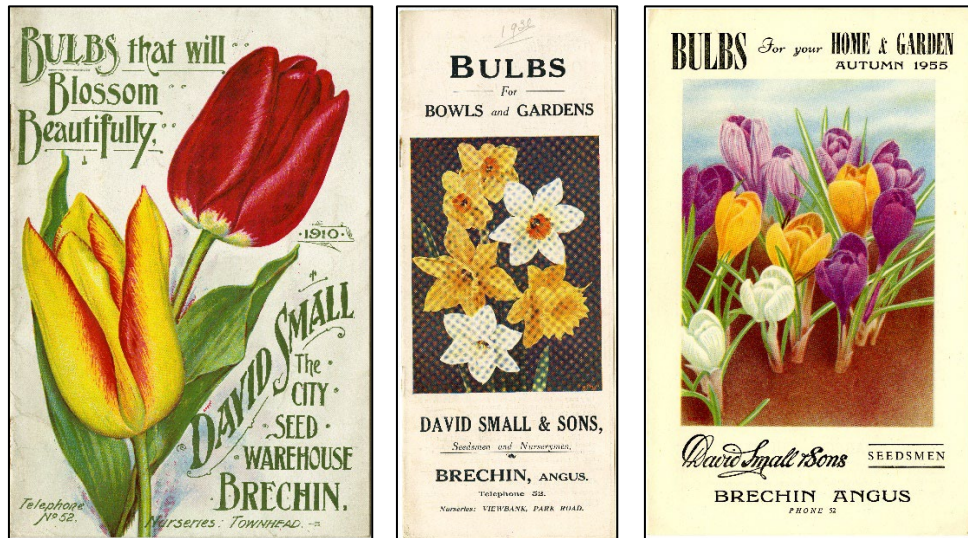


Retour

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The Newsletter of
The Scottish Records Association



Above: Bulb Catalogues, David Small, Brechin, 1910, 1936 & 1956, MS 41-4-5 (11), (13) & (21).
Courtesy of Dundee University Archives.

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News

'Somewhere in Scotland': Inveraray Castle, WWII & the invasion of Europe

by Kenneth Whyte, Head Tour Guide, Inveraray Castle



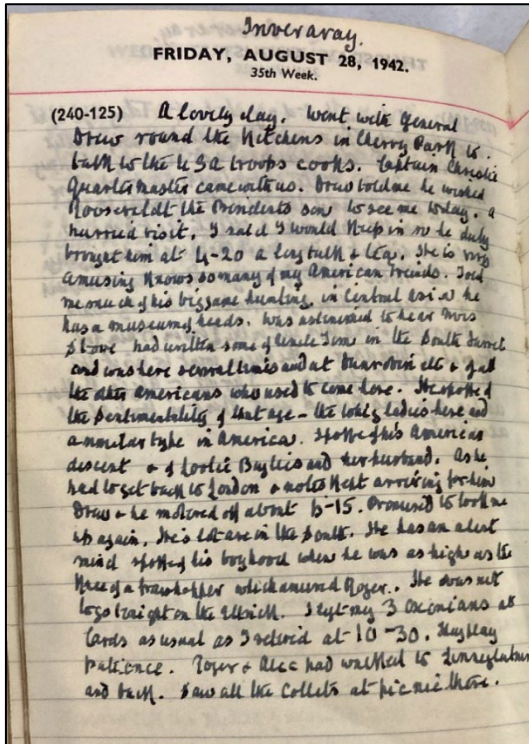
Evacuees and their families outside Inveraray Castle. Photograph by Robert Young, employed as second footman at the castle from 1 August to 30 November 1939. Courtesy of Argyll Estates Archives.

I have been working as head tour guide at Inveraray Castle since 2010. Inveraray Castle is still in private hands, the official residence of Torquil Ian Campbell, 13th duke of Argyll and 27th chief of Clan Campbell. Construction began in the early 1740s under the 3rd duke, and the building has been open to the public since 1953. It has survived two serious fires and two world wars and is now recovering from the recent Covid crisis.

Last season, 2023, saw a marked increase in visitors. Among them were a couple who presented me with an envelope containing black and white photographs. These images date from 1939 and were taken by a relative who had worked as second footman at the castle from August to November 1939. The photographs show staff (including the photographer), views of the castle and evacuees. It had previously been thought that no evacuees had been housed in the castle, so these photos led to a quest to discover further information in the Argyll Estates Archives. A fruitful source proved to be the personal diaries of Niall, 10th Duke of Argyll, which cover most of World War II. In Duke Niall's 1939 diary he writes, 'Mr Kerr, Evacuation Officer, came up. About 40 children still to be evacuated from the school so I went with him downstairs to settle where 9 are to be fitted in – small girls with a teacher' (Thursday, 7 September 1939). This gave us a direct connection with the evacuees, a date for their arrival and a possible location within the castle (the basement) where they stayed.

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World War II had a profound effect on the Inveraray Castle estate as an entry in Duke Niall's diary for 1940 records: 'Admiral Hallit called at 11, sent up from London . . . As the Maltlands Hall would only billet 500 more [troops] and 1,000 are coming almost directly, and ships for training and practise to be in the loch, I arranged for the huts to be in the field west of the Avenue' (Thursday, 25 July 1940). Inveraray became the location for No.1 Combined Operations Training Centre ('Somewhere in Scotland') and performed a vital function in training troops for the Normandy invasion of 6 June 1944.



This year marks the 80th anniversary of this momentous event in our history and information from the archives will form the basis of a display for the 2024 season. The display will be located alongside an existing display on the ground floor of the castle and will feature high resolution copies of the donated photographs (which are now in the archives), together with other items including news cuttings and pages from the visitors' book. A banner will provide background information about combined operations. Training notes have been produced for the castle guides, and visitors to the castle will be invited to contribute their feedback, memories and comments on the exhibition and the events of the 1940s.

Left: Extract from one of the personal diaries kept by Niall, 10th duke of Argyll. On this date, Friday 28 August 1942, Duke Niall was visited by Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (1887-1944). ARG/05/10D/01/52. Courtesy of Argyll Estates Archives.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (1887-1944). ARG/05/10D/01/52. Courtesy of Argyll Estates Archives.

George Robertson's Letter Book, 1843-1845, North East Wales Archives, Hawarden, Flintshire

by Dr Douglas Lockhart

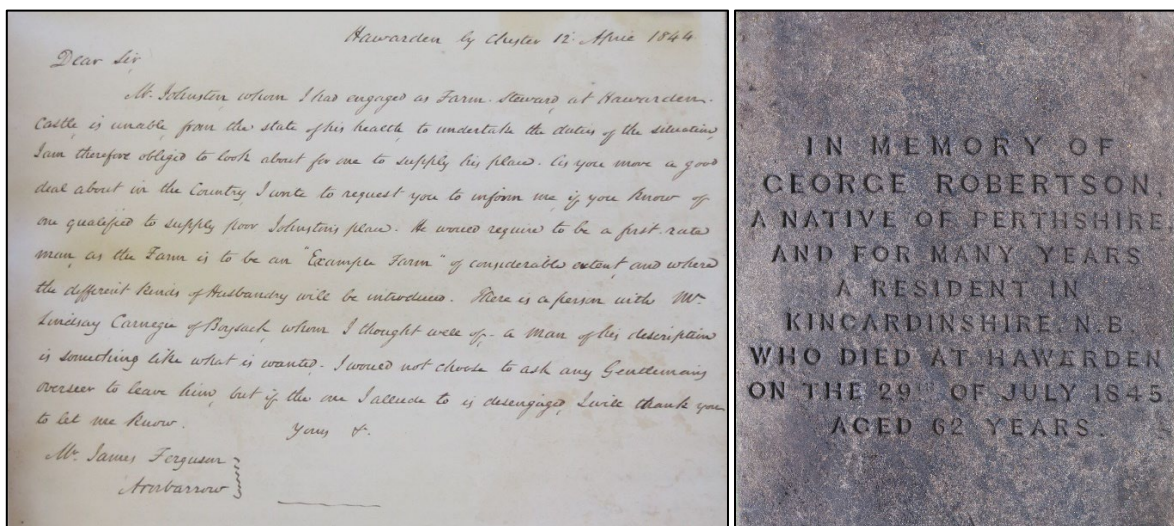
George Robertson was born in Perthshire about 1783, moved in childhood to Kincardineshire, and trained as a land surveyor. Like many of his contemporaries, he followed a career in which surveying led to farming and employment as an estate factor. During much of his working life he was based at Thornton (Kincardineshire). He was factor on the extensive estates of Sir John Stuart Hepburn Forbes, and the Trustees of John Duff Dingwall in Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire. Robertson was a successful farmer, member of the Highland and Agricultural Society, winning awards at their meetings in Aberdeen in 1834 and 1840 and at the Fettercairn Farmers' Club shows. His standing in the farming community qualified him to give evidence to several Parliamentary Commissions of

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Inquiry and his local knowledge was put to good use when he compiled the entry for Fordoun Parish (Kincardineshire) in the *New Statistical Account*.

In the early 1840s Robertson began to experience health problems and the sudden death of John Duff Dingwall of Brucklay in 1840 resulted in the loss of the factorship, while other staff also became unemployed. John Gladstone of Fasque (later Sir John) helped Robertson find employment at Hawarden, seven miles west of Chester, the poorly managed estate of Sir Stephen Glynne, the brother-in-law of William Ewart Gladstone (John's son). Robertson became agent on 1 November 1843 and was accompanied by his clerks, William Kerr (1799-1875) of St Cyrus, and William Thom (1820-92), who had recently completed a land surveying apprenticeship with Walker & Beattie in Aberdeen. Financial accounts, farm reports and miscellaneous correspondence throw light on his attempts to transform the estate based on Scottish practice. Perhaps the most remarkable record is a letter book, in Kerr's handwriting, which contains copies of his out-letters: some letters were written on estate business to correspondents living in the local area; many were sent to contacts in north east Scotland. It is listed, but 'hidden', in the catalogue of the Hawarden Estate Papers at North East Wales Archives as 'Letter Book 1843-1845' (DA/HA/1433).

The first letter was written on 12 November 1843 to John Croll, carpenter, Fettercairn, whom he persuaded to move to Hawarden. There follow several letters to William Johnston, overseer at Dupplin Castle near Perth, one of which described the Hawarden estate as being 'in the most confused position'. Robertson wanted Johnston to take a small farm on the estate and set an example of good husbandry as well as act as his deputy. His plans failed to come to fruition due to Johnston's failing health and instead Robert Milne, a farmer's son from Blairs of Fetteresso near Stonehaven, took up the position of farm overseer. There are several letters to Peter Cardno, gardener at Brucklay (Aberdeenshire), who became forester at Hawarden.



Above left: Letter to James Ferguson, Arnbarrow, Kincardineshire, 12 April 1844. (DA/HA/1433 p.57). Courtesy of North East Wales Archives.

Above right: Memorial stone, St Deiniol's Churchyard, Hawarden.

Many letters were written to farmers and tradesmen in Kincardineshire seeking skilled labour or offering the tenancy of farms on Hawarden estate. A typical example was John Garland, Cairnton, Auchenblae, 15 July 1844: 'amongst the difficulties ... here is a want of

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good Tradesmen such as masons, carpenters and also of good spademen or Ditchers, Roadmakers Ec ...' Robertson also sought professional help: John Grainger, factor on the Lothian Estate, for advice on writing an annual estate report; John Smith, engineer, Aberdeen on supplying water to Hawarden village; James Smith of Deanston, for a dealer near Stirling or Glasgow to purchase farm horses.

Letters to the estate's lawyers in Liverpool outline plans for the re-arrangement of farms, enlargement of fields and improved drainage; to Sir Stephen Glynne on staff recruitment and his (Robertson's) absence in London on Parliamentary business; to John Gladstone with an assessment of estates currently for sale in Kincardineshire and one commenting on the powers of land agents. The latter are particularly valuable as the originals, listed in an NRAS survey, were among those auctioned during the sale of Fasque House some fifteen years ago.

Robertson died on 28 July 1845 after suffering an 'apoplectic seizure' while riding on the estate with Sir Stephen Glynne. A few days later, William Ewart Gladstone writing to his father, reflected that: 'It will be difficult indeed to find a successor in any degree equal to him'. Gregory Burnett (1806-74), a former surveying apprentice with Robertson, was appointed and held the post for twenty-three years.

Homecoming for Angus Og: Ewen Bain Angus Og Collection 'comes home' to Highland Archive Service

by Katharine Macfarlane, Archives Project Officer (Angus Og)

High Life Highland's Highland Archive Service are working to digitise and conserve a collection of original Angus Og cartoons after receiving funding from the Scottish Government.

Angus Og was created by cartoonist Ewen Bain and his adventures were based on the fabled Isle of Drambeg in the Utter Hebrides. Angus Og began in the Bulletin and was then published in the Daily Record from 1960 through to 1989. There were 158 Angus Og adventures and the cartoon, and its characters were well-kent faces across Scotland for 30 years.

However, following the death of its creator Ewen Bain, the cartoon fell from the public eye. Apart from a couple of interesting exhibitions in the early 90s there was very little Angus Og material available and, in a pre-internet era, few options available to share the stories. There was academic interest in studying the cartoons but following the death of Ewen Bain's wife Sheila no one knew where the original cartoons could be found until, in late 2019 when on holiday in Skye, her father's 'home', Ewen's daughter Rhona popped into the local post office and found herself chatting about the cartoons. From this conversation an idea was formed to bring the vast collection of original drawings back home to Skye and now the collection of original strips, along with material relating to their creation and place within late 20th century Scottish cultural history have all been donated to the Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre.

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Highland Archivist Alison Mason said: "We have benefitted hugely from National Island Plan funding from the Scottish Government to support a two-year post based at our Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre in Portree to research, digitise, conserve and promote this fantastic collection of Angus Og cartoons - over 8000 individual items - all of which were gifted to the archives by Ewen's daughter."

Ewen's daughter Rhona Flin said, "My father would have been delighted to know of this special investment in Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre which will enable much wider access to the Angus Og collection."

Catherine MacPhee, Skye and Lochalsh Archivist highlights the national importance of these materials; "The survival of this collection is important not just for Skye but as part of Scotland's social history. As well as being nationally well known and loved, the cartoons relate to social-political issues still relevant today, including the loss of language, impacts of tourism and social imbalances."

The funding has allowed High Life Highland to develop an accessible Angus Og exhibition currently on display at the Archive Centre in Skye, following a successful tour of the west highlands and small isles with associated workshops and events.

You can find out more and view elements of the collection online at <https://www.highlifehighland.com/skye-and-lochalsh-archive-centre/angus-og/>. Exciting new Angus Og merchandise is now available at <https://shop.highlifehighland.com/collections/the-angus-og-shop>.



Highland Archive Service, Archives Project Officer, Katharine Macfarlane, with the Angus Og puppet made by Anne Lorne Gillies for Gaelic TV Programme BZZZ! (Courtesy of Highland Archive Service).

News

Caithness Collaborations – strengthening collections and community engagement with The Nuclear and Caithness Archives (Nucleus) and The Wick Society

by Jamie McCaffrey, Caithness Archivist

In December 2020, the Wick Society began depositing its collection of historic records with the Caithness Archive, part of The Nuclear and Caithness Archives (Nucleus). The collection is vast, comprising over 100 boxes, as well as maps and plans and with covering dates stretching from 1476 to the start of the twenty-first century.

Charters and sasines, records of the herring industry, local government records, records of societies, sports clubs, youth clubs and social events - are only a selection of the abundant histories, stories, and lives catalogued in The Wick Society Collection.

The work entailed collecting the physical records, undertaking preventative conservation, box listing, final cataloguing, and storage, and was a group effort of the Caithness Archive team.



An exhibition celebrating The Wick Society Collection was launched at Nucleus in December 2023, and it ran until February 2024. The displays sought to share a few of the myriad stories held within the vast catalogue. The team were absolutely delighted as over 150 members of the public made time to come and explore.

Left: The Wick Society Collection, Ref. GB1471/WS. Courtesy of the Caithness Archive Team.

Right: Archive Assistants Valerie Amin and Jennifer Ross with invited guests from The Wick Society with some of the historic records on display at the Wick Society Collection Opening Night.

Courtesy of Alan Hendry.



News



A series of talks in 2024 focuses on the four main sections of the Wick Society: the Johnston Photographic Collection; the Boat Crew; Wick Voices; and the Wick Heritage Museum. The first talk attracted a record 108 visitors, and the series continues throughout Spring 2024.

Right: A packed crowd wait for the Johnston Photographic Collection Talk to begin, 31 Jan 2024.

Courtesy of the Caithness Archive Team.

To reach a wider audience and share the collection and exhibition with those unable to attend in person, a new [Stories From The Archive blog](#) was launched in January 2024. The blog details the history of the society and highlights a few of the innumerable stories held within the collection.

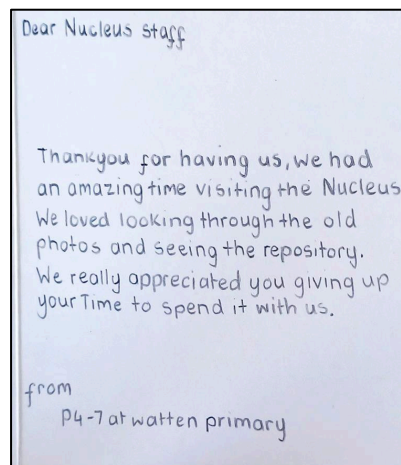
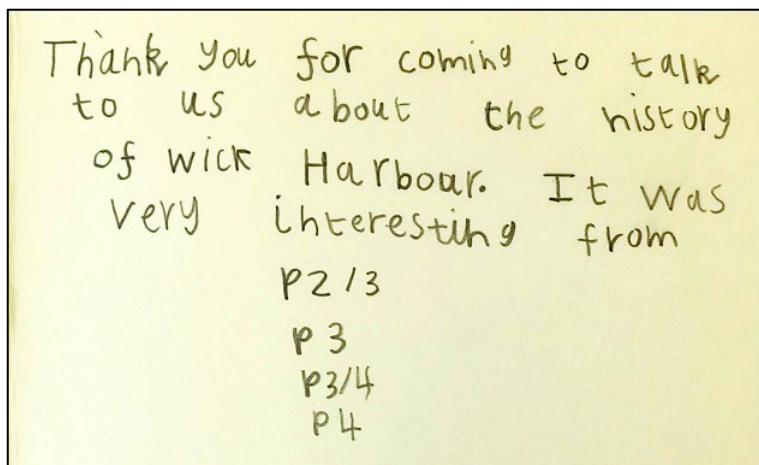


The Wick Society Collection blog is available at <https://www.highlifehighland.com/nucleus-nuclear-caithness-archives/the-wick-society-collection/>

In another example of collaborative working, Nucleus and The Wick Society jointly provide educational and activity-based programmes for primary schools throughout Caithness. This involves visiting local schools to engage with pupils using copies of archival records, as well as objects from Wick Heritage Museum and oral history recordings from Wick Voices (also part of the Wick Society). School activities are guided by the current curriculum and informed by teachers, with topics including 'school days in the past' and 'coasts and lighthouses'.

News

Primary classes have also had the opportunity to visit Nucleus, visiting our search room to see the archive documents up close, and learning about how archives are managed and preserved.



Above Left to Right: Thank you messages from Thrumster Primary, and Watten Primary Schools (Courtesy of the Caithness Archive Team)

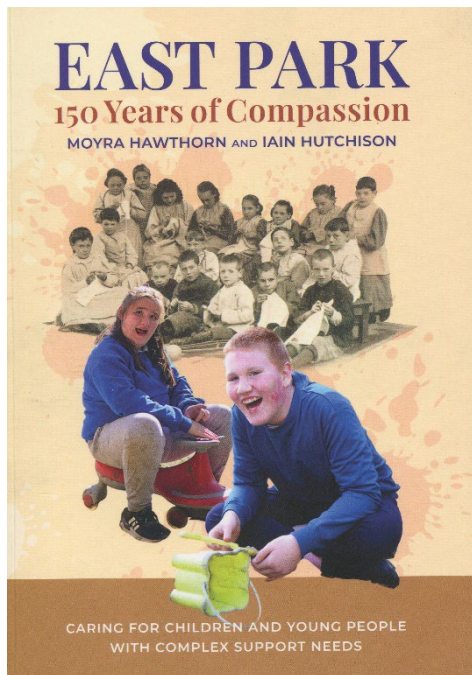
East Park – a Maryhill institution

A celebration of 150 years of Compassion

by Dr Ian Hutchison

In 1872, legislation that introduced compulsory education to all children aged between five and thirteen years, came into effect. Earlier education provision, such as parochial schools, had been voluntary in nature and attendance at these had been uneven, particularly in rural communities such as during springtime sowing of crops and lambing, and in the harvesting season. The 1872 Act was to change such a casual approach, but to be effective, the vigilance of school attendance officers was required to track down non-attending children. In the wynds and vennels of Glasgow's overcrowded inner-city localities, officers encountered the previously unknown presence of large numbers of physically impaired children. Unable to venture outside their single-room dwellings and cellars, children 'crippled' by tuberculosis, rickets and various deformities, these children had been out of sight. The opening of East Park Home in the fresh air and open space of Maryhill by a charitable association of concerned citizens in 1874 was intended as a temporary measure to aid the most seriously impaired of these children.

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East Park: 150 Years of Compassion is the culmination of a two-year project that traces the 150-year history of this 'temporary' expediency. Launched in March 2024, the book traces the changing nature of impairments encountered by children and young people over fifteen decades. For many years, East Park provided residential accommodation, nursing, and medical intervention, and, in recognition of the original impetus, schooling for its children. A country branch, opened in Largs in 1927, allowed continuity when the Maryhill Home was temporarily closed during World War Two, and East Park survived threatened absorption by the nascent National Health Service in 1947.

Today, East Park's educational role is at the forefront of its activities, while its children and young people live in self-contained houses that blend with the local community and where they receive support for complex additional support needs. As an institution that operated on a medical model through its first century, East Park now operates very much on a social model that places the needs of its young people at the centre of its care.



Above left to right: Children at East Park, 1877 and 2011. Images courtesy of East Park School.

East Park's journey has been meticulously researched by social scientist Moyra Hawthorn, who has focused on the period from the Second World War, and disability historian Iain Hutchison who covers the early decades. East Park maintains its own archive at Maryhill where extensive use has been made of annual reports, minute books and other records, while life has been brought to the East Park experience of more recent years through the gathering of oral and written testimony. Records held by the Glasgow Room of the Mitchell Library have also been invaluable for early-years investigation. Like many formal records of institutions, it is sometimes necessary to 'read against the grain' to theorise the full story and *East Park: 150 Years of Compassion*, while being a celebration, has not shied away from doing this.

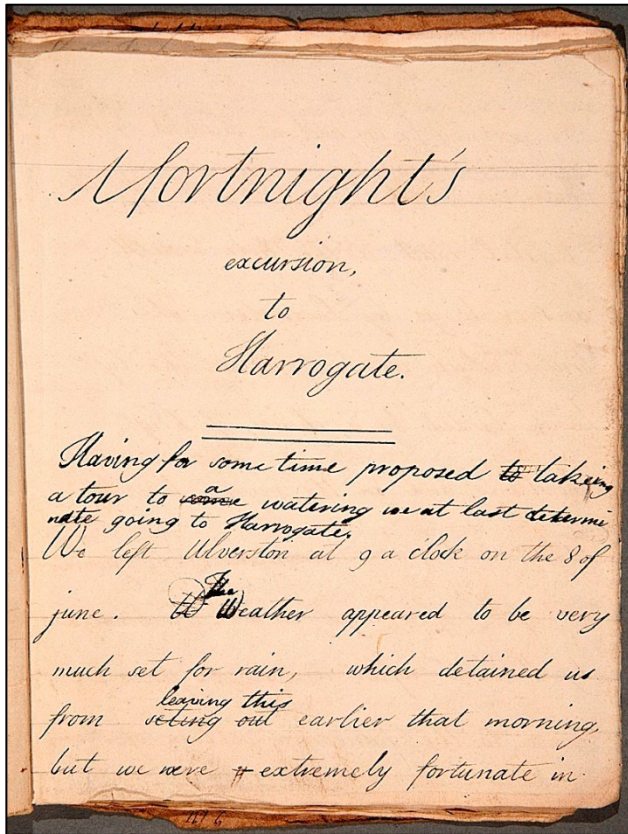
East Park: 150 Years of Compassion is published by East Park School, ISBN 978-1-7395575-0-8 and is available via www.eastpark.org.uk

News

New Exhibition at Traquair House

by Margaret Fox, Traquair House Archivist

This summer Traquair House in the Scottish Borders will be mounting a new exhibition in the High Gallery. It will look at the life of Charles Stuart, 8th and last Earl of Traquair, from his birth in Edinburgh in 1781 until his death at Traquair in 1861 - from his childhood and adolescence in France and Spain to his final years enjoying the companionship of his sister, Lady Louisa, and her lady's maid, Mary Langlois. In between we cover his schooling at an educational establishment for 'young Catholic gentlemen' at Ulverston in Lancashire, his love of travel - seeing new places and observing and commenting on new people - his fondness for his neighbouring village of Innerleithen, and perhaps even more so, for the workers on his estate whose loyalty was amply rewarded in his will.

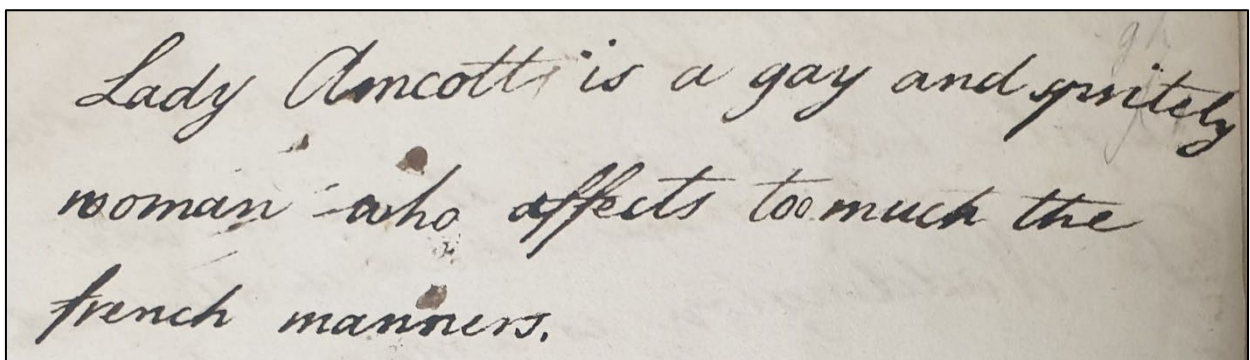


The Earl's growing maturity is illustrated over ten display panels but the quirkiness of his youth shines through. Above all, he was a man imbued with the spirit and religion of his ancestors. He was full of Jacobite sentiment and a devout Catholic, indeed the only member of the Scottish aristocracy to maintain a resident priest at his own expense at the time of Emancipation.

Visitors can also browse a selection of original documents in a display case in the same room. The start date for the exhibition is to be confirmed, so it would be advisable to telephone 01896 830323 in advance, or visit the web site: <https://w.traquair.co.uk/>

Left and below: extracts from the 8th Earl's Harrogate travel diary, 1803.

Courtesy of Traquair House Charitable Trust.



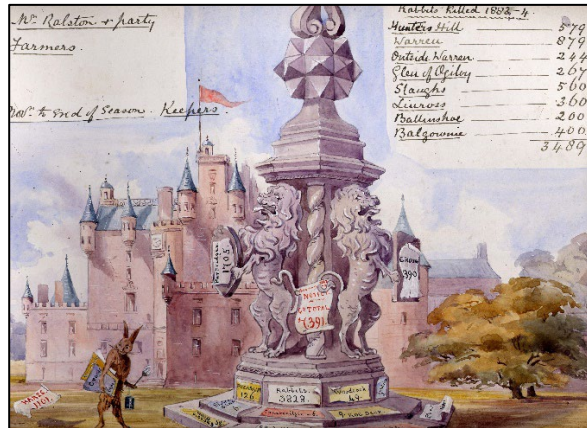
News

Sustaining Glamis Exhibition

by Ingrid Thomson, Glamis Castle Archivist

The *Sustaining Glamis Exhibition* is due to run in the Coach House at Glamis Castle from 16th March to 31st October 1924, and again in the 2025 season.

Glamis Castle is more than a family home and historic residence. The castle and village are the focus of a traditional rural estate which continues to encourage the development of a thriving rural community today. Historically, the castle has been largely self-sufficient, with fruit and vegetables grown in the kitchen garden, as well as game, livestock, farming, and forestry on the estate. Staff and tradespeople have played a key role in sustaining the residents of Glamis from servants, cooks, gardeners, game keepers and foresters, to local farmers and merchants.



Above Left to Right: Kitchen Staff in the Victorian Kitchen at Glamis Castle, 1923, Ex Box 8; Illustration from the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne's Game Book, 1883, Vol.193. Below: Ploughmen, Glamis, c. early 20th Century, PH14/22. Courtesy of Strathmore Estates (Holding) Ltd.

This exhibition focuses on the many interwoven strands involved in sustaining Glamis Castle and its estate from the past to the present, with emphasis not just on survival, but also quality of life, nature, and conservation.





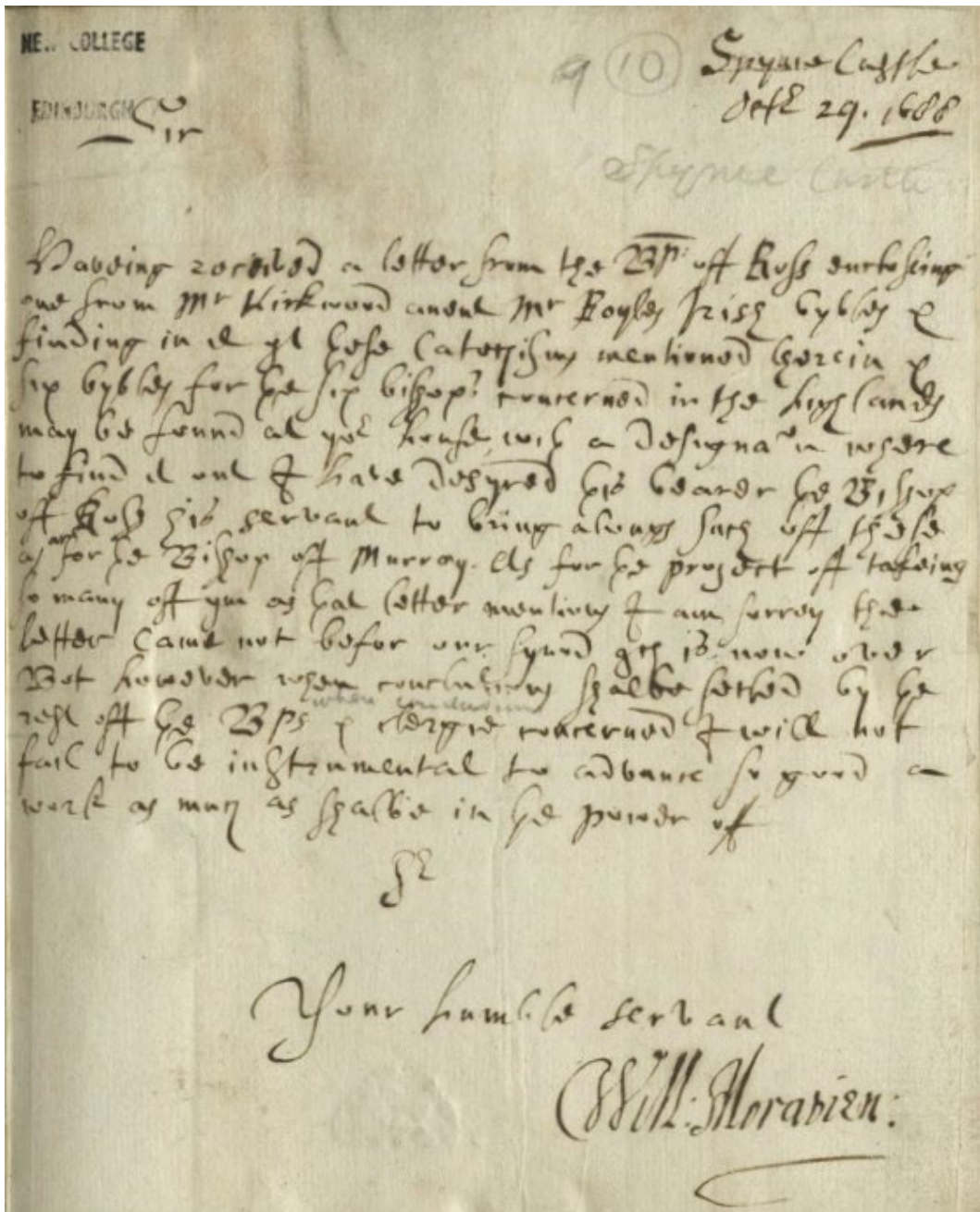
Exhibits include a 17th century medicinal and culinary Recipe Book, Cellar Book, Game Book, lists of old trees, tradespeople's accounts, and original 18th century clothing. Please note that the Coach House may occasionally be used for private events, so if visitors are unable to access it, they can visit the web site for more information at

<https://www.glamis-castle.co.uk/castle-gardens/sustaining-glamis-exhibition/>

Palaeography

This letter from William, Bishop of Moray (1647-1707) to Rev. James Kirkwood (c.1650-c.1708) comes from a set of correspondence held at New College Library, Edinburgh, relating to the provision of Irish language Bibles to the Highlands in the 1680s and 1690s (ref. MS KIR 3.1.10). James Kirkwood had a particular interest in ensuring that the people of the Highlands and Islands had access to the Bible in Gaelic. The entire correspondence can be read on the University of Edinburgh's Open Books: <https://openbooks.is.ed.ac.uk/> or in person at the newly re-opened Funk Reading Room at New College Library, where first edition Irish Bibles can be consulted: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/heritage-collections/using-the-collections/locations-contact>

Watch out for a slightly indistinct *t* and open o  'out'; *th* and a very open *e*  'the' as well as formal titles for people. See page 20 for the full transcription.



Association News

Association News

Amendments to the Constitution of the Association

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association held online on 14 December 2023, members approved a motion to amend Section 3, part (i), Section 4, part (x), Section 5, parts (ii) and (iii), and Section 6, part (ii) of the Constitution. The amendments include a titular change from 'Chairman' to 'Convener' of Council; the introduction of an explicit provision for two people to be jointly elected or co-opted to the office of Journal Editor, the office of Newsletter Editor or the office of Secretary; and a reduction in the number of members required for a quorum at regular Council meetings to four, exclusive of the Convener, Secretary and Treasurer. The amended Constitution can be downloaded from the Association's website: <https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/about-us>.

Scottish Records Association Office Bearers and Council Members 2023-2024

The Office Bearers of the Association are usually elected or re-elected at each Annual General Meeting. The Ordinary Members of Council are usually elected for a fixed term of three years.

Office Bearers

Convener: Professor Chris Whatley	scottishrecordsassociation@gmail.com
Secretary: Dr Anne Cameron	anne.m.cameron@strath.ac.uk
Treasurer: Mrs Alison Diamond	sratreasurer2024@gmail.com
Membership Secretary: Mr Robert Urquhart	sra-membership@abbotshall.net
Journal Editors: Dr Charlotte Berry & Dr Cathryn Spence	editorscottisharchives@gmail.com
Newsletter Editors: Mrs Ingrid Thomson & Ms Joanne Wishart	retoureditors@gmail.com
Web Editor: Mr Dawid Palgan	scottishrecordsassociation@gmail.com

Ordinary Members of Council

Mr Phil Astley; Dr Malcolm Bangor-Jones; Ms Lesley Bryson; Ms Marietta Crichton Stuart; Ms Keren Guthrie; Dr Iain Hutchison; Mrs Tahitia McCabe; Ms Fiona MacLeod; Dr Ronnie Scott; Ms Kirsty Stewart.

Changes on Council

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association on 14 December 2023, Dr Malcolm Bangor-Jones and Dr Ronnie Scott were elected as Ordinary Members of Council, and Ms Jo Dixon retired as an Ordinary Member, having completed her term of office. We would like to thank Jo for her valuable contribution to the work of the Association. Mrs Carol Parry, Editor of *Scottish Archives* since 2011, also stepped down at the Annual General Meeting. We are indebted to Carol for her long and efficient stewardship of the journal and are delighted to report that she has now been admitted to Honorary Membership of the Association. Dr Charlotte Berry and Dr Cathryn Spence were jointly elected as Journal Editors, and we extend a warm welcome to them.

Association News

At a regular meeting of Council held online on 12 February 2024, Dr Iain Hutchison was co-opted as an additional Ordinary Member. Iain previously served on Council from 2019-2022 and currently convenes the Conferences and Events Working Group.

Annual Conference

Call for Papers

Conference: Estate Papers and their Use in Historical Research

Scottish Records Association

in conjunction with

Scottish Association of Country House Archivists



Distilling and farming from a plan of the lands of Craighend, Stirlingshire, 1798. (RHP80866)
Crown copyright image, National Records of Scotland

Wednesday 23 October 2024

Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen and online

Abstracts (maximum 200 words) of proposed papers, focusing on research using estate papers in private and public ownership, or the management and custody of estate paper collections, are invited. Themes and topics, might include, but are not limited to:

- problems and possibilities of carrying out research using estate records from the Middle Ages to the twenty-first century,
- issues involved in managing estate papers,
- the Scottish landed estate in an international context,
- the changing economic viability of country estates,
- the everyday life of people who lived on, worked, and owned estates,
- the decline of landed estates,
- issues of heredity,
- the impact of landed estates on the environment,
- landed estates and rural industrialisation.

Paper proposals should be sent by **31 May 2024** to iainhutchison.history@gmail.com

Association News

After the conference, presenters may be invited to develop their papers as academic articles to be considered for publication by *Scottish Archives*, the journal of the Scottish Records Association.

The Scottish Records Association (<https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/>) was founded in 1977 (Scottish Charity number SC008896). It provides a forum for users, owners and custodians of archives to discuss matters relating to historical records in and about Scotland.

The Scottish Association of Country House Archivists is a constituted group established in 2017 to raise the standard of curation and conservation in Scottish country house archives; to ensure a better understanding of current and future issues, such as the curation of digital archives, security, risk assessment and so forth, through publications, access for research and for education at all levels; and to provide a forum for sharing knowledge, skills and experience and to promote mutual assistance.

The Tunnock Prize

The Tunnock Prize is the Association's annual essay competition aimed at postgraduate students and early career researchers, kindly sponsored by Thomas Tunnock Ltd. The prizewinning essay for 2023 was James Fox with an essay entitled 'Recordkeeping and the Business of Books in pre-Union Edinburgh: The Debt Book of John Porteous, 1699–1702'. This essay argues that Porteous's survival in the book trade was owed not simply to his bookselling, but to this much wider array of business activities. It demonstrates the value of Scottish archives in revealing underexplored aspects of the book trade, while contributing to knowledge of survival strategies in the business of books across early modern Europe. James is reading for a PhD in History at the University of St Andrews and his essay will be published in Volume 30 of *Scottish Archives*. James gave a presentation about his research at the AGM of the Association in December 2023, which was much enjoyed by those in attendance. Many congratulations to James.

The closing date for this year's competition is 1 September 2024 and the result will be announced at the AGM at the end of the year. Further details are available from the SRA website at <https://scottishrecordsassociation.org/the-tunnock-prize>

Scottish Archives

Carol Parry stood down as the Editor of *Scottish Archives* at the AGM in November. In recognition of her contribution, she has been made a Lifelong Member of the Scottish Records Association. Congratulations, Carol! Volume 29 has recently arrived on our doorsteps and was Carol's last issue out of the ten which she edited.

Cathryn Spence and Charlotte Berry have now been appointed as co-editors of the Journal. They will be splitting the journal between them, with Cathryn focusing on the academic articles and Charlotte focusing on the practitioner contributions. Cathryn is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, and Charlotte Berry is Head of Records and Archives Engagement at the National Records of Scotland.

Planning and contributions for Volume 30 of *Scottish Archives* are both well underway - thanks to Carol's work, we already have the full quota of academic articles. Included in this volume will be the prizewinning essay from last year's Tunnock Prize and papers arising

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from the Autumn 2023 conference 'The Body as Evidence'. These will include articles on the textile trades in early modern Edinburgh, the book trade in Scotland at the turn of the eighteenth century, the royal menagerie of James VI, and tattoos as expressions of identity in nineteenth-century female convicts, among others.

We need some practitioner content for the issue – ideas to Charlotte on a postcard please! Do you have a project you'd like to share, and where you'd like a bit more space than is available in *Retour*? Have you been to a good conference lately (such as the SRA's own conference in Nov 2023), or attended some inspiring online training? Do you have a colleague who is retiring, and you'd like to contribute a career retrospective? Or might you have some musings on how the sector is changing over recent years and what the future challenges might be? We may perhaps plan to have a re-think of the current Viewpoint and Around the Archives slots for future issues of *Scottish Archives*, so if you have ideas for what you'd like to see from the practitioner perspective, please let us know.

Olive Geddes, who did sterling work as Reviews Editor since the very early days of the journal has also stepped down and the SRA is grateful for her invaluable input.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone who would like to submit or discuss a paper for potential inclusion in the journal.

Cathryn Spence and Charlotte Berry, Co-Editors *Scottish Archives*
editorscottisharchives@gmail.com

Palaeography Workshops

The Scottish Records Association offers palaeography classes to help researchers read and understand handwritten records produced in Scotland in the early modern period. The workshops are run on a voluntary basis by members of the SRA who have relevant experience in reading early modern records and teaching palaeography. A popular step-by-step electronic guide to reading the handwriting of older Scottish documents can also be downloaded at: <https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/publications>.



The second part of the Private Household Collections workshop (on correspondence, journals, and other household records) was run for the first time in February 2024 at Glamis Castle. The attendees enthusiastically rose to the challenge of deciphering more difficult documents and feedback was excellent. The Association is grateful to the tutors, Charlotte Berry, Alison Diamond, Kirsty Stewart, Ingrid Thomson, and Robert Urquhart, and to the host institution of Glamis Castle. The Association aims to run further palaeography workshops in association with archives and other bodies who are institutional members of the Association in the coming months. For details of future events, open to members and non-members, see the Association's website at www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/palaeography.

Above Left: Glamis Castle Workshop, 16 February 2024.

Courtesy of the Scottish Records Association (SRA) and Strathmore Estates (Holding) Ltd.

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Visit to Stirling Council Archives, 25 August 2023

by Dr Anne Cameron, SRA Secretary

Last summer, a small but enthusiastic group of six members of the Association visited Stirling Council Archives, where we received an introductory talk and a tour of the store from the Council Archivist, Pam McNicol.

As Pam explained, Stirling Council Archives was originally the Central Regional Archive, established in 1975 in response to the Local Government (Scotland) Act. When the Scottish regions were reorganised in 1996, the Central region was abolished and local government functions within the area were assumed by the new Stirling Council. Since 2005, the Archives office, reading room and store have been situated in a former warehouse on the Springkerse Industrial Estate.

As one might expect, the Archives' core collections are local authority records, including:

- Stirling Burgh records, which date from the fourteenth century onwards and progress through the records of successor authorities, Stirling District Council and the current Council. They comprise charters, minutes, the Dean of Guild plan series and other records reflecting the Council's administrative activities.
- Records of the police burghs of Bridge of Allan, Callander, Dunblane and Doune, including minutes and property records.
- Stirling County Council records, which date from 1890 onwards and include School Board and Education Committee minutes and records relating to individual schools.
- Owing to boundary changes over the years, the Archives also holds some records for the Western district of Perthshire, stretching from Dunblane to Killin.
- Central Regional Council records, which date from 1975 onwards and include a variety of committee minutes and papers.
- Burial records for all the local authority administered cemeteries in the Stirling Council area.
- Post-1845 Poor Law records, including applications and registers of the poor. These are amongst the most frequently requested local authority materials in the Archives, being rich in social history and in details about individuals and families. Helpfully, many of the registers of the poor have now been indexed by volunteers.

Other highlights from the local authority collections include the records of Central Scotland Police, which date back to around 1860, and the customs and excise records for Alloa ports, which contain references to the activities of pirates and smugglers.

The Archives also holds many private collections that have been gifted or deposited over the years. These collections, which occupy one side of the store, are an eclectic mixture and include the estate papers of Murray of Polmaise, the estate papers of Stirling of Gargunnoch, and the MacGregor of MacGregor collection. Other notable examples are the papers of local businesses, such as James Gray, seed merchant; the records of Whinwell Children's Home, and sets of local newspapers such as the Stirling Journal and Advertiser (published from 1820) and the Stirling Observer.

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We concluded our fascinating afternoon by browsing a display of 'star' items selected for us by Pam. Amongst these was a Stirling Burgh Court Book dating from 1544-1550 (ref. SBC/37/1/2), which contains the first written evidence of the possession and discharge of a handgun in Scotland (9 May 1549). Also laid out for us was a letter written by Bonnie Prince Charlie on 1 January 1746, requesting the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of

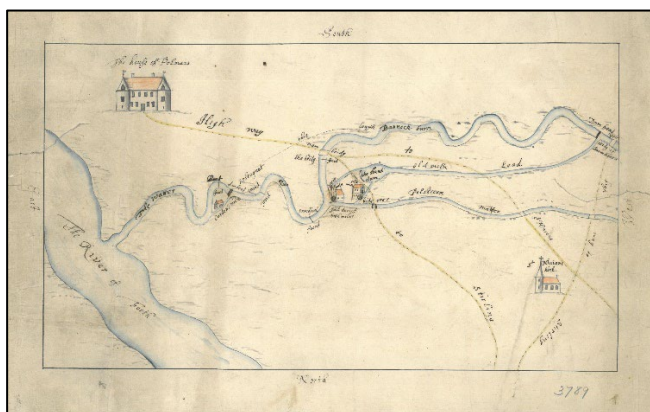
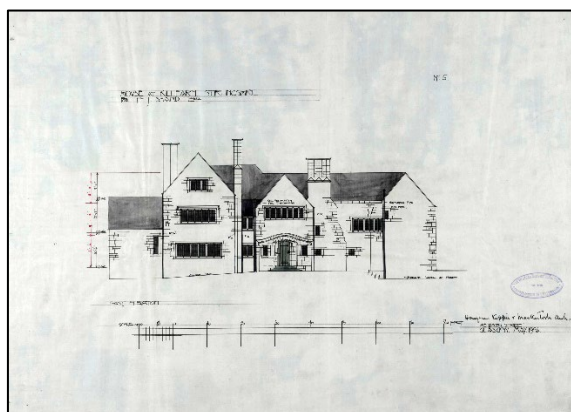
Stirling to allow the Jacobite forces 'peaceable entry into and possession of the town (ref. B66/25/335).

From the Stirling County Council building plans collection, we admired two of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's plans for a house at Killearn, Stirlingshire, drawn in 1906, one of which is pictured below left.

The plans were commissioned by F.J. Shand, who went on to build the house as specified but later fell out with Mackintosh. Finally, the group was impressed by a beautifully drawn plan from the Murray of Polmaise collection, below right, dating from some time in the eighteenth century and representing an early record of the roads and mills around Polmaise House, as well as the 'Bannock burn'.



Image left: Courtesy of the SRA



Above left to right: Stirling County Council plan series Western 14/1906; PD189RHP 3789.
Courtesy of Stirling Council Archives.

The Scottish Records Association would like to thank Pam McNicol for facilitating our visit and for giving so generously of her time, knowledge, and enthusiasm.

Visits to archive repositories are again being arranged for members of the Association and their guests this summer. For information and to sign up, please see the booking forms enclosed with *Retour* or contact the Secretary by email: anne.m.cameron@strath.ac.uk.

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Palaeography Poser Transcription (see page 13)

Spynie Castle

Octr 29. 1688

Sir

Haveing received a letter from the B[isho]p off Ross encloseing
one from Mr Kirkwood anent Mr Boyles Irish bybles &
finding in it th[a]t these Catechisms mentioned therein &
six bybles for the six bishops concerned in the highlands
may be found at yo[u]r house with a designa[tio]n where
to find it out I have desyred this bearer the Bishop
off Ross his servant to bring alongs such off these
as ar for the Bishop of Murray. As for the project off takeing
so many off you as that letter mentions I am sorrey the
letter Came not befor our synod q[ui]ch is now over
But however when conclusions shalbe setled by the
rest off the B[isho]ps & clergie concerned I will not
fail to be instrumental to advance so good a
work as much as shalbe in the power off

Sr

Your humble servant

Will: Moravien.

***Retour* Contributors**

The editors, Joanne Wishart, and Ingrid Thomson, would like to thank all the contributors to this edition of *Retour*:

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Margaret Fox, Traquair House Archivist

Kirsty Stewart, Scottish and University Collections Archivist, University of Edinburgh (for the Palaeography Poser).

Dr Anne Cameron, SRA Secretary

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Dr Charlotte Berry & Dr Cathryn Spence, SRA Journal Co-Editors

Robert Urquhart, SRA Membership Secretary