

# Falkland 1900-2000

## Year 1905

### (As researched by Jack Burgess)

#### 28<sup>th</sup> January 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Proposed Light Railway** – “A meeting of gentlemen interested in the construction of a light railway between Falkland Road Station on the main line of the North British Railway and the Royal burgh of Falkland, was held in the Public School, Falkland, on Saturday (26<sup>th</sup>). Among those present were – Mr Alexander Lawson of Annfield; Mr Alexander Bonthron, Newton of Falkland; Mr J.L. Lumsden, Eden Valley House, Freuchie; Messrs Jackson, manufacturers, Falkland; Major Cusin, Falkland; Mr James Carr, factor for Mr Makgill Crichton of Lathrisk; Mr George Gavin, factor for Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart of Falkland; Mr George Dun, Woodmill; Mr David Bonthron, Newton of Falkland; Mr Thomas Aitken M.I.C.E., Cupar; Mr W.D. Patrick, county clerk, Cupar; Mr J.L. Anderson, town clerk, Cupar; Mr John Sheriff, Falkland etc. On the motion of Mr Bonthron, Mr Lawson of Burnturk was called to the chair. Mr Lawson explained that the Sub-Committee of the Cupar District Committee appointed to consider the matter had obtained a report from Mr Aitken, C.E., the road surveyor, upon the subject, which the County Clerk read to the meeting, and from which it appeared that the cost of constructing the railway three and a half miles long would be about £10,500 exclusive of the land. Mr Lawson proceeded to state that the local people could not expect the County Council to take the initiative and to promote the scheme. At the same time the Act permitted the County Council to advance money to any light railway company, and the question of making the advance, if necessary in the present case, would be duly considered at the time. Mr David Bonthron, Newton of Falkland, submitted a report dealing with the amount of traffic likely to pass over the line, which was computed to be 19,089 tons per annum, and passenger traffic 27,000 per annum. The figures have been carefully compiled from information supplied by the manufacturers,

farmers, and other traders in the district. The Chairman then called upon Mr J.L. Anderson, town clerk, Cupar, who, along with Mr Bonthron and others, had taken an interest in this question for some time, to explain the procedure to be followed in getting the necessary Order empowering the promoters to construct the line. Mr Anderson proceeded to explain the provisions of the Light Railway Act 1896, and stated that assuming that none of the local authorities through whose districts the railway passed would act as petitioners for the Order, it would be necessary, and, indeed, was the usual practice for a company to be incorporated to instruct the line. Powers might then be taken in the Order allowing the County Council or District Committee and also the Town Council of Falkland to make such loans to the light railway company or to take such portion of the stock of the company, as might be mutually arranged. Mr Anderson explained the conditions requiring to be fulfilled before a loan could be obtained from the Treasury, and also explained the procedure which had been adopted in the case of the Lauder Light Railway Company and other similar companies in Scotland. After a general discussion, it was decided that a local Committee be formed to make all the investigations and arrangements necessary in the preliminary stages of the proposal. The following gentlemen were appointed members of Committee: - Mr J.L. Lumsden, Freuchie; Mr A. Bonthron, Newton of Falkland; Mr Charles Jackson, Falkland; Provost Miller, Falkland; Mr Dun, Woodmill; Mr Gavin, Falkland; Mr Lawson, Burnturk; Mr Makgill Crichton, Lathrisk; Mr Curr, Largo; Mr J.W. Jackson, Falkland; Mr John Sheriff, Falkland was appointed Secretary of the Committee, and Mr Charles Jackson, Convenor.”

### **18<sup>th</sup> February 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **New Joint-Stock Company** – “Last week the following new Joint-Stock Company was registered: - Charles Jackson & Sons (Limited), Pleasance Works, Falkland, capital £45,000, in £10 shares, which the public are not asked to subscribe for; to acquire and carry on the business of linen manufacturers carried on by Charles Jackson & Sons, and the floorcloth manufacturing business carried on by Mr Jackson under name of the Falkland Floorcloth Company. Signatories: - Charles Jackson, John W. Jackson, and Charles Jackson jnr., linen manufacturers; James Jackson, floorcloth manufacturer; William Jackson, civil engineer; and Mrs Euphemia Jackson, Lomondvale, Falkland; and Thomas Jackson, commercial traveller, 52 Glebe Park, Kirkcaldy.”

### **25<sup>th</sup> March 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Fire** – “Fire broke out in a shed at Dovecot Farm, tenanted by Mr William Duncan, on Tuesday evening, but happily the flames were extinguished before any serious damage was done.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Accident** – “While James Heatherwick was unloading a cart at the Floorcloth Works on Tuesday, a slight hitch occurred, and the cart shafts came down heavily upon his leg. Dr Jack, who was summoned, found that the leg was broken above the knee.”

#### **4th April 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **The Late ex-Provost Page** – “Early in April 1905 the death occurred of ex-Provost William Page at his residence, The Terrace, Falkland, in his 75<sup>th</sup> year. The late Mr Page retired from the civic chair of Falkland in November 1903, after 24 years of public service.



**The Late ex-Provost William Page**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> April 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Funeral of Ex-Provost Page** – “The funeral of ex-Provost Page took place to Falkland Cemetery on Friday (11<sup>th</sup>). Prior to the removal of the remains, service was conducted by the Rev. A. Lyon Johnstone, parish minister. The pall-bearers were: - Messrs William Page, James Page, Thomas Page, and George Page (sons); Mr James Philp, Markinch (son-in-law); Mr Peter Kinnear, Letham, Forfar (brother-in-law); Mr James Clark, Brechin (brother-in-law); and Mr Alexander Page, Falkland (nephew). Among those who attended the funeral were: - Mr Charles Gulland; Mr Alexander Bonthron, Newton of Falkland; Mr George Dun, Woodmill; Mr James Tod, Easter Cash; Mr John Sheriff; Mr George Gavin, factor; Mr Charles Jackson; Mr James Jackson, jnr.; Mr Charles Henderson,

*Balbirnie Gardens; Provost Millar; Mr Lawrence Reid; Mr George Angus, Commercial Hotel; Mr George Morgan, Nochnarie; Mr David Reid; Mr Walter Forsyth; Mr David Bryce; Mr Thomas Williamson, saddler; the Rev. Morrison; Bailie Lornie; ex-Bailie Sutherland; Mr Davidson, British Linen Bank.”*

## **22<sup>nd</sup> April 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **New Licence** – “Much interest was evinced locally at the application for a new licence and transfers of licences in the burgh. An application for transfer of license made by Mr Wm. Mason, waiter, Perth, new tenant of “Bruce Arms Hotel”, was unanimously granted, while an application by Mr Robert Ness for a new license was unanimously refused. The public-house license formerly held formerly held by Wm. Page has been granted to A. Ramsay, Milnathort, on the understanding that the back entrance should be closed.”



**Bruce Arms (date unknown)**

## **29<sup>th</sup> April 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket Club** – “The members of the Falkland Cricket Club have again been granted the use of a park within Falkland House grounds. The ground, although a trifle rough, has the making of a good pitch, and members have already had several practices in preparation for their opening match against Kirkcaldy 2<sup>nd</sup> XI tomorrow (Saturday) on the latter Club’s ground.”

### 13<sup>th</sup> May 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “On Wednesday of last week the employees of the Falkland Floorcloth Factory held a meeting in the Lomond Tavern for the purpose of presenting Mr Page with a handsome umbrella as a token of their esteem and respect. The female staff presented Mrs Page with a gold brooch of much beauty. An enjoyable evening was spent, Mr James McCall making the presentation.”

### 20<sup>th</sup> May 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Proposed Light Railway** – “As will be seen from our advertisement columns today, an application is intended to be made to the Light Railway Commissioners for an Order to incorporate a Company to construct and run a light railway connected with the N.B.R. line between Kettle, Freuchie and Falkland, there being five lines in all. The promoters are Messrs Charles Jackson, manufacturers, Lomondvale, Falkland; John Lawson, farmer, Falkland Wood; George Dun, Woodmill, Auchtermuchty; and Alexander Fraser, joiner, Falkland. The solicitors for the order are Messrs Robertson, Dempster and Co., Town and County Bank Buildings, Methven Street, Perth.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The monthly medal for “Artisan” members of Falkland Golf Club was competed for on Saturday last (17<sup>th</sup>), and won by Mr David Richardson with a score of 89 (97, less 9 strokes). The runner up was Mr Francis Henderson with the capital scratch score of 93.”

### 10<sup>th</sup> June 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The competition for the Morrison scratch medal took place on Saturday (3rd), and resulted in a win for Mr Walter Peggie. The competition by members of the Artisans’ Club for the Annand monthly handicap also took place, and was won by Mr David Richardson with (102-3), 99.”

### 17<sup>th</sup> June 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Proposed Light Railway** – “At a meeting of the School Board held in the Public School on Friday evening (16<sup>th</sup>) – Mr Alexander Bonthron presiding – plans were submitted in connection with the proposed light railway into Falkland showing the amount of ground belonging to the School which

would be required for the proposed scheme, also the ground the promoters of the railway offer in lieu of what is taken. It was agreed, by 5 votes to 2, that the Board give an assent to the proposals.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – “On Saturday (10th), before a large number of spectators, Falkland Cricket Club met the members of Leven Y.M.C.A. under ideal weather conditions. The home team took the wicket first, and compiled 58 runs for 8 wickets. The visitors only managed to score 17 runs for 7 wickets, and as “time” was up the match was declared drawn. Special mention may be made of the batting of Messrs Bryce and Grieve for the home team, and also for the bowling of Mr T.S. Michie, to whom fell 5 wickets for 13 runs.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf : Falkland v Leslie** – “Played at Falkland on Saturday (14<sup>th</sup>) in splendid weather. Result: -

<b>Falkland</b>		<b>Leslie</b>	
Rev. A.L. Johnston	1	D. McIntosh	0
W. Peggie	1	R. Robertson	0
J.O. Levack	0	R. Ritchie	1
George Robertson	0	W. Laverock	1
George Anderson	½	C. Paton	½
A. Anderson	0	A. Webster	1
F. Henderson	½	W. Barnes	½
D. Richardson	½	D. Ritchie	½
L. Edmeston	0	T. Young	1
J. Nish	0	A. Webster	1
	<b>3 ½</b>		<b>6 ½</b>

## 1<sup>st</sup> July 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “On Thursday of last week, the members of Falkland Golf Club were treated to an exhibition of golf by the present amateur champion, Mr A.G. Barry, and his brother, Mr C. Barry. Play took the form of a

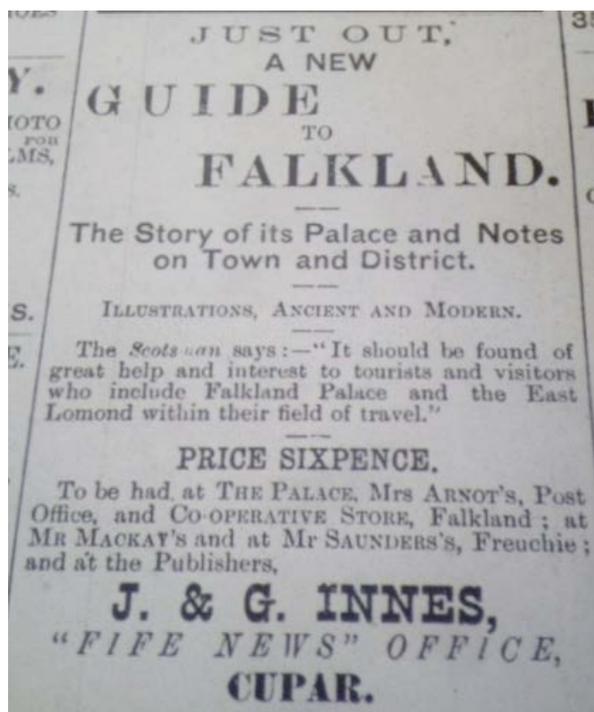
*foursome, the champion being partnered by Mr C.G.M. Makgill-Crichton of Lathrisk, and his brother by Mr D. McMillan. The latter couple had the best of matters throughout, and won the match by three holes. As the weather was bright, there was a large turn-out of members and friends.”*



**Mr A.G. Barry (not Falkland golf course)**

### **8<sup>th</sup> July 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News: A New Publication: A Guide to Falkland* – “There has just been issued by Messrs J. & G. Innes, Fife News, Cupar, an Illustrated Guide-Book to Falkland – the first of its kind for that historical burgh. The booklet, which is published at sixpence, gives with considerable detail, the story of Falkland’s Royal Palace, and contains much interesting matter about the town and district. Among its illustrations, two of special note are quaint photos of the Palace and town, as they appeared about a hundred years ago.”



### A New Publication – A Guide to Falkland

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The first eighteen holes of the competition for the “Lathrisk” cup was played off on Saturday (1st). The turnout was not very large. The following were the three best scores returned: - The Rev. A. Lyon Johnston (scratch), 88; Mr J. Richardson (98 – 6), 92; Mr G. Robertson (99 – 6), 93.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Telephone System** – “Arrangements are being made for introducing a system of telephones into Falkland Palace, with an extension to House of Falkland. The work, which is to be carried out by the Post Office authorities, will be under the supervision of their engineer, and operations will be commenced on an early date.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – “Playing on the home pitch last Saturday (1st), the members of the local Cricket Club defeated the St Johnston XI from Perth. The visitors were all disposed of for 35, and with two wickets in hand, the home team had run up a score of 43. Messrs Dobson and Lawson each contributed 9 “not out”, the former having to retire owing to a slight mishap.”

**15<sup>th</sup> July 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The final stage of the “Lathrisk Cup” competition was entered upon on Saturday last (8<sup>th</sup>). It fell to Mr J.O. Levack, bank accountant, to carry off this handsome trophy, with a total score of 96, less 16. The runner-up was the Rev. A. Lyon Johnston with a scratch score of 84. The former holder of the cup, Mr George Robertson, was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 99 less 12. Falkland Artisan Club played for the Annand handicap monthly medal on Saturday afternoon. David Richardson won with a score of (99 – 2), 97. This is the third month in succession in which Richardson has won the trophy.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sale of Work** – “A biennial sale of work in connection with the Parish Church Women’s Guild was held in the Public School on Saturday (8<sup>th</sup>) at 2.00pm. The proceeds of the sale are to be applied towards defraying the cost of introducing a system of hot water pipes into the church, and on this account, exceptional interest and enthusiasm has, for a considerable time past, been evinced by the lady members of the congregation, as doubtless they fully realised that so much depended upon the fruit of their labours. The schoolroom, with its stalls laden with useful and ornamental work, presented a most striking appearance. The opening ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. Lyon Johnston, minister of the parish, who, after a short prayer, said that he was greatly pleased to welcome such a large number of the congregation. He would not weary them with a long speech, and thought that, on such an occasion, the best advice he could give was contained in the old Scottish saying, “Fa’ tae.” There were, in all, three stalls – The Guild Stall, the Congregational Stall, and the Produce Stall, over which presided their respective holders ably assisted by many willing helpers. The tea-room was a source of considerable income, and thanks were due to the contributors to this department. A musical programme was tastefully carried through in the afternoon by the Misses Dun and Bryce and Mr Spence, organist. In the evening, the entertainment included a dramatic sketch, entitled “Boxing the Compass”, which reflected great credit upon the performers – Misses Hood and Mr Bruce. The winners in the prize-drawings were: - Chair – Miss Hardie, Temperance Hotel; bedspread – Miss Gulland, Millfield; quilt – Mrs Joseph Duncan, Lomond Cottage; reading lamp – Miss C. Bisset, Pleasance; set of china – Miss K. Lawson, Victoria Place; ham – Mrs F. Kilgour, West Port; cheese – Mr D. Dun, Woodmill. Prizes were presented by Mrs Johnston for best dressed dolls, and these were awarded to (1) Miss J. Livingston, and (2) Mrs A. Harris. The sale proved to be an unqualified success, the total drawings amounting to £113 11s. As this does not fall much short of the desired sum, the members of the Guild, who worked so earnestly in the interests of the sale, have reason to feel that their efforts have been amply rewarded, and that they have earned the gratitude of all interested in the improvement of the Parish Church.”

**29<sup>th</sup> July 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “At a meeting of Town Council held in the Town Hall on Tuesday (25<sup>th</sup>), Mr John Burnett, Kirkcaldy, was selected from a large number of candidates to be Inspector of Works over the sewage system scheme about to be carried out.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Motor Car Accident** – “A serious motor accident took place at the old bridge at Guardbridge on Wednesday afternoon (26<sup>th</sup>). A motor car belonging to Lady Murray, House of Falkland, on the way to St Andrews, dashed into a cart, smashing it to pieces. The horse was very badly injured, while the driver of the cart, E.J. Turner, Tayport, was much cut about the head, and received other injuries. A boy who was with him escaped unhurt. One of the occupants of the motor car, an elderly American lady, Mrs Johnston, at present a guest of Lady Murray, jumped out of the car in order to save herself, when she was violently thrown to the ground. She was at once removed to the house of Dr Smyth, who attended to her injuries. It was found that Mrs Johnston had had her left arm fractured, and, besides suffering from shock, had received a severe contused wound on the forehead. Two of Lady Murray’s daughters, who were in the car, along with their tutor, escaped unhurt. Later on Mrs Johnston was driven home to Falkland. The injured man, Turner, after having his injuries attended to, proceeded home by rail.”

### **31<sup>st</sup> July 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Falkland Light Railway** – “Falkland Light Railway approved by Light Railway Commission at Falkland.”

### **5<sup>th</sup> August 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Propose Light Railway**



The above is a sketch of the proposed route and adjoining lines.

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Church** – “Operations in connection with the installation of the new heating system – hot water pipes – in the Parish Church have now been commenced, and the work is expected to be completed before the end of next week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – “Playing in Upper Scroggie Park last Saturday (29<sup>th</sup> July), Rothies Cricket Club inflicted a crushing defeat on the local players. Notwithstanding heavy rain in the early part of the day, the pitch proved to be in very fair playing order. The visitors, who had first innings, early showed signs of first-class form, and after giving the members of the home team plenty of “leather hitting”, were dismissed with a total score of 93. The Falkland eleven only managed to secure 16 runs, a score which was rather disappointing to their supporters, especially after the excellent play exhibited by the team in previous matches this season.”

### 19<sup>th</sup> August 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sewerage Scheme** – “Work in connection with the new sewerage scheme for the burgh was commenced last week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf Record** – “Mr George Robertson has established a record for the nine holes, which he did in 40, as follows: - 6 6 4 2 3 4 5 5 5 – 40.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Church** – “The new heating apparatus in the Parish Church has been successfully installed, and it is confidently expected that the system will prove a boon in many ways, not the least of which will be a marked decrease in the working expenses.”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Partial Eclipse** – “The partial eclipse of the sun, an occurrence which has aroused considerable interest in many parts of the land, was distinctly seen from the village on Wednesday about 1 o’clock. Although the sky had been cloudy during the greater part of the forenoon, the sun broke forth in great brilliance just in the nick of time, and a good view of the phenomenon was obtained by many of the inhabitants.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sewage System** – “At a meeting of Cupar District Committee on Tuesday, Mr Bonthronne referred to the fact that the burgh of Falkland was at present carrying out an extensive sewage system, and he thought it desirable that Balmblae should be included. It was unanimously agreed to institute inquiries.”

## 16<sup>th</sup> September 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Teller at Bank** – “Mr John T. Michie, British Linen Company’s Bank, has been appointed teller of the bank’s branch at Hamilton, where he commenced his duties on Wednesday.”

## 7<sup>th</sup> October 1905

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf – Falkland v Artisan** – “The return match between the two home Clubs came off on Saturday and resulted in favour of the Artisans by five matches to two as follows:

<b>Falkland</b>		<b>Artisans</b>	
D. McMillan	0	F. Henderson	1
D. Bonthronne	0	G. Anderson	1
W. Peggie	0	D. Richardson	1
J. Richardson	0	T. Robertson	1

R. Annand	1	W. Dowie	0
G. Robertson	1	J. Hay	0
T. Williamson	0	J. Peggie	1
	<b>2</b>		<b>5</b>

## **11<sup>th</sup> November 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The competition for the annual monthly medal among the members of the Artisan Club took place on Saturday, and the trophy was won by Mr Tom Robertson with a score of (91 – 10) 81.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Municipal Election** – “The bustle and excitement of a municipal election are again things of the past! Six candidates stood for four seats in the Town Council and the result of the poll, which was declared about 9.00pm on Tuesday night, was as follows: - J.W. Jackson, 91; A. Lister, 87; James Forsyth, 82; M. Reekie, 71; William Horne, 39; W. Strachan, 38. Of the four retiring Councillors, two sought re-election and were returned second and third. Of an electorate of 210, 70% recorded their votes.”

## **2<sup>nd</sup> December 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Falkland Light Railway** – “Messrs Robertson, Dempster & Coy., solicitors, Perth, agents for the promoters of this railway, have now received intimation that the Light Railway Commissioners have passed the order authorising the construction of the line as originally proposed by the promoters. The Commissioners have refused to accede to Mr Bonthron’s proposal that the railway as put forward by the promoters should be deviated so as to pass through his brewery.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football** – “Falkland Lomondvale continued their friendly engagements last Saturday, and again recorded a win at the expense of their neighbouring rivals, Stratheden Reserves. On account of illness amongst their regular League starters, the local players had to forego a League engagement, and a scratch team was only available for the field. The Strath Reserves were a plucky lot, and, although admitting defeat by four goals to nil, they offered at times a stubborn resistance to the attacks of their victorious opponents. Tomorrow

*(Saturday) the Vale meet Ladybank Violet in the first round of the Linton Cup, and a close game is anticipated.”*

### **30<sup>th</sup> December 1905**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **United Free Church** – *“The office-bearers have had under their consideration a proposal to erect a small hall to adjoin the church, and it has been resolved to proceed with the work as soon as the necessary funds are raised. The want of such an addition has been felt for some time, and it is hoped when the scheme is carried out that there will be a revival of interest in the work of the church, especially amongst the young.”*