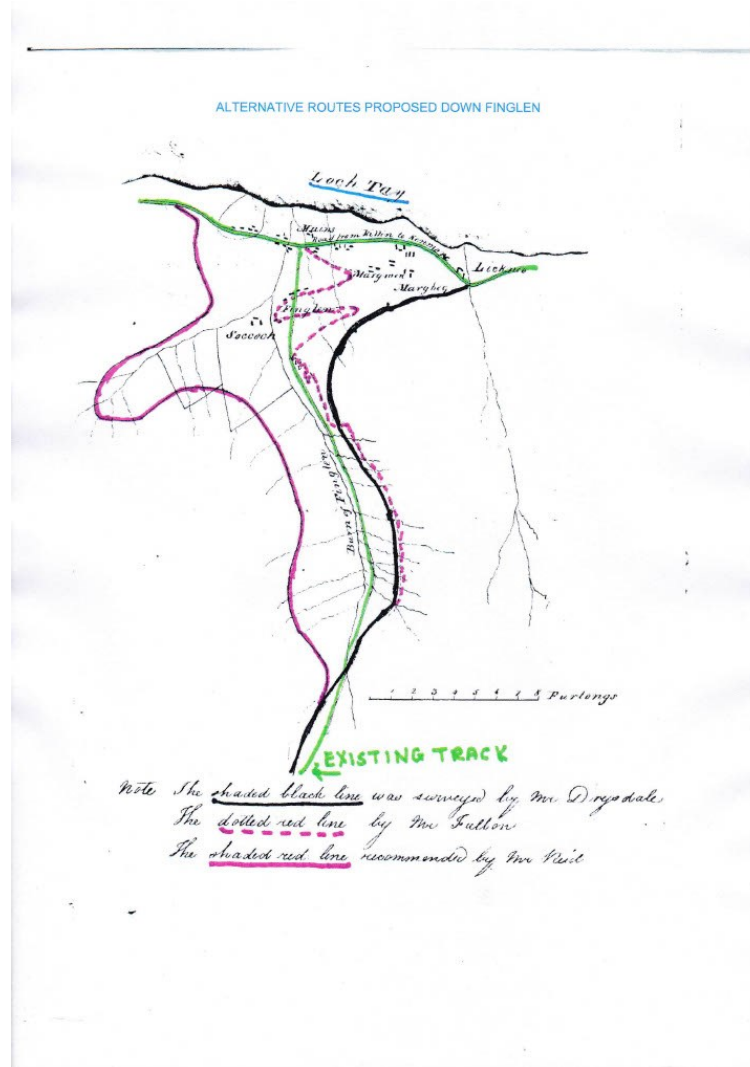


Road Commissioners' Minutes (extract)

Image courtesy of
Bernard Byrom

The idea of a direct road was revived in 1826 and a proper survey of the route was carried out. There was an existing road of sorts up Glen Lednock from Comrie as far as Invergeldie and the new road would generally run parallel to this but on a slightly higher level on the hillside.

The two roads would converge at the waterfall of Spout Rollo and then resume as before (in the area nowadays under the waters of Loch Lednock reservoir) until coming together again at a summit on the slopes of Creag Bheag. They were now faced with the fairly precipitous descent of Glen Findhorn to the shore of Loch Tay at Ardeonaig and three alternative routes were proposed.



Map of Finglen

Image courtesy of Bernard Byrom

One of them zig-zagged down the valley and arrived in the centre of Ardeonaig close to the Ardeonaig Hotel but the other two made wide sweeping curves on either side of the valley and ended on the Killin to Kenmore road some way outside the village. But once again nothing further was heard of the proposal and the villagers of Ardeonaig are still waiting for their road to be built.

Bernard Byrom

John Wesley



Rev. John Wesley, 1703-1791. Founder of Methodism, Lizards

Image courtesy of National Galleries Scotland

www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/105291

I imagine that the several generations of my McDonald / Macdonald relatives, living later in Rait in the Braes of the Carse of Gowrie, were not aware that John Wesley, the Anglican preacher and founder of Methodism within the then embrace of the Church of England, preached in their village on 23rd May 1774.

His record of this event is as follows: “ Mon. 23rd I preached to a considerable number of plain, serious country-people at Rait, a little town in the middle of that lovely valley called the Carse of Gowry” (the Wesley spelling).¹

His next preaching visits following Rait were at Dundee and Arbroath and prior to Rait he had been preaching in Perth. En route for Dundee, he had read the detail of the 1600 Gowry (again his spelling) Conspiracy, in which two men were killed; their assets were appropriated by the Crown. Wesley later gave a scathing comment on the truthfulness of its recorded detail and the honesty of King James VI's evidence.

Over his life, John paid 22 visits to Scotland embracing each of its then four cities, most of its towns and very many of its villages. Several visits were of the repeat variety. His missionary skills on every visit were prodigious. He preached by invitation in many churches, Presbyterian and Anglican often emphasising his preference for the Anglican form of service, which as a son of the Anglican parsonage is understandable.

Given his many services in Presbyterian kirks including those of the 1733 Secession and often impromptu gatherings too in the open air, he was heard often singing for his own pleasure the Scottish Psalms and the Paraphrases, the latter having first come into being around 1745, being also the year of the start of the last Jacobite Rising. His brother Charles was also a noted Methodist and ardent writer of hymns.

As a Carse of Gowrie lover and resident, I find it most uplifting that John Wesley visited and preached in Rait with its Iron Age origins, 13th century ruined church, castle of Fingask and significant residents. “A Ramble in Rait”, produced to help raise funds for the Friends, outlines the history of Rait and former important families, such as Bruce of Clackmannan, Threipland of Fingask, Stuart and Moody-Stuart of Annat, and not forgetting the residents of Rait.

Donald Abbott, FSA Scot.

¹ 1896 book John Wesley and George Whitefield in Scotland by Revd D Butler, MA of Abernethy Kirk

Old Church Ruins, Rait

Postcard

Image courtesy of

Donald Abbott



My Experiences of Berry Picking in the School Holidays, 1951-1955



Berry Pickers, Perthshire Advertiser, 18.07.1953

Image courtesy of Local & Family History

In the 1950s, my school holidays were spent berry picking. Other friends had office jobs but my mother was determined that I needed fresh air so a friend and I went to Bryden's farm outside Scone. It was considered a fairly quiet destination and there were no bus loads of pickers brought in. We cycled there.

The first day as new recruits seemed like a free-for-all as pails were handed out; if you acquired a pail, you were in. You also needed a "luggie", a small pail which was tied round your waist, thus leaving both hands free for picking. Berries went straight in to it to be transferred into your big pail, which when full was taken to be weighed.

I think we were paid a penny halfpenny a pound. The gaffers kept an eye on us with constant warnings to "pick clean". The bushes were to be cleared of all the ripe berries with none left to be wasted. For strawberries going into the bulk barrel, you had to make sure that the husk was taken out; if you were promoted to picking for baskets, the husk remained in place. I preferred strawberries to raspberries because they were bigger and filled the pail more quickly, although the bending was very tiring. Some of the raspberry varieties were on tall canes, which were prickly and unpleasant when it had been raining.

I remember one summer when there so much rain that we never had a full day of picking. If it was raining in the morning, we did not leave home until lunchtime, assuming the rain had stopped. If it was dry in the morning, we had to leave picking early if the afternoon was wet. A lot of wasted berries that year.

We were paid on a Friday afternoon. I cannot remember how much I earned. I think it was a full pail of berries weighing about 15^{lbs} and my recollection is that we managed to fill two pails in the morning and one in the afternoon. Perhaps there are former berry pickers reading this newsletter who have better memories than me?

I look enviously these days at strawberries on raised troughs and under cover; but there are now problems for the farmer in getting labour. They say that Scottish people are unable to cope with the hard work involved in berry picking. It does a bit of getting used to – and times have changed.

Marjory Howat



Berry Pickers, Perthshire Advertiser, 18.07.1953

Image courtesy of Local & Family History

“McGilliechonnells” and the Maxtones of Cultoquhey

On 15th September 1664, a Charter was granted to William Roy McGilliechonell at Mill of Rodger, his heirs and assignees, subject to legal reversion, “of the town, lands and mains and manor place of Cultoquhoy with the mill and mill lands, less the woods growing thereon; the town and lands of Auchilanzie with buildings, tenants and tenandries etc., which lands belonged to John Maxtoun, now of Cultoquhoy, and were apprised of him as charged to enter heir to the late John Maxtoun of Cultoquhoy, his father, at the instance of the said Robert Roy McGilliechonell, at Edinburgh, 18th June last for payment to him of the sum of 5644 merks 5s 4d of principal and 282 merks 3s of sheriffs fee as in the decret dated 16th August last. Rendering therefore yearly to the Crown the duties and services used and wont” (R.M.S. xi, 669 and GD155/59).

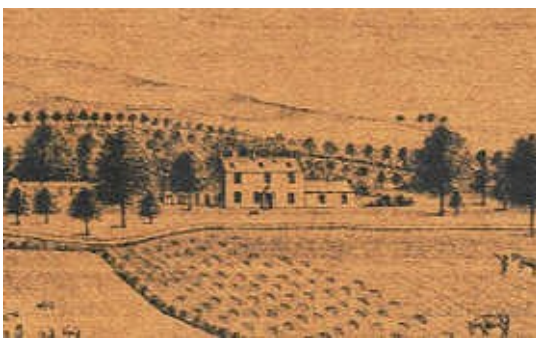
The Glenalmond area McGillichonnells had developed a family link to the Maxtone of Cultoquhey family. William Roy (McGillichonnell) of Findowie (also spelt Fandowie and lying in Strath Braan), living at Mill of Rodgie is stated to be the “brother-in-law” of John Maxtone (N.A.S. GD155/373). This statement means that either one of William Roy’s sisters, if he had any sisters, had married John Maxtone or conversely that William Roy had married a sister of John Maxtone. The latter seems the most likely as John Maxtone had one brother, Alexander and four sisters, Katherine, Nicholas, Agnes and Elspeth (N.A.S. GD155/360). Unfortunately the ScotlandsPeople data base does not seem to have any information on such a marriage.

That John Maxtone, the 9th of Cultoquhey, had been in financial difficulties is clearly documented in the book “The Maxtones of Cultoquhey”. John when very young had inherited an estate burdened with supporting both his mother, Isobell Graham and his grandmother Agnes Oliphant and a scheme was devised to keep a firmer hold on outgoings by Graeme of Inchbrakie, Graeme of Gorthy, Moray of Ochertyre, Moray of Keilour, Graham of Balgowan, George Oliphant and William Roy. William Roy at this time undertook to advance £3000, a not inconsiderable sum at that time (“The Maxtones of Cultoquhey”, 37-39).

In 1671 John Roy McGillichonell, son of William Roy, was enfeoffed* in the lands of Duald, and of Cultoquhey, Ardoch and Pittencleroch (N.A.S. RS52/5 ff59v-60r). During the period 1657 to 1680 approx. there were significant monetary and property transactions occurring concerning the lands, inheritance and debts of the Maxtone of Cultoquhey family. Those involved included Graeme of Inchbrakie and Graham of Balgowan, the Murrays of Abercairney and of Buchanty and various McGillichonells (N.A.S. GD155 see under John Maxtone and under William Roy, John Roy and Duncan Roy). The outcome of these various transactions ultimately ensured the survival of the Maxtone of Cultoquhey family as proprietors of Cultoquhey and associated holdings.

D. C. McWhannell

Extracts from Dr McWhannell's extensive article on his family history can be found in Newsletters no. 34 (April 2013), no. 44 (Spring 2018) and no. 53 (Autumn 2022).



Cultoquhey House, demolished 1830

Image courtesy of Dr D. C. McWhannell



Cultoquhey House, near Crieff, built 1821-1830

Image courtesy of Local & Family History

Dr McWhannell has provided the following background information:

The records catalogued in inventory GD155 are those of two Perthshire families, Maxtone of Cultoquhey family and Graham (Graeme) of Balgowan and Redgorton which became united when James Maxtone of Cultoquhey succeeded his uncle, Robert Graham of Redgorton in 1869.

“There have been at least three different homes at Cultoquhey”. “A fortified tower” is mentioned in a document of 1545. A house was then erected in the XVII century and was inhabited until 1830, when it was demolished on the advice of Robert Graham of Redgorton to get rid of all tax”. The current larger home was built between 1822 and 1830 nearby.

<http://www.cultoquheyhouse.com/en/the-history>, Essay by Robert Maxtone Graham

* *feoff/fief: land granted to a vassal by his lord in return for military service*

Macduff's Monument



Macduff's Monument and View from Springfield Hill, Photographs

Images courtesy of Robert Macduff-Duncan

Two hundred years ago this year, a popular local landmark was constructed on the instructions of my Great, Great, Great Grandfather in honour of his late father. The history of Macduff's Monument is the history of my family, the Macduffs of Bonhard.

Alexander Macduff purchased the estate of Bonhard and Boghall in the parish of Scone at auction in 1742¹. His first wife died in 1748 and Alexander married Christian Mathew the following year. Alexander and Christian had eight daughters and a son, Alexander, who was born in 1762. The elder Alexander died in 1765 and the estate passed to his three-year-old son, whose curators took control on his behalf.

Young Alexander eventually became a lawyer, working as a writer in the Edinburgh office of his Perthshire near neighbour, William Macdonald Macdonald of St Martins, WS². In 1788 he added to his estate, by the purchase of the neighbouring estate of Springfield (formerly known as Pock Mylne) from George Richardson³. This new acquisition included Springfield Hill.

¹ Alexander had made a fortune as a meal merchant in Perth, having been admitted as a burgess in the right of his first wife, Anna Chapman.

² See the Cullen Project website <https://www.cullenproject.ac.uk/case/1156/> accessed 30 July 2023, which reproduces correspondence sent to Alexander and addressed care of William Macdonald.

³ Perth and Kinross Archive, reference MS128, Bundle 7

Alexander died in 1806 and is buried at Greyfriars in Edinburgh. He was unmarried and left no legitimate children. His heirs would have been the children of his sister, Jacobina, and her husband, Rev Colin Baxter, the Minister of Monzievaird. However, Alexander was a lawyer and left comprehensive instructions in his Deed of Settlement, prepared in 1795⁴.



The Grave at Greyfriars, Edinburgh

Image courtesy of Robert Macduff-Duncan

In that deed he made over his whole property to “myself and the heirs male of my body, whom failing to the heirs female of my body, whom failing to Alexander Macduff my natural son procreated between me and Janet Johnston residing in Perth and the heirs male of the said Alexander Macduff his body, whom failing to the heirs female of his body, whom failing to Jacobina Macduff my only surviving sister german wife of the Reverend Mr Colin Baxter Minister of the parish of Monivaird[sic]...”.

This third Alexander was born in 1792, and was just 14 when his father died. He was educated at schools in Perth, Edinburgh and York before entering the University of St Andrews in 1810. He obtained a commission in the Royal Perth Militia and served in various locations throughout Scotland. In 1816, he married Margaret Catherine Ross, youngest daughter of John Ross of Balgersho.

⁴ Ibid, Bundle 6



Portrait of Capt. Alexander Macduff of Bonhard

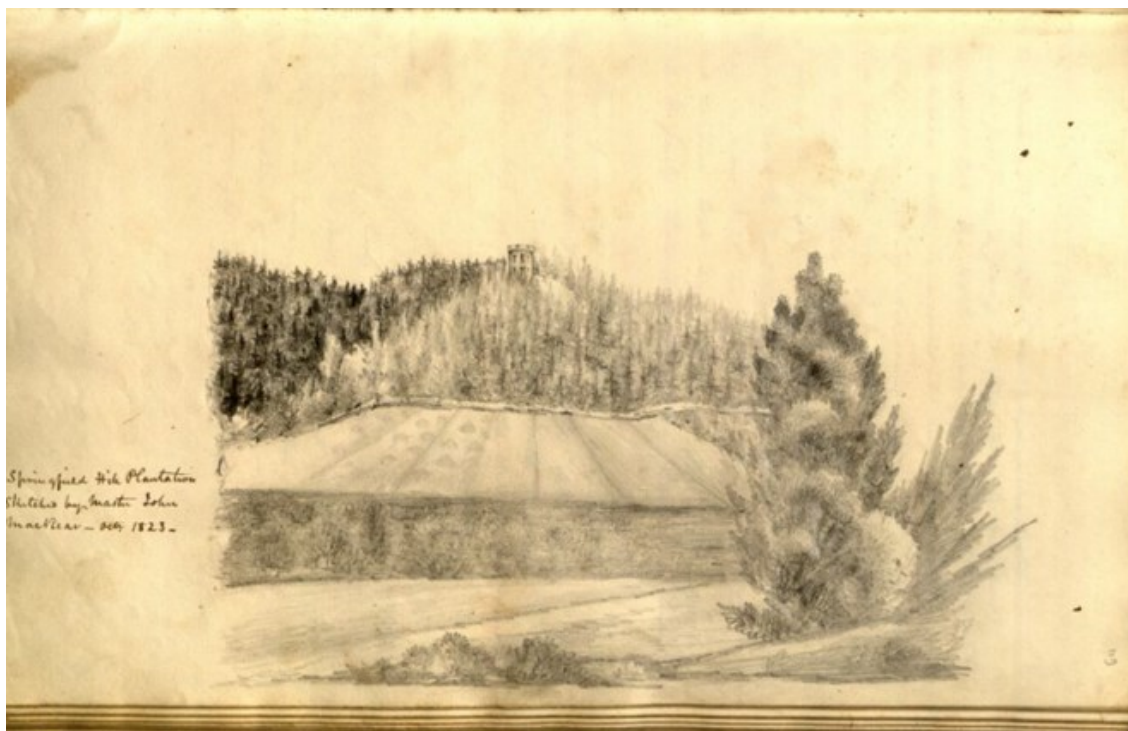
Thomas Duncan, Perth Art Gallery <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/alexander-macduff-of-bonhard-17921842-129781>

Image courtesy of Robert Macduff-Duncan

Alexander, as an illegitimate child was not automatically entitled to inherit land from his father. He was always grateful that his father had provided so well for him. When the harvest failed in the early 1820s and the local farm labourers were in need of work, Alexander instructed the construction of a picturesque folly on Springfield Hill, in honour of his father. Undoubtedly, the inspiration for this act of charity was Alexander's former curator, Hector Macdonald Buchanan, and Hector's best friend, Sir Walter Scott, who had instructed the construction of the Radical Road up Salisbury Crags in Edinburgh.

The fascinating Ordnance Survey Name Books, available on the Scotland's Places website, contain the following information on Macduff's Monument: "This name is applied to a structure built in 1823 by the late Alexander McDuff, Esqr., for the purpose of ornament. It is merely a single wall 15 inches thick, and 20 feet in height, having its top embattled. Its shape is semicircular in the middle, having two arms or projecting walls, of 15 feet each in length, extending at right angles to each other. Situated on high ground, it commands a very extensive view of Strathmore and the surrounding district. It has been recently repaired by the present Alexander McDuff, Esqr., of Bonhard, and intended to be preserved in memory of his father, by whom it was erected.

The following inscription is on a stone near its top: A1823M⁵.”



Springfield Hill and Macduff's Monument sketched in 1823 by John Macvicar

extracted from The Commonplace Book of Alexander Macduff, University of St Andrews Archive

<https://collections.st-andrews.ac.uk/item/commonplace-book-of-alexander-macduff-of-bonhard/2071472/viewer/#?#viewer&c=&m=&s=&cv=60&xywh=2027%2C-665%2C3077%2C5487&r=90>

Image courtesy of Robert Macduff-Duncan

The record dates to around 1860, and so the “present” Alexander was the fourth of that name, eldest of the six sons of Capt Macduff. The estate remained in the possession of the family until 1936, when it was sold following the death of the fifth Alexander.

The monument and the hill on which it sits remain popular spots with local walkers, but little correct information on its origins is in the public domain. I hope that this short sketch is of interest to those who are as fond of the monument as I am.

Robert Macduff-Duncan

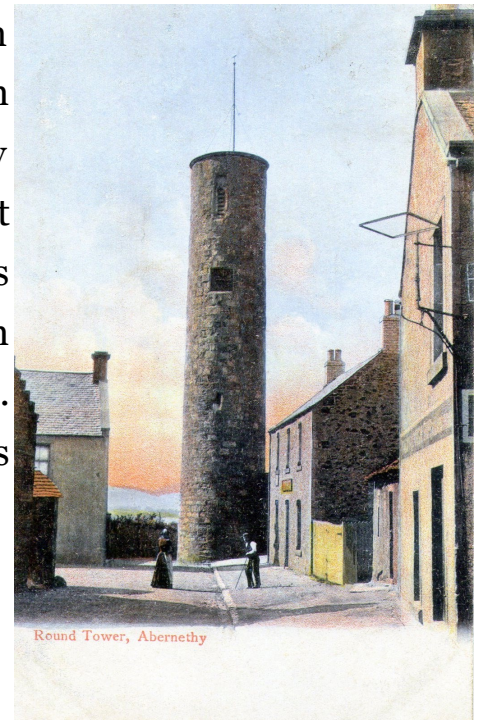
⁵ <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey—name-books/perthshire-os-name-books-1859-1862/perthshire-volume-75/94>

The Round Tower at Abernethy

This early postcard shows the Irish-style Pictish round tower at Abernethy which may have been erected as early as the 9th century; it is one of only two such towers in Scotland the other being adjacent to Brechin Cathedral. Its height is 72 feet and it is possible to climb up inside it, both it and Brechin being in the care of Historic Environment Scotland. Abernethy was a centre for Pictish administration as well as having early church connections.

Round Tower, Abernethy

Image courtesy of Donald Abbott



A little known fact is that Malcolm III (Canmore) met with William II of England at Abernethy in 1091 and swore fealty to the English monarch. Malcolm was killed later in 1093 at Alnwick by Northumbrian-led forces.

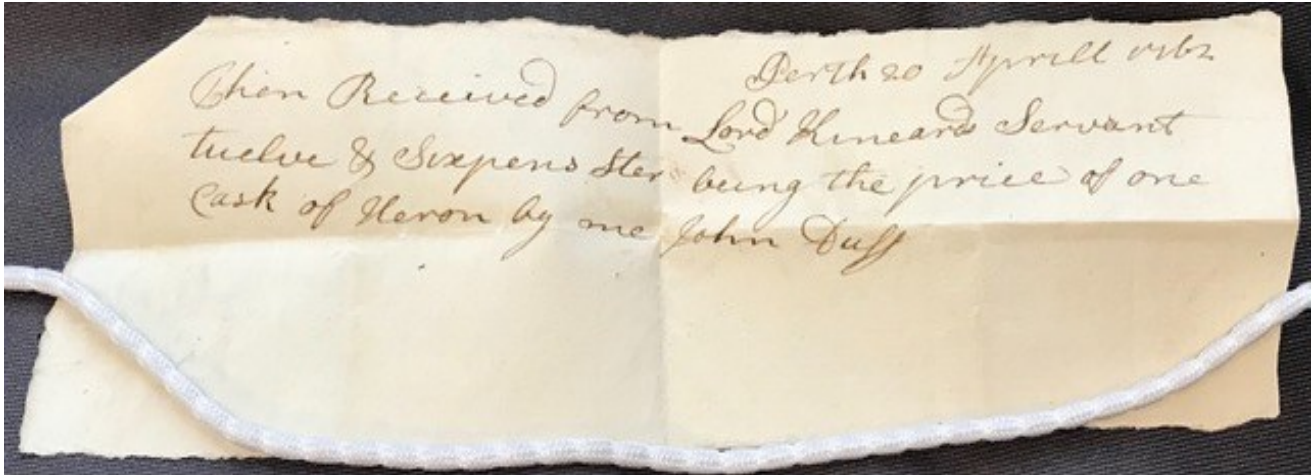
By 1733, Abernethy had become an important centre for the Secession Church. The First Secession occurred when the minister of Abernethy, Revd Alexander Moncrieff, laird of Culfargie, joined with the Erskines, Fisher of Kinclaven and Wilson of Perth to form the Associate Synod, which was to evolve eventually into the United Presbyterian Church. When the Associate Synod split over the burgess oath in 1847, Moncrieff's son, the Revd Matthew Moncrieff, adhered to the Antiburgher faction, the General Associate Synod, and, in that diehard controversy was diametrically opposed to his own father.

Abernethy is thus a small place of major Pictish, Royal and Secession Church connections, with an important role in Scottish history.

Donald M. Abbott, FSA Scot.

SPOTTED IN THE ARCHIVE

Some of the most delightful finds in our collections are those stumbled across by chance, although these discoveries can often prompt more questions than answers ...



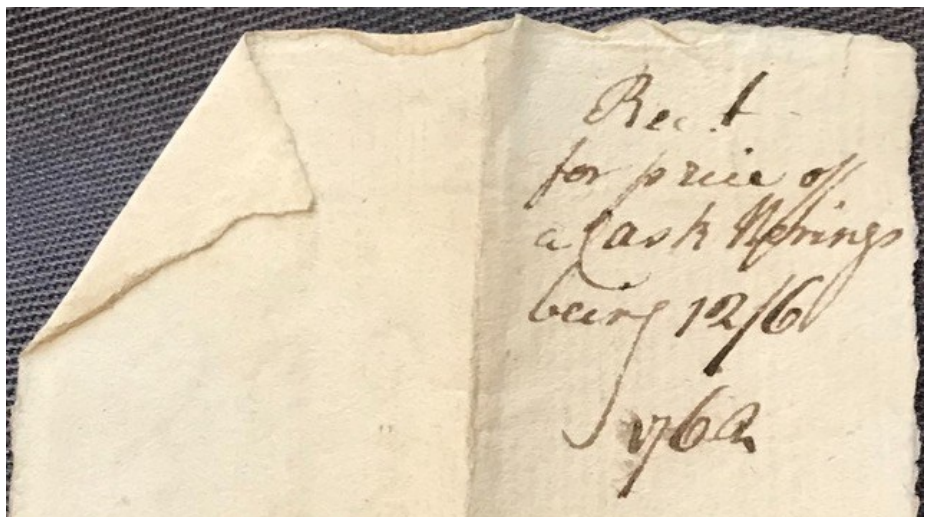
Receipt, 20 April 1762 Ref: MS100/2/bundle 252

Images courtesy of Jackie Hay

This document, 20^{cm} x 6^{cm}, is part of the Baron Kinnauld of Inchture papers, found in a bundle of "sundry domestic, household and estate accounts to Charles, Lord Kinnauld". It reads: "*Perth 20 April 1762 Then Received from Lord Kineards Servant twelve & Sixpens Ster[ling] being the price of one Cask of Heron by me John Duff*". The document was folded in four and overleaf a different hand, that of the person responsible for dealing with this bundle of household accounts, describes it as "*Rec[eip]t for price of a Cask Herings being 12/6 1762*". Which prompts the questions:

- * who was John Duff?
- * how big was a cask?
- * was 12^s6^d a good price?
- * and was it fish or fowl?!

Jackie Hay



Friends' Talks 2023-2024 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
2023		
Thursday 21 st September	6.30 pm	Professor David Parkinson The Muses Threnodie and Perth's Lade: Crosscurrents Between Text and Burgh
Thursday 19 th October	2 pm	Steve Connolly David Gorrie & Son, Engineers, Perth: The Largest Manufacturers of Laundry Equipment in the World?
Thursday 23 rd November	6.30 pm	Paul Philippou Rhoda Fothergill and William Soutar: "A Shared Landscape"
2024		
Thursday 22 nd February	2 pm	Rob Hands Battle of three Muirs: Dupplin Moor (1332); Tippermuir (1664); Sheriffmuir (1715)
Thursday 28 th March	2 pm	Ella Paul An Assessment of Seal Matrices to be found in Scotland
Thursday 25 th April	6.30 pm	tbc
Thursday 22 nd May	6 pm 6.30 pm	AGM Stuart Letford City Piper of Perth

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive

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Honorary Presidents: The Provost Mr Donald Abbott

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