

# Lads and Lasses o' Pairts

*Their Moments of Glory!*

*The following is an account of the achievements of a few Inverarity people, past and present, largely gleaned from newspaper articles.*

Those still with us were more than a little reticent to divulge this information and it was an achievement in itself persuading them not to insist on 'hiding their light under a bushel' and to allow these interesting pieces to be printed.

Those who are no longer with us put forward no objections at all!

## **David Cant - A Scottish Champion!**

In 1999, Forfar Army Cadet, David Cant of Drowndubbs Farm was appointed the post of Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major of the Angus and Dundee Battalion of the Army Cadet Force. David was ranked the top cadet among 500-plus in the Battalion and this appointment was not only an honour for himself but also for his sub-unit, the Forfar Black Watch Platoon. David's RSM appointment, thought to be the first in ten years, was the final climax to a cadet career, which saw many highlights. During his cadet

service, David also gained the distinction of appointment as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Angus, once again an honour only conferred after the most searching assessment of an above-average career. David was selected to train with the United States Marines' Youth Development programme in California, one of only three in the entire ACF. During this appointment he was seen as a hard-working member of his detachment, also finding time to represent the Battalion at football, being a member of the Scottish Championship winning team. He was also a member of the shooting team who were, more than once, Scottish Champions.



RSM David Cant.

## **Nuelands Juror - A British Champion!**

Drowndubbs Farm won, not only a Scottish Championship Award but also a British Championship Award, many years ago, in David's Grandad's time. At the Royal Show at Stoneleigh in 1979, Scotland played a big part in the inter-breed Burke Trophy competition, when the 'Beef Burke' was won by the Hereford breed.



Nuelands Juror.

Nuelands Juror, a bull bred by Alex S Cant and Son, of Drowndubbs, Kirkbuddo, Forfar, Angus, was sold for 13,500 guineas to Australia, the highest priced bull of any breed exported from Britain to that country.

## **Angus Loses a Laird of the Old School**

Men of the calibre of Colonel Steuart Fotheringham, who died at Murthly Castle, Perthshire, on Tuesday at the age of 74, are rare, too rare, nowadays. Fortune made him the custodian of vast estates in Angus and Perthshire, but it also bred in him a deep sense of the responsibilities, which these possessions brought with them.

He was a laird of the old fashioned type, who looked upon his work people and tenants as one big family, and who maintained a close personal interest in them all. On his estates, both in Angus and Perthshire his death is mourned for the loss of a friend. There are many to whom gifts were delivered anonymously who will now know from the fact of their stoppage the source from which they came. He was especially interested in the children, and he showed this interest in practical form. He made himself responsible for

the soup kitchens at the schools associated with his estates, both in Angus and Perthshire. In the lifetime of Mrs Fotheringham there was a picnic for all the children every year, but these were discontinued after her death.

Perhaps his most abiding interest in the affairs of the County Council was the police force. He



was police convener of Angus for many years, and even after his retirement from public life he continued his interest in the force. Few public men have served their county so long and so faithfully as Colonel Fotheringham served the County of Angus. For forty years he was actively associated with the management of its affairs, and for eight years before his retirement in 1932, he was convener of the County. Indeed, he had the unique distinction of having

been elected convener of both Angus and Perthshire.

One of the biggest landowners both in Angus and in Perthshire, he divided his time between his estates, residing at Murthly during the winter and at Fotheringham during the summer, usually from June until November. Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Fotheringham held the extensive estates of Pourie-Fotheringham and Tealing, Angus, Grandtully Castle and Murthly Castle, Perthshire. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the first Scottish

Horse Yeomanry and as a young man he served in the Scots Guards. He was the only son of the late Captain Fotheringham whom he succeeded at the age of two in 1864. In 1890 Colonel Fotheringham assumed the additional name and arms of Stuart on succeeding Sir Douglas Stewart, eighth and last baronet, as heir of entail to the Grandtully and Murthly estates. He was educated at Eton and in 1903 he married Elizabeth Isabel, daughter of the late Major General Stuart James Nicholson, CB, St Andrews.

The Fotheringhams have been seated at Pourie in Angus since 1492. They sat in the Scottish Parliament, fought and suffered imprisonment for Charles I. In 1676 their various lands and baronies were united and erected into a free barony to be called Pourie-Fotheringham. By the marriage of Colonel Stuart Fotheringham's grandfather with the daughter and heiress of Patrick Scrymsour of Tealing, the Fotheringhams inherited Tealing. Their descent from the Stewarts of Grandtully is derived from the marriage (1656) of David Fotheringham of Pourie to Marjory daughter of Sir Thomas Stewart of Grandtully. Grandtully Castle is claimed to be the Tully-Veolan of Scott's 'Waverley.'

*Extracted from 'The People's Journal and Angus Herald,' dated Saturday 11th April 1936.*

### **Mrs Dorothea Johnson (Sharpe)**



Mrs Dorothea Johnson is the first woman to be appointed as a Sheriff Officer for Dundee and Angus.

Sheriff Principal Miss Margaret Kidd QC, the first woman to be appointed to the

Sheriffdom granted her commission on 16th February 1971. So both ladies can claim legal firsts!

Mrs Johnson has worked with the firm of Killean & Co. Sheriff Officers, since 1964. Of her appointment, she said, 'Obviously I'm pleased to have achieved this. The reason I pursued it was the fact that I could be of more assistance to Mr. Killean by qualifying. The procedure is that you have to sit an examination. In Dundee it is done by two solicitors authorised by the Sheriff Principal. If you answer their questions sufficiently well they decide that you are fit to become a Sheriff Officer. Of course, the whole thing then hinges on whether the Sheriff Principal approves of the commission being granted. She also interviewed me.'

There are other women Sheriff officers in other parts of the country. Mrs Johnson is the first in this area. A Sheriff Officer's work is basically the execution of all civil warrants of the Sheriff Court. As a qualified officer, Mrs Johnson is now authorised to sign many documents she couldn't before.

Mrs Johnson comes from Inverarity, by Forfar. Before her marriage she was a shorthand typist with a Forfar firm of solicitors and then at Civil Defence headquarters and the Public Health Department of Angus County Council. After 13 years as a housewife Mrs Johnson decided to pursue her career once more and in 1961 went to work with a firm of Sheriff officers. Commonsense and fact are the two qualities she thinks are most necessary in her job.

'I thoroughly enjoy it, every minute of it,' she said. 'I find it's satisfying when you can help someone by showing them where they've gone wrong and helping them get back on their feet.'

Subsequently, under the Sheriffdom's Reorganisation Order 1974 and the Sheriff

Courts Districts Reorganisation Order 1975, the Sheriffdom of Perth and Angus became the Sheriffdom of Tayside Central and Fife and all Officers could act in this new area. My Commission was granted on 15th May 1975 to supersede the previous one.

*Extracted from The Evening Telegraph dated Monday 22nd February 1971.*

## Sir Douglas Black

Rev Walter K Black's son, Sir Douglas Black, Professor of Medicine in Manchester University, a former President of the Royal College of Surgeons in London and Chief Scientist attacked the Government's health reforms in 1980. Under a headline reading, 'Doctor 'sad and angry' over reforms,' it was reported in the local paper of the day, that Sir Douglas Black had attacked the Government's health reforms which he believed, even way back in those days, would dismantle the National Health Service. The Black Report reiterated the strong link between poverty and ill health and identified for the first time the extent of social inequalities in health care in Britain. Its assertion that poverty caused ill health, rather than the other way around, led to recognition of the need for a wider strategy of social measures. Commissioned by a Labour Government, but published just after the Tories came to power, the Black Report and its recommendations were shelved following a cool reception from the new administration.

Writing in the British Medical Journal, Sir Douglas Black recalled how one of his first experiences of poverty was watching barefoot children on the streets of Dundee, where he trained in medicine in the 1930s.

*(Based on an article from Dundee Courier 1993).*

## David Mitchell and his daughter Dame Nellie Melba

The world famous opera singer Dame Nellie Melba had connections with Inverarity. Her father, David Mitchell, was born on 16th February 1829, at the small farmhouse known as North Meathie, now used for storage by Easter Meathie.



Neither David, nor his brother James (born 1822), inherited the tenancy of the farm. David emigrated to Australia in 1853 and James to Canada in 1854. Their father William Mitchell, tenant farmer of North Meathie, died in 1849 and his wife Ann Fraser continued to work the farm until she died in 1864. Both are buried in Inverarity graveyard in the Fraser family plot, along with four infant members of the Mitchell family.

In 1857, David Mitchell married a local Scottish girl called Isabella Ann Dow and they, after losing two babies, produced a daughter who later became the famous Australian opera singer, Dame Nellie Melba.

## Dame Nellie Melba

Sandy Mitchell, another descendant, has provided a great deal of material connected with Dame Nellie, and his twin brother Wilson provided a signed photograph.

She was a fascinating lady who desperately wanted to please her father, who did not approve of her ambition to be a professional singer. Apparently he would tighten his lips and shake his head whenever the subject was mentioned.

Later on in life, Dame Nellie told the story of how, in her full bloom as a prima donna, she sang in the Scots Church, Melbourne, whilst on a tour of Australia and her father was in the congregation. Later that day they met for dinner and she asked him if he had liked her singing and in typical, dour Scots fashion he'd replied, 'I didna like your hat!'



Signed photo of Dame Nellie Melba  
*(kindly submitted by Wilson Mitchell).*

David studied drawing, mathematics and building construction at evening classes and later took on small contracts and draining work in his spare time. The money he earned, he saved, and was eventually able to pay for a passage to



## Obituary to Major George Erskine Jackson, OBE, MC, WS. 1872-1945

Major George Erskine Jackson of Kirkbuddo was born in the North West Provinces of India, son of Deputy Surgeon General James Rawlinson Jackson, of the Indian Medical Service and of Alice Caunter, daughter of Mr Henry Caunter, of Ashburton, Devon.



Major Erskine Jackson was educated at Bengeo, Hertfordshire and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he took a First Class Honours Degree in Law.

One of his greatest friends at Corpus Christi College, writing of Major Erskine Jackson after his death said, 'He was without doubt the most popular man in the College, always unruffled in temper, sweet to everyone, yet firm when occasion demanded it. He had the respect as well as the affection of everyone.' Another wrote, 'I should think few boys had so many friends, and never an enemy. Everyone thought highly of him.' A British Officer, attached to the Australian Mounted Division, wrote of Major Erskine Jackson, after his death, 'He served under me, a

younger man, for nearly three years, and I always knew where to go for a sound opinion and advice.

If ever a man served his country well, both as a soldier and a civilian, it was he.'

Orders. OBE, Military Division; MC.

Medals. South African War Medal with three clasps, Johannesburg, Orange Free State, Cape Colony.

1914-1919 War; Bronze Star, 1914-1915; 1914-1918 Medal. The Great War for Civilisation; 1914-1919 Medal Bronze Leaf;

*Mentioned in Dispatches; Officers' Territorial Decoration.*

## Eck Phillip

At the other end of the parish of Inverarity the name of AM Phillip Ltd. means trucks and vans and spare parts - in other words, the local garage. How many people remember Eck Phillip fifty years ago? Perhaps the following is news to you!

Just before the 1949 TT race in the Isle of Man, Eck Phillip was working as a mechanic with Lamb's Garage in Dundee when he was asked by the Vincent HRD Owner's Club if he would like to take a place in the 1000cc Clubman's race. Eck needed no second bidding and, after putting some tools in his haversack, off he set on the long 330 miles to

Liverpool. When Eck reached the Isle of Man he thought that he had better impress the organisers so he put in a very fast first lap. Gaining in confidence he tried to go even faster but finished up wrecking the front wheel of his bike. He was devastated but his spirits lifted when the factory lent him a spare front wheel and off he went to finish fourth in the race - with a broken finger.

One day, just after work, Eck lined up in his boiler suit, sleeves rolled up and ready to race in the Scottish Speed Championships at St. Andrews sands. Other riders probably thought that this was a strange looking competitor but they were left in no doubt of Eck's riding skills when he won this championship 'by a mile.'



Eck winning the 1000cc Clubman Race 1950 on the Isle of Man.

1950 saw Eck, newly married to Ann, back on the Isle of Man giving the spectators the show of their life. One cycling magazine reported 'the sight of A. Phillip airborne was enough to put them off strong drink for ever!' Eck won this race and it was said, 'Alex's was a simply staggering performance.' 'Alex 'Jock' Phillip took the whole section with the throttle hard against the stop.' 'Never before had they seen a thousand Twin roaring through the air like some giant flying saucer.' Eck Phillip recorded the fastest time in the 1000cc Clubman class.



Scottish Speed Championship 1954.

Modestly Eck explained that since his bike was one of the earlier types he had been allowed certain modifications. One was a special seat for comfort, similar to the AJS 7R then he had to change the position of the speedometer so that he could still see it whilst he lay flat on the tank!' According to Eck he only changed it so he could see between 40 and 140mph! He did not want to see it below 40, but he did wish to see it go above 140mph! Asked if he ever braked, and if so when, Eck with typical dry wit

replied, 'When I see marshals jumping out of the way, that's when I brake!'

Alex, being an engineer to trade, did his own machine preparation whilst older brother Will acted as his pit attendant and younger brother Jim, along with his friends, gave signals at various points around the circuit. Eck, being Eck, often ignored all the signals, especially if he was really enjoying himself! After each race the first three riders' mechanics were asked to step forward and strip the engines for post race inspection. The scrutineer smiled when Eck stepped forward to strip his own bike because he knew that he would have to put it all back together again in order to ride home to Scotland! It was said of Eck's bike that it 'showed every evidence of that minute detail which goes to reduce the possibility of mechanical failure to the absolute minimum.' But then we, in Inverarity, know that Eck is a perfectionist, even in his recitations!

### Miss Forfar 1960

Pat Morrison (*Sturrock*) of Whigstreet. 'Miss Forfar 1960' receiving her prize - a huge Forfar Bridie from Andy Stewart who was starring at the Palace Theatre in Dundee and had been invited through to Forfar to present the prize. The event was held in Charlie Renilson's tattie shed in Academy Street and was in aid of Forfar Athletic's new stand.

The story doesn't end there though. A short while afterwards Pat's sister Ivy was down in London attending an event connected with her teaching course. It being the first time she had ever been in London, Ivy underestimated the cost of staying down there and ran out of money. Knowing that her



Pat with Andy Stewart.



father Will Sturrock banked with the British Linen Bank and that her 'savings' were also lodged there, Ivy decided to phone the British Linen Bank in Forfar from a kiosk in London. She managed to get through to them but the Bank clerk was obviously just a little bit suspicious of this caller and told her

to wait until he had consulted his manager. A short while later, as the phone kept demanding Ivy to put in more money, the clerk came back and said that he needed proof of identity so he would have to ask her some questions. Ivy agreed that this was but right and waited for the questions. ‘Has any member of your family been involved in a famous local event recently?’ In the middle of London, stuck in a phone box, amidst tooting horns and the sound of traffic everywhere, Ivy could not think straight. Her first thoughts went to her older sisters but she could not think of anything, which had happened quite recently. She then said, ‘Oh my little sister was Miss Forfar recently.’ The clerk continued, ‘and what happened?’ Ivy, having got this far, persisted with the tale. ‘Well she was presented with a Forfar bridie by Andy Stewart.’ ‘That’s it. That’s good enough for us,’ said the clerk. Ivy won through and her money was transferred immediately. A Forfar bridie saved the day!

### William Kydd. Whigstreet

Will Kydd’s father, also Will, was a brother of George Kydd who was born in Inverarity around 1805. George died in 1879 aged 75 at Muir Edge, Carmyllie in his son-in-law Andrew Lumgair’s farm. This information was recorded by George’s great-great grandson from Midlothian, and sent to Ronald Sturrock in 1989.

It would appear from this research, carried out by Jack Blair, the great-great-grandson of George Kydd, that Will Kydd was the second son of Alexander Kyde, a master tailor who came from Carmyllie, around the Ward of Carnegie, 1800/1801. Will

Kydd married Helen Brown, who from the 1851 Census, is shown as 11 years his senior. The same Census shows that Will was a master cooper in Whigstreet and probably employed his son William as his ‘man’. Will senior was born on 29th May 1802 and Will junior, on 30th March 1830.

Alexander Kyde was the first son of John Kyde of Redhillocks, Carmyllie. At the churchyard in Carmyllie, Alexander and his brother John raised a stone in 1799 in memory of their father John who had died in 1875, aged only 36. This stone has symbols showing scissors and tailor’s goose, in addition to other markings.

*(This piece was kindly submitted by Alex and Linda Sturrock, Whigstreet.)*

*(What follows has drawn heavily on an article written by John Burt for The Scottish Field of 1979). Kindly sent in by Ann Christie (Sturrock).*

William Kydd lived at Whigstreet and was a wheelwright. Working for Mr Alexander Sturrock, he made wooden bickers in his spare time. Man-made wooden vessels have been handmade in Scotland for centuries. There were two main types; one made entirely from wood and one made up of wooden pieces. It would probably have been easier to make the first type, being carved out of one piece of wood, whereas the second needed to be fitted together like a jigsaw, using many pieces of wood bound tightly so that they would not leak. Coopers were skilled craftsmen and could do this. Long ago, the cooper made not only barrels but other vessels as well. Folk needed buckets, washing tubs, milk churns and other articles, which were used to hold

each larder item. The whisky industry had to be supplied with casks and drinking bowls such as caups, each with a lip to make supping easier.

In those days they had no glue such as we have nowadays and so the age-old skill of the cooper was sorely tested. Willow joinings had to be dry and they had to remain watertight. If bickers were not used regularly they would shrink and leak liquid but when soaked through, became watertight again, the hoops holding the whole thing together. Will Kydd was well known for his excellent ‘feathering’ skills. (*The join between the pieces of wood*). William Kydd was the only bicker maker to stamp his work. ‘Wm Kydd, Bicker Maker, Whig Street’, was the stamp.



Bickers made by Will Kydd.

## **Ian Ramsay Wilson CBE, formerly Kemphills, Kirkbuddo**

Ian Ramsay Wilson was born the second son of John and Mary Helen Wilson and grew up at Kemphills farm, Kirkbuddo. All Ian wanted to be was a farmer like his father and uncles. Ian's eldest brother was already working at home, and the farm could not support three members of the family. As Ian wanted to leave school he did so and joined a local bank as a bank clerk. He worked in a number of branches in Dundee, Kirriemuir and Monifieth, until one fateful Saturday afternoon when he was driving into Forfar. He got as far as Craichie and there he stopped to give a young man a lift into Forfar. It transpired that this gentleman had also been at Forfar Academy, was slightly older than Ian, and was on demob leave from the army, having just completed his two years National Service. During the journey into Forfar Ian's passenger informed him that on completion of his leave he was to rejoin his employers, a London based bank known at that time as The Chartered Bank. For some unknown reason Ian asked for their address, (*notwithstanding he still hankered after being a farmer*), and wrote to them. He informed them that he has passed the Institute of Bankers examinations and was interested in discussing the possibility of a career in banking in the Far East.

Two weeks later Ian received a letter from The Chartered Bank inviting him to meet with them in London to be interviewed for a position on their overseas staff. Ian crossed the border into England for the first time in his life, and had the interview at their Head Office in London. The week following

his interview he received a letter offering him a position as a probationer on the foreign staff of the bank. One was required to be twenty-one and a half years of age at that time and, as such, spend six months training in London before being posted overseas.

Ian's first posting was to Calcutta, India. The contract he signed required him to work for four years without any vacation. He was not permitted to get married during that tour of four years and furthermore, he had to learn how to read, write and spell Hindi. After completing the first tour of four years he was permitted to apply for permission to get married, and could do so if the bank approved. On 31st January 1962 Ian sailed from Tilbury for Bombay (*now known as Mumbai*). It was an exciting journey as the bank paid for him to sail first class to India. The journey took fourteen days and slowly introduced him to the life style that was to become such a great part of his future.

Approximately six months into his tour of duty, Ian was informed by a senior executive in the Bank that St Andrews, the Scottish Presbyterian Church in Calcutta, had lost their organist and they wished him to play the organ for three weeks until someone suitable was located. Ian had incidentally been the organist at Letham Church from the age of 15 until he left for London. St Andrews was a big church, with two Scottish Ministers and a large and active congregation. Three and a half years later Ian was still playing the organ every Sunday morning and evening, until he returned to the UK on leave, in December 1965.

After six months vacation, Ian's next posting was Singapore, where in 1967, he and Avril were married. Ian and Avril had known each other for most of their lives, Avril having been a member of Letham Church choir. Their two sons, Ramsay and Mark, were both born in Singapore.

After Singapore there followed postings to Pakistan and back to Singapore. Then eleven years in the USA. These proved to be extremely formative years for Ian as he was able to experience the American banking scene and incorporate the best of their practices with the traditional British International banking processes. From the very pleasant life style of the USA, Ian was posted as Country Manager, South Korea for a period of two years. Following this he then went as Country Manager, Malaysia, for three and a half years.

1990 saw Ian transfer to Hong Kong where he eventually became General manager, Hong Kong, China, Korea, Taiwan and Japan. This was the most responsible position in the Bank overseas, with a staff compliment of over 5,000 and contributing 35% of the worldwide profits of the group, which was represented in forty countries. There were 185 foreign banks in Hong Kong of which Standard Chartered Bank was the second largest. The Standard Chartered Bank was one of three banks that issued the currency notes in circulation in Hong Kong. Ian's signature was on all the bank notes in circulation.

As a result therefore of the bank's position in Hong Kong, Ian was a director of a number of Hong Kong Government organisations, including their central

bank, and because of his position in the financial community in Hong Kong, he was requested to delay his retirement by two years so that he would not be seen to be leaving Hong Kong just prior to the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong from Great Britain to China.

managed very carefully so as not to do damage to the Bank and to the standing of the financial community in Hong Kong. Ian appeared almost continually on radio and TV for two days explaining to the public that there was no reason for them to panic. Eventually the public saw reason and conditions returned to normal.



Alexander Sturrock the 3rd.



A bank note showing Ian's signature.

There have been many challenges that Ian has had to face during his career with the bank. Perhaps the most challenging happened one day in 1991 when there was a run on the bank in Hong Kong. The bank had approximately one hundred branches in Hong Kong and, as a result of a malicious rumour, it was discovered one morning that there were thousands of customers lining up outside each one of the branches seeking to withdraw their money. This situation lasted for two days and had to be

January 1998 saw Ian being honoured by the Queen, when he became a Commander of the British Empire for services to banking and to the community of Hong Kong.

Since he and Avril returned home, they have lived in the house that Avril was born in, and Ian has been kept busy. He is a director of J

P Morgan Fleming Asia Investment Trust, Chairman of the Maggie Cancer Caring Centre, Dundee, a member of council of Glenalmond College, Perthshire, and a member of the Court of Abertay University, Dundee.

Ian feels fortunate to have had the banking career he has had, but is honest enough to acknowledge that without the support of Avril and his two sons, Ramsay and Mark, and the innumerable colleagues that he initially learned from in so many countries, and others who latterly formed part of his team, this would not have been achieved.

### Alexander Sturrock the 3rd

was in the Canadian Highlanders in WW1 and fought in France. Since he was the only piper left at the end of the war, the Canadian Highlanders presented him with silver bagpipes and a silver dirk.