

# West Stormont's Auld Times

Issue No. 5 Spring 2023



This is not West Stormont. Not hardly. These are the Glass House Mountains of Queensland, Australia. But there is a strong Auchtergaven connection . . . See P2.

The success of Margaret Bennett's recent talk on Luncarty bleachworks prompted one of the committee to dig out Rae Imrie's article on Ordie Shuttle Mill. Which we reprint on P 4.

Glad to be reminded about previous Newsletter articles? Wouldn't it be *sooo* helpful if someone generated an index of titles, authors and subjects from all the back issues . . . That would be a useful resource to list on the Society's website [www.wshs.org.uk](http://www.wshs.org.uk).

Unfortunately, we have lost some members recently. Leslie Fraser remembers them on P10.

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# BANKFOOT HOUSE

PAUL MCLENNAN

In dank, dreich January it was especially cheering to hear of a Bankfoot staging post bathed in sunshine. Bankfoot House, that is. Not our local inn but one in Queensland, Australia; an area billed as the Sunshine Coast. Claudia Little, Museum Officer with Sunshine Coast Council, wanted to know more about the couple who built and named the house in 1868, Mary Fenwick, formerly of Auchtergaven, and William Grigor, possibly from the Black Isle. They had met as emigrants onboard the *William Miles* in 1854.

Bankfoot House, as some readers may know, was built as a coach station to accommodate travellers on their way to the Gympie goldfield from Brisbane and is an important part of the heritage of the district known as the Glass House Mountains. Three generations of Grigors stayed on the property until 2002, when they sold the home to Sunshine Coast Council. It is now a state listed property open to the public, and Claudia's team tell the story of the house and family.



**Bankfoot House coaching station as William and Mary Grigor knew it. Courtesy of Royal Historical Society Queensland.**

A volunteer, Ken Greenwood, had already undertaken a fair amount of research on Mary and William, but had several unresolved questions about their backgrounds. In addition, could we find or suggest their motives for emigrating?

The Fenwicks were from Tullybelton and moved into the new village of Bankfoot. John Fenwick (born 1796) was a shoemaker and he and his wife Janet Dow (born 1802)

had five children - Andrew, James, Mary (born 1834), Janet and Clementina. At the age of 58, John decided to up sticks and move the whole family to Australia. They took assisted passage on the *William Miles*, departing from Liverpool in 1854, and arrived in Moreton Bay, just north of present day Brisbane, in 1855.

William Grigor was thought to have been born in the parish of Avoch on the Black Isle in 1831. He was the fourth of the six children of John (born 1795) and Janet Nicoll (born 1795) and the only one to emigrate. In the 1841 census the family resided at Auchterflow farm just below Millbuie ridge.

As any reader familiar with Mike Lawrence's articles about matters relating to Auchtergaven in this magazine might have guessed, he opted to explore the Fenwicks. He knew something of the Fenwicks of Tullybelton and found that Mary's grandfather, James, was a tenant farmer of 100 acres on the Tullybelton Estate in 1826. Her grandmother's family, the Youngs, also farmed on the estate. The family burial plot at Logiebride further suggests the Fenwick family regarded Tullybelton as home. Bankfoot was but the first restless step away.

As Mike delved deeper he discovered the longer second step may well have been inspired by John's younger brother, Andrew, who was first to move from Auchtergaven. To Newburgh in Fife, where he was, at least for a time, a shoemaker. Intriguingly, soon after taking assisted passage with his family to Australia in 1849, he established a towage firm in Sydney harbour. Did he pick up sailing skills on the TAY working from Newburgh?

Good schooling, hard work and the ability to seize a chance paid off for Mary once ashore in Moreton Bay. On the strength of her ability to read and write, and Presbyterian background, Mary was hired as a maid/governess by fellow Scot, John Clements Wickham (1798 - 1864) Brisbane's police magistrate. Immediately, in the world encompassing game Six Degrees of Separation, she was but one degree from Charles Darwin. In his previous career Wickham RN was first lieutenant (and later captain) of *HMS Beagle*.





On the *Beagle's* second voyage Wickham's cabin mate was a young Charles Darwin whom he affectionately called Fly-Catcher. They became very good friends and when, on the *Beagle's* third voyage, Wickham was surveying the north coast of Australia he named a small natural harbour there Port Darwin. (Almost 20 years before his friend achieved fame with *On the Origin of Species*.)

When Wickham retired in 1859, Mary accompanied the family back to Scotland on a clipper, the *Duncan Dunbar*. During the voyage she assisted with the birth of Mrs Wickham's second child. Although she appears on the 1861 census as resident in Edinburgh, Mary had no intention of staying with the Wickhams (who had announced their intention to move to France). She found a job and passage on a ship bound for Melbourne, from where she was faced with a mere 1,000 mile overland trip 'home'.



**Mary & William in their parlour. Photo courtesy of Bankfoot House.**

As my (paternal) ancestral home is in Avoch, I volunteered to iron out some of the anomalies regarding the Grigors. Why, for example, were the Aussies so sure of the Avoch connection when William's burial record in Nundah Cemetary in Brisbane said he was born in Elgin? And it happens that Grigors abound in Morayshire; more so than on the Black Isle.



**Bankfoot House today.**

Matters were not helped by William's father, John being listed as 'Gregor' on his marriage certificate, but as 'Grigor' in the census of 1841. Delving deeper turned up John's father's surname – Grigor. So it would seem that the family had reclaimed that spelling in the first census, and it was as William Grigor of Ross-shire that our happy emigrant left for the other side of the world, possibly after a few years on a farm near Duffus in Morayshire.

William Grigor and Mary Fenwick were married at Eagle Farm Presbyterian Church in Brisbane on 21st August 1863. You can find out more about their remarkable story [here](#).



**William & Mary c. 1895. With their sons James, playing the violin, Kenneth (left) and William Andrew (right) with a board game. Photo courtesy of Sunshine Coast Council.**

Claudia Little's team are proud of what the enterprising Grigors achieved at Bankfoot House, which has a separate area known as the Mary Grigor Centre. We hope our research here (which is ongoing as Mike continues to turn up information on the Fenwicks) will help them with the backstory of a remarkable pair of emigrants.

# ORDIE SHUTTLE MILL

RAE IMRIE

Following on from the very well attended, and equally well received talk in February by Margaret Bennett, "Reminiscences of Luncarty Bleachworks and Ordie Mill", we were reminded of an article by Ray Imrie in a previous Newsletter.

From the Spring 2006 issue . . .

The mill stood on the banks of the Ordie Burn, Luncarty and was founded in 1844 by John Menzies of Logiealmond on the site of a former sawmill.

The beech-wood shuttles produced were used in major cotton and jute weaving centres including Dundee, Forfar, and India. They set out for their various destinations by horse and cart from Ordie Mill to Strathord Station.

For a long time power-loom shuttles were made with centre tips which by their design caused them to fly out at each end of the loom, often disfiguring the workers' faces and sometimes proving fatal. The complicated nature of shuttles and cost thereof stood in the way of improvement until, in the 1850s, John Menzies developed and introduced the first side-tipped shuttles known to the trade at that time. In so doing he prevented many accidents in power-loom weaving.

In 1878 Mr Menzies, in recognition of his continuing efforts through the years to contribute to the comfort and safety of power-loom factory workers, was presented with a silver model shuttle and purse of sovereigns. Provost Robertson of Dundee made the presentation to Mr Menzies, described as a modest, hard-working man ripe in experience and rich in ideas, with whom the Provost, with much satisfaction, had transacted business for a period of thirty years.

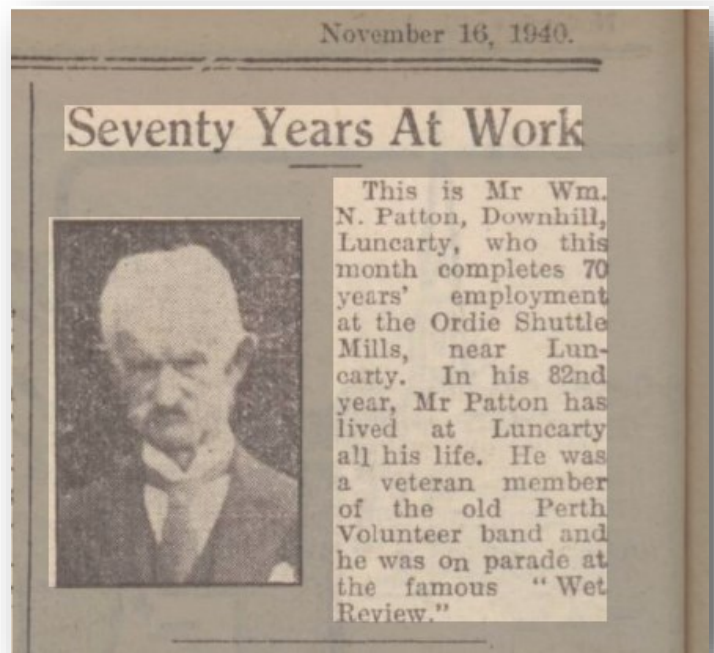
The inscription on the shuttle reads: 'Presented with a purse of sovereigns to Mr John Menzies, Shuttle Maker, Ordie Mill, Perthshire, by a number of manufacturers and factory managers, to commemorate the various improvements he has made on shuttles, particularly the introduction of the side-tipped shuttle, which has made power loom weaving a safe calling to those employed

therein. Dundee, November 1878.'

The silver shuttle is now in the collection of the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Around 1880, the shuttle mill was sold to millwright Mr Peter McFarlane. In later years he was joined by his sons who continued the business until closure of the mill in 1953.

The mill employed six men – 2 shuttle makers, 1 apprentice and 3 labourers.





# TEMPERANCE

JENNIFER MCKAY

Just before midnight on a bitterly cold Saturday in March, 1874, a young man was fatally stabbed on a street in the centre of Crieff. It was the first murder in the town in living memory.

That evening, according to the local press, “the streets for hours had been infested with tinkers and vagrants” who had been drinking, quarrelling among themselves and threatening passers-by. The police had done nothing. But that Saturday night had been no different from any other Saturday night in Crieff, except that a life was lost.

The victim, 24-year-old Peter Sharp, had had a bottle filled with whisky before he left a public house at the Cross sometime after 11.00pm. Had he not been in possession of a carry-out, he may have survived the night. It was an argument over this bottle that led to his assailant, Peter McCallum, resorting to violence.

Incidents of this nature were grist to the mill of the temperance movement. The Strathearn Herald’s editorial of 14<sup>th</sup> March was unequivocal. “The one real cause of this appalling deed of darkness is given in one word, and that word is DRINK.”

The following Sunday, Dr Cunningham, the parish minister preached to a packed church; his text Acts xxiv, v. 24 - 25. “Felix ... sent for Paul... And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered. Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee”.

The minister reasoned with his listeners, “Why, working men of Crieff, do you resort on Saturday nights to these houses? Why squander your hard-won wages, why damage your character, why ruin your health? How much better to go to your homes, to make your parents or your wives and children happy by your presence; and if, in the heyday of your prosperity, you earn larger wages than you need to spend on home comforts, why not lodge the surplus in the Savings Bank against a time of sickness or old age, rather than throw it away in the public house?”

He pleaded, “I beg of you to avoid these places... Cultivate righteousness and temperance, while you think of the judgment to come.”

Dr Cunningham’s heart-felt address would have had a familiar ring to any follower of the temperance movement which flourished during the nineteenth century. The movement took root in the USA and the term teetotalism appeared by the 1830s. The word may originate from the capital T which was noted on lists beside the names of those who had “taken the pledge” to abstain totally from alcohol.

Excessive alcohol consumption was indisputably a problem in Scotland in the nineteenth century. Dr Cunningham claimed he had read that during 1873, “seven millions of gallons of spirits were consumed in Scotland alone, being more than two gallons to every man, woman, and child in the land.” Hence the proliferation of organisations such as the Salvation Army, YMCA, the Boys Brigade and many more, all formed in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and sharing the aspiration of improving the lives of the working classes, especially their children. Avoidance of alcohol was a central plank of their mission and identity.

In Perth, there were several temperance groups, among them: Morning Star Tent No. 2267; Mayflower Juvenile Tent No. 245; Excelsior Junior Tent No. 1221; Perth Gospel Temperance Society; Perth Women’s Temperance Society and the Independent Order of Good Templars. Most of these groups met in the Good Templars Hall in King Street. The Knights of the St Johnstone Tent met in the Dreadnought Hall in Hospital Street. The Hope of Perth met in St Ninian’s Mission Hall and Tayside met in the Bridgend Hall. The Independent Order of Rechabites also had a presence in the town. Clearly, many Perth folk were affiliated to a temperance group.

The Good Templars, founded in the USA in 1851, had its first meeting in Scotland in 1869 as guests of the United Working Men’s Total Abstinence Society in Glasgow. By 1876, there were 83,000 members. The Good Templars were organised along the lines of Masonic Lodges with ritual, regalia and degrees of membership. However, there was one fundamental difference: women could join, a ground-breaking concept for the time. The Templars established Good Templar Halls which were used for concerts, “improving” pursuits and classes in their libraries and reading rooms, facilities which were valued and well used.

Around the same time, the Independent Order of Rechabites was formed in Salford. They took their name from Rechab who, according to the prophet Jeremiah, had taken an oath to abstain from wine and never live in a house; the latter easily achieved as he was a tent-dwelling nomad. This is the source of the Temperance movement’s use of the word “tent” for its groups.

From the 1830s, Joseph Livesey, a cheesemonger in Preston, campaigned for teetotalism. When he realised

that there was a need for alcohol-free spaces where people could meet, he established the first temperance hotel.

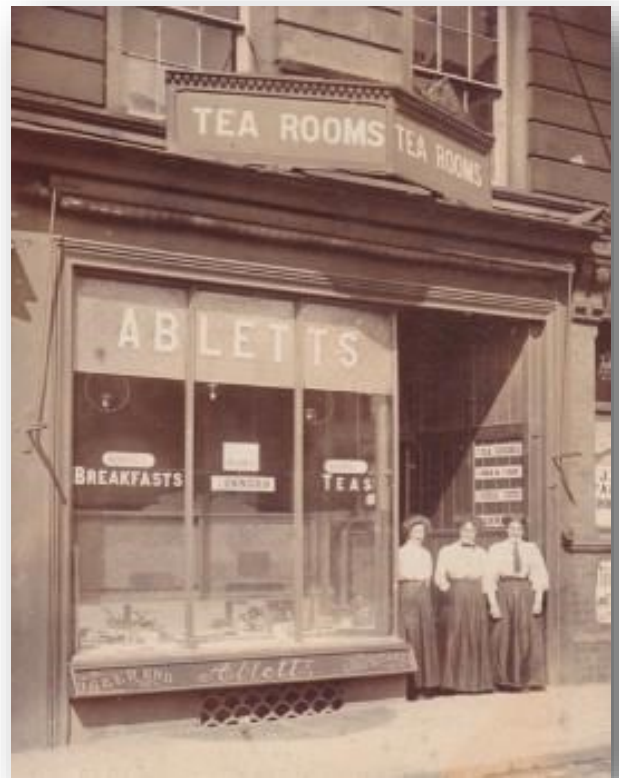
Temperance hotels sprang up all over Scotland; the first, in 1848, was the Waverley Hotel on Princes Street, Edinburgh. There were several in Perth including Miss Meridith's Grand Temperance Hotel in Kinnoull St, where the Perth Chess Club met on Monday evenings and Mrs Wm Laidlaw's Temperance Hotel & Restaurant, in Leonard St.



Possibly the best remembered personality from the movement in Scotland, Miss Kate Cranston, now depicted on RBS £20.00 notes, opened tea rooms in Glasgow. She provided safe, pleasant places where women could meet outside their homes. Her tearooms were a revolutionary concept which was embraced by the ladies of Glasgow. Some of these tearooms still exist, thanks perhaps to their Rennie Mackintosh interiors.

The children's organisation, the Band of Hope, which started its meetings with the singing of hymns such as "What a Friend We have in Jesus", "Sign the Pledge Tonight My Brother" and "I would not a Groggerly Own" was founded in 1847 in Leeds by Rev Jabez Tunnicliff. His mission was to save working class children from alcoholism and alcoholic parents by teaching them about sobriety and teetotalism. The Band of Hope became a national organisation and many thousands signed the pledge to abstain "from all liquors of an intoxicating quality, whether ale, porter, wine or spirits, except as medicine". In 1889 there were two million child members in the UK.

In the early 1900s Gothenburg pubs opened in Scotland; their purpose was to control the consumption of spirits. Profits would provide funds for worthy causes: libraries, museums, community centres, and grants for galas, charities, district nurses and ambulances.



A Temperance tea room.

It was possible to buy alcohol in these establishments but customers were expected to opt for the likes of dandelion and burdock or Vimto – a grape, raspberry and blackcurrant cordial, originally marketed as a tonic to give the drinker extra "vim".

Goths sprang up in the mining areas of central Scotland. In 1914 there were over 20 Goths in Fife. The interiors were plain, the chairs were uncomfortable and the consumption of alcohol was discouraged. No credit was given and games and gambling were banned as were carry-outs.

There are still four Goths in Scotland operating as they were originally intended; others continue in business but not in the traditional manner. In one of his Rebus stories, Ian Rankin name checked the Number One Goth in Cardenden where the fictional Rebus bought his first round of drinks.

Temperance societies with their large memberships wielded great political influence which led inexorably to Prohibition in North America, Norway and Finland. The longest lasting Prohibition was in the USA, from 1919 to 1933. The Prohibition experiment ultimately failed and the temperance movement ran out of steam in the 1930s.

In 1913 the Liberal government passed the Temperance Scotland Act allowing local authorities to hold votes to ban the sale of alcohol. Falkirk, Kirkintilloch, Lerwick and Wick banned alcohol sales. This legislation remained on the statute book until 1976, long after these towns had voted to re-instate licensed premises. And so, the era of prohibition came officially to an end in Scotland in 1976 and the temperance movement is now a distant memory.

# TULLYBELTON'S LAIRDS

## MICHAEL LAWRENCE

**T**he Tullybelton Estate is just over two miles west of Bankfoot, on the road to Little Glenshee. Since 1619, Tullybelton House has been one of the great mansions of West Stormont and the home of many interesting lairds.

### The Grahams of Inchbrakie

The Grahams of Inchbrakie traced their line from William Graham, 1st Earl of Montrose, who was one of the “flowers of the forest” killed at the Battle of Flodden in 1513. William had two sons: Andrew Graham, the first Protestant Bishop of Dunblane; and Patrick Graham of Inchbrakie, who had the lands of Inchbrakie, Fowlis and Aberuthven.

Patrick Graham, 1<sup>st</sup> of Inchbrakie, married Margaret Stewart, daughter of Lord Fleming and granddaughter of the Duke of Albany, the brother of James IV of Scotland. The Inchbrakie succession continued through the eldest son of each generation.

George Graham, 4<sup>th</sup> of Inchbrakie, was born about 1580, the son of Patrick Graham and Nichola Brown of Fordell. George married Margaret Keith in 1608, acquired the charter for Tullybelton in 1610, and built Tullybelton House in 1619. George and Margaret had two children – Patrick and Margaret.

George Graham saw his estate suffer greatly with fire, raids and destruction during the War of the Three Kingdoms and was imprisoned in Edinburgh in 1641 for his support to the Marquis of Montrose and continued allegiance to King Charles I. He was released in 1645 and died in 1654.

After the Battle of Marston Moor in the English Civil War on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1644, James Graham, the Marquis of Montrose, headed back to Scotland disguised as a groom and made directly for Tullybelton House, by now the home of his kinsman Patrick Graham, son of George Graham. Patrick was a huge fair-haired man, known to all as Black Pate after gun powder blew up on his face and left him disfigured.

Montrose fought on the side of the Covenanters in the War of the Three Kingdoms but switched his support to King Charles I in the civil wars in England and Scotland. Montrose arrived at Tullybelton determined to raise a Royalist army amongst the clans who were still loyal to their king and oppose the Covenanter forces in Scotland led by Archibald Campbell of Argyll.

Black Pate was a Royalist and Montrose’s first recruit. Over the next week or so, he hid Montrose on the Tullybelton Estate and together they planned a military challenge to Argyll. The first move was to rendezvous above Dunkeld with some 2,000



**James Graham, Marquis of Montrose**

Western Highlanders, Islanders and Irishmen under the command of Alasdair MacColla. Black Pate then raised over 500 men from the Atholl lands.

In a campaign that lasted just over a year, Montrose won six decisive battles at Tibbermore, Aberdeen, Inverlochy, Auldearn, Alford, and Kilsyth with Patrick Graham by his side as aide-de-camp and Colonel of the Atholl Highlanders.

By August 1645, Montrose was in complete control of Scotland but the Royalist cause in England was in disarray after the Battle of Naseby on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1645 when the Parliamentary forces led by Oliver Cromwell destroyed the Royalist army under King Charles I and Prince Rupert.

Sir David Leslie, with some 5,000 troops, was sent north to deal with the Scottish Royalists and overwhelmed a small force led by Montrose at Philiphaugh in the Borders on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1645. Montrose went on the run and within a year was in exile in Norway. Patrick “Black Pate” Graham’s support for Montrose meant that he was imprisoned and the family lands were forfeited. Inchbrakie Castle was destroyed but Tullybelton House was saved.

Charles I was executed on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1649. Montrose returned to Scotland in March 1650 to avenge the death of the king but failed to re-raise the clans to his side. He was routed at the Battle of Carbisdale on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1650 and on the run again. Eventually, he was betrayed by MacLeod of Assynt and handed over to the Covenanter authorities. After a show trial, Montrose was hung, drawn and quartered on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1650 in Edinburgh.

On the restoration of King Charles II in May 1660, Patrick Graham, by now 5<sup>th</sup> of Inchbrakie, was offered a baronetcy, which he declined. He was appointed Postmaster General for Scotland in 1662 but could no longer afford to keep all of his lands and Tullybelton was sold to Donald Robertson of Inver. He was the son of Captain John Robertson, Keeper of Blair Castle and brother-in-law of Patrick Graham’s sister, Lady Margaret Robertson of Lude. Black Pate died in 1694, aged 81.

## The Robertsons of Tullybelton

Donald Robertson of Inver bought Tullybelton on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1665. Donald had married Isabel Robertson in 1652 and had four children – Alexander, Robert, Patrick and Janet.

Robert Robertson, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Tullybelton, was tacksman for the lands of Balnagruie under John Robertson of Lude but succeeded his father following the resignation of his elder brother, Alexander, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1687. Robert married Margaret Lindsay of Kilspindie and they had one child, John. Robert Robertson died in 1737.

John Robertson, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Tullybelton, succeeded his father on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1737. The next year he married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Robertson, Lord Provost of Perth. They had six children – Robert, Patrick, John, Bettie, Christian, and Elizabeth. John Robertson was Lord Provost of Perth from 1746 to 1755 and, during the turbulent years following the 1745 Jacobite Rising, secretly signed a warrant authorising the commanding officer at the Perth Barracks to seize and impress any local men as regular soldiers. This did not go down well with the populace and eventually, under severe public pressure, he became quite deranged.

Robert Robertson 4<sup>th</sup> of Tullybelton succeeded his father in 1769. He married Margaret, daughter of John Robertson of Lude, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1762 and they had four children – John, Robert Henry, Charlotte and Elizabeth. John Robertson, 5<sup>th</sup> of Tullybelton succeeded his father on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1806 and died, unmarried, on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1834. Robert Henry Robertson, 6<sup>th</sup> of Tullybelton, succeeded his brother and died at Tenterden in Kent on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1850, married but without any children.



It was during Robert Henry's time that Tullybelton House was rebuilt as a Victorian mansion in the Renaissance style. The Tullybelton Estate at this time embraced some ten farms – Mains of Tullybelton, Corrielea, Hill of Tullybelton, Corrodie Pendicle, Mill and Mill Lands, Meikle Tullybelton, Little Tullybelton, Hill of Logiebride, Knowhead, and the Pendicle of Tullybelton.

## The Richardsons of Tullybelton

Robert Richardson, 7<sup>th</sup> of Tullybelton, traced his succession through his mother, Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of Bettie Robertson and granddaughter of John Robertson, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Tullybelton. Robert Richardson was born on 14<sup>th</sup> November

1809, the third son of Elizabeth and James Richardson of Pitfour. He succeeded Robert Henry Robertson on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1851 upon which he assumed the name of Robert Richardson-Robertson.

Robert joined the army as a 16-year-old and his military career progressed steadily until he peaked at the rank of General. He served in South Africa and was in command of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards in the Kaffir Campaign of 1846/1847.

Robert Richardson-Robertson was married to Martha, daughter of Lord Rollo, and Julia, daughter of the Earl of Leven & Melville. Both died after a short marriage without children. Robert retained residences at Tullybelton House, Ballathie House and Kinnaird Castle. Following his demobilisation, he was Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Perthshire, a County Commissioner of Supply, and a Justice of the Peace. He died on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1883.

John Stewart-Richardson, 8<sup>th</sup> of Tullybelton, succeeded his great uncle Robert. John was the son of Sir James Richardson of Pitfour and emigrated to New Zealand as a young man in 1879. He bought a large farm in Cambridge on the North Island, married a local girl, Florence Clarke, in 1882 and raised three children – Arthur, Evelyn and John. As well as farming, John held the rank of Major in the Waikato Rifles.

For almost thirty years, John Stewart-Richardson did not visit Tullybelton and the farming affairs of the estate were managed by a factor while the house and sporting interests were available as a rental. On the night of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 1910 Tullybelton House was entirely gutted by fire after lying empty for a few years. The cause of the fire was that the caretaker left some burning sulphur on a saucer to get rid of flies in an upstairs bedroom.

The house was rebuilt and extended to the rear and this was the catalyst for John to sell the estate. The buyer, in November 1912, was Mr AA Allen, MP for Dunbartonshire.

## Arthur Allen



Arthur Allen was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1868, the youngest of the five children of Peter Allen and Sophie Taylor. His mother died during his birth. Peter Allen was the joint owner of The Guardian and Manchester Evening News.

Arthur studied at Rugby School and the University of Oxford and then qualified as a barrister. He married Gladys Walker in 1900 and they had three children – Elizabeth, Margaret and Barbara.



After serving as a Councillor and Deputy Chairman of the London County Council, Arthur Allen was elected as the Liberal member for Hampshire in the 1906 General Election. He then stood successfully for Dunbartonshire in the 1910 election and represented the constituency until the end of the First World War. He never stood for parliament again and returned to his career as a barrister.

Allen inherited considerable wealth from the newspaper business and owned homes in London, Cheshire, the Cotswolds and Tullybelton. He was a major collector of the works of artist, William Turner. The Tullybelton Cup for the Perthshire County Schools football championship was donated by Arthur Allen. He died on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1939, aged 70.

### **Sir Charles Barrie, Lord Abertay**



Charles Barrie was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1875, the eldest son of Charles Barrie and Jane Cathro. He was educated at the High School of Dundee and trained as a solicitor before joining the family business Charles Barrie & Sons, owners of the Den Line fleet and ships brokers. His father was Lord Provost of Dundee and eventually knighted.

During the First World War, Charles Barrie was called up to the Admiralty and the Ministry of Shipping. He organised Russian relief transport and was the Minister of Munitions representative at the Paris Peace Conference. He was appointed CBE in 1918 for his war service.

Barrie was elected as the Liberal MP for the Elgin Burghs in 1918 and then served as the member for Banffshire from 1918 to 1924. He was knighted in 1921. He married Ethel Broom in 1926, aged 51, and they had three daughters – June, Rosemary and Caroline.

After seven years out of politics, he was elected as the MP for Southampton and sat as their representative from 1931 to 1940.

Sir Charles retired from Westminster in 1940 due to ill health and also to provide a safe seat for Sir John Reith, previously Director General of the BBC and Minister of Information during the Second World War. On the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1940, Sir Charles was elevated to the peerage as Baron Abertay of Tullybelton. Lord Abertay died on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1940.

### **Ian Fraser, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton**

Ian Fraser was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1911, the only son of

Glasgow stockbroker, Alex Fraser, and his wife, Margaret MacFarlane. He was educated at Repton School, the University of Oxford, and the University of Glasgow. In 1936 he was admitted to the Scottish Faculty of Advocates while also teaching Law at Glasgow.

During the Second World War, Fraser served in an anti-tank battery before being transferred to the Royal Artillery. He was commissioned and reached the rank of Major. In 1943 he married Mary MacDonnell and they had one son, Andrew Fraser.

On demobilisation, Ian Fraser was appointed as an Advocate Depute and in 1953 was made Queens Counsel. Through most of the 1950s, he served on the Scottish Law Reform Committee and was Dean of the Faculty of Advocates from 1959 to 1964.

From 1959 to 1963, he was the lead counsel to Margaret Campbell, Duchess of Argyll, in the notorious divorce action brought by her husband, Ian Campbell, Duke of Argyll, alleging adultery.

From 1964 to 1974 he was a Senator in the Scottish College of Justice and was appointed as a Privy Counsellor in 1974. He was created a life peer in 1975 with the title of Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and took the UK wide role of Lord of Appeal.

Lord Fraser was killed in a car crash on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1989 during a snow storm on the M90 motorway between Perth and Edinburgh.

### **Lairds since 1990**

Since 1990 there have been various owners of the Tullybelton Estate – the Spearmans, the Bulloughs, the Bonhams, and the Masseys from 2006 until 2021. The estate was last sold in April 2021 when it was described by Country Life as “an ideal secluded country retreat” and that the mansion house “has been completely refurbished in exacting detail”.

After 400 years, Tullybelton has enjoyed a long history but lost none of its charm. The new lairds are making plans to preserve the legacy of the estate for the generations to come.

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World Biographical Encyclopedia

## AS OUR SOCIETY GROWS OLDER

LESLIE FRASER

**W**ith the West Stormont Historical Society fast approaching its quarter-century, it seems sadly inevitable that we lose some of our earlier members along the way. However, these past four months have been particularly poignant as the deaths have occurred of no fewer than five of our stalwart members.

**Sybil Gerrie**, along with her husband Alex, were among the 29 local history enthusiasts who decided on forming the WSHS in June 2000, following on to a series of lectures on landscape history by Leslie Fraser, given at Perth College. Keen to help get our activities underway, the Gerrie duo were quick to invite members to Silverwells, near Laguna, to show us the now enclosed wells which supplied drinking water, etc., to properties as far east as Ballathie and Kinclaven. Alex also was enthusiastic to show us around their own property nearby which had been converted from a pre-Improvement long-house. They chose the tranquillity of Silverwells after a life of teaching in Africa, and their fun-loving and always questioning approach to life gave much pleasure to fellow WSHS members at both talks and excursions over the ensuing years. Alex (88) died late in 2020, and Sybil (87) in January this year.

Only a few months after the Society was founded, a passion for the history of Luncarty and Redgorton brought **Jean Dickson** into the fold, where she remained a key member of committee, being involved in organising the smooth-running of many events. However, it was when the local history spotlight shone on Luncarty and its former bleachworks that Jean came into her own. Her mother's family, the Pattons, can be traced back to the early decades of the nineteenth century as "bleachers" in the Luncarty works, but with relatives doing similar work at both Stormontfield and Cromwellpark. Jean, at a WSHS meeting, would delight in conjuring out from her obviously extensive collection of local photographs those which showed key buildings, as well as social and sporting events. She then could name most of the people pictured, as indeed many were her own relations. Aged 83, Jean died in February this year.

When **John MacKay** joined our midst at the same time as Jean it brought another strong Luncarty connection as he had ended a 50-year career in the textile industry by

becoming general manager and a director of Burt-Marshall Lumsden Ltd., which ran Luncarty and well as works at Stormontfield and Huntingtowerfield. John began his 35-year stint at Luncarty as works chemist and bleachworks manager, seeing major changes in the bleaching and dyeing industry since beginning his career in the Vale of Leven, Dunbartonshire. However, on his retirement he set out on yet another learning path, this time studying for an Honours Degree in History, at Stirling University. This, he said later, "helped to bring out the local historian in me". It was with WSHS members he discussed plans to subsequently write one of the most important publications for our area, "The Bleachfields of Perth", which came out in 2009. Not only does this give a history of the bleaching and dyeing industry from its 18th century "revolution" to the modern industry of the past century, but John provides technical and historical information not only of the Luncarty bleachworks (founded 1752; closed 1996), but also of the textile works at Cromwellpark, Huntingtowerfield, Pitcairfield, Ruthvenfield, Tullochfield, and Stormontfield, with a thumping appendix on beetle machines! Having lived in Luncarty's Tayview, John spent his latter years in Perth. He died the day before last Christmas, aged 94.

Earlier that month we lost another member and Luncarty resident, **Alistair Godfrey**, a natural historian employed by Perth & Kinross Council as a ranger and latterly Countryside Management Officer. His abiding passion was as a botanist and it seemed a not infrequent occurrence when other WSHS members were stravaiging around looking for traces of mill leads or other historical structures that the grass sward beside them would suddenly part allowing Alistair to emerge grinning, and telling of some rare and evasive plant he had come across which he then went on to record in the national botanical database. Once retired from council employ, he felt unrestrained in criticising local roads schemes and the forthcoming "Cross-Tay" bridge, winging off many a thoughtful but hard-hitting letter to the columns of local newspapers.

Another member with strong views on local planning matters was **Anthony ("Tony") Ramsay**, who joined the Society in 2005 having returned to his native Perth after lecturing on planning at Strathclyde University. He trained in the surveyor's department of the old Perth Town Council, but later was one of an international team tasked with designing the Ulster new town of Craigavon. Another connection to the Emerald Isle was the Fitzgerald side of his ancestry. Taking to genealogical research, Tony was delighted to discover that family members had emigrated to Perthshire in the 19th century to work at the slate quarries at Logiealmond. They had been Gaelic speakers, and it was to Tony's great credit that, not only did he learn to speak the language, but went on to act as secretary to the Mod when it came to Perth some years back. Tony died earlier this month, aged 87.