This plaque was unveiled on 19 March 1955 by Mrs Michael Crichton Stuart of Falkland in the presence of the Estate foresters, who included descendants of one who took part in the first planting, and the Laird who succeeded Mr Bruce to the ancient title of Her Majesty’s Forester of Falkland. These woodlands are dedicated in the hope that they may never again be devastated in the cause of war, nor by the fires of the careless”.

Today, Falkland estate is home to the Centre for Stewardship which cares for its outstanding heritage. In 2014 the Tyndall Bruce Monument was restored with funds from the Falkland Stewardship Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Fife Environment Trust. Once again it stands proudly overlooking a much changed Falkland estate and Fife landscape.

**Directions to the Monument**

From the car park by the Fish Pond:

- Walk up the road
- Turn left towards Westfield farm
- Take the pathway beyond Westfield farm
- Continue up the pathway veering to the right
- Join the estate track heading right
- Tyndall Bruce Monument is on the right.

**Centre for Stewardship**

The Stables
Falkland Estate
Falkland, KY15 7AF
www.centreforstewardship.org.uk

Text by Marietta Crichton Stuart
Map by Frances Stuart
Design and illustrations by emseeitch

**Historic Landscape**

Re-connecting people with the hills
The Tyndall Bruce monument stands on the Black Hill looking out over the Falkland Estate which at one time extended from the East Lomond as far as Strathmiglo and Auchtermuchty. The building commemorates Onesiphorus Tyndall Bruce, the Laird, who died on 19 March 1855 at the age of 65. A Grade Two listed building, its architectural description is a “Tall tapering 2-stage obelisk monument on graduated circular base. Squared, stugged rubble. Rusticated margins. Segmental-arched entrance opening to South with flanking narrow round-arched slit openings. Projecting ashlar band course above base. Rectangular memorial plaque to North.” The Fife Herald of 1857 summed it up more succinctly as a “very massy and lasting building”.

In 1820 Falkland Estate was purchased by Professor John Bruce an unmarried gentleman in his seventies. On his death six years later, his estates were inherited by his Eurasian niece, Margaret Stuart Bruce, the illegitimate daughter of his brother Robert, a Lieutenant Colonel with the East India Company. A major heiress in her late forties, in 1828 she married Onesiphorus Tyndall, a Bristol born barrister who, reportedly, had considerable debts. In addition to a pre-nuptial agreement, she required him to take her surname. The Tyndall Bruces built the House of Falkland as their new country home and the nearby Temple of Decision. They spent many decades accumulating land, as well as funding Falkland’s new Parish Church and fountain. Renowned for their charitable giving, they played an active role in Fife society and politics. Onesiphorus, whose New Testament name means “bringing profit” or “useful” was known as the Laird, though his wife, who had a good understanding of business, “kept a good deal in her own power”.

After his death in March 1855, Onesiphorus was buried in Falkland kirk where a plaque refers to the community’s love and respect. A local commemoration was planned, but agreement could not be reached as to whether there should be a stone pillar or monument in a prominent place or a statue in the centre of Falkland. There was no resolution until March 1857 when the Fife Herald reported that “a pole with a flag on it was erected on the Black Hill to indicate the exact spot on which they would have the monument reared and to show the effect which the erection would have if placed in such a situation”. The supporters of a statue decried its impact on the picturesqueness of the scenery and its incongruity spoiling one of the finest natural terraces.

While the two sides remained at loggerheads, by September 1857 the building of the monument was progressing rapidly. The local newspaper noted “it is to be above 60 feet in height, and the thickness of the wall is about 9 feet. Altogether it promises to be a very massy and lasting building, and, without doubt, will be some ornament to the hill”.

One story is that it was built by the people of Falkland and the tenant farmers of the estate, who lent their horse and carts to transport the building stone from a quarry on the East Lomond. A plaque reads “In memory of Onesiphorous Tyndall Bruce Esq. of Falkland who died 19 March 1855 erected by his tenantry”. Details of the opening ceremony have not been found, but in September 1858 visitors from Kingskettle reported a “monument recently erected to the memory of the late Mr Bruce, is an attractive object, and is seen at a great distance”.

It was not until ten years after Onesiphorus’ death, in October 1865, that a bronze statue of him, sculpted by Sir John Steell, paid for by public subscription, was unveiled in Falkland in the presence of his widow. Initially it stood outside the Palace and is now in the Kirk grounds.

Mrs Tyndall Bruce died in 1869 in her late eighties and was buried in Falkland Parish Church alongside her husband. It was her fortune that funded building, land purchases, employment and charitable works, but these are generally attributed to her husband and her memorial tablet describes her “deep sense of obligation to perform her duty as a Christian”.

In 1887 Falkland Estate including the Palace was purchased by John Patrick Crichton Stuart, Marquess of Bute. He was responsible for a major restoration of the Palace and renovation of the House of Falkland.

Two generations later, in 1955, his grandson, Major Michael Crichton Stuart, the then Laird of Falkland Estate, placed a metal plaque on the Monument beneath the now almost illegible wording on the red Strathmiglo stone plaque, it reads:

“To mark the centenary of the Laird who first afforested the Lomonds, to the great benefit of his country in two world wars, also to record a season during which 140 acres have been re planted.”

- continued overleaf