

A Guide to the History and Culture of

East Perthshire

through the Archive

CULTURE
PERTH & KINROSS



Foreword

I am delighted to write this foreword to the Friends' latest publication, a survey and guide to sources of information on every aspect of life in East Perthshire as encapsulated in the collections of Perth & Kinross Archive.

In it you will find a comprehensive overview of the huge range of collections relevant to this topic including history, genealogy, industry, settlements, estates and anything else you may be interested in. Some of the material is "official", like local authority documents, police and Justice of the Peace records. However, there is also guidance on exploring community collections which contain records created local people, families, businesses and organisations.

There are also many illustrations of documents of different types with informative notes beside each one. These are, of course, merely a glimpse of the rich and varied sources which exist and can be explored with the help of the staff of the Archive.

A feature which we hope will be seen as innovative, and was the brainchild of the authors, is a specimen analysis of a document which is designed to show you what you can learn from it whether you are a family, house or local historian, or just interested in maximising the information that a document can provide.

This is the third of a series of area-based guides designed to make finding out about the past of the different parts of Perth and Kinross easier. I have no doubt that this publication will become indispensable to anyone seeking to explore the history of East Perthshire and wish to record my thanks to its authors, Jackie Hay and Margaret Smith, for the immense amount of work they have done to prepare it for publication.

Councillor Alan Grant

Chairman

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive October 2017

A Guide to the History and Culture of East Perthshire through Perth & Kinross Archive

Authors: Jackie Hay and Margaret Smith, Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive

Editor: Ishbel MacKinnon, Archivist, Perth & Kinross Archive

Published: October 2017

Contents

History of Perth & Kinross Archive	4
Introduction	5
How you can use the records	6
Local authority records	8
Other official records	14
Community collections	18
Illustrations from the collections	34
What can the documents tell us?	44

Cover illustrations: Papers relating to Cronan estate, Coupar Angus, 1558–1799, with the seal of Coupar Angus Abbey. Ref: MS167/1

Plan of the estate of Kirkhill, Meigle, 1752. Ref: CC1/P327

Paper bag, Coffee Rooms, Blairgowrie, undated. Ref: MS214/191



Piece-time at the threshing, Whitefield Farm, Cargill parish, 1914-1919

Ref: MS245/1/1

History of Perth & Kinross Archive

Perth & Kinross Archive dates its foundation back to the aftermath of local government reorganisation in 1975. The old counties and burghs were replaced by a two tier system comprising district and regional councils. This meant that records had to be divided among the new authorities, including those that the defunct councils had inherited from their predecessors. Regions dealt with the big ticket departments (roads, education, social work, etc) and districts were given a wide range of responsibilities (environmental health, housing, libraries and museums, etc).

The Scottish Record Office had surveyed local authority records in 1970, suggesting what should be kept. The new Perth & Kinross District Council started moving these to the Sandeman Library from the various town council offices around Perth & Kinross. The regional archivist in Dundee started gathering in most of the old Perth & Kinross County Council records. It was fairly soon realised that the main interest in the earlier county records would be from the residents of Perth & Kinross, so an agreement was made to relocate school board, parish council, turnpike trust and a myriad of other series to the Sandeman Library in Perth.

Library staff, along with some temporary helpers had been managing all this, but in 1978, on the advice of the Scottish Record Office, it was decided to appoint a full-time, permanent archivist. Through the 1980s and 1990s the Perth & Kinross District Archive grew by accepting further official records and increasingly gifts and deposits of private records from local businesses, associations, trade incorporations, trade unions, families,

estates and individuals. The Manpower Services Commission was a source of temporary project help with cataloguing and organising this influx of material. By the early 1990s the present complement of three staff: archivist, assistant archivist and archives assistant was in place. The new AK Bell Library opened in 1994 and within it was a purpose built archive — a great improvement on the adapted premises occupied in the basement of the Sandeman Library. Shortly thereafter local government was again reorganised creating unitary authorities. This led to a further influx of records from Tayside Regional Council. The service changed its name to Perth & Kinross Council Archive in 1996 and in 2017 became Perth & Kinross Archive. Since April 2016 it has been managed by a new charitable trust called Culture Perth & Kinross.

The Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive was inaugurated in 2001 and has been a great support to the staff. Thousands of volunteer hours have been forthcoming and projects like the one producing this booklet have been very welcome. I add my thanks to Jackie Hay and Margaret Smith for their splendid efforts in preparing this publication.

We are also very grateful to Dr David Robertson for his generous financial support towards the publication costs.

Ishbel McKinnon
Senior Officer, Archives and Local & Family History

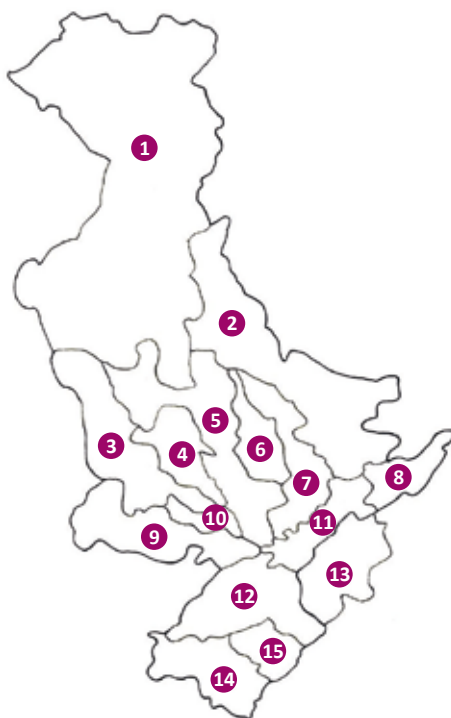
Introduction

This guide is intended as an introduction to the wide variety of records held by Perth & Kinross Archive that relate to East Perthshire, reflecting the area covered by the former Eastern District Council. Parish boundaries changed over time and the diagram is based on the 1974/1975 Valuation Rolls, with the addition of Kettins parish, which was transferred from Angus in 1975.

The records cared for by Perth & Kinross Archive are divided into two sections. The **official records** are those of the justices of the peace, constabulary and local authority (town, burgh, district and county councils, as well as commissioners). There are also the **community collections**, which are arranged into themes: people, family & community; unions, guilds & associations; estates & lands; religion & philanthropy; politics & state; education, leisure & recreation and business & industry.

This booklet can only offer a flavour of the records available in the Archive. We frequently receive new additions to our collections, so if you don't see what you are looking for here, please ask us, or take a look at our website at www.culturepk.org.uk/archive-local-family-history where you will find a link to our online catalogue.

Please note that for legal or confidentiality reasons or because of the fragility of individual items, it may be that some records are not available to view. We will be happy to advise.



- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Kirkmichael | 10. Lethendy |
| 2. Alyth | 11. Coupar Angus |
| 3. Clunie | 12. Cargill |
| 4. Kinloch | 13. Kettins |
| 5. Blairgowrie | 14. St Martins |
| 6. Rattray | 15. Collace |
| 7. Bendochy | |
| 8. Meigle | |
| 9. Caputh | |

East Perthshire parishes based on the 1974-1975 Valuation Rolls

How You Can Use the Records

Records held by Perth & Kinross Archive contain a wealth of information for those researching their family, house or the local history and culture of East Perthshire, whether it be in the local authority collections, or in the wide-ranging community collections.

Genealogical information can be found in records containing lists of individuals: the most comprehensive official records relate to tax assessment, and electoral records and school records all contain information about individuals.

County cess & valuation rolls were compiled to facilitate the collection of cess (land tax) prior to 1855, and often include the names of landowners.

Valuation rolls have been compiled annually since 1855, naming the property, the owner, the tenant or occupier and a rental value.

Electoral registers give the names and addresses of registered voters, and Perthshire Freeholders records list those eligible to vote for county representation prior to 1832.

The most useful **school records** for family historians are admission registers, which often detail name, date of birth, address and dates of admission and leaving.

Parochial records cover the administration of poor relief, by parish.

Legal records can often provide information about legal transactions, licences to sell alcohol, marital or financial disputes or criminal activities.

Police records can range from descriptions of prisoners to employment details of policemen.

The **community collections** include business and personal papers which can contain details of named individuals, from farm tenants, domestic servants and other employees, to the members of clubs and guilds. Some family collections include journals and reminiscences, and domestic accounts which give us an insight into how people lived.

House historians aim to build a picture of a particular house or property through time, and they might begin with the **abridgements of sasines**, which are the official record of the transfer of ownership of heritable property, ie lands or buildings.

The **cess and valuation rolls**, as mentioned above, often name landowners, tenants or occupiers.

Dean of Guild records include planning application plans of new buildings, alterations and additions for properties within the burghs of Alyth and Blairgowrie & Rattray. The Archive holds a large collection of plans and maps of various dates.

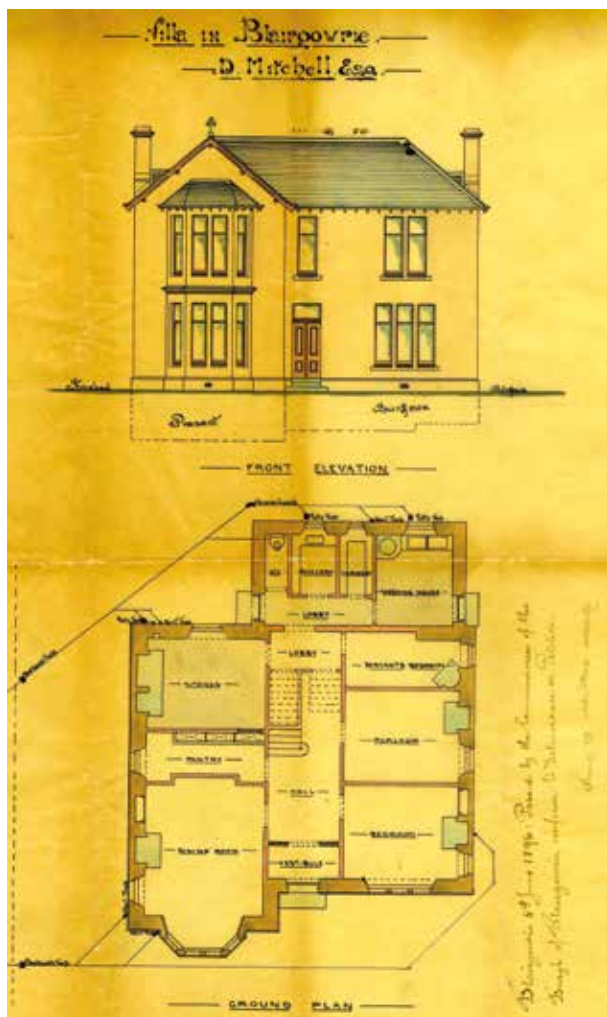
The **community collections** can sometimes give surprising glimpses into the history of a particular property, and might include drawings, builders' estimates, invoices and photographs in estate and household records.

Local history comes to life in the Archive collections.

The **local authority records** include minutes, correspondence and plans relating to all aspects of life in East Perthshire, covering housing, education, transport, health, sanitation and more.

Justices of the peace records and **police records** can help with your research into vagrancy, militia recruitment, licensing of alehouses and theatres.

The **community collections** can be used to show the impact of transport links, tourism and the leisure industry in East Perthshire, while collections relating to a particular parish, town or village can shed light on local businesses, events and people.



From this extract of a house plan, we can see a number of rooms which might not all feature on new-builds today, such as the walk-in pantry and larder, a scullery and washing-house and a bedroom for the servant[s]. Documents such as this can often include details of the architect, or of adjacent properties—this one was to be built next door to Peach Cottage in Burnhead Road, Blairgowrie.

*Front elevation and plan of ground floor of a proposed villa, Burnhead Road, Blairgowrie for David Mitchell, Esq, 1896
Ref: BR/DGP/50a*

Local Authority Records

CC1 Perth County Council and Perth & Kinross County Council, 1650-1975

Perth County Council was established in 1889, taking over powers from the Commissioners of Supply, County Road Trust, and other local authorities. Perth and Kinross Joint County Council was created in 1929. At this time, district committees, standing joint committees, commissioners of supply, parish councils, education authorities and other bodies were abolished, and all or most of their functions were transferred to Perth & Kinross Joint County Council, including education, poor law and public health, as well as roads and policing. Perth & Kinross Joint County Council was abolished in 1975 and its powers transferred to Tayside Regional Council and Perth & Kinross District Council.

Ref no	Description	Dates
CC1 /1	Perthshire commissioners of supply minutes, constabulary committee/standing joint committee minutes, prison board records, public buildings committee, finance and valuations committees, local authority (diseases of animals) minutes, valuation rolls and cess books, commissioners of supply abstracts of accounts, assessed taxes appeals, cash books and adjusted lists of Perthshire commissioners of supply	1650-1930
/2	Perthshire highway authorities records including Perthshire highway commissioners and trustees, turnpike roads trustees minutes	1765-1910
/3	Records of Perth County Clerk and Perth & Kinross County Clerk's Department, including county council minutes, Perthshire standing joint committee minutes, Perth County Clerk and county council abstracts of accounts (incomplete), minutes of the committee of JP matters, letter books, official guides, tenders and national registration	1852-1975
/4	Treasurer's department, records for Perth County and Perth & Kinross County, including abstract of accounts, registers of decontrolled dwelling houses, and county fund papers	1890-1975
/5	Perth & Kinross County education records including education authority/education committee minutes, educational trust records, school log books and admission registers, school board/management committee/ local education sub-committee minutes	1841-1986
/6	County of Perth district committees records	1879-1932
/7	County of Perth civil parishes records: parochial boards and parish councils	1845-1930
/8	Perth & Kinross County assessor: valuation rolls for the counties of Perth & Kinross	1855-1986

Ref no	Description	Dates
CC1 /9	Medical officer of health journals and annual reports including papers of Perth County and Perth & Kinross County sanitary inspector and director of environmental health plus county school health service annual reports	1891-1973
/10	Perth & Kinross County departmental reports including county road surveyor, trading standards, weights & measures, County Constabulary Chief Constable reports	1931-1975
/11	Lunacy and hospital administrative records	1858-1949
/12	Perthshire Lieutenancy records	1801-1925
/13	Perthshire Freeholders minutes	1724-1831
/14	Licensing records including County of Perth Justices of the Peace quarter-session minute books	1770-1977
/15	Committees and boards records including Perthshire rents tribunal records, joint police committee records, joint road safety committee records, joint fire committee and joint civil defence committee records, district steering committee and Tay River purification board minutes	1879-1975
/16	Inventories and indexes to council records	1934,1970
/17	Perth County housing department lists and registers	1924-1975
/18	Perth & Kinross County planning department, including registers and indexes of applicants and locations	1944-1975
/20	Clerks of Works notes and sketchbooks relating to public buildings, rest centres and housing developments throughout Perthshire	1926-1950
/21	Cemetery records, including burial register for St Martins	1902-1941
/p	Maps and plans relating to utilities, buildings, feus, districts and development	1703-1975

25th, June.

Went to Coupar-Angus to see Dr E. Lowe regarding a case of suspected scarlet fever which he had written to me about. Visited Meikleour and found that the School attendance was excellent there had been no more cases of suspicious illness amongst the children. Visited Spittalfield and inspected the Bakehouse which was in excellent order. The village was in its usual trim condition.

*Extract from Perth County Council Medical Officer of Health journal for Eastern District, 1904
Ref: CC1/9/1/4*

EDC Eastern District Council, 1929-1975

The Eastern District Council was formed in 1929 and this collection includes some earlier records for the area. EDC was responsible for the letting of houses, upkeep of cemeteries and, until 1948, the poor law, as well as certain functions such as scavenging or water supply, financed by additional rates. EDC covered the Perthshire parishes of Alyth, Bendochy, Blairgowrie, Caputh, Cargill, Clunie, Collace, Coupar Angus, Kinloch, Kirkmichael, Lethendy, Meigle, Rattray and St Martins. It was abolished in 1975 and replaced by Tayside Regional Council and Perth & Kinross District Council.

Ref no	Description	Dates
EDC /1	District Clerk's office. Includes minute books, financial records and correspondence	1930-1975
/3	Minute books of Strathmore Hospital and Blairgowrie Cottage Homes	1902-1975
/4	Minutes and correspondence relating to youth workers and local youth panels	1942-1948
/5	Papers concerning the water supplies to Kirkmichael and Meikleour	1892-1963



Extract of James Stobie's 1783 map of Perthshire. This shows how the River Isla marks part of the parish boundary of Meigle; the main road through the parish is shown as the "road to Aberdeen". It is interesting to compare this map with present-day Ordnance Survey maps, particularly areas of woodland which are still in existence today.

Ref: James Stobie's map of Perthshire, 1783.

AL – Burgh of Alyth, 1665-1975

Alyth was created a burgh of barony in April 1488 by King James III in favour of Alexander Lindsay, Master of Crawford. A burgh of barony was presided over by the feudal superior, Alexander Lindsay and his successors, who had authority from the Crown to administer justice and to hold barony courts dealing with crimes and matters of good neighbourhood up to 1747 and thereafter solely matters of good neighbourhood. Alyth was created a police burgh in 1875. Burgh administration was carried out by police commissioners who were responsible for the cleansing, lighting, policing and public health of the burgh. The police commissioners were replaced by Alyth Town Council in January 1901, when its responsibilities were extended to include housing, buildings and burials. Alyth Town Council was abolished in 1975 and its powers were assumed by Tayside Regional Council and Perth & Kinross District Council.

Ref no	Description	Dates
AL /1	Town Clerk's department, including police commissioners' and town council minutes, police court register, Dean of Guild court registers, town council cash books	1875-1975
/2	Town Chamberlain's department, including abstracts of accounts, assessment rolls and account books	1930-1963
/3	Burgh letter books and correspondence	1924-1975
/4	Alyth Sanitary Inspector annual reports	1965-1967
/DGP	Dean of Guild papers	1901-1975
/files	Various papers relating to housing, street lighting and footpaths, Alyth War Memorial, wartime entertainment committee notebook 1944	1894-1975
/misc	Town Council miscellaneous	1926-1974
/papers	Records inherited by the town council, including dispositions, charters and other documents relating to land and property in and around Alyth	1665-1975

BR Burgh of Blairgowrie & Rattray, 1810-1975

The Burghs of Rattray and Blairgowrie in Perthshire united in 1929 and the new burgh was administered by Blairgowrie and Rattray Town Council. The Town Council was abolished in 1975 and its powers were assumed by Tayside Regional Council and Perth & Kinross District Council. (See also MS212 Blairgowrie Barony Council.)

Ref no	Description	Dates
BR /1	Town Clerk's department, comprising records created by clerks of the Barony Town Council, Rattray Police Commissioners and Rattray Town Council, Blairgowrie Police Commissioners, Blairgowrie Town Council, and Blairgowrie & Rattray Town Council. Includes council and committee minutes, letter books, cash books, and papers relating to Dean of Guild, Burgh Court, cemeteries, heraldry and tourist board	1810-1975
/2	Burgh Chamberlain's department, including abstracts of accounts, loans and grants registers, wages allocation books and ledgers	1920-1975
/3	Burgh Surveyor's office, comprising letter books, journals of work, daily complaints books, evacuee records and miscellaneous registers	1883-1953
/4	Burgh housing registers	1924-1974
/DGP	Dean of Guild papers	1893-1975
/plans	Plans relating to Blairgowrie public hall, streets, paving and footpaths, feus, improvements, sewage, water works and electrical supply, burgh boundaries and burgh development	1822-1970

Opposite: Perthshire Commissioners of Supply, extract from cess roll relating to Cowpar Parish, (Coupar Angus), 1667

Ref: CC1/1/8/2

The Commissioners of Supply cess roll is an assessment of land tax for all the parishes in Perthshire. This extract shows Cowpar parish, and mentions feus at Bendochy, (Cronan), Keithick, Balgershoe. The last two lines read:

*"Henrie blair and James hendersonne each a half of West Denheads lands both being 0235.00"
(Pounds Scots. At this time, the conversion rate was 12:1, making £12 Scots the equivalent of £1 Sterling.)*

CA Burgh of Coupar Angus, 1873-1975

Coupar Angus in Perthshire was created a free burgh of barony by James VI in 1607 in favour of James Elphinstone, Lord Coupar (d 1669), who as superior had power to choose bailies, a treasurer, a dean of guild etc. No records of this period of the burgh's existence survive. It was created a police burgh in 1852 and in 1871 police commissioners were appointed to govern the burgh's affairs with responsibility for the cleansing, lighting, policing and public health of the burgh. The police commissioners were replaced in 1901 by Coupar Angus Town Council which was abolished in 1975. Its powers were assumed by Tayside Regional Council and Perth & Kinross District Council until these in turn were replaced by Perth & Kinross Council in 1996.

Ref no	Description	Dates
CA /1	Town Clerk's department, police commission and town council minute books; Temperance Society minute book; Burgh Collector's book; register of evacuation accommodation, 1939; Coupar Angus official guide	1873-1975
/2	Chamberlain's department including abstracts of accounts, assessment roll, cash book, register of bonds, register of loans	1894-1975
/3	Miscellanea including police court register of complaints, burgh surveyor's letter books, Dean of Guild court registers	1943-1975
/plans	Plans relating to housing, drainage, street lighting, Larghan Victory Park, Strathmore Bowling Club	1886-1974

Coupar Angus

Baudorfe	0620 ⁰⁰
mor for coupar's foss	0039 ⁰⁰
Ermevans	0633 ⁰⁶
Coupar's foss	0029 ⁰⁰
Kotfirk	0690 ¹³
Coupar foss	0036 ¹³
Balgustide	0276 ¹³
Coupar foss	0076 ¹³
Yoursis Blair and James Henderson's part a half of West Dundee's Land to be sold	0235 ⁰⁰

Other Official Records

Abridgements of Sasines, Perthshire 1781-1986

Volumes of abridgements of sasines can be searched in the Archive. These are extracts of records which detail the transfer of ownership of heritable property (lands and buildings). They often include details such as occupations and family relationships and can be very useful if you are trying to trace the history of a property or a family.

JP20 County of Perth Justices of the Peace, 1708-2004

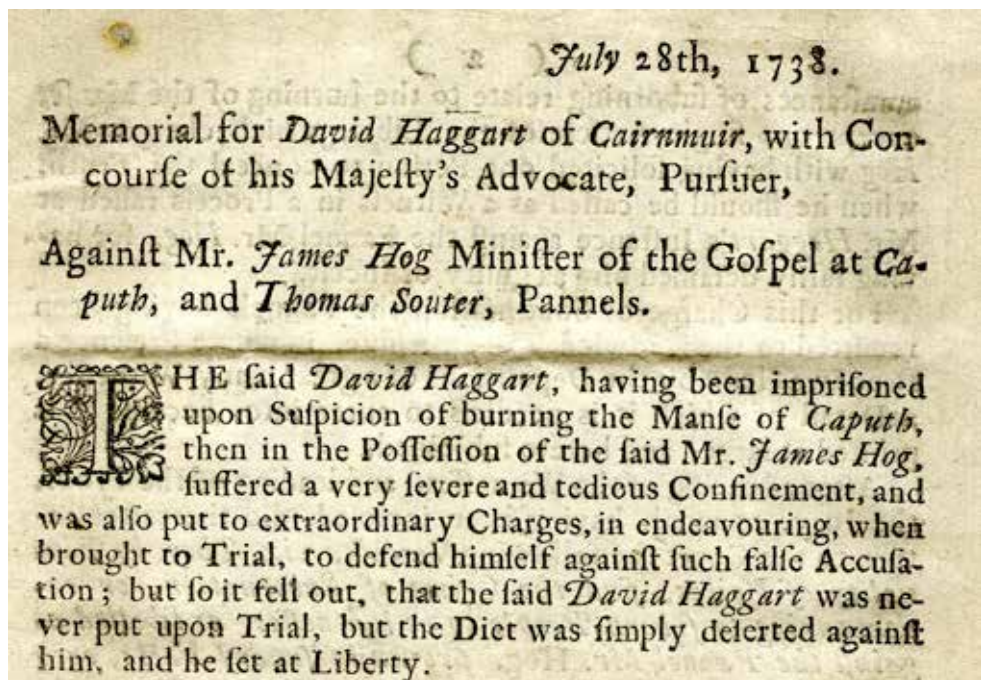
The justices of the peace first came into existence in Scotland in 1587, but did not become an important administrative force until the eighteenth century. By this time, they had both civil and criminal jurisdiction. JPs' criminal jurisdiction was mostly confined to the preservation of the public peace, while criminal matters were dealt with by the sheriff courts. Civil jurisdiction included the Small Debt Court (1795-1825) and the power to regulate wages and conditions of servants and rural workers. JPs had oversight of weights & measures, roads, carting regulations, militia recruitment, administration of the poor law and vagrancy, licensing of alehouses, theatres and friendly societies. In 1889, many JP administrative powers were transferred to the county council, with the exception of licensing and judicial powers. JP courts were abolished in 1975.

Ref no	Description	Dates
JP20 /1	Commission of the peace, registers of oaths of allegiance and judicial oaths, supplemental list of JP	1869-2004
/2	Minute books, quarter sessions, decreets, impressments: army and navy	1708-1856
/4	Court books (incomplete)	1864-1959
/6	Process papers	1729-1864

wickedly and feloniously steal
and theftuously away take
A Linen shirt and
A Guernsey frock

Below: Extract from legal papers relating to a libel case between David Haggart of Cairnmuir and James Hog, Minister of Caputh, and Thomas Souter concerning the burning down of the manse at Caputh in 1738. Many local people were called to give witness and the document gives their names and places of residence.

Ref: MS14/67



Opposite: The archive collections contain many legal documents, such as this case of Ann Halley, Ann McPherson and Elspeth Cameron, accused of theft from a washing or bleaching green at Over Balcairn in the parishes of Kinloch & Lethendy. The women were charged that they did "...wickedly and feloniously Steal and Theftuously away take A Linen Shirt and A Guernsey frock ..." also a cotton shift, a morning cap, a night cap, a woollen shirt, half a yard of cotton cloth, property of Peter Stewart, farm servant to John Ferguson, innkeeper at Marlee. The separate thefts of a duck and a hen were also taken into account. One document informs us of connections between named individuals, some occupations, and gives us a peek into the wardrobe of a Victorian farm servant and his wife.

Perth Burgh legal documents, 1847

Ref: PE51/Bundle 481

POL1 Perthshire Constabulary and Perth & Kinross County Constabulary, 1842-1975

Perthshire Constabulary had been established by 1842, administered by a police committee made up of Commissioners of Supply, the Lord Lieutenant and the Sheriff of the county. In 1889 their powers were transferred to Standing Joint Committees and in 1929 the supervision of county constabularies was placed under the police committees of county councils. At this time, Perthshire Constabulary was amalgamated with the police force of Kinross-shire to form Perthshire & Kinross-shire Constabulary and this, in turn, amalgamated with Perth City Police in 1964 to form Perth & Kinross Constabulary. Tayside Police was active from 1975 until 2013, when all police forces merged to form Police Scotland.

Ref no	Description	Dates
POL1 /1-9	Administrative records , including: police committee minutes (1855-1922); general order books (1842-1969); letter books and memoranda (1849-1975); miscellanea (1862-1866)	1842-1975
/16-27	Establishment records , including: registers of appointment as constables (1845-1880); enrolment book (1855-1880); register of officers and constables of Perthshire Constabulary (1862-1921); register of declarations and affirmations (1881-1919); register of candidates for Perthshire Police (1897-1922); registers of police transfers, meritorious conduct and defaulters (1842-1891); superannuation and funeral funds records (1846-1950); Railway constabulary records (1845-1877); register of appointments of private constables (1878-1905); circulars, reports, regulations	1842-1950
/36-53	Criminal records , including: criminal registers (1855-1946); registers of juvenile offenders (1903-1965); charge books (1855-1897, incomplete); information books (1855-1897); occurrence books (1939-1959); photographic conviction records (1875-1955); reports of sudden deaths and casualties (1904-1956); miscellanea (1860-1863)	1855-1965

Additional records are available at Tayside Police Museum, Dundee.



Extracts from Perthshire Constabulary criminal records. These are photographic records of prisoners released from jail, known to have moved residence to Perth. They often include physical descriptions and details of previous convictions. Note the use of the mirror below to show the profile.



Above: "Euphemia Adamson or Henderson, (36) Widow. belongs to Burrelton. convicted in Sheriff Court of F[alsehood] F[raud] and Wilful Imposition. Sentence 30 days Imp[risonmen]t. Liberated 18 February 1876 and conveyed to Dundee charged with the commission of a series of similar offences in that town", 1876.

Ref: POL1/42/7, no 87

Left: Peter Irvine Taylor, 17.4.1913

Born Rattray, Blairgowrie. Fraud and theft
Age 23, 5'5", brown hair, brown eyes, fresh complexion, b Rattray, single, motor car driver, tattoo on left forearm, convicted of theft and fraud – 8 additional later convictions (theft of motor cars, a bicycle) across the country, sentences from 7 days to 12 months.

Ref: POL1/42/1 p35

Community Collections

These collections have been gifted or are on indefinite loan to the Archive and offer a wide variety of information. To give some idea of how they might be used, we have listed collections containing information about East Perthshire under specific themes.

Estate records often contain details of the proprietors, farm tenants, agricultural workers, domestic servants and help to build a picture of life in rural East Perthshire. In its **church and philanthropy** collections, the Archive holds some records relating to local congregations and charities and these often name individuals as part of their activities. **Business and industry** collections can include lists of employees, financial and administrative records, title deeds, advertising ephemera, plans and occasionally, personal and recreational papers. **Unions, guilds and associations** can illuminate the social or political activities of members of the many clubs, societies and organisations whose records are held in the Archive. **People, family and communities records** can include the personal papers of individuals and families, as well as histories of specific towns and villages. **Education, leisure and recreation** collections can range from details of classes offered by the Alyth Science & Arts Committee to minute books of the Bridge of Cally Scottish Women's Rural Institute. **Politics and the State** includes records from times of conflict and political unrest.

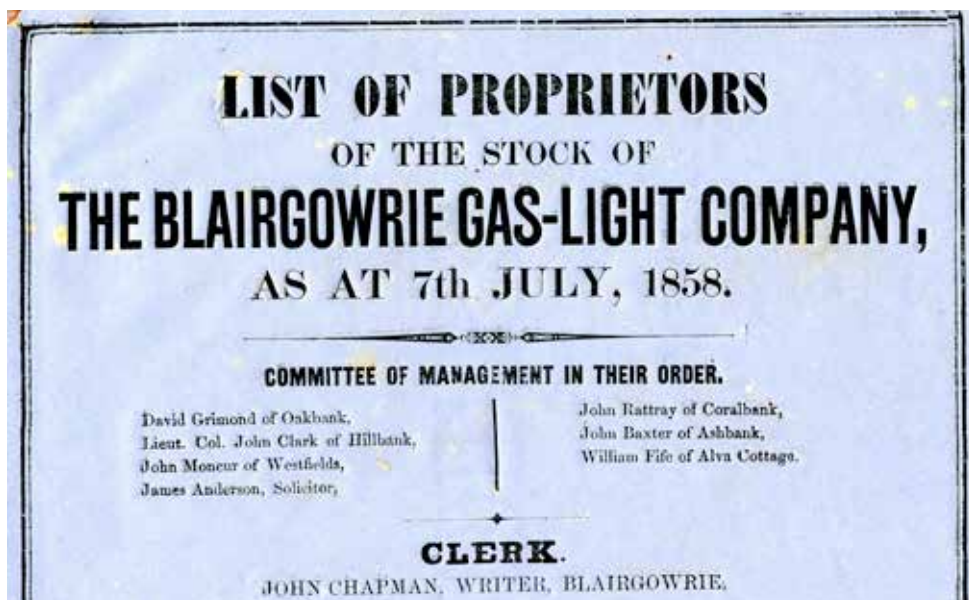
Although we have listed these collections by theme, you will often find that your research will lead you to explore across many community and official collections.

Business and Industry

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS14/9	Blairgowrie Gas Light Company Minute book, including details of income and expense	1847-1859
MS14/44	Account book, Dr F Rollo, Airlie Place, Alyth with David Reid, Mill Street, Alyth relating to purchases of clothes	c1890-1892
MS14/181	John Grant, Craigmill Undated photocopy of typescript of John Grant's reminiscences "My early life and my beginning business", 1832-1928, mentioning many farmers and millers by name	Undated
MS14/191	Paper bag advertising the Coffee Rooms, Blairgowrie	Undated
MS68	R MacGregor Mitchell & Co, solicitors, Perth Legal and business papers including some documents relating to clients in the Blairgowrie and Rattray area	1866-1954
MS82	A&R Robertson, solicitors, Blairgowrie Legal papers concerning various individuals and families, property and trade in Perthshire, primarily in and around Blairgowrie	1579-1908

Business and Industry

MS121	<p>Les Porritt railway collection Records, ephemera and photocopies relating mainly to railways throughout Scotland, including the various railway lines that ran through Strathmore and, in particular, papers relating to passengers and goods via Coupar Angus station</p>	1835-1990
MS123	<p>Alyth Merchants Association The Association aimed to promote the interests of merchants and provide a forum for the exchange of information and news. Includes minute book, letter books, account books, day books and other papers</p>	1905-1983
MS143	<p>Craigie, slaters, Blairgowrie The company was started about 1854 by William Craigie, who also served as a town councillor, a police commissioner, a captain of the fire brigade and a director of a gas company. Includes ledger and account books, cash and debt books, newspaper cuttings and business correspondence</p>	1854-1902
MS234	<p>Commercial Hotel, Alyth Legal documents, plans and advertisements</p>	1860-1991



*Extract from list of proprietors, management and shareholders of the Blairgowrie Gas Light Company, 1858
Ref: MS14/9*

Education, Leisure and Recreation

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS14/144	Miss Arnott, schoolteacher Notebooks relating to examinations at unidentified school, and on literary criticism, arithmetic and other subjects. Annotated "Hugh Young Arnott, Kinloch, Blairgowrie"	1893-1894
MS20	Blairgowrie & Rattray and Meikle Libraries Roll books for Blairgowrie & Rattray library (1922-1923) and Meikle library (1900-1935) and catalogue for Meikle library (1926)	1900-1935
MS23	Burrelton & Woodside Mutual Improvement Society, later Burrelton & Woodside Literary Society Minute books, membership records and other papers	1878-1887 1902-1959
MS87	Bridge of Cally Scottish Women's Rural Institute Minute books, committee minutes, membership lists, correspondence and financial papers	1933-1978
MS173	Meikle Scottish Women's Rural Institute Committee minutes, membership lists, syllabi, photographs, 'Our Village Book', 1932; papers relating to the 85th anniversary celebrations in 2004	1928-2004
MS191	Alyth Science and Arts Committee Cash and minute book, containing names of committee members and instructors. Classes were offered in a variety of subjects, including ambulance (first aid), bookkeeping, shorthand, dairy, cookery, dressmaking, drawing and singing	1898-1909
MS198	Blairgowrie Scottish Women's Rural Institute Minutes of group and committee meetings, press reports and correspondence	1943-2012
MS202	Balbeggie Scottish Women's Rural Institute Minutes, accounts and programmes of events	1918-1994
MS253	Maggie B McIntosh, teacher Papers relating to the training and employment of Miss MB McIntosh as a teacher in Kirkmichael and Rattray	c1883-1898
MS300	Glenshee Rifle Club Minute books, financial records and notebooks recording entrants and results of various competitions	1905-1992
MS310	Olympic Torch Relay Digital photographs and digital video recordings by supporters along the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay route through Perth and Kinross, which includes a few images of Coupar Angus, Burrelton and Balbeggie	2012

Education, Leisure and Recreation

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS312	Blairgowrie and Rattray Horticultural Society Minutes of meetings, financial records, membership details, programmes and correspondence, including ephemera relating to competitions and prizewinners	c1974-2006
MS335	Blairgowrie & Rattray Choral Society Programmes, newscuttings and notices relating to performances, annual general meetings and 'conversaciones'. Also <i>Reminiscences of the Blairgowrie & Rattray Choral Society, 1904</i>	1892-1939
MS337	Rattray & District Scottish Women's Rural Institute Meeting minutes and reports of this branch which was founded in 1928	1932-2004



James Street Free Church School, Blairgowrie, early 1870s. Note that all the pupils wear caps or hats (at least one wears a bowler hat) but not all of them have shoes.

Ref: ACC/00/100

Estates and Lands

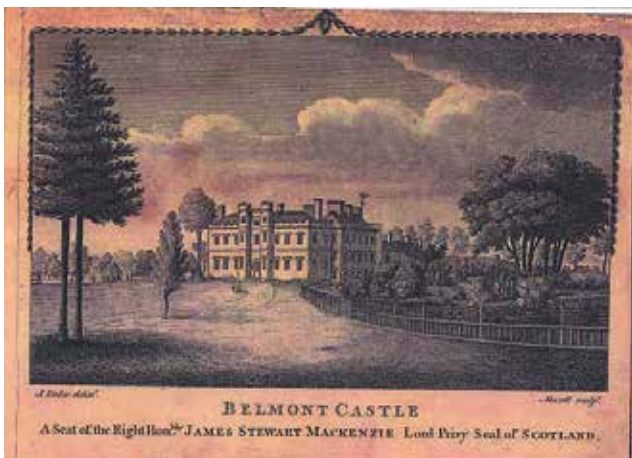
Ref no	Description	Dates
MS14/28	Instrument of sasine of Alexander Stewart in favour of William Chalmers of the western half of the lands of Nether Clowhat, Burnhead, Blairgowrie	1701
MS14/33	Charter of James VII confirming James Cuthbert in the lands of Neather Cloquhat, Blairgowrie	1685
MS14/54	Instrument of sasine in favour of Thomas Cargill relating to two tenements in Alyth	1762
MS14/185	Sales particulars for Stobhall estate, Cargill parish	1953
MS97	Speid of Forneth papers Papers relating to the administration of Forneth estate and its tenancies in Clunie and Caputh parishes, including farm scroll book, accounts books, farm tenancy and rental book, letters, tacks and plans	1807-1923
MS160/8	Perth Civic Trust Correspondence, reports, cuttings and petitions relating to the proposed extension of Collace Quarry at the foot of Dunsinane Hill, said to be the site of Macbeth's hill fort	1990-1992
MS167	Cronan Estate papers The Blair Cunningham family owned land at Cronan, between Coupar Angus and Meigle. The collection includes charters relating to lands at Balbroggy and Balmyle as well as legal and family papers	1558-1889
MS263	Blairgowrie plans Plan by James Stobie of the estate of Blairgowrie belonging to Thomas Graham of Balgowan; plan of proposed Burnhead feus; plan showing properties on Upper Allen Street.	1787-1891
MS306	Snaigow Estate Title deeds and papers relating to division of Commonty (common land) of Snaigow and of Dungerthill, the teinds of Caputh, and the proposed annexation of the parishes of Kinloch and Lethendy	1584-1962
MS324	Finegand Estate papers Legal papers and personal correspondence relating to the Small and MacKenzie families of Finegand estate, in the parish of Kirkmichael	1698-1826



Interesting images of landscape and notable structures can often be found on county and estate maps. Both these images relate to the same estate near Meigle.

Above: "Plan of the estate of Kirkhill, the property of The Hon. J. Stewart Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, Survey'd & Draw'd by Tho[m]as Winter", 1752. Ref: CC1/P327

Below: Vignette of Belmont Castle, Meigle. Ref: Extract of James Stobie's map of Perthshire, 1783.



People, Family and Community

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS14/9	Blairgowrie Gas Light Company Minute book, including names of shareholders and committee members	1847-1859
MS14/181	John Grant, Craigmill Undated photocopy of typescript of John Grant's reminiscences " <i>My early life and my beginning business</i> ", 1832-1928. Family history mentioning many farmers and millers in the area	Undated
MS14/215	Manuscript copy of entries taken from register of baptisms, marriages and burials 1800-1856 of the Episcopal congregations of Alyth, Meigle and Coupar Angus, with preface	1885
MS14/216	Patriotic Fund, Blairgowrie & Rattray The fund was set up across the Empire to support widows and orphans of the Crimean War. Notebook containing list of subscribers' names and occasional details of residence and occupation	1854
MS14/237	Strathmore Hospital, Blairgowrie Illustrated summary of a recorded conversation between depositor and Mrs Ida Moran, outlining her life, particularly her work as cook and then ward orderly at Strathmore Hospital, before it was closed and transferred to the new Strathmore Wing at Blairgowrie Community Hospital	2010
MS14/244	Official notification to Mrs Martin, Mains of Rattray, of the burial of William Martin of the Royal Highlanders in Pieta Cemetery, Malta	1917
MS20	Libraries and reading rooms, Perthshire Roll books with names and addresses for Blairgowrie & Rattray library (1922-1923) and Meigle library (1900-1935) and catalogue for Meigle library (1926)	1900-1935
MS23	Burrelton & Woodside Mutual Improvement, later Burrelton & Woodside Literary Society Minute books, membership records and other papers	1878-1887 1902-1959

People, Family and Community

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS68	R MacGregor Mitchell & Co, solicitors, Perth Legal and business papers relating to Perthshire including some documents relating to clients in the Blairgowrie and Rattray area	1866-1954
MS71	Bruce family of Jordanstone, Alyth parish and Grimond family, Newtyle Family papers and correspondence relating to the Bruce family who were tenants at Jordanstone, between Alyth and Meigle, and were related by marriage to the Grimond family of Newtyle, Angus. The Bruce family held the lease of the farm at Jordanstone until 1937. Papers include school exercise jotters of Andrew Bruce, 1781-1782 and correspondence with David Grimond, sugar cane planter in the West Indies, 1840-1860.	1781-1952
MS79/2/20	Fergusson of Baledmund papers "List of Old Persons of Kirkmichael" parish. Description of a number of people of advanced age and discussion of their lifestyle	1803
MS82	A&R Robertson, solicitors, Blairgowrie Legal papers concerning various individuals and families, property and trade in Perthshire, primarily in and around Blairgowrie	1579-1908
MS97	Speid of Forneth papers Papers relating to the administration of Forneth estate and its tenancies in Clunie and Caputh parishes, including farm scroll book, accounts books, farm tenancy and rental book, letters, tacks, plans	1807-1923
MS121	Les Porritt railway collection Records, ephemera and photocopies relating mainly to railways throughout Scotland, including the various railway lines that ran through Strathmore and, in particular, papers relating to passengers and goods via Coupar Angus station	1835-1990
MS130	Mercer family papers The collection includes a family tree relating to the descendants of Sir Laurence Mercer of Meikleour, covering the period 1475-c1875	20th century

People, Family and Community

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS143	Craigie, slaters, Blairgowrie William Craigie also served as a town councillor, a police commissioner, a captain of the fire brigade and a director of a gas company. Includes business records and some copies of newspaper cuttings	1854-1902
MS167	Cronan Estate papers The Blair Cunningham family owned land at Cronan, between Coupar Angus and Meigle. Collection includes charters relating to lands at Balbrogy and Balmyle as well as correspondence and other legal and family papers	1558-1889
MS191	Alyth Science and Arts Committee Cash and minute book, containing names of committee members and class instructors	1898-1909
MS201	John Gwynn, Balbeggie Papers Research papers compiled for ' <i>Balbeggie; A Perthshire Village History</i> ' (published 2001). Includes photographs, notes, maps and documents relating to clubs, estates and businesses in the Balbeggie and St Martins area	c2000
MS205	John Murray, Jailer Correspondence relating to the Murray's business activities, including his dealings in forest and grassland in Spittal of Glenshee before he moved to Perth as the town's jailer	1755-1792
MS212	Blairgowrie Barony Council Minutes, correspondence and financial papers of the Barony council; papers relating to Burgh police commissioners and town guard, town hall, Wellmeadow, steelyard, waulkmill and the infectious diseases hospital; militia papers, with list of subscribers to the Blairgowrie militia fund, listing professions and places of residence	1801-1963
MS245	Nan Ferguson, Whitefield, Cargill parish Photograph album of Red Cross nursing in Perth, Italy and Edinburgh (1915-1919). Also photographs of agricultural activities on Whitefield farm	1915-1930s
MS246	David Stewart, Chapelton Farm, St Fink, Blairgowrie Series of diaries, mostly farming logs, detailing daily work	1927-1946



*Red Cross nursing staff at Ardblair Castle, Blairgowrie, 1914-18.
From the papers of the Scott family, Blairgowrie.
Ref: MS255/9*

People, Family and Community

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS255	Scott Family, Blairgowrie Papers relating to the Scott family, including postcards of the area and certificates awarded for Miss Scott's war work	1881-1946
MS259	Revd Colin Symers of Alyth Papers relating to family matters and parish business including the appointment of teachers at Alyth school in 1786 and 1792. Also correspondence relating to his son, Revd David Symers including letter of admittance to Kettins parish in 1801.	1772-1831
MS271	Bailie Frank Agger Frank Agger (1912-2000) served as a Coupar Angus Town Council member, later as Justice of the Peace. He also served on Coupar Angus, Ardler and Bendochy Community Council. Papers covering planning, local government reform, housing, community council and the district court	1960-1993
MS295	Gordon Hughes collection Legal documents and domestic correspondence relating to individuals of Clunie and Caputh area	1607-1790
MS318	William Davie, businessman, poet and philanthropist Personal papers of William Davie, ironmonger in Blairgowrie, including legal documents and family photographs. He was a benefactor to the Cottage Hospital and St. Andrew's United Free church building fund and gifted Davie Park to the town	c1890-1904
MS324	Finegand Estate papers Legal and personal papers relating to the Small and MacKenzie families of Finegand estate, in the parish of Kirkmichael	1698-1826

It was moved by Mr Japp and seconded by Mr Cairnes & unanimously carried - That - Whereas women have now the right to vote in municipal elections, School Boards, Parochial Boards, and are also entitled to vote as Electors of Burghs, & in the election of the Parochial Clergy - the Association is of opinion that the time has come when the parliamentary franchise should be extended to women: & the Association further deems this an act of justice on the principle of taxation & representation, and requests the Chairman to transmit a copy of this resolution to Lord Dalhousie.

Above: Extract from minutes of Alyth and Meigle Constitutional Association, December 1885
Ref: MS192/1/1

Votes for women in 1885? Following the Third Reform Act of 1884, members voted unanimously in favour of extending the parliamentary franchise to women to give them equality with men's suffrage, at a time when 40% of men still did not have the vote. This was quite an enlightened attitude as it wasn't until 1918 that women over 30 who had property were granted the vote, and not until 1928 that women were finally given equal voting rights.

Below: Letter from Francis Morison, Cluniequary to William Walker, 24th February, 1789
Ref: MS295/11

An unusual gift in anticipation of a new baby? "... I have sent with the Bearer a ham prepared for your wives Lying in which all here wishes good account of in time..."

Cluniequary 24th Feb
1789

Dear Sir

I have sent with the ^{Bearer} ham prepared for your wives Lying in which all here wishes good account of in time - we are all here well at present - and join in Best wishes to you family and friends

Yours affectionally

Francis Morison

Politics and the State

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS14/31	Letter from W Ramsay, minister, Alyth to John McNicoll, Edinburgh, includes discussion of arrangements for the county election	1833
MS14/216	Patriotic Fund, Blairgowrie & Rattray Notebook containing list of subscribers to the fund in aid of widows and orphans of the Crimean War	1854
MS14/244	Official notification to Mrs Martin, Mains of Rattray, of the burial of William Martin of the Royal Highlanders in Pieta Cemetery, Malta	1917
MS152	Conservative and Unionist Associations and Clubs Includes minutes of Blairgowrie & Rattray Unionist Association, 1922-1954; Perthshire Women's Unionist Association, Blairgowrie & Rattray Branch, 1908-1952	1892-1985
MS192	Alyth and Meigle Constitutional Association Minute book and cash book for the Association formed in 1885 from the Conservative Committee and other interested groups. Contains names of members and subscribers	1885-1894
MS212	Blairgowrie Barony Council Minutes, correspondence and financial records of the Barony council, including some militia papers, with list of subscribers to the Blairgowrie militia fund, with their professions and places of residence	1801-1963
MS245	Nan Ferguson, Whitefield, Cargill parish Includes photograph album of nurses and patients at the Red Cross Hospital, York Place, Perth, Craiglockhart War Hospital, Edinburgh and in Italy (1915-1919)	1915-1930s
MS271	Bailie Frank Agger Frank Agger (1912-2000) served as a Coupar Angus Town Council member, becoming Senior Bailie and Justice of the Peace. He also served on Coupar Angus, Ardler and Bendochy Community Council. Includes papers covering planning, local government reform, and community council	1960-1993
MS321	Ardler WW1 Service roll and photographs of service personnel held by Ardler Church until it closed in the 1980s	1914-c1920

Religion and Philanthropy

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS14/67	Legal papers relating to the case of David Haggart of Cairnmuir against James Hog, Minister at Caputh, concerning the burning down of the manse at Caputh	1738
MS14/107	Undated photocopy of a contract by the heritors of the parish of Meikle relating to repairs to the church c1730	20th century
MS14/135	Letter from Thomas Tullideph, Edinburgh to David Thomson, minister of the gospel at Meikle, concerning payment of 1200 merks to the heirs of the predecessors of the ministers of Airlie on account of the manse formerly built by one of them. Also paper relating to the rights of the minister of Meikle to grazing and glebe lands.	1743
MS14/215	Manuscript copy of entries taken from register of baptisms, marriages and burials of the Episcopal congregations of Alyth, Meikle and Coupar Angus, with preface, 1800-1856	1885
MS14/216	Patriotic Fund, Blairgowrie & Rattray The fund was set up across the Empire to support widows and orphans of the Crimean War. Notebook containing list of subscribers' names and occasional details of residence and occupation	1854
MS96	Young Men's Christian Association, Alyth Branch Papers including board of directors minute books, handbook, correspondence and accounts, bazaar programme and handbill	1919-1961
MS201	John Gwynn, Balbeggie Papers Collection of research papers compiled for ' <i>Balbeggie; A Perthshire Village History</i> ' (published 2001). Includes papers relating to Balbeggie and Collace United Free Church, 1843-2000	c2000
MS259	Revd Colin Symers of Alyth Letters and other papers relating to family matters and parish business including the appointment of teachers at Alyth school in 1786 and 1792. Also correspondence relating to his son, Revd David Symers, including letter of admittance to Kettins parish in 1801.	1772-1831
MS294	Balbeggie and Collace United Free Church of Scotland Collection includes kirk session minutes, congregational board minutes, correspondence, plans and financial papers. Also includes histories of Balbeggie and the churches; photograph album relating to people and events	1907-1992
MS306	Snaigow Estate Includes papers relating to the teinds of Caputh parish and the proposed annexation of parishes of Kinloch and Lethendy	1584-1962

Religion and Philanthropy

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS315	Revd Archibald Stuart & Mrs Laura Bruce Stuart Personal and household papers, copies of sermons and speeches by Church of Scotland minister in Ardler. Includes some short stories by his wife, Laura Bruce Stuart	c1917-1936
MS318	William Davie, businessman, poet and philanthropist Personal papers of William Davie, ironmonger in Blairgowrie, including legal documents, scrapbooks and typescripts of articles purported to have been written by him, family photographs, and obituary. He was a benefactor to the Cottage Hospital and St. Andrew's United Free church building fund and gifted Davie Park to the town	c1890-1904

Pirrie's Child.
The meeting was informed the mother of this child (Agnes Keay) at the time of its birth was residing in the Parish of Coupar Angus; and instructed the Inspector to intimate to that Parish, that in terms of the law, they must in future support that Child

Extract from Meigle Parochial Board minutes, 1852

Ref: CC1/7/63/1

The parochial board was required to support the deserving poor who had "settlement" within the parish boundary, funded from local property taxes. This extract shows how a parish had potential responsibility for an individual for life. In this case, Agnes Keay's child, although living in Meigle, had been born in Coupar Angus parish and therefore any support would come from that parish.

Unions, Guilds and Associations

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS23	Burrelton & Woodside Mutual Improvement Society, later Burrelton & Woodside Literary Society Minute books, membership records and other papers	1878-1887 1902-1959
MS87	Bridge of Cally Scottish Women's Rural Institute Minute books, committee minutes, membership lists, correspondence and financial papers	1933-1978
MS96	Young Men's Christian Association, Alyth Branch Papers including minute books, handbook, accounts correspondence, bazaar programme and handbill	1919-1961
MS152	Conservative and Unionist Associations and Clubs Includes minutes of Blairgowrie & Rattray Unionist Association, 1922-1954 and Perthshire Women's Unionist Association, Blairgowrie & Rattray Branch, 1908-1952	1892-1985
MS160/8	Perth Civic Trust Correspondence, reports, cuttings and petitions relating to the proposed extension of Collace Quarry at the foot of Dunsinane Hill, said to be the site of Macbeth's hill fort	1990-1992
MS173	Meigle Scottish Women's Rural Institute Committee minutes, membership lists, syllabi, photographs, 'Our Village Book', 1932 and papers relating to the 85th anniversary celebrations in 2004	1928-2004
MS191	Alyth Science and Arts Committee Cash and minute book, containing names of committee members and instructors. Classes were offered in a variety of subjects, including ambulance (first aid), bookkeeping, shorthand, dairy, dressmaking, drawing and singing.	1898-1909
MS192	Alyth and Meigle Constitutional Association Minute book and cash book for the Association formed in 1885 from the Conservative Committee and other interested groups. Contains names of members and subscribers	1885-1894
MS193	National Farmers' Union of Scotland, Perth & District Branches Minute books, reports, financial papers and some membership information, including reports from branches in East Perthshire	1916-1998
MS198	Blairgowrie Scottish Women's Rural Institute Minutes of group and committee meetings, press reports and correspondence	1943-2012
MS202	Balbeggie Scottish Women's Rural Institute Minutes, accounts and programmes of events	1918-1994

"For Home and Country."

**MEIGLE WOMEN'S
RURAL INSTITUTE.**

PROGRAMME

From June, 1944, to November, 1944

Hon. President, Mrs COX, Cardean
 President, Mrs TASKER, Benachie
 Vice-President, Mrs W. DICK, The Square
 Secretary, Miss S. MACPHERSON, Cardean
 Treasurer, Miss J. TASKER, Brookside
 Press Secretary, Mrs W. D. MACKENZIE,
 Crathie House.

COMMITTEE.

Mrs Buick, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Gibb, Mrs
 Keelan, Miss E. Lawson, Mrs Macpherson,
 Mrs Suttie, Miss Tosh, Mrs A. Tasker.

Membership Fee, - - - - - 2/-
 Visitors, - - - - - 4d each night.

Girls over 14 eligible for Membership.
 Meetings in the Girl Guide Hut at 7.30 p.m.

**"If you know a good thing,
 Pass it on."**

(Please bring your own cup and sugar)

Aligh Printing Works

Syllabus from the collection of the Meigle Scottish Women's Rural Institute, 1944 Ref: MS173/4/2

The programmes during the war years promoted the idea of "make do and mend" with competitions for darning, making "something new from something old" or "an article made from old sack" (below). The need to make their own entertainment is also evident: the programme for another meeting announces "sing, say or penny pay".

JUNE 15th.

Motto—"The essence of the beautiful is
 unity in variety."

Demonstration by Mrs Douglas.
 Bring and Buy Sale.

Competition—Article made from old sack.
 Hostesses—Mrs Buick and Miss S.
 MacPherson.

Unions, Guilds and Associations

Ref no	Description	Dates
MS312	Blaigowrie and Rattray Horticultural Society Minutes of meetings, financial records, membership details, programmes and correspondence. Also includes ephemera relating to competitions and prizewinners	c1974-2006
MS335	Blaigowrie & Rattray Choral Society Programmes, newscuttings and notices relating to performances, annual general meetings and 'conversations'. Also <i>Reminiscences of the Blaigowrie & Rattray Choral Society</i> , 1904	1892-1939
MS337	Rattray & District Scottish Women's Rural Institute Minutes of monthly and committee meetings, including annual general meetings and reports	1932-2004

Illustrations from the Collections



Above: Mr Brown and class, Hill Primary, Blairgowrie Public School, 1898
Ref: ACC/00/100

Below: Front elevation, planned additions to Hill Primary School, Blairgowrie, 1909
Ref: CC1/E/MP/P/83





Above: Certificate of membership from the Educational Institute of Scotland to Miss Maggie B McIntosh of Kirkmichael, 1889
Ref: MS253/8

Below: Hill Primary, Blairgowrie Public School c1910
Ref: ACC/00/100



1803
List of Old Persons

Mrs Rattray of Dallrulzian died about 3 years ago at 97 years of age leaving a Family, had always a great favour for tea which she used much was of a cheerfull contented disposition, retained all her facultys, eye sight &c. amused herself with spinning on the wheel, fond of merriment Dancing & sung while nigh her last especially Charly is my Darling
Alexander (1)

List of Old Persons [in Kirkmichael parish], 20 January 1803 Ref: MS79/2/20

"Mrs Rattray of Dallrulzian died about 3 years ago at 97 years of age leaving a Family, had always a great favour for tea which she used much was of a cheerfull contented disposition, retained all her facultys, eye sight [etc] amused herself with spinning on the wheel, fond of merriment Dancing & sung while nigh her last especially Charly is my darling"

Below left: William Davie of Blairgowrie, 1899 Ref: MS14/122/11

Below right: From the album of Nan Ferguson, 1914-1919 Ref: MS245/1/2



School board records contain a wide variety of information. For instance, the names of teachers and the subjects they taught; names of bursary pupils; accounts may contain details of local suppliers.

School board members are often named, and their occupation and place of residence may be shown.

Right: Bendochy School Board minutes, 17th May 1873. Ref: CC1/5/26/1

Differentials between the salaries of male and female teachers become apparent: the Kirkmichael school board fixed the male teacher's salary at £50 and the female teacher at £30.

Below centre: Kirkmichael School Board minutes, 20th October 1873
Ref: CC1/5/68/1

In 1918, Kettins School Board made provision for the possibility of the headmaster being called up for military service. Following pages show that Mr Andrews was indeed called up, he was demobilised in January 1919 and returned to his post.

Below: Kettins School Board minutes, 4 May 1918 Ref: CC1/5/123/3

A meeting of the School Board of the Parish of Bendochy held within the House Schoolroom on Saturday evening 17th May Eighteen hundred and seventy three
Present
William Scott Esquire of Riverside
James Hayfair Esquire of Selkirk
James Whiston Esquire of Selkirk
Mr David Cameron Leslie, Farmer Selkirk
Mr Adam Ferrier, Farmer West Bendochy and
The Clerk

The Salary of the Female Teacher at Kirkmichael was fixed at £30 per annum with the fees subject to the revision of the Board

Directed attention to the condition of the Wash House boiler, and that owing to the passing of the new Military Service Act, in event of his being called up he would be liable for military service, and suggested consideration of such a contingency and that he would like to discuss with the Board arrangements for carrying on the work in his absence. This was discussed with Mr Andrews and when in the event of his being called up was provisionally arranged that Miss Robertson undertake the Senior Department and that Mrs Andrew, who is a qualified teacher, undertake

EXTRACT OF MATRICULATION of the Arms of the Burgh of BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY.



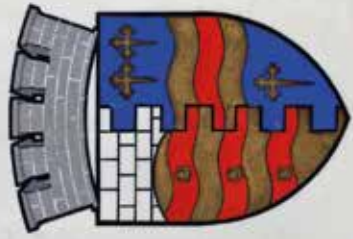
THE PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND COUNCIL OF THE BURGH OF
BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY

in the County of Perth, having by Petition unto the Lord Lyon King of Arms of date 23 April 1951 Shewn: **THAT** the Burgh of Blairgowrie was erected into a Burgh of Burghs in favour of George Drummond of Blair by Charter from His Majesty King Charles I under the Great Seal of Scotland of date 19 July 1654: **THAT** in terms of an Order dated 20 August 1929 made by the Secretary of State for Scotland under Section 10 (f) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1929, the said Burgh of Blairgowrie was united with the adjoining Burgh of Rattray on 6 November 1929, to form the present Burgh of Blairgowrie and Rattray: **AND** the Petitioners having prayed that suitable Insignis Annorial might be matriculated for the said Burgh in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, the Lord Lyon King of Arms by Intepositor of date 20 May 1951 granted Warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of the Petitioners the following Insignis Annorial, videlicet: **per pale emboutee, Dexter Or, three bars wavy Gules, each charged with an escallop Or, a chief enarched Argent massed Sable; sinister Azure, on a fess wavy between three cross-crosslets fitchet Or, a bar wavy Gules, which Shield is assigned with a coronet appropriate to a Burgh.**

Matriculated the ninth day of June, 1951. Extracted from the 35th page of the 35th Volume of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, 9th June, 1951.



*H. M. Lawson
Lyon Clerk
per Burgh of Rattray*



Date	Case History	Prosecution Entry	Notes
10/11 Feb	Theft Burgess, 1880 and 1881. On Friday 11th Feb 1880 John Middleton (180) received a pair of mens drawers, a pair of mens shirts, and a pocket handkerchief, all found stolen and sent to Perth. Burgess a man dressed in a pair of mens shirts, a pair of mens drawers, a pair of mens shirts, a pair of mens drawers, a half loaf of bread, and a pocket handkerchief, all received and valued at 14. He probably purchased of James Hood, 24 Market Street, Perth. Burgess, James Hood, and John Middleton (180) were apprehended and charged to Perth.	The Burgess, 24 Market Street, Perth. About 1880 on the 11th of February, James Hood and informant in a half loaf of bread, a pair of mens shirts, and a pocket handkerchief, all found stolen and sent to Perth. Burgess a man dressed in a pair of mens shirts, a pair of mens drawers, a pair of mens drawers, a half loaf of bread, and a pocket handkerchief, all received and valued at 14. He probably purchased of James Hood, 24 Market Street, Perth. Burgess, James Hood, and John Middleton (180) were apprehended and charged to Perth.	Burgess was tried before Sheriff of Perth on 24th Feb. Found guilty sentenced 12 months imprisonment.

Above: Extract from occurrence book, Kirkmichael Division, Perthshire Constabulary Criminal Records, 1907-1923 Ref: POL1/41/1
 This 1910 report of a theft from a farm servants' bathy at Blackraig, Blairgowrie parish, records that "...a man's tweed jacket and vest, a pocket knife, a pair of mens drawers, a pair of mens shirts, a workmans tea flask, a half loaf of bread, and a pocket handkerchief..." were found in the possession of John Middleton, labourer of no fixed abode. He was tried at Perth Sheriff Court and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

Below: Copy of entries taken from register of baptisms of the Episcopal congregations of Alyth, Meigle & Coupar Angus, 1800-1856 Ref: MS14/215
 As well as the name of the child and parents, the register gives details of the place of residence and the father's occupation.

Year	Child's name	Parents' names	1826 - Continued	John Middleton
1822 Feb 17	John Galy	John Pattison and William Galy	Margaret Sniffen his wife	John Middleton
1823 Feb 8	James	James Galy	John Middleton	John Middleton
1823 Feb 12	Ann Christian	James Galy	James Galy	John Middleton



Photographs from a small album, dating from 1914-1919, belonging to Nan Ferguson whose father farmed at Whitefield, Cargill parish. These images depict how, even in time of war, it was essential that agricultural work such as sheep shearing and grain harvest continued as usual. The stacks of grain above were skilfully constructed to keep the grain dry until threshing time.

*This page: photographs from the album of Nan Ferguson, Whitefield, Cargill parish, 1914-1919
Ref: MS245/1/1*





Left: Certificate of appreciation for taking in evacuees in World War II, awarded to Miss Scott of Blairgowrie, signed by Queen Elizabeth, Queen Consort of George VI, c.1946.

Ref: MS255/11

Fascinating stories can be unearthed in the archive. The extract below is from the petition against illegal enlistment by James Russel, stoneware dealer in Coupar Angus. He claims that soldiers from Captain McLean's Argyllshire Fencibles tried various methods to get him to enlist, which "he positively refused to do". On the pretext of searching for a deserter, they entered his house between 1-2am, and "thrust a shilling into his bed". He denied that he "touched their money". They "carried him to Perth and made him drink so much he became quite intoxicated" after which they took him before a magistrate and enlisted him. The petition argues that as he lodged his complaint within 24 hours, "the whole procedure was void and null".

"To take the King's shilling" here meant agreeing to serve as a soldier in the British Army. Men were needed at this time against the threat from France.

Below: Petition against illegal enlistment, 1795

Ref: PE66/Bundle 4

but Come back to the said house, between the hours of one and two on Friday morning and Rapped at the door and threatened to break it saying they were come again to search for the deserter upon which the woman of the house arose and opened the door, they then went to the Bellmores bed and wanted him to enlist which he positively Refused to do upon which they thrust a Shilling into his bed as they say and obliged him to rise and go with them to the defend or their officer, But the petitioner positively Denies that he touched their money, when

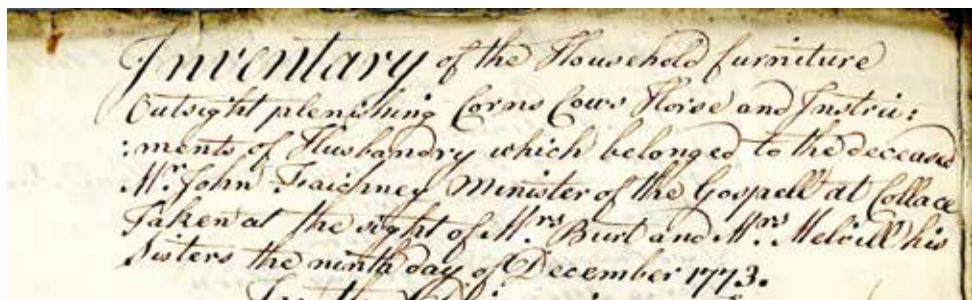


Ardler service roll, 1914-1919

Ref: ACC/13/48

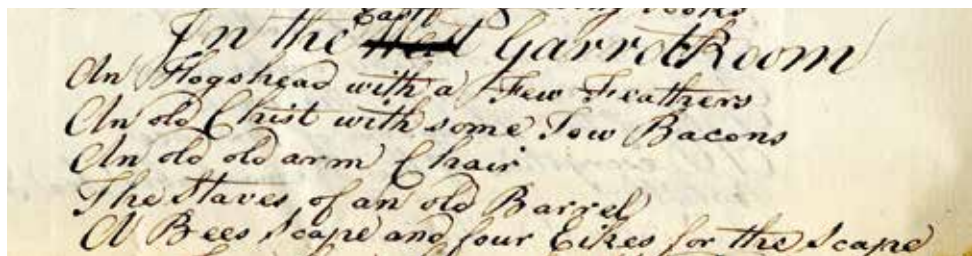
What Can the Documents Tell Us?

The Archive contains mostly unpublished, unique items. They are irreplaceable. Sometimes hundreds of years old, they may have been folded and shoved in a pocket, tied in a neat bundle, left in a corner. If they have survived time and occasional neglect to reach us, it is almost a miracle. So what can the documents tell us? A small bundle of papers in the Archive deals with the estate of the late Mr John Faichney, minister of Collace parish from 1740 until his death on 1st December 1773. An inventory was drawn up for his effects to be sold at a roup [auction].



Transcription:

"Inventory of the Household furniture Outsight plenshing Corns Cows Horse and Instruments of Husbandry which belonged to the deceased Mr John Faichney, Minister of the Gospell at Collace. Taken at the sight of Mrs Burt and Mrs Melvill his sisters the ninth day of December 1773."



The inventory lists the items in each room of the house as well as in the barn, corn yard, stable, byre, granary and brewhouse, indicating that this was a substantial property. In addition to linens, clocks and tableware, some items require research, for example "A Bees Scape and four Eikes for the Scape" is a beehive with four extensions. Mr Faichney had cash amounting to £17.14s.0d at the time of his death, but there was still evidence of frugality, with a parcel of horse hair, a hogshead with a few feathers, an old chist with some tow bacons [tow backings — refuse from linen or wool manufacture] presumably for stuffing pillows or mattresses.

The roup was advertised in Perth by 'tuck of Drum' [a public proclamation announced by drumbeat], and also by intimation at neighbouring parish churches. The roup itself was held over two days on 16th/17th December 1773, in the presence of Mr Faichney's brothers and sisters. The event was well attended and the range of items sold indicates the value that people placed on second-hand goods. Everything from chamber pots (purchased by his sisters) to "nineteen dozen and five" [233] empty bottles.

Articles Sold	Purchasers Names	
Half a dozen of stone plain plates	Thomas Sharp Collace	1 1
Five plain stone plates	George Henderson	8
Six broth plates	Thomas Sharp Collace	1 2


One Firilot Weight	James Christie Perth	2 9
Three peck Weight	Ditto	3
Two peck Weight	Ditto	1 7
four Small Weights	Ditto	1 3
One sive and Onions	John Souter	6
The bottle Rack	Davie Haliburton	1 7
One Girnel	William West Collace	1 4
One parcel of potatoes	Gilbert Brown	1 6

From these documents we learn about weights and measures (eg firlots and pecks), currency and coin, and gain insight into the social history of the period. Local and family historians will find that purchasers' names and often their occupation or residence are listed on the roup roll, for example Thomas Sharp, brewer of Collace, bought plates and also brewing equipment. Everything was sold, including a "sive [sieve] and onions" and, to Gilbert Brown for 1/6d [one shilling and sixpence] a "parcel of potatoes".

Page 44/45: extracts from the inventory and roup roll of the effects of late Revd John Faichney, minister of Collace, 1773.

Ref: B59/39/2/89

Established 1872. Telephone No. 13.




Motor Garage. Motor Cars for Hire.
Official Repairer to S.A.C.

1919

To *Revd Mr Stewart*
Ardris Meigle

JOHN MCBAIN, (Late ALEX. MCBAIN)
Motor and Carriage Works,
3 South Athlie Street (Station),
ALYTH, *Aug* 1919

TYRES STOCKIST




Suitable Horses for Riding or Driving
Horses and Carriages Joked by Day,
Week, Month, or Year in Modern
Cheerful
Hire in all its Branches.

1921

To *Mr. G. Stuart - The Manse Ardris*

J. & J. PATRICK,
Victoria Horse Bazaar.
PERTH.
Victoria Street.
Branches—COUPAR ANGUS and DUNKELD.
Motor Landrols for Hire.
Houses and
Funeral Carriages kept.

Job and Post Masters.
Dealers in Irish Bred
Horses.
Consignments arrive
regularly.

Perth	304
Coupar Angus	18
Dunkeld	13

AGENT FOR ALL THE LEADING MAKERS
All kinds of Cycle and other Accessories kept in Stock.

1921

Rev. Arch. Stuart, Ardris

NEIL LAMONT,
CYCLE AGENT AND REPAIRER.

THE CROSS,
Coupar Angus, *March* 1921
PERTHSHIRE

TAILORING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
PARTIES' OWN CLOTH
MADE UP
AT
MODERATE CHARGES.

Meigle, June 25


To *Rev. A. Stuart*

WILLIAM LESLIE,
LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S TAILOR.

GEORGE STREET,
Coupar Angus, *Nov* 1918

To *Rev. Mr Stewart*
Ardris

G. R. BRUCE
HIGH CLASS Bootmaker.
Quality & Service at Lowest Cash Prices. Repairs Promptly Attended To.



1918

Household accounts for
Revd Archibald Stuart
Ardris Manse, 1917-1921
Ref: MS315/1

Glimpses into the local history of an area can often be found in collections of family papers. These businesses in Meigle, Coupar Angus and Alyth all supplied goods and services to Revd Archibald and Mrs Stuart at the manse in Ardris.

Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive

Perth & Kinross Archive
AK Bell Library, York Place
PERTH PH2 8EP

Tel 01738 477012 • Email archives@culturepk.org.uk
www.culturepk.org.uk/archive-local-family-history

Find us on



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY
COFFEE ROOMS,
BLAIRGOWRIE.

BREAKFASTS, DINNERS, TEAS.

HOT PIES, LEMONADE, &c.
PASTRIES, CONFECTIONS, &c.

HAM AND BEEF SANDWICHES.
STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM DURING SEASON.

All Articles First Class Quality. Private Parties & Families Supplied.

John Stone, Edinburgh