

Falkland 1900-2000

Year 1912

(As researched by Jack Burgess)

6th January 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **New Year** – “The New Year was brought in very quietly in the burgh. The public works have been closed for a few days and the shopkeepers observed Monday and Tuesday as holidays.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Church Vacancy** – “A meeting of the Vacancy Committee was held on Wednesday, and from a list of thirteen names previously selected, a short leet of four was drawn up. The names are as follows: - The Revs. Dr Pearson, St Andrews; J.K. Russell, M.A., B.D., Peebles; Hugh Shirlaw, M.A., B.D., Kirkcaldy; S. Stephen Walker, M.A., Kier.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Falkland Light Railway Orders** – “There was issued on Monday night an Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners and confirmed by the Board of Trade extending the period limited by the Falkland Light Railway Orders, 1906 and 1909, for the compulsory purchase of land and for the completion of the railway and works thereby authorised.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Bird Show** – “The fifty-second annual open exhibition of poultry, pigeons, canaries, and British and foreign birds of Falkland Ornithological Society was held on Tuesday.”

20th January 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Church** – “The pulpit of the Parish Church was occupied on Sunday by the Rev. James Russell, M.A., Hamilton, who is the first of the short leet of candidates for the vacant charge. There were large attendances both morning and evening.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Literary Society** – “At a meeting of the Society held at Allan Park on Friday last, a paper on “Sordelfo”, one of Browning’s poems, was given by the President, the Rev. J.H. Morrison. Miss Cochrane led off the discussion on the subject, which ensued.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **B.O.A.F.G.** – “The annual general meeting of “Lomond Oak” Lodge was held on Thursday evening last week in the Town Hall, W.M. George Hardie presiding. The report for 1911 showed a very satisfactory increase in funds and membership. The following office-bearers were elected and installed for ensuing session: - W.M., George Hardie; D.M., Peter Robertson; P.M., James Oswald; S.W., Alex. Lawson; J.W., William Traill; Chaplain, John Fernie; Secretary, Alex. Grieve jnr.; Treasurer, James Peggie; Sick Steward for Falkland, John Collins jnr.; for Freuchie, John Riggs; A.P.M., Peter Lawson; O.G., John Reekie.”

27th January 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “On Wednesday evening of last week, Mrs Johnston was waited on at the Manse by members of the Women’s Guild of the Parish Church, and presented with a handsome Morocco writing case as a parting gift. Misses M. Gunn and Ida Kilgour made the presentation, which was suitably acknowledged by Mrs Johnston.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lecture** – Captain W.J.P. Benson, F.R.G.S., London, visited Falkland on Friday last under the auspices of the Popular Lecture Committee, but his lecture on “Morocco, Canary Islands, and Madeira” was unfortunately cut short owing to the failure of the gas supply for the limelight views. After the audience had dispersed, the supply of gas increased, and a considerable number had the privilege of seeing the excellent views, and having them shortly described by the Captain.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **New Shepherd on Falkland Estate** – “Mr David Weir, who for the past few years has been shepherd at Galalaw, and received so much credit for the way in which he brought forward Mr Smith’s sheep for the record sale in September last, has been engaged to take charge of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart’s choicely bred young flock at Falkland. Lord Ninian has only been a Border Leicester breeder for little more than eighteen months, but in that time he has laid the foundation of what ought in time to be a high-class and even famous flock. It will be remembered that he was the purchaser at Galalaw of the famous ram His Majesty, the price being the big one of £140 for a sheep in his fourth year. He has also some

very worthy representatives of other strains in his flock. Mr Weir is well-known to be one of the most expert hands at bringing out sheep in the trade. He has had a first-class training at Galalaw, and under his management it will be a wonder if the Falkland estate flock does not go steadily ahead and become widely known. Mr Gavin, Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart's factor at Falkland and all concerned are to be congratulated on an engagement which is so promising and so interesting from the point of view of the breed."

3rd February 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Curling** – *"The members of the Club have enjoyed a few days curling both on the artificial and deep water ponds. A match was arranged with Stratheden Club for Wednesday, but before the game had proceeded very far, it had to be abandoned owing to the ice giving way."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cantata** – *"On Saturday evening, this choir of the United Free Church rendered the cantata "The Shepherd King" in the church to a large and appreciative audience. The solos were beautifully sung by Miss Horne, Miss Duncan, Dunshalt, and Mr Robert Morgan, and a duet by Miss Duncan and Mr Morgan was very well done. Quartettes were sung by members of the choir, and these along with the choruses reflected great credit on the conductor, Mr William Burgon. Miss Bryce officiated at the organ in her usual efficient manner. On the call of the Rev. J.H. Morrison, a very cordial vote of thanks was given."*

Extract from *The Falkland News*: **Assault on Mr D. Bonthron** – *"At Cupar Sheriff Court on Thursday, three young men hailing from Falkland – Henry Birrell, Alex. Hamilton, and Mungo Robertson – appeared before Sheriff Armour Hannay charged with having on 27th January, assaulted Mr David Bonthron, Newton of Falkland, on the public road near the school at Falkland. Each pleaded guilty, but denied having kicked Mr Bonthron. Mr A.E. Grosset, solicitor, Cupar, appeared on behalf of the accused, and stated that on the occasion on which the incident occurred, a friend of these young men was going away to New Zealand, and they had been having a farewell spree, and a good deal more drink than was good for them, when they unfortunately came across Mr Bonthron. One of them in a more or less playful manner, tripped him, and then there was more or less a fight between Mr Bonthron and the lad, Mr Bonthron naturally retorting and the lads going to the assistance of their comrade. The Fiscal stated that Mr Bonthron was returning home from Falkland. He tried to pass them on the road, when one of the three kicked him from behind. He observed that the action was a very cowardly thing to do whereupon they fell upon him. The scuffle continued for about one hundred and so yards along*

the road, until Mr Bonthron pulled into Dr Jack's premises. Sheriff Armour Hannay stated he regarded the case an exaggerated case of hooliganism. That sort of thing must be put down with a firm hand, and they would be fined £2 or twenty days imprisonment."

10th February 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Late Mr John Sheriff** – "It was with great regret that many here and elsewhere heard in the beginning of the week that Mr John Sheriff, writer, had died at a nursing home in Dundee on Sunday morning. Of a kindly disposition, Mr Sheriff was long a faithful assistant in the office of the late Mr Charles Gulland, Town Clerk, and was the trusted adviser of many clients in need of legal counsel. He was unmarried, and has died at the age of 64. A sister, Miss Euphemia Sheriff, Bruce Buildings, survives him."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **At Home** – "An "At Home" was held at Bank House on Saturday evening, when Mr and Mrs Donaldson entertained the choir of the United Free Church. After tea was served, songs and recitations were given by members of the company, and games were engaged in. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by according a hearty vote of thanks to the host and hostess for their kindness and by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Curling** – "The competitions for the Club trophies were played off on Saturday last and resulted as follows: - First Points Competition – 1st medal, Walter Peggie; 2nd medal, Gordon Sturrock; 3rd medal, David Bonthron; 4th medal, George J. Lumsden. Second Points Competition – Biscuit box, David Bonthron; mug, Gordon Sturrock. The drawing medal was won by William Bonthron after a tie with Walter Peggie, who won the Lathrisk Bowl for the best aggregate."

17th February 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **To Let** – "Commodious House, in High Street, Falkland, with Stable, Outhouses and Large Garden. Apply Alex. Anderson, Solicitor, Falkland."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Entertainment** – "The course of lectures was brought to a successful close on Friday last, when a cinematograph exhibition was given in the

Drill Hall. The special feature was the "Courierscope" which gave the audience an idea of the work entailed in the production of a daily newspaper. The other films were also enjoyed."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – *"The annual meeting of the local Club was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening – Dr Jack, president of the Club, in the chair. The financial report was satisfactory, showing a good balance at credit. The office-bearers were appointed as follows: - President, Dr J.G. Jack; Captain, Mr Alex. Grieve, jnr; Secretary, Mr Wm. Venters; and Treasurer, Mr John Venters. It was agreed to hold the annual dance on the 8th of March next."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Entertainment of School Children by Lord and Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart** – *"On Thursday evening last week, the children attending the Public School at Falkland were entertained to a treat which but for an epidemic of whooping cough would have taken place at Christmas. It was only last week that the children could return to school in sufficient number to enable the entertainment to be given. To the number of 230, they marshalled at the school, and under the direction of the teacher marched to the Drill Hall where a sumptuous tea was served. Besides the children, there was a representative gathering of people interested in the school, among those present being: - Mr J.L. Lumdsen, Eden Valley House, Freuchie, chairman of the School Board; Rev. Henry Woods, Falkland; Rev. Charles Fraser, Freuchie; Mr and Mrs Gavin, Falkland Palace; Mr and Mrs Dunbar, the School House, Falkland; Mr and Mrs Donaldson, Bank House, Falkland; Mrs Robertson; Mrs O'Flahertie; Miss Cochrane; Mrs Falconer; Mr Allan Marshall; Mr David Deas etc. After grace by the Rev. Charles Fraser, and the children had done every justice to the purveying of Mr Mason of the Bruce Arms, whose tastefully decorated tables were much admired, Mrs Gavin caused a thrill of amusing entertainment among the little folks by lighting the Christmas tree which was laden with handsome toys and otherwise beautifully adorned, and by handing a gift to every child present. Provost Jackson, in a few remarks at the close, said that when Lord Ninian was lying seriously ill at Christmas, he had not forgotten the children of Falkland, and they (the children) were not to forget him. (Applause). He asked them to give three cheers for his Lordship and let them be as loud as they might be heard in Ceylon. (Laughter and loud cheers.) On leaving the Hall, each child was presented with a packet of sweets and an orange."*



Falkland School Girls with Mrs Robertson 1912

24th February 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Literary Club** – “At a meeting of the Literary Club, held at Allan Park on Saturday evening, Miss Anderson read an excellent paper on “Side Lights, or Life in the Highlands.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Boy Scouts** – “The football team in connection with 1st Falkland Boy Scouts travelled to Newburgh on Saturday last to meet their Newburgh rivals in the Gilruth cup tournament. The result was a win for Newburgh by 5 goals to 4.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Dance** – “The annual assembly of the “Lomond Oak” Lodge B.O.A.F.G. was held in the Drill Hall on Friday, when there was a good turnout of the brethren and friends. A cordial welcome was extended to those present by Brother Geo. Hardie, W.M., and dancing was engaged in from 9.00pm till the small hours of Saturday morning, and altogether a very enjoyable time was spent.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Whist** – “On Tuesday evening, a match was played between Falkland Whist Club and “Ye Klub”, Falkland, and after a very closely contested game, the result was as follows: -

Whist Club

Dr Jack and Provost Jackson 75

John Brown and D.W. Deas 77

J.B. Ogilvie and R. Ness 78

Alex. Fraser and J. Dunbar 78

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Ye Club

P. Robertson and R.B. Bryce 75

James Peggie and J. Venters 77

A. Grieve and T.D. Hopkins 79

R. Cameron and R. McHay 77

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Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Church** – “The voting for the election of a minister to the vacant charge at the Parish Church was proceeded with on Wednesday between the hours of 12 noon and 3.00pm, and 5.00pm and 8.00pm. The result was declared about 9 o'clock as follows: - The Rev. J.K. Russell, M.A., B.D., Hamilton, 204; the Rev. A.F. Scott Pearson, M.A., B.D., D. Th., St Andrews, 62; the Rev. Hugh Shirlaw, M.A., B.D., Kirkcaldy, 43; against all, 8. Mr Russell, who had a clear majority over the other candidates, was declared elected. The new minister is the son of Mr Russell, schoolmaster, Glendevon, and is a graduate of St Andrews University, where he had a brilliant career. He took his M.A. degree, with first class honours in economic science in April 1904, and his B.D., with ‘distinction’ in Divinity, Church History, Hebrew, and Biblica criticism in 1907. He was also awarded the Berry Scholarship in Divinity and Church History. He was licensed by the Auchterarder Presbytery in April 1908, and acted as assistant to the Rev. A.M. McLean, B.D., Peebles, until the end of 1910. Proceeding thence to Hamilton, Mr Russell became assistant to the Rev. E.L. Thompson, D.D. The new minister is 29 years of age.”

2nd March 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **School Board** – “At a meeting of the School Board of the parish, held on Monday evening, Mr Alexander Anderson, solicitor, was appointed Clerk and Treasurer in succession to the late Mr John Sheriff.”

16th March 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket Dance** – “On the evening of Friday last, the members of the village Cricket Club held their annual dance in the Drill Hall. There was a very good turn-out. To excellent music supplied by Messrs Richardson and Berry, the “Grand March” commenced at 8.30pm, and thereafter a splendid programme of dances was engaged in. During the evening, songs were sung by Miss Beveridge, Kingskettle; and Messrs A. Grieve and J. Venters. The purveying was in the hands of Mrs Hardie.”

23rd March 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Council** – “At a recent meeting of the Parish Council of Falkland, Provost Jackson was unanimously elected a Councillor in room of the late Mr John Sheriff.”

30th March 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Whist** – “Cupar whist players paid a visit to Falkland Club on Thursday of last week when the home players won by 9 points.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “At a meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday, it was resolved to adopt the section of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Acts dealing with places of public refreshment.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Literary Society** – “The last meeting of the session was held at Allan Park on Monday evening, when Mr Robert McHarg, submitted the manuscript magazine of which he was Editor. The contributions by the members were very good, and were thoroughly enjoyed by those present. The Society has carried through the first winter’s programme very successfully, and such a result is in a great measure, due to the efforts of Miss Anderson, the secretary.”

6th April 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “On the occasion of leaving to take up a situation in Edinburgh, Mr John Collins jnr., who for the past years has been in the Town Clerk’s Office, was presented with a handsome Gladstone bag and a letter wallet as a parting gift from his fellow clerks in the office, and the staff of B.L. Bank, Falkland, as a token of their good wishes for his future success.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death –Grieve** - “At Royal Terrace, Falkland, on the 27th ult., Rachel Livingstone, youngest daughter of Alexander Grieve, aged 16 years.”

13th April 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **An Unusual Prosecution** – “At Cupar Sheriff Court on Tuesday, Robert Strang, farmer, Pittilock, Falkland was fined 7s for a contravention of the Dogs Act. The Fiscal explained that Mr Strang had left the carcass of a sheep at a place accessible to dogs. Respondent stated that he knew a sheep had been amissing, but he did not know where it was.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Important Civil Service Appointment for Former Assistant Master** – “His many friends in the Falkland district will be pleased to hear of the further success of Mr George Gardner, until recently assistant master at Falkland Public School. He has been selected by the Prison Commissioners for Scotland from a large number of applicants for the position of Schoolmaster at the Borstal Institution, Polmont. The appointment is a new one, and holds out great possibilities for advancement in the Prison service.”

15th April 1912

Extract from the *Fife News Almanac*: **Titanic Disaster** – “Through the terrible disaster and appalling loss of life caused by the wreck of the “Titanic” (which took place in the Atlantic in April 1912, through collision with a sunk iceberg), the eyes of the world were turned to the conspicuous bravery displayed by the Countess of Rothes, who had hitherto been known in Fife as the charming and gentle consort of the Earl of Rothes, and whose constant thought, while resident at the family seat at Leslie, was for the care of the sick, the happiness of the children, and the interests of the community. She was married twelve years ago and has two sons. The elder,

Lord Leslie, is seen in the picture. Lady Rothes took command of the lifeboat – there being no skilled member of the crew aboard – and brought the rescued men, women and children into safety on the “Carpathia”



The Countess of Rothes with young Lord Leslie

20th April 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “At the morning meeting on Sunday, Mr John Collins was the recipient of a beautiful fountain pen as a token of the best wishes of his fellow-members on the occasion of his leaving for Edinburgh. Mr Walter Peggie, president, made the presentation, and Mr Collins suitably acknowledged the gift.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Concert** – “An entertainment in aid of the funds of the local Troop of Boy Scouts was held in the Drill Hall on Saturday – the Rev. J.H. Morrison in the chair. Scoutmaster Donaldson gave a report of the year’s work, and a long and varied programme was thereafter proceeded with. Songs were

contributed by Miss Horne, Miss Auchterlonie, St Andrews, and Mr J. Venters, Miss Pirie, Dundee, acting as accompanist. Displays of ambulance work, semaphore signalling, and physical drill were given by the boys and an exhibition of Indian club swinging by Mr T. Watson, Freuchie. An interesting feature of the evening was the presentation of prizes to the Scouts for regular attendance and ambulance work. Mr T. Watson was made the recipient of a set of brushes in recognition of his training the boys in the physical drill. On the call of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was given to all who had contributed to the evening's enjoyment."

27th April 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – *"The cricket team have commenced practice for the season. The first match takes place at Auchtermuchty tomorrow (Saturday) on the occasion of the opening of the home team's new ground at Myres Castle."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Church** – *"The Rev. James Russell, B.D., the newly-ordained minister of the parish of Falkland, was formally introduced to the congregation Sunday last by the Rev. Dr McLean, Paisley Abbey, and Mr Russell occupied the pulpit himself in the evening. There was a large attendance at both diets."*

4th May 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Mr Randolph Cameron** – *"Mr Randolph Cameron, accountant in the British Linen Bank here, has secured an appointment in the Northern Crown Bank of Canada, Winnipeg."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – *"The first match of the season was played at Auchtermuchty on Saturday, which resulted in a win for Falkland."*

11th May 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – *"The members of the cricket team travelled to Kinross on Saturday, and after a slow game on the part of the home team, the result was a draw, viz. – Kinross, 69; Falkland, 33 for 5 wickets. Springfield XI pay their first visit to Scroggie tomorrow (Saturday)."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Communion** – “The half-yearly communion was celebrated in both Parish and United Free Churches on Sunday. Preparatory services were held in both churches on Friday, with the Rev. J.K. Russell and the Rev. Mr Wilson of Rathillet, occupied the respective pulpits. At the thanksgiving services on the Sunday evening, the Rev. A.O. Taylor, Glendevon, preached in the Parish Church, while the Rev. J.P. Berry, Ceres, officiated in the United Free Church.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The monthly medal competition took place on Saturday afternoon, and for the second time this season, Mr Alex. Anderson proved the successful competitor. After the first round, tea was tastefully served in the Clubhouse by Mrs Donaldson, assisted by Misses Cochrane and Falconer.”

25th May 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Victoria Day** – “Thursday was observed as Victoria Day in the burgh. On Wednesday, the day celebrated in Kirkcaldy, a number of pic-nic parties visited the town.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – “On Saturday last the cricket team travelled to Dunnikier, and the match resulted as follows: - Falkland, 79 (W. Traill, 30; R. Craig, 11); Dunnikier, 61 for 7 wickets. Freuchie XI are the visitors to-morrow (Saturday).”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The Morrison (scratch) medal was played for last Saturday afternoon, when George Robertson was the successful competitor.”

1st June 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Band of Hope** – “The usual treat given to the members of the Band of Hope in connection with the Parish Church, took place on Friday last in the Drill Hall. The Rev. J.K. Russell, B.D., presided, and after a sumptuous tea, a programme of songs and recitations were gone through. The children enjoyed the evening’s entertainment very much.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “Mr Randolph Cameron, accountant in the British Linen Bank, Falkland, sails for Canada tomorrow (Saturday) to take up his

duties under the Northern Crown Bank in Winnipeg. On Wednesday evening, the staff of the Bank and the members of "Ye Klub" presented Mr Cameron with a handsome suit and a fountain pen in token of their best wishes and also as a mark of respect and esteem in which Mr Cameron has been held during his stay in Falkland. The presentation was made by Mr James Donaldson, agent of the Bank, who said a few appropriate and well-chosen words, and handed over the gifts, expressing hope that Mr Cameron would have a very successful career in Canada. Mr Cameron, in returning thanks, said that he had enjoyed his stay in Falkland very much, and he would appreciate the gifts which would remind him of the friends he was leaving behind there. Mr Frederick Grainger from Haddington commenced his duties as Mr Cameron's successor on Wednesday."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket – Falkland v Freuchie** – "At Falkland on Saturday. The home eleven gained a victory by 41 runs. Scores: -

Freuchie

J. Jack	run out	6
A. Haig	lbw., b. J. Venters	2
E. Croal	b. J. Venters	1
J.W. Leishman	b. J. Venters	3
W. Stark	b. W. Venters	5
A. Spence	b. J. Venters	0
J. Biggs	b. W. Venters	0
A. Henderson	c. and b. W. Venters	0
G. Duncan	b. J. Venters	5
Rev. J.M. Richardson	not out	3
L. Rymer	run out	1
	Extras	9
	Total	35

Falkland

A. Grieve	b. Croal	5
W.M. Venters	b. Spence	3

<i>J. Venters</i>	<i>run out</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>T. Robertson</i>	<i>c. Haigh, b. Croal</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>P. Robertson</i>	<i>c. Jack, b. Croal</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>R. Craig</i>	<i>c. Stark, b. Croal</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>W. Downie</i>	<i>b. Croal</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>T.D. Hopkins</i>	<i>c. Stark, b. Croal</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>M.O. Malley</i>	<i>b. Croal</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>A. Fleming</i>	<i>not out</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>J. Middleton</i>	<i>b. Croal</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>Extras</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>76</i>

8th June 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – “The local XI are at home again to-morrow (Saturday) when they have Kinross-shire as visitors.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Police-Constable William Calder** – “Police-Constable William Calder, who has been stationed at Falkland for the past five years, has been promoted to be Acting Sergeant at Leven.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The monthly medal was won last Saturday afternoon by James Peggie. The Lathrisk cup tournament commences to-morrow (Saturday).”

22nd June 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Choir Drive** – “The choir of the United Free Church had their pic-nic on Saturday last. They drove to Perth, via Glenfarg, and spent a very enjoyable day in the Fair City.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – “Owing to the rain on Saturday afternoon, the match with Nairn’s XI was wired off. On Tuesday evening a game was played with Auchtermuchty, the result being a win for the home team. Scores: - Falkland, 69; Auchtermuchty, 30. Tomorrow being Falkland market, no fixture has been arranged.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The semi-finalists in the Lathrisk cup tournament are the Rev. J.K. Russell and Walter Peggie, George Robertson and Alex. Anderson.”

29th June 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Market** – “The annual market took place on Saturday in the Myres, but for the second successive occasion the weather proved unfavourable, so much so that the games and other competitions had to be indefinitely postponed. Dancing commenced at five o’clock, the music supplied by Falkland Brass Band, and from that time onwards the number of people on the green increased, and amusements were in full swing.”



Falkland Brass Band – date unclear (photo supplied by Bill Lee)

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – *The final of the Lathrisk Cup Tournament was played off on Saturday last by Walter Peggie and George Robertson, the latter being successful in winning the trophy.*”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket - Cupar v Falkland** – *“On Thursday evening last week, Cupar entertained an eleven from Falkland and an interesting game resulted in the defeat of the visitors by 44 runs. W.C. Coulter was in grand batting form and played a splendid innings, contributing a total of 57. For Falkland, W. Venters took four wickets for 19, and for Cupar, J.O. Ramsay had six for 3, and A. Wilkie, two for 1.”*

6th July 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Prizes** – *“On Sabbath, at the close of the afternoon service, the children attending the Parish Church Sunday School, who had regularly attended during the past year, were presented with book prizes.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Pic-nics** – *“The Sunday schools of the Parish and United Free Churches held their annual pic-nics on Saturday. The children were driven in carts as usual – the former to Wellfield and the latter to Pitlour. The weather conditions were very favourable during the afternoon, and with the accustomed games and races, a very happy and enjoyable afternoon was spent by both parties.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – *“Falkland travelled to Springfield on Saturday and met the F. & K. Asylum eleven, and a pleasant game ended in victory for Falkland.”*

13th July 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – *“On Tuesday evening, a match was played with Strathmiglo which resulted as follows: - Strathmiglo 93 for 5, Falkland 45 for 9. Falkland travel to Kennoway to-morrow (Saturday).”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Choir Drive** – “The choir of the Parish Church held their annual picnic on Saturday, when favoured with the best of weather conditions, they drove to Dollar, and paid a visit to Castle Campbell.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The monthly medal competition took place on Saturday last, and as a result the Rev. J.K. Russell is the custodian of the trophy for the month of July. Tea was nicely served during the afternoon by Mrs Venters and Misses Williamson, Sharpe and Martyn.”

27th July 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Accident** – “As Robert Laing, son of Mr Robert Laing, ploughman, Falkland Wood, was turning into the Strathmiglo Road from the Castle-shots Road, on his bicycle, he collided with a motor car belonging to Mr A.N. Thomson, manufacturer, Strathmiglo, and as a result, he sustained a fractured ankle. He was at once taken in the car to Dr Jack’s and after the injured limb had been attended to, he was removed to his home at Falkland Wood. No blame is attributed either to the driver of the car or to the boy.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket – Falkland v Dunfermline** – “Falkland had a win over a Dunfermline eleven at McKane Park last week. For the visitors, J. Baird gave a capital batting exhibition, hitting up 86 in a short space of time.”

3rd August 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Boy Scouts** – “A few of the 1st Falkland troop, along with a contingent of the Freuchie troop, have been spending this week under canvas at Kincaig, near Elie.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Mr Robert T. Thomson** – “Mr Robert T. Thomson, who was assistant to Mr Gavin in Falkland Estate Office, has secured an appointment under the Customs and Excise Commissioners. He is to take up duty in Dumfries.”

17th August 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Flower Show** – “The annual exhibition and competition of Falkland and District Horticultural Society was held in the grounds of House of

Falkland on Saturday. Rain fell heavily just before two o'clock, and although the weather improved during the afternoon, there were some heavy showers, and the presence of so much dampness on the ground was against a large turnout. Yet it was an interesting little show, the quality of the exhibits being really good. The prize-winners last year were again well to the fore, and seemed to be quite determined to maintain the reputation already earned. Particularly was this noticeable in the case of Mr John Steedman, the winner of the Jackson challenge bowl last year, for he won it this year again with a comfortable margin. The Mason cup also fell to the same exhibitor for the best collection of vegetables, and he won the walking-stick for most points in pot plants. Boy Scouts from Falkland, Freuchie, Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo were present and gave numerous displays. A programme of sports were also carried through by them. The boys were inspected by the Hon. R. Preston, Royal Artillery. Falkland Brass Band played selections during the afternoon."

24th August 1912

*Extract from The Fife News: **Co-operative Society** – "The half-yearly meeting of Falkland Equitable Co-operative Society was held in the Society's rooms on Saturday, when a very satisfactory report was submitted. The sales for the half-year exceed those of the corresponding period last year by the sum of £200; and the profit for the period surpasses any former year. The membership and the share capital also show a considerable increase."*

31st August 1912

*Extract from The Fife News: **A Costly Pint of Beer** – "Two respectable looking men appeared before Hon Sheriffs Bruce, Thomson and Col. Campbell at a J.P. Court held on Wednesday at Cupar on a charge of obtaining a pint of beer at the Bruce Arms Hotel, Falkland, on Sunday 18th August, by wilful and false representation. The complaint set forth that the accused represented that they were travellers from Strathmiglo by way of Freuchie. They did not go to Freuchie. Mr Jas. Clark, solicitor, Kirkcaldy, objected to the relevancy of the complaint on the ground that no wilful and false representation was made. The accused were respectable men. They had left Strathmiglo to visit a gardener in the direction of Freuchie, and they thought they were quite entitled to refreshment. The fact that they had only one drink showed that their mission was not one of drink. He submitted they were travellers under the 61st section of the Licensing Act. Hon. Sheriff Bruce, who presided – That is a rather thin objection. Colonel Campbell – They were travellers. Mr Clark – They were not travellers for the purpose of getting drink. Hon. Sheriff Bruce – I cannot entertain your objection. The accused then tendered a plea of guilty, and Mr Clark made a statement in palliation of the offence. Mr J.K. Tasker*

(the Fiscal) said the hotel-keepers in Falkland were a good deal troubled with people coming from Strathmiglo on Sundays. They did not supply Strathmiglo people. When the constable saw the accused he had good reason to believe that they were going for liquor. When they were challenged they said they had come by way of Freuchie, knowing perfectly well that they were not entitled to drink travelling by a direct journey from Strathmiglo. One of the accused said they had taken a Sunday walk and had just made a wrong statement. Hon. Sheriff Bruce – Moral, don't travel on Sunday. You will be fined 7s 6d each, with the alternative of three days' imprisonment."

14th September 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **School Board** – “Mr David Dryburgh, Freuchie Mill, has been appointed a member of the Board in room of the Rev. J.M. Richardson, who has removed to Dunfermline.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Fire** – “On Tuesday afternoon, an outbreak of fire occurred at the Bruce Arms Hotel, as a result of which a stack of hay belonging to Mr W.A. Mason was destroyed. The fire is said to have been caused by a little boy who had been playing with matches in the neighbourhood of the stack.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Unionist Meeting** – “Under the auspices of the Unionist Association, a political meeting was held in the Drill Hall on Monday evening, when an address on current politics was delivered by Mrs Pierson, London. Lady Ninian Crichton-Stuart, House of Falkland, occupied the chair.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The monthly medal competition took place on Saturday last when David Bonthron, Captain of the Club, proved to be the winner. During the afternoon, tea was served in the Clubhouse by Misses D. and J.M. Cochrane and Miss Falconer.”

21st September 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Whist** – “The first meeting of the Whist Club for this session was held in the Liquorstone Temperance Hotel on Tuesday evening, when there was a good turnout of the members and a pleasant game was played.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Excursion** – “The members of the Roman Catholic Church had their annual pic-nic on Saturday last, their destination this year being Kinghorn. The party drove to Falkland Road Station and journeyed to Kinghorn by train where a most enjoyable day was spent.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Burgh Rates** – “At a meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday of last week, the annual accounts were submitted and passed, and the assessments for the current year were fixed as follows: - Burgh general, 10d per £1; sewerage, 1s 5d per £1.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **What's in a Name** – “At Cupar Sheriff Court on Tuesday, an elderly man was placed in the dock and the Sheriff Clerk read a charge against “William Reid”, labourer, South Street, Falkland, of having on 26th July, maliciously knocked down stones and made holes in the dyke for a distance of 100 yards at Westfield Farm. Respondent strongly protested against being described ‘William Reid’. “That’s not my name, my Lord”, he replied. “I object to that”. The fiscal – “Well, what is your name? Respondent – “My name is William James Reid”. The Fiscal was granted leave to amend the complaint by putting in the word “James”, and a plea of not guilty being rendered, the case was continued till 30th for proof.”

28th September 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lecture** – “A meeting of the Falkland Popular Lecture Committee was held on Thursday last week, when a provisional programme was submitted. The course promises to be quite up to the standard of former years.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Shops Act** – “At a conference of the shopkeepers with the Provost and Magistrates on Friday, with reference to fixing a suitable day for the weekly half-holiday under the Act, it was unanimously agreed to close on the afternoon of Thursday of each week from October to May inclusive. As the Burgh is a holiday resort, the Town Council granted an order exempting the shopkeepers from the obligations under the Act for the four months of June, July, August and September.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “A very interesting and enjoyable mixed foursome competition was held on Saturday afternoon, when there was a good turnout of ladies and gentlemen. During the past season, several of the ladies kindly

provided tea at the competitions for the Monthly Medal, and Saturday's game was a slight return for their kindness. The Captain, Treasurer, and Secretary had charge of the refreshments, and during the afternoon they served tea to those taking part in the foursomes. Teams were selected from the players by the Captain (Mr D. Bonthrone) and the Treasurer (Mr A. Anderson) and the competition resulted as follows: -

Captain		Treasurer	
Miss H. Hunter and Rev. C. Fraser	1	Miss D. Cochrane and Dr Donaldson	0
Mrs Methven and W. Peggie	0	Mrs Bonthrone and J. Methven	1
Mrs Fraser and Rev. J.K. Russell	1	Miss P. Cochrane and G. Robertson	0
Miss Anderson and F. Grainger	0	Miss Falconer and J. Venters	1
Mrs Hopkins and T. Williamson	1	Mrs Venters and T.D. Hopkins	0
	3		2

5th October 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, M.P.** – “Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, M.P., left House of Falkland on Sunday for Cardiff, to spend the week among his constituents, addressing several meetings.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Missionary Address** – “In the United Free Church on Sunday afternoon, Miss Douglas, M.A., of Emgwali, Cape Colony, and superintendent of the Girls' School there, gave a very interesting account of the work which is being done among the Kaffir girls by the Missionaries of the U.F. Church.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Y.M.C.A.** – “The annual meeting of the Y.M.C.A. was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening – Mr Walter Peggie, president, in the chair. The Treasurer submitted a satisfactory report, and office-bearers were appointed for the ensuing session, which commences on Sunday 13th inst., at 10 o'clock.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Bible Society** – “Under the auspices of the Falkland and Freuchie Auxiliary of the National Bible Society of Scotland, the annual service was held in the Parish Church on Sunday evening. Mr Graham Brown, one of the

Directors of the Society, delivered an address, giving an account of the work which is being carried on, and especially of the position in China.”

19th October 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Y.M.C.A.** – “*The opening meeting of the Association was held in the Town Hall on Sunday morning at ten o’clock, when there was a good turnout. The address was by Mr Walter Peggie, the President, on “The Aims and Work of the Y.M.C.A.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death of Crimean Veteran** – “*Private John Burt, late of the 79th Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders, was buried in Falkland Cemetery on Thursday last week. Deceased enlisted in 1854, and was altogether over 20 years in the Army. He served in the Crimea, and was present at the battle of Alma and the siege of Sebastopol. Afterwards he took part in the operations to quell the Indian Mutiny, being present at the battle of Bareilly and the relief of Lucknow, as well as doing service in different parts of India. He had a small pension, and has lived for the last few years of his life at Dunshalt, where he died on Tuesday last week. At the graveside was an old comrade from Cupar – Private Martin – to pay his last tribute of respect.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Social Meeting** – “*As is customary, the Young Women’s Guild, in connection with the Parish Church here, commenced their session by holding a social meeting in the Public School on the evening of Friday last. The Rev. J.K. Russell, B.D., presided over a large attendance. Tea was served by ladies of the Guild, and thereafter the Chairman introduced the speaker of the evening, Miss Rettie, one of the Guild deputies, who, in a very interesting and instructive address, gave an account of the various departments of work undertaken by the Guild. During the evening solos were contributed by Miss Dun, Miss A. Forsyth and Messrs G. Spence, J. Venters, and J. Peggie. Several anthems were rendered by the choir. A very pleasant evening was brought to a close by the Chairman proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Rettie for her address, to the Ladies’ Committee for providing the tea, and to all who had sustained the programme. The call was heartily responded to.”*

26th October 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Harvest Thanksgiving** – “*A special thanksgiving service was held in the Parish Church on Sunday afternoon.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Dance** – “The “Harvest Home” was celebrated by the employees on the farm of Westfield and Kilgour by a dance in the Drill Hall on the Friday evening. The dance was well attended.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Band Meeting** – “The annual meeting of the Falkland Brass Band was held on Thursday evening last week, when it was reported that there was a balance of £11 at credit of the Band. During the evening, Mr D. Briggs, the conductor, was presented with a baton in recognition of the appreciation of the members of the Band Committee of Management. It was also arranged to hold a concert in aid of the funds.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Municipal Election Meeting** – “On Wednesday evening, a meeting of the electors of the Burgh was held in the Town Hall when the retiring members of the Town Council, Provost Jackson, Councillors Angus, Brown, Ness and Robertson, gave an account of their stewardship. Bailie Drysdale, who presided, called for questions, as a result of which there was a heated discussion on the subject of the burgh boundaries. All five retiring Councillors were thereafter nominated for re-election, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, on the call of Provost Jackson.

2nd November 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Municipal Election** – “The five retiring Councillors, Provost Jackson, Councillors Angus, Brown, Ness and Robertson are the only gentlemen nominated for election as Councillors, so there will be no poll.”

16th November 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “At the meeting of the Town Council held on Friday, Mr Charles Jackson jnr., was unanimously re-elected Provost of the Burgh. The annual “kirkin” took place on Sunday, when the Town Council and officials attended both the Parish and U.F. Churches.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Funeral of Mr Meiklejohn** – “The remains of Mr Wm. Meiklejohn, J.P., were interred in Falkland Cemetery on Saturday in presence of a large gathering of relatives and public men. Amongst those who sent letters of

condolence were the Prime Minister and Sir James Scott. The pall-bearers were Mr R. Meiklejohn, Mr Thomson, Mr Taylor, Mr Skinner, Mr Ewan, Mr Allan and Mr Dick. The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr Aitken, Freuchie.”

23rd November 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Y.M.C.A.** – “On Sunday morning, a deputation from Leslie Association paid a visit to Falkland, Messrs Jarvis and Stark being the representatives. Mr Jarvis read an essay on “John the Baptist” and an interesting discussion followed.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Political Meeting** – “A meeting under the auspices of the Liberal Association was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening – Mr Walter Peggie, president, in the chair. Addresses on Home Rule for Ireland were given by Messrs Dick, Semple and Dack.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Inspector of Poor** – “Mr George S. Hardie, Newton of Falkland, has commenced his duties as Inspector of Poor and Registrar of the parish in succession to Mr Lawrence Reid, who has resigned after a period of honourable and faithful service of over 30 years.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Accident** – “A very serious mishap befell a young man on Sunday afternoon while on his way to Strathmiglo. He was cycling along the Kirkcaldy road, and on reaching the bottom of the Purin Den, the front forks of his machine snapped, and he was thrown on his face. Although severely stunned by the fall, he was walking towards Falkland when he was overtaken by some young men who escorted him to Dr Jack’s, where he was found to be suffering from slight concussion. After the bruises he had sustained were attended to, he was driven to his lodgings in Strathmiglo.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Banquet** – “Provost Jackson, who has again been elected to the Civic Chair, entertained the members of the Town Council and officials and a few friends in the Commercial Hotel on Saturday evening. An excellent supper was provided by Mr John Angus, and thereafter a lengthy toast-list was gone through, various members of the company contributing to the musical part of the programme. As usual, a most enjoyable evening was spent, and after a toast to the Provost had been responded to in a right royal manner, the meeting was brought to a close by the singing of “Auld Lang Syne.”

30th November 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Exchange of Pulpits** – “On Sunday forenoon, the ministers of the Parish and United Free Churches exchanged pulpits. The Rev. J.K. Russell, B.D., preached in the latter church, and the Rev. J.H. Morrison, M.A., in the former.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Beer in an Ice Cream Shop** – “At a J.P. Court at Cupar on Wednesday – Hon. Sheriff Thomson presiding – Raphil Tarabella, fish and ice-cream restaurateur, the Palace Restaurant, Falkland, was charged with contravening the Licensing Act on the night of the 15th November by permitting the consumption of excisable liquor on his premises. A plea of guilty was tendered, and Mr J.L. Anderson, solicitor, Cupar, on behalf of the accused stated that the section under which the prosecution was brought was very far-reaching. It would probably surprise them to know that after ten o'clock at a Hydro, if they sought to get a little “comfort” they would be contravening the law. In this case Tarabella had had a drink with a gamekeeper in the hotel opposite his premises before ten o'clock, and the gamekeeper was about to return the compliment when Tarabella saw someone enter his shop, and he went out. After ten o'clock the gamekeeper and another man entered the fish restaurant with two bottles of beer. They waited until the shop was cleared of customers before drawing the corks. The police constable saw the bottles on the shelf behind the counter. Mr J.K. Taker, the fiscal, said the policeman was attracted to the restaurant by a loud noise, and one of the men, when asked for a statement later, said he was so drunk that he did not remember anything about it. He might mention that the beer was put out in three tumblers. Tarabella got a share of it. Mr Anderson said that was not a case of surreptitious drinking. The bottles were open to the view of the police. Hon. Sheriff Thomson thought the ends of justice would be met by a fine of 10s, or three days. He cautioned Tarabella, however, to be more careful in future in allowing the consumption of liquor on his premises.”

7th December 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Literary Society** – “The subject under discussion at the meeting of the society held on Monday evening was “The Situation in the Near East”. The Rev. J.H. Morrison and Mr Andrew Venters were the leaders, and a general discussion followed.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Curling** – “The members of the local club have enjoyed a spell at the “roarin” game on both the artificial and deep water ponds here. None of the club trophies have been competed for, but several keenly contested games have been played.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Y.M.C.A.** – “At the morning meeting on Sunday last, the Rev. J.K. Russell delivered an interesting and instructing address on “Nature’s Voices”. On Monday evening at a general meeting of the Association, it was decided to form a recreation club under the auspices of the Association, and the first branch to be started is a football club. Mr Tom Schofield was appointed captain and Mr Wm. Burgon jnr., secretary and treasurer.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Concert** – “In aid of the funds of the Falkland Brass Band, a concert was held in the Drill Hall on the evening of Friday last – Mr James Donaldson presiding. The programme submitted was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. It was worthy of a larger turnout. The artistes were, Miss C. Waugh, Mrs C.A. Baird and Messrs Tawse and Baird, Edinburgh; Mr George Gardners and Mr D. Briggs jnr. Miss Tawse, Edinburgh, acted very efficiently as accompanist. Two selections and a quartet were rendered by members of the band. A vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the evening’s enjoyment was proposed by the Chairman, and heartily responded to, and a similar compliment was paid to Mr Donaldson for organising the concert, on the call of Provost Jackson.”

14th December 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Council** – “At the statutory meeting of the Parish Council on Monday evening, Mr J.L. Lumsden, Eden Valley House, Freuchie, was re-elected chairman.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Y.M.C.A.** – “A special meeting of the Association was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening to meet Mr B.D. Kaye, travelling secretary of the Scottish National Council. Mr Kaye delivered an interesting and inspiring address on the work carried on by the Association, and at the close a general discussion took place as to the various means which might be used for the welfare of the youth of the town.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lecture** – “The second of the course of lectures was given in the Drill Hall on the evening of Saturday last – Provost Jackson in the chair.

The lecturer, Mr Edgar Bellingham, London, treated his subjects in a very interesting and instructive manner, and brought vividly before his audience, by means of beautiful lime-light views, the habits, customs and surroundings of "The People of the Desert". Mr Bellingham's lecture sparkled with humour. The usual votes of thanks brought the proceedings to an end."

21st December 1912

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Whist Match** – *"On Wednesday evening last week, the Whist Club engaged in a match with Auchtermuchty Club, the result being a victory for the latter."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Literary Society** – *"The subject before the Society at the meeting on Monday evening was "Fife Lore", on which an excellent essay was read by Mr Alexander Anderson, town clerk. Mrs Robertson led off the discussion in a very interesting manner, and the Rev. J.K. Russell and Mr James Donaldson also took part."*

31st December 1912

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **The Old Mill Dam at Drumdreel** – *"A beautiful spot on Falkland Estate, and lying near the foot of the West Lomond. One of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart's keepers, clad in Stuart tartan, is seen in the foreground."*



The Old Mill Dam at Drumdree