

Falkland 1900-2000

Year 1904

(As researched by Jack Burgess)

9th January 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Bringing In The New Year** – “The New Year was ushered in very quietly. A small group of young people assembled at the Fountain; it was bitterly cold, and the company rapidly separated after raising a cheer upon the striking of twelve by the town clock.”

13th February 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Estate of the Late Rev. John Barrack** – “The Rev. John Barrack, senior minister of the parish of Falkland, formerly of The Manse, Falkland, and latterly of 10 Warrington Gardens, London W., who died on the 17th December last, left personal estate valued at £2,119 19s 7d, of which £863 13s 4d is in England. The trustees under his deed of settlement are his widow, Mrs Margaret Jane Barrack, and his son, Dr James William Barrack, M.D., of the General Hospital, Singapore; and Mr Alex. Morrison Williamson of Aberdeen, advocate.”

27th February 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Curling Club Dinner** – “The annual dinner in connection with Falkland Curling Club was held on Friday evening in the Bruce Arms Hotel, when about 25 sat down to dinner. The chair was occupied by Mr Alexander Bonthron, Newton of Falkland, the newly-elected president of the Club, in room of Mr Charles Gulland, who had for many years filled this office with great acceptance and whose resignation was, at the last meeting of the Club, received with feelings of the deepest regret. Dinner having been partaken of, the usual loyal and patriotic

toasts were given by the Chairman, the toast of the “Navy, Army, and Reserve Forces”, being coupled with the name of, and replied to by Major Cusin.”

12th March 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Mutual Improvement Society** – “The fortnightly meeting of this Society was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening, the chair being occupied by Mr Charles Jackson, Jnr., in the unavoidable absence of Mr John W. Jackson, the President of the Society. A “Hat Night” was on the programme for the evening, and a considerable amount of cleverness was displayed in the impromptu subjects framed for discussion, most of which were treated by the members in a smart and racy manner, the meeting being one of the most enjoyable of the season. At the next meeting Mr George Robertson will read a paper dealing with some aspects of the temperance question. It was intimated that the session would be terminated three weeks hence by a “Trial by Jury”, Mr D. Davidson, solicitor, having kindly undertaken to prepare the criminal case for trial.”

11th June 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **A Tragedy on the East Lomond Hill** – “On Saturday afternoon a startling discovery was made on the East Lomond Hill by David Barnes, papermill worker, Leslie, a visitor to the district. On the summit of the hill he came across the dead body of a man lying on his back with the arms stretched out. Beside the body, which was clad in a light-coloured knicker suit, the pockets of which contained a cycling map, a metal watch, a brass albert, and one penny of money, lay a phial labelled “poison”, a chemist’s measuring glass, and a cardboard box, evidently for the reception of the bottle. The discovery was reported to Police-Constable Allan who had the body removed to Falkland where Dr Jack certified death to be due to carbolic acid poisoning. It was learned that the deceased, who was of gentlemanly appearance, with fair hair, blue eyes and a light moustache and about 5ft 7 inches in height, called at the house of Mr Mungo Cooper on Friday evening before going up the hill. As the bicycle was not claimed by morning, Mr Cooper then handed it over to the police-constable with a statement of the circumstances. The body was identified on Tuesday as that of William Alexander Glass, son of Mr Glass, chemist, Perth. On Tuesday the latter learned that his son had left Edinburgh, where he was employed as a chemist’s assistant, on a week-end trip, and had not reappeared at his customary duties at the commencement of the week. Mr Glass became perturbed, and on noticing in the morning newspapers that the body found on the Lomond Hills had not been identified, a strong presentiment came over him that the deceased might be his son, William. Proceeding to Falkland,

he found that his surmise was only too true. The deceased was in his twenty second year, and was, it is thought, studying for an examination.”

9th July 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart** – “Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart, who recently attained his majority, has, it is reported, decided to let Falkland Palace, which he inherited from his father, the late Marquess of Bute.”



Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: “Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart, second son of the late Marquess of Bute, entered into possession of the estate of Falkland in May, and on the 16th of that month the attainment of his majority was celebrated at Falkland by presentations from the tenantry, townspeople, and employees. A large company were handsomely entertained at luncheon on the occasion within the historic palace of Falkland. Lord Ninian the, in proposing “The Tenantry”, said it would be his chief aim in life to follow in his late father’s footsteps, and to profit by the example which he had set him. He would make it his aim to ever bear in mind that the possession of an estate brought with it the responsibility of watching over all those connected with it. The especial historic interest connected with the ancient and Royal Burgh of Falkland and its Palace would, he was confident, be as much a source of pride to him as it was to his father. His Lordship was also presented with the freedom of the Royal Burgh of Falkland. Lord Ninian intends to follow a military career before settling down in Falkland, and he is the first of his family to be a member of the Forces of the Empire.”

16th July 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The Lathrisk Cup competition was concluded on Saturday and the trophy this year passes into the hands of Mr George Robertson.”

23rd July 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Holidays** – “The midsummer holidays in Messrs. Jackson’s Linen and Floorcloth Works began on Friday to extend till the 25th inst. The Public School was closed on Friday for six weeks.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Electric Lighting Installations** – “Messrs Charles Jackson & Sons and Falkland Floorcloth Company have placed contracts for electric lighting installations into their linen and floorcloth factories. The work has been entrusted to Mr Oliver Melville, electrical engineer, Kirkcaldy.”

10th September 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golden Wedding** – “Mr & Mrs James Peggie, Balmblae, celebrated their golden wedding on Saturday afternoon (7th). Exactly 50 years ago to a day, the couple then very young, walked from Freuchie on a Saturday, accompanied by their friends, to the Free Church Manse at Kilgowrie Knowe – a distance of about three miles – where they were married by the Rev. Mr Burnside. Mr and Mrs Peggie took up their residence in their native place, Freuchie, where the husband worked at the hand-loom. Fourteen children were born, of whom twelve are now alive. About 20 years ago the couple removed to Falkland, and Mr Peggie was employed there at the linen factory as yarn warehouseman, from which post he only retired a little over three years ago. At that time he was made the recipient of a purse of sovereigns from his employers, Messrs Charles Jackson & Sons. He was also presented with an easy chair by his fellow workers. Mr Peggie was an ardent Free Churchman, and the late Rev. Mr Mackenzie had the rare experience of baptising eight members of the family and marrying eleven. On Saturday every member of the family, together with their wives or husbands, and their children, and one great-grandchild, to the total of 44, assembled to do the aged couple honour. One of the features of the gathering was the photographing of various interesting groups – First, that of the worthy couple themselves; the family group; the whole company, old and young; and lastly, a four-generation group, comprising Mrs Peggie, Snr., her daughter, granddaughter and great grandson. The couple were presented with numerous valuable gifts, including a purse of sovereigns from the family.”



The Peggie Family



On the occasion of the golden wedding of Mr and Mrs James Peggie, Balmbrae, Falkland, in September 1904, the above photograph was taken. It represents the aged couple and their sons and daughters. The names are:-

Back Row – Mrs Williams, Mrs Graham, David Peggie, Mrs Duncan, Ann Peggie, James Peggie, Mrs Clifton, Agnes Peggie.

Front Row – Mrs Burgon, Walter Peggie, Mrs Hill, Mr & Mrs James Peggie (father and mother), William Peggie.

17th September 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf Match** – “On Saturday (14th), Auchtermuchty Club played the return match with Falkland on the course of the latter Club. The visitors won by 8 matches to 2.”

Falkland		Auchtermuchty	
J. Richardson	0	J.M. Lowe	1
D. Bonthron	0	Dr Shearer	1
G. Robertson	0	P.M. Cormack	1
W. Peggie	0	W. Lambert	1
J. Laing	0	J. White	1
G. Anderson	0	H.G. White	1
J. Mechie	0	J. Leven	1
A. Anderson	1	E. White	0
W. Dowie	0	W.A. Donaldson	1
D. Richardson	1	J.F. Baker	0
	2		8

1st October 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Properties in Falkland for Sale** – “For Sale, by Public Roup, within the Bruce Arms Hotel, on Wednesday 5th October 1904, at One o’clock Afternoon. The following Subjects belonging to Mr Alex. Page, Spirit Merchant, Falkland, viz:-

1. That PROPERTY situated in Back Wynd, consisting of Two Tenements of Two Storey Dwelling Houses, Stone Built and Slated, with large Walled-in Garden. Rental £19 5s. Upset Price £220



Back Wynd, c.1900

2. *That PROPERTY situated at Balmbrae, consisting of a Two Storey Dwelling-House and Weaver's Shop, Stone Built, part Tiled and Slated, with Garden Ground. Rental (when all occupied), £6 5s. Feu-Duty Nominal. Upset Price - £35*



Balmblae, c.1900's

3. *That Four Acres, Scots Measure, of ARABLE LAND fronting the Road from Kirkcaldy to Falkland. Rental £12. Upset Price - £200.*

For further Particulars, apply to Messrs GIBSON & SPEARS, Solicitors, Kirkcaldy, who have the Titles and Articles of Roup."

15th October 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Proposed Light Railway** – “The principal traders in the Falkland district met in the Schoolroom on Thursday (10th) night last week to discuss the probability of introducing a light railway. Mr Bonthron occupied the chair. The question was gone into very fully, and Mr Aitken, County Surveyor, who was present, was requested to survey the ground and prepare plans and a probable estimate, to be laid before another meeting at an early date.”

19th November 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Killed by Falling Downstairs** – “A factory worker, named Robert Mill, aged 56, fell down the stair leading to his dwelling-house in Brunton Street, Falkland, and sustained serious injuries. His head came in violent contact with the wall, causing concussion of the brain, and the back of his head was badly cut. Dr Jack was soon in attendance, and had the wounds dressed. The

unfortunate man, however, never rallied, and died on Monday Morning (18th). He was deaf and dumb, and was unmarried.”



Brunton Street

26th November 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Council Election** – “A contest is unnecessary, there being three candidates for three seats: - Messrs Archibald Aitken, Freuchie; William Grant, Falkland; John L. Lumsden, manufacturer, Freuchie.”

3rd December 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Curling** – “The Falkland Pond was opened on Saturday (30th Nov.), when an excellent game was enjoyed. Result – Mr Lumsden, 15; Mr Lawson, 14.”



Curling Pond

27th December 1904

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Factor** – “Mr George Gavin appointed factor of the Falkland estate by Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart.”

31st December 1904

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Retrospect** – “Looking back upon the past year, it may be said, generally speaking, that life in the ancient and royal burgh has been comparatively uneventful. With the exception of the floorcloth industry, recently introduced by the Messrs Jackson, which has been flourishingly successful, trade has, as a rule, been very dull, the building trade suffering especially. Recently Messrs Jackson, with characteristic enterprise, have introduced into their factory both electric light and the telephone, the introduction of the latter being, in some measure, responsible for one of the principal local changes during the year, viz.: - The removal of the Post Office from its old picturesque habitation to other more suitable and commodious though certainly more prosaic premises. In matters municipal there has been little to excite much interest. The elections passed off without contest, and while nothing of the nature of a burning question has come before the electors, the Town Council have during the year quietly arranged for the carrying out of a complete scheme of drainage for the town on the septic tank system, for which they will earn the thanks of the whole community. The ecclesiastical upheaval has not excited in Falkland more than an academic interest.

An event, which bulked largely in the public eye, was the coming of age of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart of Falkland on 15th May, when the town was 'en fete', and when his Lordship received the freedom of the burgh and a presentation from his tenantry and the local tradesmen. The past year also saw the retirement of Mr Charles Gulland of Millfield from the factorship of the Lathrisk estates, with which both he and his father had been long and honourably connected. The demitting of office by Mr Gulland was received with feelings of general regret, not only by the tenantry of Lathrisk, but by the whole general community of Falkland. The proposal to form a light railway into Falkland has received a large measure of support, and, while it is maintained that one of the chief charms of the ancient burgh is the quaintness and comparative remoteness from modern influences. The advent of the new railway will be hailed by all as a measure for the benefit of the town, its trade, and its inhabitants. That "a green yule maks a fat kirk-yaird" is a truism that has been evidently verified here, for the death-rate, especially among the old, has been very heavy. If one expects the tragic occurrence which took place on the Lomond Hills during the past summer, when a young man's lonely death on the hillside sent a thrill of sadness throughout the community. Nothing of a sensational nature marked the events of 1904. Any reference to Falkland would be incomplete without a word as to the Palace, and it may be said that the number of visitors to the historic pile have been fewer than in the previous year."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Generosity** – "Through the generosity of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, Falkland House, and Mr Makgill-Crichton, Lathrisk, a considerable quantity of coals have again been distributed throughout the town."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Christmas** – "A special Christmas service was held in the Parish Church on Sunday (29th) evening, at which anthems were rendered by the choir. Notices have been posted at the linen and floorcloth factories that the holidays will extend from Saturday, 30th inst. to Monday, January 9th. The scholars attending the Sabbath Forenoon Meeting held in the Town Hall were each presented on Sunday morning with a Bible or other book as a Christmas gift. Miss Gulland, Millfield House, made the presentations."