

# Falkland 1900-2000

## Year 1901

### (As researched by Jack Burgess)

22<sup>nd</sup> January 1901

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac: Death of Queen Victoria.*



Queen Victoria (1819-1901)

26<sup>th</sup> January 1901

Extract from *The Fife News: Queen Victoria* – “Great regret was felt here on Wednesday when the news of the Queen’s death was known. The town and church bells were tolled with short intervals at ten, twelve and two o’clock.”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1901

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Funeral of Queen Victoria.**

## 9<sup>th</sup> February 1901

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Memorial Services** – “Special memorial services were held in the Established Church of this ancient burgh on Saturday afternoon at three o’clock. The hour fixed being a most suitable one; the attendance was large and thoroughly representative of all classes in the community. A procession was made from the hall to the church by the under mentioned bodies:- The local Volunteers of whom there was a goodly muster on parade; the Provost and Magistrates, the members of the Masonic Lodge, and the Free Gardeners. Much interest was manifested in the procession, which was witnessed by a large gathering. In the church, special seats were allotted to them, and the impressive services, which were conducted by the Rev. Mr Johnston, began by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm being sung, “The Lord’s my Shepherd”. Mr Spence conducted the music and played the organ. On Sabbath evening the Rev. Mr Johnston gave an interesting account of the Queen’s life, and Miss Ann Miller sang the beautiful solo, “Crossing the Bar”. There was a large congregation.”

## 27<sup>th</sup> April 1901

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Census** – “Falkland population – 2,229 (2,471 in 1891 – reduction of 242).”



**People of Falkland c.1900**

### **11<sup>th</sup> July 1901**

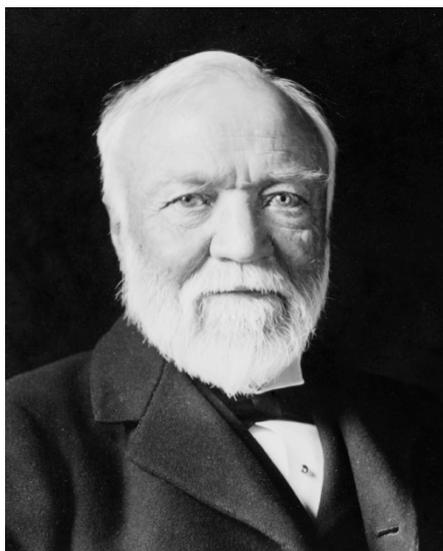
Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Ordination** – Ordination of Rev. James H. Morrison of Perth to the United Free Church at Falkland. Cupar United Free Presbytery held an open-air meeting in the church grounds at Falkland.

### **20<sup>th</sup> July 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Volunteer Killed on the Lomonds: Shot while marking** – “A peculiarly sad fatality befell a young volunteer who was engaged as marker at the Purin Hill range on the East Lomond Hill on Saturday afternoon. The annual shooting match between the Falkland and Leslie Companies of the 6<sup>th</sup> V.B.R.H. was almost concluded, there being only four men left to fire at the last distance, when one of the two markers, Alexander Bonthron, aged 18, and employed as an apprentice mechanic in Eden Valley Factory, Freuchie, was shot in the forehead, the bullet grazing the skull and reappearing again at the back of the head. How the accident happened is not known; but it is conjectured that Bonthron had ascended the pit and exposed his head above ground. He was noticed lying bleeding from the head by the other marker, who had his attention called to the fact

*that something was wrong by the signalling from the firing point of “stop-firing”. This signal was the outcome of there having been no response from the target at which Bonthronne was stationed after the shot had been delivered from the firing point in the usual manner. Captain Lumsden, who was in charge, assisted by Sergt.-Instructor Ford of the Falkland Coy., and Sergt.-Instructor Sylvestor of the Leslie Coy., summoned Surgeon-Captain Mackay of the Falkland Coy., who dressed the wound and saw the unfortunate fellow taken home to Freuchie on an improvised stretcher. The wound was on the left side of the head, and a part of the skull was shot away. Bonthronne died on Monday forenoon, never having regained consciousness. Much sympathy is felt for his brothers and sisters and for his mother, who is a widow. The fatality has caused a great gloom among the Falkland Company, and in Freuchie, where the deceased was highly respected, his death is deeply lamented. The remains were interred on Wednesday with military honours.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Organ from Mr Carnegie Unconditionally** – “Mr Andrew Carnegie has been bestowing organs lavishly on churches throughout Scotland within the last few weeks. In many cases he has been gently approached and has at once “done the generous”, usually however, on condition of the congregations themselves raising a certain portion of the cost. It was, however, with extreme pleasure, that the congregation of the Falkland United Free Church learned at their social meeting last week in connection with the ordination of their new pastor, the Rev. James H. Morrison, that Mr Carnegie was to present an organ to the church, paying all the cost himself. This gratifying announcement was made by Mr Hew Morrison, librarian of Edinburgh Public Library, who is a personal friend of Mr Carnegie, and enjoys his confidence on many matters. As the gift was entirely unsolicited, the intimation which Mr Morrison was able to make was a great surprise to the congregation.”



**Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919)**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Visitors** – “A large number of visitors are staying in the town just now, and every place is filled. More visitors would come if they could get lodgings.”



**Visitors to Falkland c1900**

### **23<sup>rd</sup> July 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Corporal Bonthrone** – “Presentation to Corporal Bonthrone, Falkland, by the members of the Cricket Club, on his return from Service with the Fife Yeomanry in South Africa.”

### **3<sup>rd</sup> August 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Burglary at Falkland Road Railway Station** – “At an early hour on Friday morning, the booking office at Falkland Road Railway Station was discovered to have been forcibly entered, the safe smashed open, and the contents amounting to a few pounds, carried off. From the manner in which the depredation had been carried out, the police have reason to suspect it to be the work of the thieves who burglariously entered Kinghorn Station offices lately. The county police were immediately informed of the occurrence, and, as the result of prompt investigations, two men were arrested a few hours later at Markinch.”

“On Saturday at Cupar, Alexander Wylie, alias Thomson, labourer, 26 Nicol Street and Robert Johnston, alias Wilson, labourer, 4 Ann Place, Links Street, Kirkcaldy,

were judicially examined on a charge of breaking into the booking office at Falkland Road Station on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst., and stealing from a lockfast safe £1 11s of money, and a quantity of chocolate, and from a lockfast cash drawer 16s 4d in money. After emitting a declaration, accused, who have previously been convicted of dishonest appropriation of property, were committed to Dundee Prison pending further inquiry.”



## **Falkland Road Railway Station**

### **17<sup>th</sup> August 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Falkland Floorcloth Company** – “The Falkland Floorcloth Company, for the manufacture of floorcloth and linoleum, are to commence building operations immediately.”

### **21<sup>st</sup> August 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Burglary at the Railway Station** – “Before Hon. Sheriff Johnstone, at Dundee, on Friday, two young men, named Alexander Wylie and Robert Johnstone, pleaded guilty of having on 26<sup>th</sup> July, at Falkland Road Railway Station, broken into the booking office, the property of the North British Railway Company, and stolen from a lockfast safe £1 11s, and a quantity of chocolate, and from a lockfast drawer 16s 4d. Mr G. Giles, Depute Procurator-Fiscal, stated that Wylie had undergone four months’ imprisonment for housebreaking last year. His Lordship remarked that accused seemed to be making a trade of housebreaking, and there had been a great many crimes of the same kind

*committed in that particular locality in Fife. He imposed a sentence of four months' imprisonment on each of the accused."*

### **14<sup>th</sup> September 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Falkland Floorcloth Company** – “The builder for the floorcloth factory began operations last week with a large squad of bricklayers and labourers, and is making rapid progress with the building.”

### **28th September 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Falkland Floorcloth Company** – “The builder of the Falkland Floorcloth Company is making rapid progress, and the public wish the Company all success.”

### **5<sup>th</sup> October 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Reviving the Handloom** – “At Falkland (writes a correspondent) several handlooms are again in operation. They have been furbished up by the Marchioness of Bute, and provide employment for a few people. Her Ladyship finds a ready outlet for work done on the handloom, for which there is evidently a growing demand, and the hope is entertained that this is but the beginning of some revival, in however modest a way, of the ancient industry which once on a time kept all the Fifeshire villages busy.”



**Handloom weaving in Falkland**

### **26<sup>th</sup> October 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: ***The Birch Rod for Bad Boys*** – “Before Sheriff Armour in Cupar Sheriff Court on Tuesday, Alexander Lawson and William Lawson, schoolboys, residing with their mother at Falkland, were charged with the theft of a watch and chain from the ploughman’s bothy at Wester Kilwhiss Farm, into which they were alleged to have broken, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. They pleaded guilty, and a previous conviction was libelled against both. In a consultation with their mother, the Sheriff ascertained that they were twins, ten years old, and that she thought a whipping would do them good. Addressing the accused, his Lordship said he thought they ought to have more consideration for their mother than get into trouble the way they had been doing. One could scarcely blame her, as she had the care of a large family, and their father was serving his country in South Africa. The circumstances, therefore, were rather lamentable, and he had some difficulty in knowing what to do with the accused, because, no doubt, had their father been at home, he would have corrected them himself. He had consulted with their mother, and she very sensibly thought it would be best for them if they got another whipping. They would each get six strokes with the birch rod, and he sincerely hoped, both for their own sakes, and for the sake of their mother, that they would not come back again.”

## **9<sup>th</sup> November 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “The election took place on Tuesday for the election of Town Councillors. There were five seats and eight candidates. The result of the poll was declared about 9 o’clock as follows: Successful – Mr Michael Reekie, farmer (102); Mr Thomas Sutherland, tailor (100); Mr David Reid, shoemaker (98); Mr Charles Jackson, jun., manufacturer (96); Mr John Angus, innkeeper (78). Unsuccessful – Mr Alex Fraser, joiner (68); Mr George Hardie, clothier (57); Mr John Fernie, mason (45); The only new Councillor is Mr Charles Jackson, jun. There was a great crowd at the declaration of the poll, who seemed well pleased with the result.”

## **23<sup>rd</sup> November 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Public Meeting** – “A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on Friday night to discuss the formation of a Bowling Club and a Golf Club. Provost Page presided. There was a large attendance and both schemes were favourably received. Committees were formed to deal with the separate Clubs, and Mr Jackson and Mr Rowland Gulland were appointed Conveners.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Concert** – “The annual concert of the Falkland Cricket Club was held in the Drill Hall on Saturday night – Mr Crichton-Johnston of Lathrisk in the chair. All the ladies and gentlemen did their parts well and gave great satisfaction. The contributors were:- Miss Arnot, Newton of Lathrisk; Misses Smith and C. Miller, Edinburgh; Captain Wemyss, Lathrisk; Dr Anderson, Strathmiglo; and Messrs Carswell, Ladybank and Dandie, Edinburgh. A violin selection was given by Mr D. Cooper, Cupar. The accompaniments were played by Miss Maitland-Magkill-Crichton; Mrs Tarbolton and Miss Smith, Edinburgh; and Mr Rennie, Edinburgh. There was a very large attendance.”

## **7<sup>th</sup> December 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Falkland Floorcloth Company** – “The tradesmen at the floorcloth factory are busy, and are making rapid progress with the roofing.”

## **14<sup>th</sup> December 1901**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council Meeting** – “At a meeting of Town Council on Wednesday night, a petition was read from the Golf Committee asking to

be allowed to utilise the Myre as a golf course. The matter was discussed at some length, and it was ultimately agreed to grant the request.”

# Falkland Almanac

*Annual Value of Property in Burgh 1901-1902 £2,931 15s 0d*

*Population according to 1901 Census – 2,229*

**Magistrates and Town Council** – *Provost, Wm. Page; Bailies, Robert Miller and Thos. Sutherland; Treasurer, Jas. Robertson; Town-Clerk, Charles Gulland; Councillors, John Angus, William Lawrie, Charles Jackson, David Reid, Walter Peggie, James Forsyth, James Reekie, Michael Reekie, and Charles Jackson jun.; Fiscal, John Dick; Town Officers, John Walker and Geo. Baxter.*

**Places of Worship** – *Established Church, Rev. John Barrack, M.A.; Assistant and Successor, Rev. A.L. Johnstone; United Free Church, Rev. F.W.M. Morrison; Plymouth Brethren, Balmbrae, Various Teachers.*

**School Board** – *Clerk, John Sheriff; Members, Alexander Bonthron (Chairman), Robert Miller, Charles Jackson, William Wood, John L. Lumsden, David Rymer, and David Nelson; Teachers – Falkland Public School, John Richardson; Freuchie Public School, Allan Mill; Officer, Geo. Baxter; Drill Instructor, Sergeant Ford.*

**Parish Council** – *First Ward – Major Wood (Chairman), Charles Jackson sen., Walter Peggie, Robert Miller. Second Ward – John L. Lumsden, Archibald Aitken, William Lindsay. Third Ward – William Meiklejohn, Alex Bonthron.*

**Inspector, Clerk and Registrar** – *Lawrence Reid*

**Gas Company** – *John Dick, Manager.*

**Equitable Co-operative Society (Limited)** – *Manager, Salesman and Treasurer, R. Sharp; President, Michael Lawson; Secretary, L. Reid.*

**Funeral and Deposit Society** – *Robert Sharp, President; James Robertson, Secretary; George Robertson, Treasurer.*

**Bank** – *British Linen, Charles Gulland, Agent.*

**Solicitors** – *Rowland Gulland; Charles Gulland, N.P.*

**Medical Practitioners** – J. Mackay, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.M.; A.M.  
Hardie M.B.C.M.

**Burgh Assessor** – Lawrence Reid.

**Young Men's Christian Association** – President, Walter Peggie; Secretary,  
Geo. Robertson; Treasurer, David Peggie.

**Halls** – The Town Hall, High Street; The Drill Hall, South Street.