

# Falkland 1900-2000

## Year 1906

### (As researched by Jack Burgess)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> January 1906

Extract from *The Fife News*: **United Free Church** – “A social meeting for the Sabbath School, Bible-class and choir, was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening. The Rev. J.H. Morrison presided over a company numbering over sixty. Tea was served by the ladies of the congregation, and games, songs, and recitations were included in the programme. All present enjoyed themselves thoroughly.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Masonic Lodge** – “Lodge ‘St John’s’ (No. 35) celebrated St John’s festival on Thursday last week, when the brethren sat down to a sumptuous supper purveyed by Bro. Angus. Bro. W. Lawrie, the newly-elected R.W.M., presided over the company. The usual toasts were heartily pledged, and various songs and recitations were contributed, a feeling of brotherly concord prevailing throughout. The office-bearers for the ensuing year are as follows: - Bros. R. Sharp, P.M.; W. Lawrie, R.W.M.; J.M. Nish, S.W.; A. Anderson, J.W.; Charles Jackson jnr., S.D.; John Hardie, J.D.; D. Campbell, Secretary; J. Weepers, Treasurer; Rev. A. Lyon Johnstone, Chaplain; J.W. Jackson, Bible bearer; John Walker, I.G.; A. Douglas, Tyler. The Lodge now promises to be in a flourishing condition, a number of new members having been admitted during the past year. Several of the brethren have intimated gifts to the Lodge, including a full regalia for the R.W.M. and other masonic emblems from the Bros. Jackson.”

#### 13<sup>th</sup> January 1906

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Youthful Lawbreakers** – “James Robert Burt Mentipty (15), factory worker, New Road, and Alexander Robertson (14), factory worker, Cross Wynd, Falkland, admitted at Cupar Sheriff Court on Tuesday, before Sheriff Armour – having on 26<sup>th</sup> December last, broken into the shop occupied by Christopher Campbell Brunton, flesher, and stolen £2. The Fiscal said the two boys appeared to have got possession of one of the check keys for the shop. They had spent some of the money on childish things. There was nothing against the lads before. His Lordship said he would deal with the boys under the First Offenders’ Act, on condition that they refunded the money, and this the parents, who were present, agreed to do. The boys were therefore discharged from the dock.”

## **20th January 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lectures** – “On the occasion of Messrs Fraser & Elrick’s cinematograph exhibition held in the Drill Hall on Thursday of last week, in connection with the Popular Lectures, Provost Miller presided over an audience which filled to over-crowding every corner of the hall. The programme was a long and varied one, and the extreme good humour of those present testified to the popularity of this kind of entertainment. The films, both humorous and grave, were of such an excellent character that it would, indeed, be difficult to single out any for special mention. For artistic beauty, however, those depicting “Life at the Zoo”, “A Trip on the West Highland Railway”, and “Solomon’s Judgement” could not easily be surpassed. The “Royal Review” (1905) was also well received with special enthusiasm. The whole entertainment was described on all sides as one of exceptional merit; and at the conclusion the operator was accorded a very hearty and well-deserved vote of thanks.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football** – “Lomond Vale met Stratheden United on Saturday in the first round of the Wilson Cup. The Vale had great difficulty in raising a full team, only nine men being able to respond to the opening note of the whistle. As compensation, however, they had the first lease of a strong breeze to their advantage. Immediately they pressed, and after ten minutes, H.D. Michie joined the ranks and immediately scored the one and only goal of the first half. Had Strath not adopted the one back game against the primarily weakened attack, results might have been different. The second half was a complete bombardment on the Vale goal, but they met a stubborn defence, and only equalised in the last few minutes. The result was a surprise packet to both teams, the Vale having the weakest team on the field they have had all season. Much of their successful defence is due to the efforts of their new right back, “Goodman” whose work justified his name. Whyte was as good a half as was on the field.”

## **27<sup>th</sup> January 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Engagement of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart** – “The engagement is announced of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, Scots Guards, and the Hon. Ismay Preston, only daughter of Viscount Gormanston, G.C.M.G., and Viscountess Gormanston, of Gormanston Castle, Balbriggan, Ireland. Miss Preston has been a lifelong friend of the Marchioness of Bute. She was one of the bridesmaids at her wedding, and when Lord and Lady Bute visited Cardiff some months ago she accompanied her Ladyship on her daily visits to the poorer districts of the city. At the great garden party given by Lord and Lady Bute she made many friends in South Wales.”

## **10<sup>th</sup> March 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Light Railway** – “At a meeting of Cupar District Committee on Tuesday, a correspondence was read regarding the Falkland Light Railway, and dealing specially with the angles at which the rails should cross the public roads. The Light Railway Commissioners wrote that the lines at level crossings should be laid not more than five degrees off the square, but they did not think it would be a desirable precedent to make a condition of that character an express requirement under the Order, and they saw no reason to anticipate that the assurance of the engineer would not be made good. They suggested that a minute be passed to the effect that the Company should not construct any works affecting any road belonging to the road authority, except in accordance with plans previously submitted to and approved by the road authority. If the road authority did not signify their disapproval of the plans after they had been submitted to them they would be taken as approved. Mr Charles Jackson jnr., understood that the promoters were quite willing, if possible, to lay the rails at an angle of 90 degrees, but if that was impossible they suggested that a variation of five degrees should be allowed. The Chairman (Mr Lawson of Annfield) said that however anxious the Committee were to see the railway go on, they must safeguard the roads. They could call a special meeting and pass the plans or otherwise. After further discussion, the suggestion of the Commissioners was agreed to.”

## **17<sup>th</sup> March 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sub-Postmaster for Falkland** – “Mr William Middleton has been appointed sub-Postmaster for Falkland, in place of Mrs Arnot, resigned.”



**Falkland Post Office c.1900's**

Extract from *The Fife News: Popular Lectures* – “A committee meeting in connection with this season’s popular lectures was held in Liquorstane Temperance Hotel on Tuesday evening – the Rev. A. Lyon Johnstone presiding. The Secretary (Mr A. Anderson), submitted his report, which was approved of. It was agreed to consider at a future meeting the advisableness of purchasing a lantern and complete acetylene apparatus, in order to better provide for the amusement and instruction of patrons – both old and young. The indebtedness of the Committee to the Messrs Jackson and Mr A. Fraser for kindly providing a lantern screen was placed on record. The Treasurer’s report was thereafter submitted, and, in spite of increased expenditure, showed a balance on the right side of £5 2s 7d, which, together with the balance carried from last year, left a total of £12 4s 1d to be placed to the credit of the Committee.”



## Liquorstane Temperance Hotel

### 7<sup>th</sup> April 1906

Extract from *The Fife News*: **School Board Election** – “There were eight nominations for the seven seats, but the withdrawal of Mr George Dun, Woodmill, has obviated a poll. The Board is constituted as follows: - Messrs Alexander Bonthron, Newton of Falkland; Robert Miller, Charles Jackson, Thomas Williamson; John L. Lumsden, Freuchie; David Rymer, and David Nelson – all members of the old Board.”

### 21<sup>st</sup> April 1906

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Valuable Tapestries Hung in Falkland Palace Chapel Royal** – “A magnificent set of 17<sup>th</sup> century Flemish “verdure” tapestries recently acquired at great cost by Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart was hung at the close of last week on the walls of the Chapel Royal in Falkland Palace. The complete “room” of tapestry came from an old house in Maarssen, Holland, which was built in 1400. The name of the house and estate is “Ter Keer”, formerly “Tuylenburg”, and the tapestry has passed from family to family of those who owned the house, viz. – Sir Vincent Maximilian van Lakhorst, The Baron van Tuyll van Zuylen, Die Marchie van Vanhuysen, Heer of Maarssen (Lord of the Manor), The Chevalier H. van Weede, Ambassador. The set of tapestries comprises six pieces, the largest of which measures fully 24ft. long by 9ft high. This has been hung on the north wall of the Chapel Royal in Falkland Palace, and almost completely fills up the space to the left of the Royal pew, a beautiful piece of oak carving renovated and restored to its present position during the latter years of the late Marquess of Bute’s life. Two pieces of tapestry, of about 9ft square, cover the wall between the Royal pew and the altar and two narrow pieces fit in between the windows looking to the south. All

those are hung from the lath forming the division between the old emblazoned wooden frieze and the hitherto rather unsightly plaster walls. The sixth piece, measuring about 18 feet long, is hung in the “ante-chapel” on the west wall. Those strikingly quaint and rare old tapestries depict forest scenes with peacocks, swans, and other birds and beasts, huntsmen, shepherds, etc., among the foliage and in the foreground, while here and there distant landscapes and castles peep through the trees. The tones are soft greens, browns, blues and greys with an occasional touch of red, the highlights being effectively worked in silks. The texture is much finer than that of the ordinary “verdure” tapestry. It is exceedingly appropriate that the venerable walls, doubtless hung with tapestry originally, should be again re-clad at Easter time.”

### **28<sup>th</sup> April 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Marriage of Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart** – “It is announced that the marriage of Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart to the Hon. Ismay Preston, will take place on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, at Gormanston Castle, County Meath, Ireland.”

### **5<sup>th</sup> May 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Local Invention** – “We give below a description of a recent patent application sent us by Messrs Howard & Co., patent agents, 57 & 58 Chancery Lane, London W.C.: - 27,667.

*Floorcloth &c.* – J.W. Jackson, Falkland Floorcloth Co., Falkland – Floorcloth, waxcloth, oilcloth, linoleum, and like goods have the pattern printed on both sides so as to be reversible. The side of the floorcloth not in use may be protected by laying upon a covering of ordinary jute hessian over the floor.”

### **12<sup>th</sup> May 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Late Mr Alexander Bonthron** – “A prominent figure has been removed from the Falkland district by the death of Mr Alexander Bonthron, brewer and maltsman, Newton of Falkland. Until a month or two ago Mr Bonthron had been in his usual good health and was manifesting a lively interest in his own affairs and in the public business of the community. Illness overtaking him, he sought rest for a time; but his condition did not improve, and he passed away at his residence at Newton of Falkland on Monday morning (7<sup>th</sup> May) on his seventy-fourth birthday. The representative of a family who have been long identified with Auchtermuchty and Falkland, Mr Bonthron led an active energetic life. The brewing

*business of which he was the head, dated back to the times when Royalty lived in Falkland Palace. In later years Mr Bonthron was assisted in his business by his youngest son, Mr David, who as is well known, patriotically volunteered for the front during the late South African war, and as a non-commissioned officer of the 20<sup>th</sup> Company, Fife & Forfar I.Y., made a narrow escape with his life at Nooitgedacht. Mr Bonthron took a keen interest in the public life of his parish and county. He had been a member of the School Board of Falkland since its formation and it's Chairman for the past 22 years. He was a member of the Landward Parish Council, and as the representative of that body on the District Committee of the County Council, he neglected no question bearing on the locality he sought to serve. In politics, he was a staunch Conservative who, when occasion offered fought valiantly for his party. Shrewdness and business ability were among his outstanding characteristic, and in his desire to be helpful in his day and generation was shown not only by his discharge of public office but by his readiness to oblige. The local Volunteers, for instance, were allowed the use of one of his parks for drill, and when the golf course was laid out, he placed two fields at the disposal of the Club. He was predeceased by his wife several years ago, who was a daughter of the late Mr Barclay, Drums, a well-known Fife agriculturist up to his death fifteen or sixteen years ago."*

#### **Obituary:**

The death of Mr Alexander Bonthron, brewer, Newton of Falkland, took place at his residence, Newton House, on Monday morning (7<sup>th</sup> May). He has been suffering from a severe internal disease for some weeks. Mr Bonthron had carried on the business of brewer and maltster in Newton Old Brewery for the last fifty years or so. He came to the place when quite young. As a public man he was ever to the front. He has been a member of the School Board since its inauguration, and its Chairman for the past 22 years. He also served on the old Parochial Board, and then became a member of the Parish Council, of which he was also Chairman, and he represented that body on the County Council. He was one of the Heritors of the Parish Church, and took a very keen interest in the scheme of improvement connected with the Church. A staunch Conservative, he generally figured prominently at election times, and many a passage-at-arms he had with Mr Asquith when the latter visited the district. His interest in the welfare of Falkland people was shown in many ways. The Volunteers were allowed the use of one of his parks for drill, and when the golf course was laid out, he placed two fields at the disposal of the Club. Mrs Bonthron, who was a daughter of the late Mr Barclay, farmer, Drums, predeceased Mr Bonthron some three years ago. In his business at Newton, the deceased had long enjoyed the able assistance of his youngest son, Mr David Bonthron, who will in all probability now carry it on by himself. Deceased was 73 years of age.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1906

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The annual match between the Falkland and Artisan Clubs was played on Saturday in good weather, and with the course in fine condition, and resulted in favour of the senior Club by one point.”

## 9<sup>th</sup> June 1906

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The competition for the Morrison scratch medal took place on Saturday, and for the third year in succession the trophy was won by Mr W. Peggie.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart's Wedding** – “On the occasion of the forthcoming wedding at Gormanston Castle, Ireland, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> inst., of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart and the Hon. Ismay Preston, daughter of Lord Gormanston, various wedding gifts have this week been dispatched to Gormanston Castle by the tenantry, tradesmen and workmen connected with his Lordship's Falkland estate. The tenantry's presentation consisted of a handsome silver tea service; the gift of the tradesmen was a set of silver fruit dishes of five pieces, while that of the workmen consisted of a pair of silver salvers with his lordship's coat of arms and the Gormanston arms quartered on the front and a suitable inscription on the back. The tenantry's silver tea service was also accompanied by a silver salver, which, likewise, was suitably inscribed and bore his Lordship's coat of arms. The whole of the wedding gifts were supplied by Messrs Thos. Smith & Sons, Edinburgh. In connection with the wedding Lord Ninian is to entertain his tenantry and the local tradesmen at dinner and the workmen at supper at Falkland Palace on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> inst., followed on the Friday by a treat to the children and a dance in the evening.”

## 11<sup>th</sup> August 1906

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Artisan Golf Club** – “The monthly “Annand” medal competition came off on Saturday, when Mr Francis Henderson was once more the winner with a score of 93 (scratch).”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Opening of United Free Church Hall** – “It is only a few months since the office-bearers of the United Free Church decided upon building a hall adjacent to the church, and so well have their efforts been rewarded that they were able to declare the building open on Saturday. A special flower service was

held in the afternoon. The Rev. J.H. Morrison presided, and the Rev. Messrs Affleck and Morrison, Auchtermuchty, and Thomson, Kinghorn, assisted. In his opening remarks, the Chairman announced that the total cost of the hall was about £200, and the whole sum had been already practically collected, so that he was able to open the building free of debt. (Applause). Tea and cake were afterwards served. Games and other amusements were then entered into with great spirit by the young people on the green outside the church. The collection of flowers was very handsome, and they were despatched to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, by the afternoon train. The various contractors engaged in erecting the hall were: - Mr Henry Suttie, builder, Dunshalt; Mr Alex. Fraser, joiner, Falkland; Mr Walter Peggie, slater and plasterer, Falkland; and Mr Thomas Ross, painter, Falkland.”

## **22<sup>nd</sup> September 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf – Falkland v Auchtermuchty** – “This match took place at Falkland on Saturday, when the visitors won by 5 matches to 3. Scores: -

<b>Auchtermuchty</b>		<b>Falkland</b>	
Dr Shearer	1	Rev. A.L. Johnstone	0
Jas. M. Low	0	D. Macmillan	1
P.W. Cormack	1	F. Henderson	0
J. White	1	W. Peggie	0
W.A. Donaldson	1	D. Bonthron	0
J.F. Baker	0	G. Anderson	1
Rev. J. Bell	0	D.A. Richardson	1
J.J. Sanderson	1	J. Cochrane	0
A. White	0	A. Anderson	0
J. Wood	0	J.M. Nish	0
	<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>

## **6<sup>th</sup> October 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The School Board** – “The School Board have appointed Mr Edwin Justice, Addiewell, West Calder, to the post of assistant male teacher, vacated by Mr J.M. Nish.”

## **27<sup>th</sup> October 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Reset** – “John Lawson, labourer, Cross Wynd, Falkland, was at Cupar Sheriff Court on Wednesday before Hon. Sheriff Thomson charged with stealing 269lbs of lead piping from Brack’s Plantation, near Falkland, on 17<sup>th</sup> July. He denied having stolen the lead, but pleaded guilty to resetting it. The Fiscal said the trees in the plantation were being cut down, and a stationary engine was

*employed in the work. After the engine was removed, the lead piping was left for a time, and it disappeared. He could quite accept the accused's plea, because in any case the probability was that more than one man was concerned in the theft. The Sheriff sent the accused to prison for ten days."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord Ninian's Chauffeur Injured** – "A serious motor accident occurred on the Shap road in Westmoreland on Sunday afternoon, as a result of which Stanley Fisher, chauffeur to Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, is lying in Penrith Hospital badly injured. He was driving a Daimler car, but was alone. Passing over Lowther Bridge, Fisher swung round to take the sharp curve, when the wheels skidded on the greasy road. The car then went broadside on and struck a large buttress on the Clifton side of the bridge. The radiator was doubled up, while the impact smashed the water jacket, damaged the cylinders and bent the crank shaft. The dashboard was also smashed. Fisher was taken to hospital, where he was found to have his skull fractured, his arm badly cut by the broken dashboard, and his face also was much cut."

### **10<sup>th</sup> November 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – "The retiring members of the Council are: - Provost Miller, and Messrs Angus, Fraser and Williamson. As no new candidate came for municipal honours, these gentlemen have been re-elected for another term of office."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – "At the annual general meeting of the Golf Club held last week, the following office-bearers were appointed: - President, Mr George Gavin; Captain, Mr Walter Peggie; Secretary, Mr James Peggie; Treasurer, Mr J.O. Levack."

### **1<sup>st</sup> December 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – "At a meeting of Town Council on Tuesday, a letter was read from Mr Walter Peggie resigning his seat on the Council."

### **22<sup>nd</sup> December 1906**

Extract from *The Fife News*: - **Curling** – "taking advantage of the sudden, and all too short, spell of frost last week, the members of the Falkland Curling Club met on the

ice on Saturday for the first “throw” this season – indeed, for the first time since winter 1904-05. Two rinks of eight and nine players respectively carried on the game until darkness out a stop to play. The ice was in almost perfect condition, and the scores were as follows: -

Bailie Jackson 19

J. Richardson 19

William Horne 27

J. Sheriff 7

# Falkland Almanac

Population according to 1901 Census – 2,229

**Magistrates and Town Council** – Provost, Robert Miller; Bailies, Thomas Sutherland and Charles Jackson, jnr.; Treasurer, Jas. Robertson; Town-Clerk, Charles Gulland; Councillors, John Angus, Alexander Fraser, Thomas Williamson, Andrew Lister, Walter Peggie, George Robertson, John W. Jackson, James Forsyth, and Michael Reekie; Representative, Cupar District Licensing Court – Provost Miller; Fiscal, James Reekie; Town Officers, George Baxter and John Walker.

**Places of Worship** – Parish Church, Rev. A.L. Johnstone; United Free Church, Rev. J.H. Morrison; Plymouth Brethren, Balmbrae, Various Teachers.

**School Board** – Clerk, John Sheriff; Members, Alexander Bonthron (Chairman), Robert Miller, Charles Jackson, Thomas Williamson, John L. Lumsden, David Rymer, and David Nelson; Teachers – Falkland Public School, John Richardson; Freuchie Public School, John Methven; Drill Instructor, Sergeant McMurchie.

**Parish Council** – First Ward – Alexander Fraser, John Sheriff, Walter Peggie, Robert Miller. Second Ward – John L. Lumsden, Archibald Aitken, William Grant. Third Ward – William Meiklejohn, Alex. Bonthron (Chairman).

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

**Gas Company** – John Dick, Manager.

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

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

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

**Solicitor** – Charles Gulland, N.P.

**Medical Practitioner** – J.G. Jack, M.B., Ch. B.

**Burgh Assessor** – Lawrence Reid.

**Whist Club** – Secretary, J. Nish, South Street.

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

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

**"Fife News" Agents** – Co-operative Store; Mrs Arnot, Post Office.

**Justices of the Peace** – James Cusin, Falkland; Charles Gulland, Falkland; Charles Jackson, Manufacturer, Lomond Vale, Falkland; William Meiklejohn, Newton of Falkland..

