

# Falkland 1900-2000

## Year 1903

### (As researched by Jack Burgess)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1903

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Late Mr Rowland Gulland** – “Mr Rowland Gulland, only son of Mr Charles Gulland, Town Clerk, Falkland, died, after a brief illness, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1903. At Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, where he received his school education, the deceased was recognised as a first-class athlete. Two years prior to his death he joined his father in business in Falkland, giving him great assistance in the management of the Lathrisk estates. He was also joint agent of the British Linen Coy. Bank, Falkland, and assistant and successor to his father in the office of Town Clerk of the burgh. The deceased did much to foster a love for manly sports in Falkland, and largely helped to establish the new Golf Club. He was also a military enthusiast, having been a member of the Fife and Forfar Imperial Yeomanry.



**Mr Rowland Gulland**

### **7<sup>th</sup> February 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Chief Inspector of Factories** – “The Chief Inspector of Factories gives notice that in consequence of the resignation of Dr Hardie, an appointment as certifying surgeon, under the Factory and Workshop Act at Falkland, is vacant.”

### **11<sup>th</sup> April 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “On Saturday evening a number of friends met in the Bruce Arms Hotel for the purpose of entertaining Sergeant Ford, who is leaving the district to fill an appointment under Kinross School Board. He has now completed his time in the Army Reserve, and for the last five years he has been Sergeant-Instructor to the Volunteers here. Councillor Hardie presided, and at an interval during the evening presented the Sergeant, in name of the subscribers, with a handsome easy chair. The Councillor passed a high compliment on Sergeant Ford for the assiduity displayed in the Volunteer movement in the district. He was sure that the Sergeant had the best wishes from numerous friends for his success in his new sphere of labour. The recipient made a feeling reply, thanking them heartily for the kindness and for the quite unexpected mark of their esteem. He could assure them that he highly appreciated the sentiment which had prompted them in their present action. With song and pleasing sentiment an enjoyable hour was spent.”

### **2<sup>nd</sup> May 2003**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The School Board** – “All the old members of this Board were returned without a contest and at the first meeting of the new Board on Monday week, Mr J.L. Lumsden moved and Mr Jackson seconded the election of Mr Alexander Bonthron, Newton of Falkland, as chairman. The motion was unanimously agreed to, and Mr Bonthron in accepting office, thanked the members for the honour again conferred upon him. Mr Bonthron, it may be added, has been a member of School Board since its commencement, and has occupied the chair for about 24 years. Mr Sheriff was reappointed Clerk, and the Committee for the different schools was re-appointed.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf – Falkland v Falkland Artisan** – “The first match of the season was played on Saturday between the home Clubs. The weather was splendid, and the course in fine condition. Result:-

<b>Falkland</b>		<b>Artisan</b>	
Rev. A.L. Johnston	2	J. Laing	0
D. Bonthron	1	G. Anderson	0
J. Richardson	9	T. Robertson	0
A. Sutherland	3	J. Allan	0
G. Robertson	1	W. Middleton	0
W. Peggie	5	D. Richardson	0
J. Forsyth	0	F. Henderson	6
T. Williamson	0	L. Edmiston	1
J. Michie	3	L. Wotherspoon	0
	<b>24</b>		<b>7</b>

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Dr J.G. Jack** – “Dr J.G. Jack is gazetted to be certifying surgeon for Falkland district.”

### **6<sup>th</sup> June 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation Cup for Golf Club** – “Falkland golfers may rejoice in having so generous a patron as Mr Makgill-Crichton of Lathrisk. It was largely owing to his generosity, not only in the matter of finance, but in giving the use of a portion of his own lands so as to allow of an extended course, that the Falkland Golf Club had its inception. And now although Mr Makgill-Crichton is not at present resident in the district, his interest in the Club has, apparently, not abated. He has presented the Club with a magnificent silver cup which is now on view in the window of Mr Thomas Williamson, saddler, Falkland, and agent for Messrs. R. Forgan & Son, golf club makers, St Andrews. The inscription on the cup is as follows:-

“Presented by C.J. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton of Lathrisk To The Falkland Golf Club For Annual Competition 1903.”

*The cup is being very much admired. In view of the fact that Mr Makgill-Crichton takes such an interest in the Club, and in Falkland matters generally, it is gratifying to think that, as has recently been reported, Mr Makgill-Crichton intends shortly to make Lathrisk House his chief residence."*

### **13<sup>th</sup> June 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Advert** –



### **27<sup>th</sup> June 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Market and Games** – “The annual market and games at Falkland were held on the Myre on Friday. There was a large attendance of spectators. Dancing was heartily engaged in until dusk, splendid music being supplied by Largo Brass Band.”

### **5<sup>th</sup> September 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Property Sales** – “The property of the late Mrs James Smart, Falkland, has been sold by auction in Mr Gulland’s office. Mr Taylor, Kinghorn, bought the house and garden at Loanfoot for £85; Mr James Robertson, Falkland, bought the house in Cross Wynd, Falkland, for £7 10s; and Mr John Steedman, Falkland, bought the house (in ruins) in Dunshalt, for £5 10s. Messrs. J.A. Welch & Son, Cupar, were the auctioneers.”

### **12<sup>th</sup> September 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “On Friday evening, Mr Ewan Macpherson, head gardener at Falkland House, was entertained on the occasion of his leaving for Edinburgh, by a large company of well-wishers, in the Bruce Arms Hotel. In the course of the evening, Councillor George Hardie, in an appreciative speech, presented Mr Macpherson, on behalf of a large number of subscribers, with a handsome albert in case and a beautifully-equipped travelling bag. Mr Macpherson suitably replied, and a happy hour was spent in mirth and song.”

### **31<sup>st</sup> October 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council Nominations** – “Six nominations for four vacancies, viz: - Bailie Miller, and Messrs. Charles Jackson, John Angus, Walter Peggie, Thomas Williamson and Alexander Fraser. The first three are retiring members. Provost Page, who also comes out just now, declined renomination.”

### **7<sup>th</sup> November 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Municipal Elections** – “Successful – R. Miller, 113 votes; T. Williamson, 97; J. Angus, 90; A. Fraser, 88. Unsuccessful – C. Jackson, 75; W. Peggie, 74.”

### **November 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Ex-Provost Page** – “Mr William Page, who retired from the civic chair of Falkland last November after twenty-four years of public service, is one of the few still with us who can tell many an exciting tale of life at the Australian and New Zealand “diggings” fifty years ago. Brought up to the mason trade, like his uncle, who built the fine parish church of Falkland, he sailed for Melbourne when a young man of 19, and for twelve years might be said never to have known what it was to dwell under any covering more substantial than a canvas tent. He participated in the smiles and frowns of fortune peculiar to the digger’s life, and was ever ready, where might was often regarded as right, to keep and to hold by the strength of his own right arm. He returned to this country 37 years ago, and resumed his former calling as a builder in Falkland, where, under the direction of the late Marquess of Bute, he effected an extensive restoration of the old historic Palace. He has proved himself a worthy and useful citizen of the ancient burgh, and is followed into retirement by the best wishes of many friends.”



**Ex-Provost William Page**

### **14<sup>th</sup> November 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council – New Provost** – “A meeting of Town Council was held on Friday, when Bailie Miller was elected Provost; Mr Thomas Sutherland, Senior Bailie; and Mr William Lawrie, Junior Bailie.”

### **26<sup>th</sup> December 1903**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Late Rev. John Barrack** – “It was learned in the end of last week with great regret that the Rev. John Barrack, senior minister of Falkland Parish, had died at Maida Hill, London, on Thursday. It is a good many years since Mr Barrack’s health first began to fail; but until the summer of 1898, he persevered bravely with his ministerial duties. Then, however, he felt called on to ask relief, and arrangements were made for the election of a colleague and successor – the congregation’s choice ultimately falling on the present minister, the Rev. A. Lyon Johnston.”

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Four Generations** – “From the head of the undernoted group down to the “olive branch”, the whole of the four generations are known by the Christian name of Alexander. All of them also were born on the estate of Falkland, and with, of course, the exception of the child, have the unique experience of being employed on that estate. Alexander Dryburgh, the head of the group, was born in the town of Falkland 83 years ago, and has worked on the Falkland estate (or, as it was until recent times known, Nuthill estate) since he was ten years of age, during most of that time as a gamekeeper. In his day he has seen

wages as low as eight shillings per week, and has worked “many a long day” for that money. He has seen the railway supercede the coach from Perth to Burntisland, which passed through Falkland daily, changing horses midway at the New Inn; and he has served under five lairds, viz – Onesephorus Tyndall Bruce Esq.,; Lieut.-Colonel Walter Hamilton Tyndall Bruce; Andrew Hamilton Tyndall Bruce, Esq.; the late Marquess of Bute, K.T.; and the present proprietor, Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart. “Old Sandy”, as he is familiarly known (and, it need not be added, respected), is, notwithstanding his weight of years, still hale and hearty and able to do a day’s “darg”. His son has followed his father’s occupation of gamekeeper, and, being born and bred to the business on the estate, there is not “a hole and corner” of it that he does not know. The third subject of the group is the energetic and capable sawmiller on Falkland estate, whose little son, seated on the patriarch’s knee, completes the four generations, who may all be found in their own homes within almost a stone’s throw of each other.”



#### **Four Generations of Alexander Dryburgh**

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac: Falkland – A Link with the Past* – “The phrase “sitting under his own roof-tree” has not now the literal significance it had in days gone by; but a look at the undernoted photograph will help to bring out the old meaning. It shows what is generally supposed to have been the oldest house in the burgh of Falkland. This dwelling stood opposite the Palace of Falkland, until recently, when it had to be demolished. On the thatch and divots being removed, the old “roof-trees” supporting the roof were exposed as shown. These were the oak limbs set into the ground and brought up and “tied” by cross pieces firmly fixed by

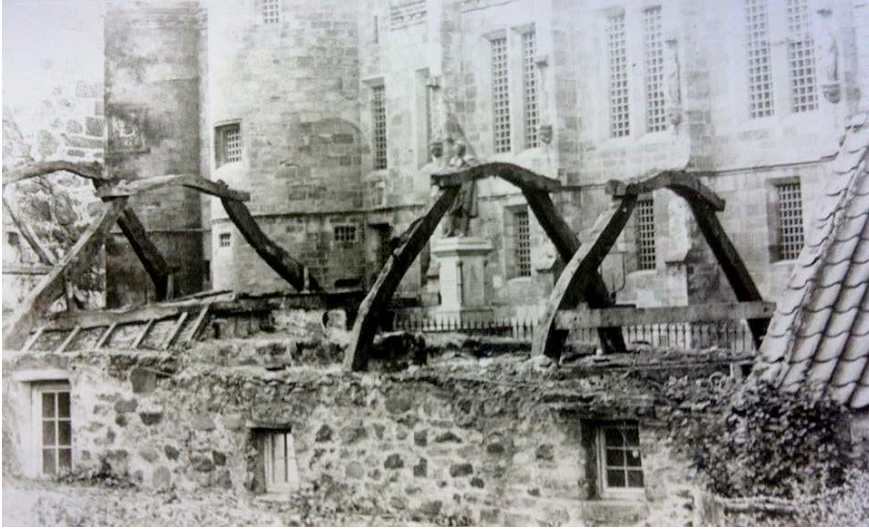


*oak pins, the whole erection resembling the framework of the hull of a ship. The age of this old house cannot have been less than a couple of centuries, and may probably have been a great deal more. The oak when taken out was as fresh as the day when the hewers felled it in the adjoining forests of Falkland, and these interesting relics have wisely been preserved in one of the rooms of the old Palace. Until a few years ago, these "roof-trees" had sheltered Falkland Post Office as far back as the oldest inhabitant could remember. The house immediately adjoins the existing remains of the gate pillars of the "East Port" of Falkland, and it is not an unreasonable conjecture that it was at one time the abode of the keeper of that gate. The late Marquess of Bute, to whom the house belonged, evinced the keenest interest in the old building. Recently, however, it gave unmistakable signs of decay, and its demolition became a regrettable necessity in the interests of public safety."*



**Oldest House in the Burgh of Falkland (High Street)**





**Oldest House from behind**