

Falkland 1900-2000

Year 1920

(As researched by Jack Burgess)

16th October 1920

Article in *The Fife News*: ***War Memorial Tablet Unveiled in Falkland Parish Church:***

“In Falkland Parish Church on Sunday morning, a memorial tablet was unveiled in memory of the 34 men of the parish who gave their lives in the Great War. Professor D.M. Kay, D.S.O., D.D., St Andrews University, late Principal Chaplain at Salonica, performed the unveiling ceremony. Professor Kay, assisted by the Rev. J.K. Russell, B.D., minister of the Parish Church, and the Rev. J.P. Batchelor, M.A., minister of the U.F. Church, conducted the service, which was most impressive.

There was a large united congregation including the Magistrates and Town Council, members of the Lomond Oak Lodge, and the Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Federation, to a number of 80.

The address was given by Professor Kay, who took as text Heb. 12 – “We are compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses.” He recalled the Japanese ceremonial after the war with Russia, when the victorious Commander-in-Chief assembled the skeleton battalions and addressed directly the spirits of their fallen comrades. Discussing what topics deserved a place in the memory of the nation, he maintained that the last decade furnished much which could not be forgotten, even if we wished. The trials, by which our defenders were tested, were more severe than those of ancient warfare, and the moral scruples against all war, involving disarmament and want of preparation, made our defence more costly. The seventy myriads who were killed in action had given their country a new lease of honourable life. On all who shared his blood and his name, each fallen soldier had conferred a new and a true nobility. Every honourable wound was a decoration which no one

could mistake. On all their compatriots they had bestowed the privilege of living in an age which could fairly be called heroic.

The tablet, which is of grey granite and is the work of Mr Jas. Taggart, Aberdeen, was gifted by the Rev. J.K. Russell, B.D., and a few private subscribers. The inscription on the tablet reads: -

“To the glory of God and the in grateful memory of those who gave their lives for their country in the Great War, 1914-18.”

The names of the fallen are: -

Cpl. Wm. Black, Pte. Jas. Brewster, Pte. Wm. Burgon, Pte. Harry Burt, Pte. Thos. Collier, Pte. And. Dall, Pte. Jas. Dalrymple, Capt. Jas. Donaldson, Pte. Eben. Dowie, Cpl. Thos. Dryburgh, Pte. Thos. Flowers, Pte. A.P. Forrester, Pte. Geo. Gunn, Pte. Alex. Hamilton, Pte. Sam Hastie, Pte. David Hall, L.-Cpl. F. Henderson, Pte. Arthur Hendry, Pte. Bert Hughes, Pte. John Jackson, Pte. Leonard Kelly, Br. John Leitch, Pte. John Livingstone, Pte. Joe Lunt, L.-Cpl. Harry Michie, Pte. Thos. Morton, John McLaren, R.N., Sgt. David Paterson, Lieut. D.A. Richardson, Pte. Henry Robertson, Major R.C. Slacke, Pte. Wm. Smith, Lieut.-Col. Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart, Gunner Thos. Wallace.

Following the unveiling, the “Last Post” and the “Reveille” were sounded by Mr Geo. Walker, the solemn service concluding with the singing of the National Anthem. The praise part of the service was led by the choir who also sang the appropriate anthem, “I Heard a Voice.” Mr George Spence presided at the organ.”

Article in *The Fife News*: **Opening of Falkland War Memorial – A Useful Institute:**

“The reading room and institute chosen by the Falkland people as the war memorial of the burgh was on Saturday formally opened by Provost Jackson, in presence of a crowded assembly of towns-people, presided over by Mr A. Anderson, chairman of the War Memorial Committee.

Provost Jackson said that they of that generation would never forget that awful period of suffering which extended from August 1914 to November 1918. They at home read of some of the terrible trials and sufferings experienced by the troops abroad, and they realised to the full meanings of the words – anxiety, suffering, sympathy, courage, devotion, sacrifice – and above all, they realised the meaning of patience and endurance. Could they, therefore, wonder that, on the signing of peace, a simultaneous desire arose throughout the country for some form of memorial to mark such tremendous events? In every town, village, and hamlet, public meetings were held, and Committees appointed for the purpose of carrying through war memorials. Some of those were completed, others were in course of

planning, and others again were still on paper. They in Falkland, after two public meetings, unanimously decided that their war memorial should take the form of an Institute. A Committee was appointed to carry out the scheme, and, after almost two years of endeavour, they found that, owing to increased costs of building, etc., the money they had collected would not permit them to carry through the original scheme of building a complete Institute. It therefore looked as if the whole scheme would require to be abandoned.

Fortunately, at that critical time, the property which had now been converted into the Institute, came on to the market, and after inspection, the Committee found it would be entirely suitable for their requirements. They therefore took the necessary steps to secure it, at a cost of around £800, since when they had been engaged in carrying through the necessary alterations to make the building conform to the new conditions. Though the scheme was not yet complete, the Committee felt that it was already so far in progress that they could safely have the Institute opened. They had got a complete reading-room, a recreation room, and a billiard room. For the gentler sex a room had been set apart of which they could have the exclusive use, provided that they came forward in sufficient numbers to warrant it. They hoped by spring to have a tennis court ready for play. For those facilities the annual subscription would be 10s – that was 2s 6d a quarter, or roughly 2 ½ d a week – purely a nominal sum.

Members of the Institute would be entitled, at a meeting to be held annually, to vote on three members for the Committee of Management. Altogether, the scheme was laid down on a broad democratic basis. By the opening of that Institute they were entering upon a new epoch in the social life of their community. Hitherto, their social efforts had been of a spasmodic nature, largely because of having no common rallying-point. Now that this Institute had been provided, he hoped that everyone, old and young, rich and poor, would see their way to come forward and join the Institute, and not only to join it, but to take a keen and enthusiastic interest in its working. They would therefore derive, not only benefit and pleasure to themselves, but would make that dear old town of theirs a little brighter and happier place to live in. (Applause).

Mr J.D. Hopkins, manager of the floorcloth factory, proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their arduous labours in carrying through the scheme. He mentioned specially Mr Anderson, chairman, Mr J. Baillie, secretary, and Provost Jackson. He also referred to the excellent work accomplished by Mrs Brown, Dundrennan, who collected herbs, old bottles, and waste paper, the sale of which provided furniture for two of the rooms of the Institute.

“Lomondside”, as the Institute was named when it was a private dwelling-house, is a large two-storied building, with commodious rooms which well fit it for the purpose to which it has been adapted. It stands in fairly extensive garden grounds, in which a tennis court and bowling green will provide outdoor recreation for the members next summer.

In addition to the reading room and billiard room, there is a whist room, music room and bath room. There is still a good deal to be done in connection with the arrangement of the rooms, but so far, the interior presents a most attractive appearance, and there is no doubt that the Institute will prove an acquisition to the social life of Falkland.

The handsome billiard table was presented to the Institute by Provost Jackson, and he also paid the cost of the structural alterations made on the billiard room. Play commenced on the new table on Saturday, the first stroke being played by little Miss Muriel Jackson, the Provost's niece."